

Everything you've ever wanted is on the other side of fear.
—George Addair

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J&K youth now known for Ranji Trophy success, not stone-pelting: Nitin Nabin

■ **BJP chief gets rousing reception on his maiden J-K visit**

■ **EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU: BJP national president Nitin Nabin on Monday said that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir were once identified with stone-pelting, but are now being recognised for their achievements in cricket, citing the Union Territory's Ranji Trophy success as a symbol of the region's transformation.

Nabin arrived here earlier in the day for his two-day visit to review the BJP's organisational affairs, his first to Jammu and Kashmir since becoming the party president.

"The youth of Jammu and Kashmir used to be known as stone-pelters, but today, these youths are known as Ranji Trophy champions of Jammu and Kashmir," he told reporters here.

Nabin said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has remained steadfast in his commitment to ensuring the security and development of the people, asserting that the government has always responded firmly to "hostile intentions" against the country. "Prime Minister



'Day not far when BJP will form its own Govt in J&K'

JAMMU: BJP's "lotus will bloom in the Kashmir Valley" as well, party's national president Nitin Nabin said on Monday, asserting that the saffron party would soon form its own government in Jammu and Kashmir. Nabin arrived here on Monday on a two-day visit, his first after becoming the party president, to review the party's organisational affairs. "The day is not far when the Bharatiya Janata Party will ► P11

Narendra Modi has pledged to ensure a secure life for the people of the country. Whenever anyone has acted with malicious intentions here, he has responded firmly, giving a befitting reply", he said.

He was accorded a grand welcome by the party workers on his arrival at Jammu Airport in Satwari. Accompanied by the party's national general secretary and Jammu and Kashmir in-charge Tarun Chugh, Nabin was received at the airport by Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Sat Sharma and other senior party leaders, a party spokesman said.

Hundreds of party workers greeted the BJP chief with slogans, floral petals and bouquets immediately after his arrival, Nabin headed for Mishriwala on the outskirts of Jammu.

The BJP president later addressed a function at Majestic Grand in Mishriwala organised to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

Paying tribute to the BJP ideologue, Nabin said the country was observing Mukherjee's 125th ► P11

Article 370 repeal shows Mookerjee's vision: Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the abrogation of Article 370 had fulfilled the dream of Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee while asserting that his ideology and principles continue to shape the BJP's governance agenda and guide "New India".

Addressing a commemorative programme through a video message on Mookerjee's 125th birth anniversary, Modi described him as a visionary, patriot and champion of national unity, and drew a direct ideological link between the Jana Sangh founder's political struggles and several of the BJP's signature policy decisions, including the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status. "Today, the nation and West Bengal are ► P11

Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026 5,794 devotees leave for shrine

■ **EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU: A fresh batch of 5,794 pilgrims, including 1,211 women, departed from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here early Monday for the annual Amarnath Yatra, officials said.

Around 60,000 pilgrims have offered prayers at the holy cave shrine since the yatra began on July 3, they said.

The officials said the fifth batch included 21 children, 599 sadhus and 76 sadhvis.

They left the base camp in separate convoys between 3.10 am and 3.45 am under tight security.

Of them, 3,490 pilgrims, travelling in 139 vehicles, are heading to the Nuwan base camp in Pahalgam, while 2,304 pilgrims in 128 vehicles are bound for the Baltal base camp, they said.

Pilgrims are undertaking the yatra simultaneously via the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district ► P11

LG Sinha envisions brighter future for every girl in J&K

■ **EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday felicitated 32 talented recipients of the Kashmir Women's Organization (KWO) Fellowship, during a ceremony at Lok Bhavan, Srinagar.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor hailed the fellows as symbols of Jammu Kashmir's ongoing transformation toward a future built on self-confidence, equal opportunities and dignity for all. He lauded the efforts of



Dr. Fida Firdous and all the members of Kashmir Women's Organization for creating a robust platform

where the Nari Shakti from the region could move forward confidently, embracing their talent, ideas, ► P11

Books controversy: CI sleuths conduct raids

■ **EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

JAMMU: The Counter Intelligence (CI) wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday launched simultaneous searches at some locations in Jammu and Noida in connection with the alleged glorification of separatists in two controversial publications, officials said.

The officials said a team of counterintelligence raided the headquarters of Samagra Shiksha at Channi Himmat on the outskirts of the city and questioned the director and other officials as part of

the ongoing investigation. Another team of sleuths simultaneously carried out a raid at the office of a publisher at Noida, the officials said.

They said the raids are still going on when last reports were received.

The books in contention are titled 'Personalities and Legends of J&K', authored by Hilal Ahmad and Santosh Meena and published by Jammu-based Oberoi Book Service, and "Great Personalities of Jammu and Kashmir", authored by Sushant Giri and published by ► P11

'Medical relief capraised to Rs 20L in CDF'

SRINAGAR/JAMMU: In a significant move aimed at providing major financial relief to patients suffering from life-threatening ailments, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has ordered an amendment to the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Scheme guidelines.

As per the official government order, sanction has been accorded allowing Members of ► P11

Red Fort Blast: NIA files forensic report

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency on Monday filed a forensic report regarding the 11 people who were killed in the Red Fort area car bomb explosion case in last year, court sources said.

The report was filed before Special Judge Pitambar Dutt, who will now scrutinise the report and pass further orders regarding the same, the sources said.

