

Kashmir Convener



Modi Govt Making Banks 'Collection Agents' Of 'Loot': Kharge After Hike In ATM Withdrawal Charges

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Indian Army Launches 'Operation Brahma' to Aid Myanmar Earthquake Victims

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Priyanka Gandhi alleges Centre is blocking discussions in Parliament

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No timeframe, but J&K will get statehood back: Amit Shah

●“All BJP ruled states will introduce UCC”

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Without giving any timeframe, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has reiterated that the Centre is committed to restore J&K's statehood.

Speaking at the Times Now Summit 2025, Shah according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that the Centre has always maintained that the statehood will be restored, “but it can't be disclosed when it will be given at a public forum,” he added.

Referring to the assembly polls held in Jammu and Kashmir last year, the Union Home Minister said that it was the first election in Kashmir after 40 years in which there was no re-polling in any place. Not a single tear gas or bullet was fired. “Sixty per cent people exercised their franchise,



this is a huge change,” he added.

The Union Home Minister reaffirmed that all BJP-ruled states will introduce

the Uniform Civil Code one-by-one as it is one of the key agendas of the BJP since it was formed.

“It will come. It was the decision of the Constituent Assembly (to introduce UCC). The Congress might have forgotten it but we have not. We said we would abrogate Article 370. We have done that. We said we would construct a Ram temple at Ayodhya. We have done that too. Now UCC remains. We will do that too,” Shah said, as per KNO. On the alleged discovery of a huge amount of cash at the Delhi residence of High Court judge Yashwant Varma, Shah said the Chief Justice of India has taken cognizance of the issue and ordered an inquiry (through a committee of three high court judges). Shah said, “When no FIR can be registered, how can a seizure be carried out? The FIR can only be registered with the Chief Justice of India's permission.”

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Need More Steps To Improve Security Situation In J&K: CM Omar Abdullah

KC News Network

JAMMU: Shifting of army personnel from Jammu to Ladakh to counter Chinese incursions allowed terrorists to exploit the situation, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Saturday, asserting more steps were needed to improve the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Abdullah was talking to reporters after visiting the bereaved families of four police personnel in Kathua, Reasi and Jammu districts. The cops were martyred in a gunfight with infiltrating terrorists in the Safiyan forest of Kathua district on Thursday.



Two Pakistani terrorists, believed to be affiliated with the proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad, were also killed in the encounter. A massive search operation is underway to track and neutralise other

members of the group. “Visited the families of our bravehearts — Balvinder Singh, Tariq Ahmad, Jaswant Singh and Jagbir Singh — who laid down

>>>SEE ON P-7

Dy CM, Satish Sharma attend last rites of Martyr Jagbir Singh



KC News Network

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary and Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport, Satish Sharma, attended the last rites of Head Constable Jagbir Singh, who was martyred along with his three colleagues in a two day long gunfight in Kathua district.

His cremation took place with full state honours at his native village, Matto, in Akhnour.

Thousands of people from all walks of life, including relatives, gathered at the village cremation ground to pay their respects to the martyr.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister and Satish Sharma visited Jagbir Singh's residence to express their condolences with the bereaved family. They prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul. The Deputy Chief Minister met with

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Stop sponsoring terror: Dy CM advises Pak

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Advising Pakistan to stop sponsoring terrorism, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Saturday said that conspiracies being hatched from across the border are “killing our children.”

Talking to reporters after the wreath laying ceremony of head constable Jagbir Singh, the Deputy Chief Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “I hope good sense prevails in Pakistan so that the three-decade-long terrorism ends. Our neighbor should stop sponsoring terror.” He said, “Both central or J&K governments

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Over 1.33 lakh tourists visit Sonamarg from Jan to Mar 10 this year

Raja Syed Rather

SONAMARG: Sonamarg, the picturesque hill station in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district has witnessed a remarkable surge in tourist arrivals in the first two months of 2025. A total of 1,33,854 visitors explored the snow-clad beauty of Sonamarg between January 1 and March 10, marking a strong revival in the region's tourism sector.

As per the details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), January alone saw 55,934 tourists, including 1,114 foreign and an equal number of domestic travellers. The momentum continued in February,

with 57,186 visitors, including 2,019 foreign travellers and 1,565 locals. In just the first 10 days of March, 20,734 tourists flocked to Sonamarg.

By comparison, Sonamarg welcomed nearly 8 lakh tourists in all of 2024. These early numbers indicate an excellent start to the year, especially considering the traditionally challenging winter months that kept the area largely inaccessible in previous years.

The surge in visitors is due to the Sonamarg tunnel, which has made the region accessible year-round. Previously, heavy snowfall would isolate the area for months, but now,

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Army Commander Reviews Security Situation In Udhampur

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A senior Army officer visited Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district

to review the security situation, amid an ongoing operation against infiltrating terrorists in nearby Kathua district, officials said.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Jammu-based White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva, visited the district's Basantgarh area, which falls on the route used by terrorists earlier to move from Kathua to Chenab valley after infiltrating the border, officials said.

Lieutenant General Sachdeva was accompanied by Major General APS Bal, the GOC of Counter Insurgency Force-Delta (CIF-D), in Delhi today.

“GOC White Knight Corps and GOC CIF-D visited Basantgarh to assess the ongoing security situation in the region. The GOC appreciated the troops for their unwavering commitment and dedication in the ongoing counter-terrorism operations,” White Knight

Corps posted on microblogging site X.

The visit comes at a time when security forces are engaged in a massive search operation in Kathua district, where four policemen and two Pakistani terrorists were killed in a fierce gunfight on Thursday.

Security forces on Saturday extended the search operation to new areas after the body of the fourth

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CM Omar pays homage to Kathua encounter martyrs

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today paid floral tributes to Head Constable

Jagbir Singh, who made the supreme sacrifice during a two-day long encounter in Kathua.

Leading the wreath-laying ceremony at Police Headquarters, Gulshan Ground, the Chief Minister honored the bravery and dedication of Head Constable Jagbir Singh, who was in charge of the Safiyan police post.

Describing his sacrifice as the highest form of duty, CM Omar Abdullah said, “His courage and commitment

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Police install high-tech surveillance system at Navyug tunnel

Will detect concealed contrabands, illegal weapons

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: In a significant step to enhance security measures and to keep a vigilant eye on National Highway, Kulgam police introduced advanced surveillance technology, including wall radar and thermal screening systems on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway at Navyuga Tunnel Qazigund, in Kulgam district.

The newly installed systems are designed to monitor and detect concealed contrabands, illegal weapons, and other illicit materials within vehicles, reinforcing efforts to prevent smuggling and detect potential threats along the NHW in real time.



To assess the operational effectiveness of the newly installed system, senior officers, including the DIG (SKR) Anantnag, Javid Iqbal Matoo, Commander 1 Sector RR, DIG CRPF and the SSP Kulgam Sahil Sarangal, Additional SP NHW Qazigund, Kulgam were present, who expressed their satisfaction with the newly introduced technology and highlighted its importance in bolstering the security framework.

BOTTOM STORY

DSEK Tightens School Monitoring Mechanism After Kashmir Convener's Expose

●New circular mandates frequent inspections, stricter oversight, and monthly progress reports

KC News Desk

SRINAGAR: Acting on a series of revelations regarding a Bandipora teacher who remained away from the classroom for 21 years, the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has issued a fresh circular mandating rigorous academic inspections across schools in the Kashmir Division.

Officials said the move aims to identify similar cases and prevent such lapses in the future besides aiming to monitor, streamline, and improve the standards of the Learning-Teaching Process and Administrative Functioning of the institutions/schools.

The development follows the Kashmir Convener's investigative report, which uncovered how a government school teacher had managed to stay away from classroom duties for over two decades while engaged in non-teaching assignments.

The report also exposed lapses in the school



monitoring system, revealing that the committees responsible for academic surveillance failed to detect or report his prolonged absence from his primary job of teaching.