They said that the court, meanwhile, extended the judicial custody of nine accused persons till July 13.

Earlier, on May 14, the NIA had filed a 7,500-page chargesheet in connection with the high-intensity vehicle-borne IED blast that rocked the national capital on November 10 last year.

Last month, the NIA filed a supplementary chargesheet against three more persons, including an absconding paediatrician identified as a founding ► P11

Omar assures reliable, affordable power supply to every household CM chairs 13th IMPARD Executive Council meeting

■ **EARTH NEWS SERVICE**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that his government is committed to ensuring reliable, affordable and quality power to all households across the Union territory.

The chief minister also directed the timely completion of key infrastructure projects, greater accountability at every level and sustained reforms to build a modern, resilient and financially sustainable power sector.



"Chief Minister today chaired a comprehensive review of the Power Development Department. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ensuring reliable, affordable and quality power for every household

across Jammu & Kashmir," the chief minister's office posted on its X handle.

The Chief Minister reviewed the overall performance of the power sector, including revenue realization, implementation of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, transmission projects and the roadmap for future reforms.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development ► P11

Pahalgam terror attack: Hafiz Saeed named in chargesheet UAPA invoked against Kerala man

NEW DELHI/IDUKKI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed a supplementary chargesheet against Hafiz Saeed, the Pakistan-based chief of the banned terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), in the Pahalgam terror attack case.

Saeed, already designated a global terrorist by India and the United States and recognised as the mastermind behind the 2008 Mumbai attacks, has been charged in his individual capacity as well as in his role as the head of LeT and its active proxy front, The Resistance Front (TRF).

The supplementary chargesheet was submitted before the special NIA court in Jammu in which 76-year-old Saeed has been charged under vari-

ous sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

"NIA has also invoked the penal section against the accused for waging war against India and hatching a conspiracy from across the border in the chargesheet," a statement issued by the probe agency said.

The supplementary chargesheet provides details of Pakistan's conspiracy, Saeed's role, and supporting evidence collected by the NIA in the case through meticulous scientific investigation and on-ground examination, it said.

Saeed is one of the world's most wanted trans-national terrorists, primarily recognised as the co-founder and chief of LeT formed in ► P11

Rejected for Telling India's Story: Why Indus Waters Treaty book was kept out of J&K School Libraries?

■ **SHIVANG SATYA GUPTA**

Education is never just about textbooks. It is about the values a nation quietly passes on to its children. Every book placed in a school library tells students what deserves to be remembered, admired and debated. That is why the selection of books under government-funded education programmes must meet the highest standards of academic integrity, constitutional values and transparency.

Recent developments concerning book procurement under the Samagra Shiksha programme in Jammu and Kashmir raise serious questions that deserve public discussion.

According to publicly available information and documents cited by crit-

ics of the procurement process, books on important national subjects—including India's Independence Movement, the life and philosophy of Deendayal Upadhyaya, and the Indus Waters Treaty—were reportedly not selected for government-supported school libraries.

At the same time, another book allegedly approved for procurement contained profiles or favourable descriptions of individuals such as Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Yasin Malik, Masarat Alam Bhat and Shabir Shah. These are individuals whose political movements directly challenged India's constitutional position over Jammu and Kashmir, and whose activities have remained matters of intense legal, political and national security concern.

If these claims are accurate, the is-

sue extends far beyond a disagreement over literature. It becomes a question of educational philosophy.

What Message Are We Sending?

A government-funded educational scheme exists to strengthen learning, critical thinking and constitutional awareness. Taxpayer-funded libraries are expected to introduce students to India's civilisational journey, democratic institutions, scientific achievements and constitutional framework.

When books explaining India's freedom struggle or important national policy issues are excluded, while books presenting separatist figures receive official space, many citizens naturally ask whether the priorities of the selection process are aligned with the objectives of public education.

This is not about preventing students from studying controversial history. Democracies do not fear difficult conversations. They encourage evidence-based learning.

However, there is a significant difference between studying conflict objectively and presenting individuals associated with separatist movements in a manner that appears celebratory or uncritical.

That distinction is crucial.

The Curious Case of the Indus Waters Treaty

Among the reported rejections is a book titled Indus Waters Treaty: Mirroring the Facts, written in Jammu and released on 19 July 2025 by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha.

The subject itself could hardly be more relevant.

The Indus Waters Treaty has shaped India's water policy with Pakistan for over six decades. In recent years, particularly after major security developments and India's decision to place implementation of the treaty in abeyance, the treaty has once again become central to strategic and public policy discussions.

The Government of India has simultaneously invested tens of thousands of crores of rupees in infrastructure, irrigation, hydropower and development projects across Jammu and Kashmir. Understanding the historical, legal and strategic dimensions of the treaty is therefore directly relevant to students interested in geography, international relations, public ad-

ministration and regional development.

If a serious work on this subject was rejected without transparent academic reasons, it raises legitimate questions about the criteria used in evaluating educational material.

The Need for Transparency

The issue should not become a political contest. Instead, it calls for institutional transparency.

Questions that deserve public answers include: What objective criteria were used for selecting and rejecting books? Who constituted the expert committee? Were independent historians and subject experts consulted? Were constitutional values explicitly included in the evaluation process? Are detailed evaluation reports ► P11