Subsequently, DSEK initiated an inquiry,

instructing the Joint Director (North) of the School Education Department (SED) to investigate not just the teacher's prolonged absence but also the failure of controlling and monitoring committees.

These committees, including the Zonal Education Officers, Senior Principals, and Cluster Heads, are mandated to conduct regular inspections of schools. However, their failure to perform their duties enabled the teacher to remain outside the classroom for years.

To address these systemic failures, DSEK on Thursday issued a circular aimed at strengthening the monitoring mechanism.

“It has been felt that there is a need to reinvigorate academic inspections as well as field visits of schools/institutions by the officers of the department on a regular basis with strict monitorable and measurable outcomes,” reads the circular issued by DSEK. As per the circular

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LG Sinha attends 8th edition of Purvanchal Festival “Maati” in Delhi

KC News Network

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the 8th edition of Purvanchal Festival “Maati”, in Delhi today.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to the Maati Trust and everyone associated with the prestigious event for providing an excellent platform to share ideas, culture and arts of Purvanchal.

He said the last seven editions of this festival underline the vibrancy of Purvanchal's rich art and culture and its intellectual traditions.

The Lieutenant Governor said, “Purvanchal has strengthened our diverse culture and preserved our traditional values.

I believe the region of Purvanchal is anchored in the



abiding values of our spiritual ethos. For thousands of years, the language diversity and Purvanchal's literature shaped our perspectives on culture and it gave new ideas and influenced the cultural canvas all over the world.

Linguistic diversity flourished in Purvanchal and it filled the cultural void in the society. It

has shaped our outlook, given rise to new ideas, strengthened unity in society amidst diversity and has succeeded in influencing the cultural landscape across the world”.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the freedom fighters, writers, artists, industrialists and prominent

>>>SEE ON P-7

River Ganga pollution

Supreme Court stays NGT order imposing Rs 50,000 cost on Bihar

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has stayed the National Green Tribunal order that imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on the Bihar government for non-compliance of its directives and not properly assisting it in a matter relating to the prevention and control of pollution of river Ganga.

In its order passed on October 15 last year, the tribunal had also directed Bihar's chief secretary to remain present before it virtually to apprise it about the progress made for the prevention and control of pollution in river Ganga.

The state government's plea challenging the tribunal's order came up for a hearing before a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih.

The bench issued notice to the Centre and others seeking their responses on the plea within four weeks.

"Until further orders, there shall be stay of the impugned order," the bench



said in its order passed on Friday.

The tribunal is considering the issue of prevention and control of pollution of river Ganga and the matter is being taken up state-wise, covering all the states

and districts from which the river and its tributaries flow.

The tribunal had noted in its order that it had earlier considered the issue of water quality of river Ganga and its

tributaries in Bihar.

It had directed the state authorities to submit water sample analysis report by taking samples at the point where the tributary merges with river Ganga and also at the point of entry and exit of the river in Bihar.

"The above directions have not been complied with, and no report by the state of Bihar or all the districts of the state of Bihar from which river Ganga and its tributaries are flowing has been filed till now," the tribunal had said in its October last year order.

It had directed the state's chief secretary to remain virtually present on the next date to apprise the tribunal about the progress made for prevention and control of pollution of river Ganga and compliance of the directions contained in the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order 2016.

Dallewal has not ended indefinite fast, says farmer leader

CHANDIGARH: Punjab farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal has not ended his indefinite fast even though he drank a glass of water after farmers detained last week by the state police were released from different jails, farmer leader Abhimanyu Kohar said on Saturday.

The Punjab government on Friday told the Supreme Court that Dallewal accepted water and broke his fast.

Countering the Punjab government's claims, Kohar said on Saturday Dallewal had made it clear he would take water only after all the farmers are released.

"And Dallewal drank a glass of water after farmer leaders were released," said Kohar, a close aide of Dallewal. "We want to make it clear that a false impression was being given that Dallewal has ended his indefinite fast. His hunger strike continues." Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh told the apex court on Friday they dispersed on March 19 the farmers protesting at Khanauri and Shambhu border

points with Haryana, and opened the roads and highways that were blocked due to the sit-ins. Protesting farmers and some of their leaders were



also detained by the Punjab Police on that day.

Another farmer leader, Kaka Singh Kotra, also said on Saturday when Dallewal came to know about the detention of farmers, he refused to take water till they were all released.

He took water after the farmers were released, said Kotra. Dallewal (70) is a senior leader of the joint forum of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha. He began his indefinite hunger strike on November 26 last year to

press the Centre to accept their demands including a legal guarantee to provide Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops.

The farmer leaders were detained on March 19 when they were returning from a meeting with a central delegation led by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Chandigarh.

The meeting was organised to discuss the farmers' demands, especially the MSP guarantee. As the departing farmers entered Mohali after the meeting, they were met with heavy barricading and some of their leaders were detained. Police had evicted farmers and had dismantled temporary structures from the Shambhu and Khanauri border points. Vehicular traffic had resumed on the Shambhu-Ambala and Sangrur-Jind highways. Several farmers, who were part of the Shambhu and Khanauri protests, have claimed that their belongings including trolleys were missing, adding that they might have been stolen.

Centre should grant protection to Kunal Kamra: Sanjay Raut

MUMBAI: Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Saturday demanded Central protection for comedian Kunal Kamra, facing flak and investigation over his jibe against Maharashtra Deputy CM Eknath Shinde, on the similar lines it had protected actor Kangana Ranaut in 2020.

Multiple FIRs were registered against Kamra for his "traitor" jibe at Shiv Sena



head and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde during a show, leading to the ransacking of a studio by Shiv Sena workers last Sunday.

On Friday, the Madras High Court granted interim anticipatory bail to Kamra, against whom Mumbai Police had issued two notices seeking his personal appearance for questioning.

Raut also welcomed the Supreme Court order on quashing an FIR against Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi for allegedly posting a clip of a poem advocating the protection of freedom of speech and expression.

He said like Pratapgarhi, Kamra is also an artist, poet, and satirist.

IFFCO, World's No.1 Cooperative

Welcomes the Announcement of Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill 2025

TSU will promote Innovation and research in the field of cooperation.

SRINAGAR: IFFCO welcomes the announcement of Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025 in the Lok Sabha and its subsequent approval by the lower house on 26th of March 2025. While announcing the bill Minister of Cooperation and Home Affairs Amit Shah said that after 75 years of independence, today the country is getting its first cooperative university. He said that this bill will strengthen the rural economy, develop the ecosystem of self-employment and small entrepreneurship, increase social inclusion and will increase opportunities to set new standards in innovation and research. He said that in a way, the whole country will get a new cooperative leadership inspired by the spirit of cooperation and equipped with modern education.

Dr. Udai Shanker Awasthi, Managing Director, IFFCO stated that, "I appreciate the Tribhuvan Cooperative University Bill 2025, a historic step for the pioneering development of cooperatives. The establishment of this university will bring a new revolution in the cooperative sector. I welcome this commendable step of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Home and Cooperative Minister

Amit Shah ji. This is a very big step While expressing his



for Indian agriculture, farmers and rural development. This will further strengthen our villages."

He said, Establishment of sector-specific schools across the country will help fertilizer cooperatives especially IFFCO, this will empower cooperatives with a new generation of professionals in the field of fertilizer cooperative management and marketing. Short-term courses for existing cooperative employees are a game-changer and a step which was never done at this scale. This university will also train the existing employees and cooperators making them for efficient being a great asset for the fraternity.

appreciation for this step Dileep Sanghani, Chairman, IFFCO said, this step will ensure that seeds for the next generation of the cooperative leadership will be nurtured and cared for under a system which run by the cooperatives for the cooperatives. He expressed his gratitude towards Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji under whose guidance Shri Amit Shah Ji, the first Union Minister of Cooperation is working tirelessly with the motto of 'Sahkar se Samridhhi'. He said this is a historic step which will ensure development of the cooperative sector for years to come.

In view of the development and expansion of the cooperative

sector, trained human resources are needed and Tribhuvan Sahkari University will work to fulfil this need. After the formation of a cooperative university, its diploma and degree holders will get jobs. Through this university, big contribution will be made to the domestic as well as global value chain. New age cooperative culture will also start from this university which will embody the spirit of professional management. A standardized curriculum will be development for this university under the guidance of the Ministry of Cooperation in consultation with cooperatives across the nation.

Professional management of the cooperatives through specialized courses in cooperative marketing will enable cooperatives to market their products at the global stage, this will ultimately improve the overall output and revenue of the cooperative sector with the spirit of 'Local to Global'.

Cooperative principles and cooperative activities will be expanded. The cooperative sector will benefit from new technology, reaching out swathes of people who were left untouched by the cooperative sector.

This will also strengthen the rural economy.

Priyanka Gandhi alleges Centre is blocking discussions in Parliament

WAYANAD (Kerala): Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday accused the Centre of undermining the democratic process in Parliament and preventing proper discussions.

Addressing reporters here, the MP said the Union Government's approach is to avoid discussions by any means possible, using

various tactics to do so.

She alleged that the government blocked discussions in Parliament, responding to questions about the alleged suppression of opposition voices.

"On their policy, I have seen last few sessions of the Parliament, I have seen last few sessions in whatever way- whether it is by raking up something what they feel the opposition is going to protest about, whether it is by not allowing the Leader of Opposition to speak," Vadra said.

Vadra further alleged that the Centre

is hindering the democratic process from functioning effectively in Parliament, calling it "very sad" for the MPs to witness.

"The opposition is often accused of sabotaging Parliament, but this is the process we see under this government... the government themselves sabotage the process which probably very new for everybody to see," she claimed.

Earlier in the day, Priyanka Gandhi attended the District-Level Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting at the Collectorate in Kalpetta here.

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRINAGAR
10-Karan Nagar, Srinagar Kashmir, 190010
Phone No. 0194-2504114 Fax No. 0194-2503115
(ACADEMIC SECTION)

Subject:
Engagement of House Surgeon(s) on tenure basis in various disciplines of Govt. Medical College, Srinagar.
Reference: Advertisement No. 02 of 2025 Dated. 01.01.2025.
OFFICE ORDER NO:
293-RA of 2025.
DATED:24-03-2025
Pursuant to Discipline-Wise Selection list Notification No. 02-RA of 2025 Dated. 17.02.2025 and on the basis of Satisfactory verification report(s) of Character & Antecedents by Criminal Investigation Department (CID), J&K, Sanction is hereby accorded to the engagement of following doctor(s) as Junior Resident(s)/House Surgeon(s) in the department(s) indicated against each for a period of (06) Months on tenure basis and on the terms and conditions as laid down in the Advertisement Notice:-

S. No.	Rank	Name of the candidate	Place of posting	Drawl of salary
01	35	Dr. Tabish Yaseen	Cardio Vascular & Thoracic Surgery	Medical Superintendent, Govt. SMHS, Hospital, Srinagar
02	56	Dr. Ammarah Afzal	Dermatology	Medical Superintendent, Govt. SMHS, Hospital, Srinagar
03	73	Dr. Uzma Nazir	Anaesthesiology	Medical Superintendent, Govt. SMHS, Hospital, Srinagar

The aforementioned doctor(s) are as such directed to report the respective HOD(s) for further duties within a period of (07) days from the date of issuance of this order; failing which the order shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.
Note:-
The concerned DDO shall disburse the monthly stipend in favour of aforementioned doctor(s) from the date of joining in the department concerned and on the production of monthly attendance report from concerned HOD. The concerned DDO shall not disburse the monthly stipend in favour of aforementioned doctor(s) after expiry of the term, till extension is granted in their favour by the competent authority.
The doctor(s) thus, engaged as House Surgeon shall route their joining report through respective Head of Department to the Office of the Registrar Academics, Government Medical College, Srinagar.
Before disbursing the monthly stipend, the concerned DDO shall verify their Medical Registration certificate issued by J&K Medical Council.
The aforementioned Junior Resident(s) shall not claim any experience certificate in case they leave Junior Residency before completion at least of six months.
NO. RA-MC/HJ/10792-96/Mc
Dated:29-03-2025

Sd/-Principal/Dean
Government Medical College,
Srinagar

DIPK-13521/24

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE KASHMIR
Phone No: 0194-2452133, 2474334(Fax) Email: sspcikmr@jkpolice.gov.in
No: CIK/2025-26/Mess/2632
Dated: 27/03/2024

Subject:
Framing of Rate Contract for current financial year 2025-26
Sealed Quotations affixed with Revenue Stamps of Rs. 2/- are invited from the Dealers for the supply of below mentioned catering items for CIK Mess at Hotel International, Sonwar, Srinagar for the financial year of 2025-26 within (07) days positively from the date of publication of this notice in local newspapers.

S. No	Items	S. No	Items
1	Rice Vand	2	Tea Namkeen (Special)
3.	Oil Sarson (Agmark)	4	Dal Rajmash
5	Tea Lipton Grade 01	6	Dal Chana
7	Dal Mongi	8	Sugar
9	Dal Mash and Masoor	10	Mirch power (Agmark)
11	Salt TATA	12	Garam Masala
13	Haldi power	14	Butter Amul
15	Green Peas	16	Suji
17	Daily Fresh Vegetables	18	Cheese
19	Mutton	20	Chicken
21	Milk	22	Curd

Undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
CID CI-(Kmr), Srinagar

DIPK-13533/24

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JS (PHE) DIVISION SOPORE.
E-NIT No. 35/JS-PHE/SPR OF 03/2025 Pag

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-quotation (in single - Cover) on item rate basis are invited for below mentioned job / work, from registered Tour and Travel (with Union Territory of J&K Govt.) Drivers cum Vehicle Owners/agencies for the complete Financial year of 2025-26 (w.e.f: 01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026)

S. No	Particulars / Name of work	Qty	Unit	Amount of CDR(in Rs	e-quotation/ Tender fee
01	Engagement / Hiring of Commercial Vehicle (Mahindra Scorpio/ Bolero Top variant or Equivalent) of 2023 onwards make/model with J&K Registration only for Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Division Sopore along with the driver (must available for 24x7) for the year 2025-26.	1.00	Day & Night (24hours)	20000.00	Rs. 200/=

The e-quotation consisting of Qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

01	Date of publishing of e – quotation	27.03.2025
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27.03.2025
03	Bid Submission Start Date	27.03.2025
04	Bid submission End Date	03.04.2025(04:00 p.m.)
05	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	04.04.2025 at 13:00 pmintheOfficeofExecutive Engineer PHE Division Sopore

The tour and travel shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: www.jktenders.gov.in
Bids/e-quotation(s) must be accompanied/uploaded with Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR (mentioned above), Treasury Receipt (mentioning therein the e-Quotation No., S.No. of work etc as per the e-Quotation) as cost of Tender Document under M.H 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE Division Sopore (as specified in the table (I), besides below mentioned documents. Bids/e-quotation(s) will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Sopore. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
e- quotation must be accompanied/ uploaded with:

TABLE I

01	Earnest Money in shape of CDR / FDR for an amount of Rs.20000/- pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Sopore	Original
02	Treasury Receipt (T.R) deposited to MH: 0215 as cost of tender document for an amount of Rs.200/- pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer JSD PHE Division Sopore.	Original
03	Printed letter head of the Regd. Agency / e-quotation etc. duly authenticated with seal and signature	Scanned Copy
04	GST Clearance/Pan card along with Self Attested What's App Number and e- mail ID of the agency/driver	Scanned copy
05	HMV/LMV License of the driver	Scanned copy
06	Similar nature of work not less than 02 year (Allotment shall only be accepted and must be uploaded)	Scanned copy
07	Character certificate in favour of agency must be issued by not less than Additional Deputy Commissioner	Scanned copy

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
1. The 1st Lowest bidder has to produce CDR / FDR for an amount of Rs.20000/- (Earnest Money) in original within one day after the generation of comparative chart and the same shall be considered as performance security which will be released after successful completion of job.
2. The validity of contract shall remain in force upto ending March 2026.
3. Bidders must ensure to upload their bids in Single cover.
4. Rates are to be quoted per day basis for the categories of vehicle (excluded fuel).
5. Rates are to be quoted by the bidder included all taxes
6. The bidder must submit consumption certificate from the competent authority for such type of vehicle.
7. The bidder shall be given hire charges rates as per approved by the Government.
No: -JSD/PHE/10973-95
Dated: 27-03-2025

DIPK-13501/24

Sd/-Executive Engineer
JS-PHE, Division Sopore

DC Bandipora Reviews Eid-ul-Fitr Arrangements, Inspects Central Eid Gah

Bandipora: The Deputy Commissioner of Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Saturday reviewed the arrangements for Eid ul fitr celebrations in the district to ensure a smooth and safe observance of the religious occasion.

As part of the review, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Eid Gah Bandipora to inspect the preparations and oversee necessary arrangements for the Eid prayers.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the safety and security of attendees, maintaining cleanliness in and around the Eid Gah, and providing necessary facilities for the public.

The officers accompanying Deputy Commissioner briefed him regarding the measures in place to facilitate a seamless experience for public.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of coordination between various



departments, including law enforcement, health services, and other concerned to ensure that all aspects of the Eid celebrations are conducted peacefully and smoothly.

He said District Administration has put in place all necessary arrangements including traffic management and emergency medical services, to ensure the safety and well-being of all citizens.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner also interacted with locals and representatives of local aqaf committee seeking their cooperation in maintaining peace and order during the festive period. He urged the public to follow the guidelines issued by the authorities for a safe, peaceful and smooth Eid celebration.

During the visit the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by CPO Mohammad Maqbool Lone, Tehsildar Bandipora Firdous Ahmad Qadri, EO MC Ajaz Ahmad and other concerned.

113th EPFO Executive Committee Meeting Reviews Key Reforms in Srinagar

Srinagar: The 113th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), EPF, was held in Srinagar on Friday, with a focus on streamlining claim settlements, IT



upgrades, and processing pension applications on higher wages.

An official spokesperson said the meeting was chaired by Sumita Dawra, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, and attended by Central Provident Fund Commissioner Ramesh Krishnamurthi, senior officials from the ministry and EPFO, as well as representatives of employers and employees.

The committee reviewed the progress of EPFO's digital initiative to enable instant Provident Fund (PF) claim settlements through UPI. The technology partner, CDAC, is working on API development and system integration with SBI and NPCI to ensure a seamless rollout under the

EPFO's IT modernization project, CITES 2.01. The initiative aims to provide faster claim settlements and enhance ease of living for members.

The EC also welcomed a proposal to increase the auto-claim settlement limit to 5 lakh, acknowledging its potential to benefit EPF subscribers significantly. Discussions on IT infrastructure and the CITES 2.01 implementation highlighted the completion of hardware upgrades and the consolidation of decentralized databases.

Modules for User Management, Centralized Payments, and Re-engineered ECR are undergoing final testing and are expected to be deployed within the next two months.

In reviewing the progress of pension applications on higher wages, the committee noted a 22.8 percent increase in processed applications compared to the previous month. A total of 3,26,152 demand letters have been issued, marking a 29.5 percent rise from last month's figures. The EPFO reiterated its commitment to completing the process in line with the directives of the Supreme Court.

The chairperson emphasized the need for public awareness campaigns through print, electronic, and social media to highlight EPFO's initiatives and governance efforts. The committee also discussed finalizing a strategic roadmap to transform EPFO into a more member-centric, technology-driven organization.

Mission Yuva: Three-Days Training for Small Business Development Units Conclude

JAMMU: The Labour and Employment Department of Jammu and Kashmir has successfully concluded a three-day technical training program for Small Business



Development Units (SBDU) and Business Help Desk Units (BHU) under Mission Yuva at Udyog Bhawan, Jammu.

Administrative Secretary of the Labour and Employment Department, Rajeev Ranjan, attended as the chief guest and highlighted the crucial role of SBDUs and BHUs in fostering entrepreneurship. He urged participants to adopt a proactive approach to maximize the

impact of Mission Yuva.

The training, aimed at strengthening business development initiatives, saw the participation of 266 members from district and sub-divisional units. Director Employment and Mission Yuva, Shahzad Alam, emphasized the need for aligning with government objectives and urged participants to review the baseline survey report and the approved Project Yuva Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Dr. Murtaza Rashid, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) for Mission Yuva, provided an overview of the initiative, focusing on its four strategic pillars—Ecosystem Creation, Capital, Capacity Building, and Connectivity. Experts from NABARD, J&K Bank, Skill Development, and GDI partners conducted sessions on the Yuva portal, project report preparation, and credit facilitation.

Mission Yuva aims to establish 137,000 entrepreneurial units, potentially generating employment for 425,000 individuals over the next five years. The initiative envisions Jammu and Kashmir as a hub of entrepreneurship, unlocking the region's economic potential.

Dy CM, Satish Sharma attend last rites of Martyr Jagbir Singh

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary and Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and Transport, Satish Sharma, attended the last rites of Head Constable Jagbir Singh, who was martyred along



with his three colleagues in a two day long gunfight in Kathua district.

His cremation took place with full state honours at his native village, Matto, in Akhnoor.

Thousands of people from all walks of life, including relatives, gathered at the village cremation ground to pay their respects to the martyr.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister and Satish Sharma visited Jagbir Singh's residence to express their condolences with the bereaved family. They prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

The Deputy Chief Minister met with the martyr's mother and other family members, assuring them of full support from the J&K government.

3 drug peddlers arrested: Police

Srinagar: Continuing its efforts against the menace of drug trafficking, police on Saturday said to have arrested three drug peddlers in Shopian & Sopore and recovered contraband substances from their possession. In Shopian, a Police team from Police Station Shopian at a checkpoint established at Girward Zawoor, intercepted

02 suspicious persons. They have been identified as Basharat Ali, Son of Bahadur Ali and Mohd Mushtaq Thakker, son of Ab Rashid Thakker, both residents of Dandoot, Rajouri. During the search, 739 grams of Heroin-like substance was recovered from their possession. Further investigation is underway to unearth the forward and backward linkages of the individuals, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency (KNO).

128 faculty, 268 consultant posts vacant at SKIMS, DHS J&K

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: There are 388 posts lying vacant at Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura, and among them, 128 are faculty positions.

As per the details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the total sanctioned faculty strength at SKIMS Soura is 293, and of that, 165 are in position while 128 are lying vacant.

Details also reveal that among the 16 medical officers at the institute, just two are in position while 14 are lying vacant. Furthermore, among 776 paramedical staff, 530 are in position and 246 are lying vacant.

Meanwhile, an official told KNO that out of 128 vacant faculty positions, 13 have been referred to JKPCS, while 115 are under consideration for revival/concurrence. He said that 14 medical officer posts have been referred to JKPCS, while among 246 vacant paramedical staff positions, 21 have been sent to JKSSB, and 225 are under review for revival/concurrence.

As per the details available with KNO, there are 11 senior consultants and 131 consultant positions lying vacant in all hospitals of the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu. In the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, the number of consultant posts lying vacant includes 42 in district hospitals and 84 in sub-district hospitals. Three hundred thirty-seven posts of medical officers are lying vacant in hospitals of DHSJ while 254 posts of medical officers are lying vacant in DHSK.

Details also reveal that 67 posts of dental surgeons are lying vacant at DHSJ while 26 posts of dental surgeons are lying vacant at DHSK. It also reveals that 997 posts of paramedics are lying vacant in district hospitals, sub-district hospitals, and primary health centres of DHSJ, while 1,447 posts of paramedics are lying vacant in DHSK.

Health Minister Sakina Itoo recently mentioned in

the Assembly that in November 2024, 365 selectees were appointed as medical officers in the J&K Health & Family Welfare (Gazetted) Services, and these medical officers have been posted in far-flung/peripheral health institutes across J&K to strengthen medical/health care facilities at the grassroots level.



The department is also in the process of operating the waitlist for 91 selectee medical officers, whose services will also be utilised in underserved areas across J&K. "Besides, 181 posts of medical officers are still to be received from the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission. Upon receiving the selections, the selectee doctors will be posted at health institutions experiencing staff shortages," the minister said.

She added that 292 vacancies in the non-gazetted/paramedical category from the Directorate of Family Welfare, Maternity and Child Health (MCH) and Immunization, and 290 vacancies in the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu have also been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (J&K SSB).

Wholesale Dealer Seeks Action Against Unfair Trade Practices in Kashmir Market

Sumbal, Bandipora: A local wholesale dealer of readymade garments in Sumbal, Bandipora, has urged authorities to intervene against unfair business practices in the local market.

The dealer alleged that certain shopkeepers are selling readymade garments without proper GST compliance and billing, which not only disrupts fair competition but also results in significant revenue losses for the government.

Expressing concern over the situation, the dealer emphasized the need for immediate action to curb such irregularities and ensure a level playing field for all traders. The appeal seeks strict enforcement of tax regulations and monitoring mechanisms to prevent illegal trade practices.

PM Shri Girls High School Sumbal Holds Media Awareness Program

SRINAGAR: PM Shri Girls High School Sumbal organized a Media Awareness Program to educate students about the role of journalism and the importance of responsible media consumption. The event witnessed the participation of students, teachers, and journalists from News18 and Gulistan News.

News18 Correspondent Sajid Rasool led the session, providing valuable insights into media literacy, misinformation, and the importance of verifying news sources. He explained how social media has revolutionized information dissemination while also cautioning students against fake news and propaganda.

Students and teachers actively engaged in the discussion, raising questions on journalism ethics and media responsibility. The session emphasized the need for critical thinking and fact-checking while consuming news.

Speaking on the occasion, school authorities appreciated the initiative, stating that such programs help students develop a better understanding of the media's influence on society.

YSS Deptt Conducts Plantation Drive at Gamroo

Bandipora: The Zonal Physical Education Office Bandipora today conducted a Plantation Drive as part of the Green Kashmir 2025 – Plantation Drive initiative aimed to promote afforestation and environmental sustainability.

The plantation drive held at ZPEO office Gamroo was led by District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Bhat accompanied by Activity In-Charge Basharat Ahmad Bhat (PEM) and other field staff from Zone Bandipora.

Speaking at the event, DYSSO, Nazir Ahmad Bhat highlighted the crucial role of such plantation drives in combating climate change and maintaining ecological balance. He encouraged students and youth to actively participate in such initiatives to contribute to a greener and healthier environment.

He said the drive was focused on converting barren land into a green and fertile space by planting a significant number of trees besides raising awareness among students and the locals, emphasizing the importance of afforestation and environmental conservation.

Indian Army Conducts Outreach Program for Bakarwal Community in Rajouri

Rajouri: In a continued effort to foster trust and strengthen ties with the Bakarwal community, the Indian Army conducted a two-day outreach program in the remote areas of Kalaban and Galuthi villages, culminating in a medical camp at Thapa and Hundi Mohalla.

The initiative, aimed at providing essential healthcare services, saw an overwhelming response with 74 Bakarwals receiving treatment, including 10 elderly persons, 30 men, 20 women, and 14 children. Indian Army medical personnel conducted check-ups, provided medicines, and spread awareness about basic health and hygiene, reaffirming their commitment to the well-being of those living in these challenging terrains.

Beyond medical assistance, the program served as a platform for engagement, allowing the Army to interact with the community, understand their concerns, and reinforce mutual trust. Locals expressed gratitude for the Army's continued support, emphasizing the importance of such outreach initiatives in strengthening civil-military relations.

The Indian Army remains committed to ensuring the welfare and security of remote communities, standing as a steadfast guardian for those residing in the nation's most rugged landscapes.



Editorial

White Revolution 2.0:

India's dairy sector, a key driver of rural livelihoods and nutritional security, is set for a transformation with the launch of White Revolution 2.0. The initiative aims to increase milk procurement by 50% over the next five years by expanding cooperative coverage and market access, particularly in uncovered rural areas. The Ministry of Cooperation, in collaboration with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), plans to establish 75,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCSs) and strengthen over 46,000 existing ones, creating new market linkages and milk routes. One of the most promising aspects of White Revolution 2.0 is its focus on women empowerment. Women constitute nearly 70% of India's dairy workforce, yet their contributions often remain undervalued. The cooperative model has already demonstrated how women-led dairy societies can enhance income and social standing, and this initiative will further integrate them into the formal dairy economy, giving them greater financial independence. However, while the vision for White Revolution 2.0 is ambitious, successful implementation will require overcoming key challenges. Infrastructure gaps, cold storage and transportation bottlenecks, and quality control issues remain persistent hurdles. Additionally, ensuring fair pricing mechanisms for small dairy farmers and reducing dependence on intermediaries will be critical for long-term sustainability. To maximize the impact of this revolution, the government must ensure timely investment in dairy infrastructure, training programs for farmers (especially women), and transparent pricing mechanisms. Additionally, leveraging digital technology to facilitate direct market access for dairy farmers can further strengthen the cooperative network. If executed effectively, White Revolution 2.0 will not only boost milk production and rural employment but also empower millions of women, reinforcing India's position as the world's largest producer of milk. The initiative has the potential to be a game-changer, but its success will hinge on sustained policy support, grassroots-level implementation, and ensuring that benefits reach the smallest dairy farmers in the remotest villages.

Bridging Learning Gaps: A Teacher's Experiment in Education



Bhat Rayees Iolaby

Education is the cornerstone of societal progress with teachers acting as architects of future generations. In India, a nation witnessing exponential population growth and an escalating demand for quality education and some other challenges of managing the education system have become formidable. This article aims to delve deeply into the current educational landscape exploring potential strategies to address some of the challenges faced by the education system. Teacher workload in India is one of the multifaceted issues encompassing not only the number of students per class, learning outcomes but also administrative duties, lesson planning, extracurricular responsibilities, surveys, election related duties etc.

This all exacerbates their workload leaving them stretched thin as they strive to address the diverse needs of students. The resultant impact on the quality of education is profound, affecting both teaching efficacy and student outcomes. Striking a balance between all these parameters is imperative for ensuring the quality of education in India. In Jammu and Kashmir we can never forget the role of teachers particularly the erstwhile Rehbar-e-Taleem teachers as mostly these Rehbar-e-Taleem teachers are working in the elementary level. They have done a commendable job by revolutionizing the education system in all its spheres particularly from the inception of many schemes launched by Govt. of India from time to time.

I must admire and appreciate here the think tanks of the Govt. of India for launching SSA, MDM, RAMSA, SAMAGRA etc. It was only through these schemes that the education sector touched sky heights. Mention must be made here about the Literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir which has risen from 55.52% in 2001 to about 67.16% in 2025. Increasing enrollment is a commendable goal but it must be accompanied by measures to enhance the learning outcomes. This point struck my mind when I was going through an article in a LOCAL NEWSPAPER captioned as learning outcomes decrease by 8.3% at upper primary level, 2.5% at primary level in J&K schools in 6 years.

This made me to write some sentences about learning gaps which may benefit the community at large. To enhance the learning standards of students

at elementary level which of course is not only the problem related with Jammu and Kashmir school education but it is the problem at national as well as international level. People have worked on it and

students are able to come up to the expectations and the rest 40% are struggling which is making my teaching learning process very difficult. After rigorous thinking and going through many articles



are still working to curb this problem at all levels.

Different educationists have given different ideas about the learning gaps like remedial education was one such tool to make the difference.

In remedial education we can go for Small Group Tutoring, One to One Tutoring, Private Tutoring, Specialist tutoring, Volunteer Tutoring, Peer Tutoring, Withdrawal System and Computer Assisted Interventions.

READING RECOVERY is another tool to enhance the learning standards. It is a whole language learning intervention for supporting children's reading skills. It was developed in New Zealand in the 1970s but is now widely used in the U.K and U.S. It was also commonplace in Australia prior to 2015.

Read India was another program aimed at improving reading levels in rural India. It was run by the NGO Pratham.

Being an elementary teacher, I am also facing this difficulty during my class where about 60%

of national and international importance I got an idea of the house system.

House systems actually traces back over 200 years to pioneering British boarding schools like Eton, Westminster and Harrow. I found this house system most convenient method to actively identify and address the areas where a learner is lacking understanding or skills and essentially working to close those learning gaps and improve their overall learning by providing targeted interventions and support tailored to their individual needs. I practiced this idea of house system in my school but I molded and crafted it as per the conditions of my school which became fruitful to students as implementing flexible teaching models like blended learning or flipped classrooms allows for more personalized approach to education. This enables us to focus on individual student needs and facilitates a more interactive and engaging learning experience. We are grouping the students of different learning

levels and of different classes in the houses with different names. Each group has members from different classes, different age groups and with different learning levels. There are 7 groups in our school (you can frame the number of groups as per your staff strength).

Every teacher is allotted one group and is made responsible for that group. He is advised to make the student profile of each student of his group for office records. Special syllabus is framed by school authorities containing different aspects related to FLN curricular and co-curricular areas. Time for these activities is scheduled in the time table.

It is made mandatory in the last 40 minutes of the time table in our school. In the class many activities are taught to the students like how to cope up with the learning gaps by ensuring special teaching classes on reading, writing, speaking and basic mathematical skills. Students are also taught leadership qualities, management skills etc.

Every day morning assemblies are conducted by respective houses and a competition is generated among houses as to which one will perform the best in the week. The group which shows the top performance in presenting morning assembly is awarded with different cash prizes at the end of the week. One more thing in the second half of every Friday different competitions are held between the houses in the form of quiz, debates games etc. In the academics basic mathematical skills reading, writing and speaking level of learners is assessed and new strategies are followed as per the results and outcome of the week from the houses.

Award ceremonies are held and the concerned house is awarded accordingly. House teacher is specially appreciated and honored in front of all the audience for showing excellence. This way we observe and act accordingly on the learning gaps. We have been experimenting with this system for the last four years, particularly post covid 19 as COVID deteriorated the educational scenario of our schools drastically.

What I observed while experimenting with this group system in my school is that every student is a star with his/her unique talent. There is no uniform type of student who is sent to special class. This special focus is not only for students with learning disabilities, rather it supports any student who has fallen behind in any of the parameters for any reason. Secondly it ensures that basic human rights are guaranteed.

Author teaches at GMS Tekipora

Eid al-Fitr: A Time to Rejoice, Reflect, and Renew Faith



Dr. Reyaz Ahmad

The Purpose of Fasting in Ramadan

Fasting during Ramadan is not merely about abstaining from food and drink; it is a practice aimed at fostering self-restraint, gratitude, and empathy. The Quran emphasizes that fasting is prescribed so that believers may attain Taqwa (God-consciousness). Through daily fasting, Muslims experience hunger and thirst, developing a greater

Spiritual Growth: Have prayers become more meaningful? Has there been an increase in reading and understanding the Quran? Has a stronger connection with God been established?

Self-Discipline: Has fasting instilled better control over desires, habits, and negative behaviors?

Charitable Acts: Has generosity increased in terms of giving to the poor and helping those in need?

Interpersonal Relationships: Has patience

is not just a day to celebrate but a checkpoint to evaluate whether Ramadan has left a lasting impact.

For example, consider a businessman who, during Ramadan, made a conscious effort to avoid unethical financial practices, such as overcharging customers. If, after Eid, he reverts to old habits, it means the month's lessons did not take root. However, if he continues to uphold honesty and fair dealings, it reflects the true spirit of Ramadan. Similarly, a person who struggles with

consistency in good deeds, no matter how small.

Conclusion

Eid al-Fitr is more than just a celebration; it is an occasion for self-assessment and commitment to sustaining the virtues practiced in Ramadan.



Eid al-Fitr is a joyous occasion celebrated by Muslims worldwide. It marks the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting, prayer, and self-discipline. While Eid is often associated with festivity, family gatherings, and feasts, it is also a moment for deep introspection and self-evaluation. It serves as an opportunity to reflect on the spiritual and personal growth attained during Ramadan and assess whether one has met the fasting goals.

appreciation for the blessings they often take for granted. Moreover, it strengthens self-discipline, refines character, and enhances one's connection with God.

Eid: A Time for Reflection

As Ramadan concludes, Eid al-Fitr provides the perfect moment to reflect on the changes made throughout the month. Some key aspects of introspection include:

improved? Have efforts been made to resolve conflicts and strengthen bonds with family and friends?

Evaluating the Outcomes of Ramadan with Real Context

The true success of Ramadan lies in carrying its lessons forward. If the discipline, patience, and spiritual consciousness cultivated during the month fade away soon after Eid, the essence of fasting has not been fully realized. Therefore, Eid

controlling anger may have used Ramadan as an opportunity to practice patience and forgiveness. If, after Eid, they continue to respond calmly in difficult situations, they have truly internalized the month's teachings.

Muslims are encouraged to maintain the good habits developed during fasting. Continuing regular prayers, acts of charity, and self-discipline ensures that Ramadan's influence extends beyond the month itself. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) emphasized the importance of

The true success of Ramadan lies in carrying its lessons forward. If the discipline, patience, and spiritual consciousness cultivated during the month fade away soon after Eid, the essence of fasting has not been fully realized. Therefore, Eid is not just a day to celebrate but a checkpoint to evaluate whether Ramadan has left a lasting impact.

By reflecting on personal growth and making a conscious effort to continue the positive changes, Muslims can ensure that the spirit of Ramadan endures throughout the year. Eid, therefore, becomes a meaningful transition, bridging the lessons of fasting with the goal of lifelong spiritual development.

Author is Faculty of Mathematics, Department of General Education SUC, Sharjah, UAE. He can be mailed at reyaz56@gmail.com

Abid Rasheed inaugurates medical camp at Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre

JAMMU: Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Dr Sayed Abid Raaheed, inaugurated a special medical camp at the Ramakrishna Mission Medical Centre in Udaywala, Jammu.

Renowned neurologist Dr Sushil Razdan and eminent physician Dr K.K. Pandita, among other specialists and Dr. Rajni Razdan rendered their services during the camp.

Dr. Abid Rasheed lauded the Ramakrishna Mission for its dedicated services in providing quality healthcare to the masses. He expressed gratitude to the distinguished doctors for volunteering their expertise in public service.

During the event, Secretary Health dedicated a new eye testing machine (Auto Refractometer) to the medical centre and toured the facility to review its services.

Following the inauguration, the Secretary visited the mission complex, including the auditorium and the library for the youth. He observed that the mission's serene and spiritual environment offers an ideal setting for focussed studies and holistic intellectual development.



Interacting with the students preparing for various entrance examinations, he inquired about their career aspirations. He encouraged them to remain dedicated to their goals while staying connected to their cultural heritage. He advised them to make best use of the facilities provided by the Ramakrishna Mission and recommended studying the works of Swami Vivekananda, particularly his historic

speech at the World Parliament of Religions.

Secretary Ramakrishna Mission, Jammu, Swami Yajnadharananda, highlighted the organisation's commitment to the ideals of Sri Ramakrishna Dev, Maa Sarada and Swami Vivekananda, emphasising the service to humanity as a form of divine worship. He also announced plans to organise such free camps monthly.

The visit was attended by Swami Mahamedhananda, Swami Vijayeshananda besides others from the RKM, who accompanied Dr Shah during his tour to the facilities.

The health camp provided a range of free medical services, including consultations with Neurologists, Orthopaedist, Gynaecologist, Dental Surgeon, ENT specialist, Ophthalmologist, Allopathy Physicians, Ayurveda Physician, Physiotherapist and Clinical Psychologist.

In addition to free consultations, the camp offered check ups for blood sugar, Hba1c and blood pressure, free of cost. A Full Body Check-up covering 66 parameters, including CBC, LFT, KFT, Lipid profile, BSF, Urine tests and thyroid function tests (T3, T4, TSH), was available for a nominal fee.

Javed Rana reviews working of Forest department



JAMMU: Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, today convened a meeting at Jammu to review functioning of the Forest Department.

He reviewed the department's activities and discussed various aspects of forest management, including conservation efforts, Ek Ped Maa ke Naam, Protection measures, community engagement, sustainable development and Community Social Responsibility.

PCCF Chief, Suresh Kumar Gupta, gave a brief on the department's activities and highlighted the achievements of the forest department.

During the meeting, physical and financial progress on key flagship schemes was also reviewed.

While reviewing the forest protection measures, Rana said that forest fire prevention and management mechanisms have gained added significance due to the adverse climatic conditions. He emphasised the need of initiating innovative mitigation measures on this account.

The Minister stressed on raising awareness and ensuring coordination among various wings of the Forest Department for achieving tangible progress. He also emphasised the active involvement of locals in Forest Fire Control operations.

Maintaining that steps need to be taken to strengthen forest dependent communities and tribal engagement, Rana instructed to swiftly address the pending claims under the Forest Rights Act, filed by forest dwellers. He also had a detailed assessment of traditional as well as modern ways in which forest department provides services to the people dependent on forest resources.

He directed for optimum utilisation of available resources for revenue generation and sustainable livelihoods created through eco-tourism and forest recreation.

While reviewing the Greening Jammu and Kashmir initiative, Rana said that it should be carried out for increasing forest cover as per the National Forest Policy.

The Minister also directed for fast-tracking the green clearances for projects of significant public interest and aggressive compensatory afforestation without exceptions.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on Human Resource (HR) management in various wings of Forest Department.

Javed Rana urged upon the PCCF to maintain accountability and transparency, ensuring administrative efficiency and timely resolution of employee related matters.

Mughal Road closure causes hardship for residents of Shopian, Pir Panchal

People demand reopening of vital route

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar: The historic Mughal road continues to remain closed for traffic movement, due to which people on both sides have been suffering.

The road connecting Kashmir via Shopian with the Pir Panchal region in Jammu was shut in winter because of snow accumulation on the road.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the people from Shopian, as well as Poonch and Rajouri areas of Pir Panchal, demanded the reopening of the road for traffic, as they are forced to take longer routes.

They said the closure of the road badly impacts businesses and other activities of residents of Shopian, Hirpora, Dubjan, Pir-Ki-Gali, Buffliaz, Thanamadi, and other villages.

Many people from Shopian are married in Poonch or Rajouri, and vice versa. However, the closure of the road is affecting people traveling to visit their relatives on both sides.

It has also affected students from Kashmir studying at Baba Ghulam Shah University in Rajouri, who were expecting to come home or return through the same route on Eid, but that hasn't happened as of now.

Despite receiving national highway status in 2016, the proposed tunnel to make the road all-weather is nowhere in sight.

Although the road was handed over to the BRO last year, the construction of the tunnel to ensure an all-weather road is yet to see daylight.

People from both sides requested that the concerned authorities look into the matter and reopen it for traffic as soon as possible.

An official stated that the snow clearance work is in the final stage and that a decision about reopening the road will be taken shortly—(KNO)



Release pending wages, salaries, contractor bills before Eid: Tarigami

Srinagar: The government must release all pending wages of daily wagers, Anganwadi workers, contingent-paid employees, and contractor bills before Eid-ul-Fitr, said CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami on Saturday.

In a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Tarigami said the delay in releasing payments, including pensions, gratuities, salaries, and other dues, has caused severe financial distress to employees and workers across various sectors.

“For over six months, government employees, including daily wagers, temporary staff, Anganwadi workers, Aya workers, coxswains, and contingent-paid employees, have been struggling due to non-payment of their wages,” he said.

With Eid-ul-Fitr approaching, Tarigami said it is crucial that these payments are cleared so that employees and workers can celebrate the festival with dignity and without financial hardship.

He also urged the government to immediately clear pending bills for contractors who have completed their work but are yet to receive their rightful payments.

“Any further delay in disbursing these dues will only worsen the crisis for thousands of families relying on these earnings. The authorities must act without delay and release the payments at the earliest,” he added—(KNO)

GHSS Paloura staff accords farewell to retiring colleague

JAMMU: Government Higher Secondary School Paloura, Jammu accorded warm farewell to Gharo Devi, Lab Bearer on her superannuation after rendering 34 years of Service in Education Department.

Principal, Shikha Malhotra and staff of GHSS Paloura wished her a very happy, healthy and prosperous post retirement life.

A bouquet and memento was presented to the retiring official as a mark of honor and affection.

Javed Rana advocates advance steps to ensure reliable water supply in summer

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today emphasised the need for taking necessary steps in advance to ensure unhindered drinking water supply during the summer months.

He said this during a meeting held with Chief Engineer, PHE, Jammu Vikas Sharma and others to deliberate on the measures to be taken for a reliable irrigation and water supply.

Javed Rana discussed the problems that could arise in water supply besides highlighting the steps to be taken before hand to tackle any water shortage issues.

He said that the people should be provided with safe drinking water and the concerned departments should prepare a comprehensive action plan on this account.

The Minister advised the officials to prepare plans after assessment of the situation at the micro level. He also asked for initiating the repair work to on borewells, wells and motors

besides procurement of materials to be done, wherever necessary. He also asked them to maintain coordination and synergy for effective implementation of ground water management



interventions at district level.

Regarding irrigation supply, Javed Rana said that concrete steps need to be taken to ensure a

DC reviews Eid ul fitr arrangements, visits Eidgah Bandipora



BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Saturday reviewed the arrangements for Eid ul fitr celebrations in the district to ensure a smooth and safe observance of the religious occasion.

As part of the review, the DC visited the Eidgah Bandipora to inspect the preparations and oversee necessary arrangements for the Eid prayers.

During the visit, Qadri emphasized the safety and security of attendees, maintaining cleanliness in and around the Eidgah, and providing necessary facilities for the public.

The officers accompanying DC briefed him regarding the measures in place to facilitate a seamless experience for the public.

The DC emphasized the importance of coordination between various departments, including law enforcement, health services, and other concerned to ensure that all aspects of the Eid celebrations are conducted peacefully and smoothly.

He said the District Administration has put in place all necessary arrangements including traffic management and emergency medical services, to ensure the safety and well-being of all citizens.

On the occasion, the DC also interacted with locals and representatives of the local auqaf committee seeking their cooperation in maintaining peace and order during the festive period.

He urged the public to follow the guidelines issued by the authorities for a safe, peaceful and smooth Eid celebration.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by CPO, Tehsildar Bandipora, EO MC and other concerned.

ADC Srinagar visits Sharika Devi Temple, oversees arrangements for upcoming Navratra festival

Srinagar: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Srinagar, Dr. Khalid Hussain Malik on Saturday visited Sharika Devi Temple in the District to oversee arrangements being made on the eve of Navreh, a festival celebrated on new Year as per Hindu calendar and beginning of Navratra celebrations.

During his visit, the ADC was accompanied by the members of Kashmir Pandit community and senior Officers from District Administration.

At Sharika Devi Temple atop Hari Parbat, Badamwari the ADC took a detailed stock of the arrangements being made for the devotees.

While interacting with the management Committee of the Sharika Devi Temple, the ADC took first hand appraisal of the arrangements made available



at the venue to facilitate the visiting devotees particularly on the occasion of Navratra.

The ADC gave on spot directions to the PDD and PHE Departments to ensure

Distt Admin Ganderbal bids farewell to Mohammad Irshad, Naib Tehsildar on superannuation

GANDERBAL: The District Administration Ganderbal organized a farewell ceremony on the occasion of retirement of Mohammad Irshad (Naib Tehsildar), PA to the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, recognizing his invaluable contributions to public service.

The event was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Jatin Kishore, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Gulzar Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development, and other officials.

Speaking on occasion, the Deputy Commissioner commended Mohammad Irshad for his unwavering dedication, professionalism, and commitment throughout

his tenure. He lauded the retiree's contributions in serving the district administration with



diligence and integrity. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, and other officials also shared their experiences, expressing gratitude for Irshad's exemplary service and wishing him a healthy and prosperous post-retirement life.

In his farewell speech, Mohammad Irshad recounted the journey of thirty eight years

Legal Metrology Enforcement seizes Underweight Cooking Oil Stock in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Acting on complaints regarding the sale of underweight cooking oil in Srinagar, the Legal Metrology Enforcement Srinagar conducted extensive inspections across the city.

During an inspection in Batmaloo, the department's enforcement unit detected significant discrepancies in the net weight of pre-packaged edible oil containers.

A case was registered against a leading manufacturer and packer of edible oil after standard weighing equipment confirmed a shortage exceeding the permissible error

limit prescribed under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules.

As a result, the department seized the available stock and notified the concerned wholesaler in Batmaloo. Legal proceedings under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 are underway against all responsible parties.

It is pertinent to mention that the quantity was measured in presence of the consumers which gathered at the location and the actions of the department were appreciated by them. The consumers were apprised

about their rights regarding the accuracy of the quantity contained in the packages and their responsibility in checking the same by using the certified weights and measurement which must be available with every trader.

The demonstrations were held for them regarding the difference between Gross Weight and the Net Weight and how the quantity or the weight of the items can be checked by using the verified weighing scale or Measure for such purpose and for any complaints they were requested to contact the nearest Legal Metrology Office.

Chairperson DDC Baramulla visits fire-affected families

BARAMULLA: Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safina Baig, visited Mohalla Jalal Sahib Baramulla to meet the families affected by the recent fire incident.

During the visit, she interacted with the affected families, assessed the damage, and assured them of full support

from the administration.

Chairperson highlighted the challenging living conditions in the area, noting that 3 to 4 families are residing in a single house due to overcrowding. She emphasized the urgent need for decongestion to improve living standards and reduce the risk of such incidents in the future.

Safina Baig assured the

families that, as the Chairperson of DDC Baramulla, she will take every possible step to rehabilitate them. She also stated that she will take up the matter with the district and UT administration to ensure the immediate allotment of 5 marlas of land to each affected family, along with financial and other support to help them recover.

Muslims and the Eclipse of Knowledge: Rekindling Intellectual and Spiritual Illumination



Shabeer Ahmad Lone

The knowledge crises in the many muslim-majority countries today struggle with low literacy rates, weak research institutions, and a lack of original scholarship. According to UNESCO (2022):The literacy rate in Malaysia stands at 95%, whereas in Niger, it remains as low as 35%.Muslim-majority nations contribute less than 2% to global scientific research output.This is attributed to uncritical/rote learning, division between secular / religious division, and interdisciplinary studies . Contemporary and modern scholars have continued the intellectual discourse on Muslim knowledge revival .Tariq Ramadan advocates for an ethical, values-based integration of Islam in contemporary societies.Wael Hallaqcritiques the modern legal order's incompatibility with traditional Islamic governance. Ahmad Javaid advocates integrating spirituality with reason, reviving critical thought, and fostering self-awareness to restore intellectual and spiritual enlightenment in the Muslim world. Javed Ghamidi calls for rationalist approaches in Islamic

PART II

jurisprudence. Ziauddin Sardar explores Muslim futures through science and postmodern critique. Mohammad Iqbal Asaria focuses on Islamic economics as a path to self-sufficiency. Hamza Yusuf and Abdal Hakim Murad (Timothy Winter) advocate for a revival of traditional Islamic scholarship with contemporary relevance. Their insights converge on the necessity of harmonizing faith, reason, and ethical progress for a renewed Muslim intellectual and spiritual awakening.

The intellectual and spiritual stagnation of Muslim societies, much like other civilizations, has been profoundly reflected in the works of poets, philosophers, and reformers across cultures. Ghalib lamented the collapse of Mughal intellectual supremacy, while Omar Khayyam's Rubaiyat expressed skepticism about rigid dogma, mirroring Hafiz's critique of religious hypocrisy. Nazir Akbarabadi exposed the socio-political decay of his time, just as Dante's Divine Comedy and Milton's Paradise Lost wrestled with moral decline and renewal. Victor Hugo and Tolstoy envisioned justice and ethical revival, aligning with Carlisle's belief in transformative leadership. Wordsworth, Blake, and Shelley championed revolution against intellectual stagnation, much like Iqbal, who urged Muslims to rediscover their Khudi and embrace dynamic progress. Tagore, like Walt Whitman, celebrated human potential and the fusion of East and West, while Hölderlin and Emily Dickinson explored the existential crisis that often precedes intellectual awakening. Frithjof Schuon -The Traditionalist Thinker advocated for Perennial Philosophy, harmonizing Islam with universal truths. Stressed spiritual refinement as key to knowledge revival.Criticized materialist approaches to knowledge without divine wisdom.

Noguchi embodied the need for cross-cultural synthesis, paralleling the role of Muhammad Abduh in Islamic thought. These thinkers serve as both a mirror to decline and a roadmap for revival-reminding us that true reform lies in harmonizing faith and reason, tradition and innovation, mysticism and critical inquiry.

The historical decline of knowledge and intellectual vibrancy among Muslims necessitates a holistic, practical, and inclusive framework that integrates spiritual depth, intellectual rigor, ethical commitment, and societal engagement. This framework should revive the Golden Age ethos while addressing contemporary challenges.

Restoration demands a revival of the Iqbalian and Al-Afghani-inspired awakening, where faith and reason coexist dynamically. The Ottoman Tanzimat reforms, Aligarh Movement, and modern centers of learning like Hamad Bin Khalifa University and KAUST exemplify attempts to rekindle the lost spirit of inquiry. The remedy lies in nurturing critical thought, fostering innovation, reclaiming lost epistemological confidence, and bridging traditional wisdom with contemporary advancements, ensuring that knowledge once again becomes a force of illumination rather than mere ornamentation.

Global initiatives in education reform further demonstrate the urgency of reviving knowledge in the Muslim world. Recent efforts to modernize madrasah curricula in countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, and Turkey have sought to integrate traditional Islamic sciences with subjects like philosophy, economics, and artificial intelligence. In the UK, scholars and educators have advocated for a balanced approach to faith-based education, ensuring that religious institutions not only preserve spiritual values but also equip students with the analytical and problem-solving skills necessary for global engagement. The appointment of Sir Hamid Patel as chairman of Ofsted signals the increasing recognition of faith-based schools' potential in contributing to both academic excellence and moral development.

The resurgence of the Muslim world depends on a holistic intellectual renaissance that integrates diverse global models within its ethical and cultural framework. Inspired by the Renaissance's spirit of inquiry, the Enlightenment's rational thought and ethical governance, Silicon Valley's culture of innovation and adaptability, Scandinavia's commitment to equity, sustainability, and lifelong learning, and UNESCO's emphasis on cross-cultural knowledge exchange, this revival must harmonize classical Islamic wisdom with modern scientific inquiry. By fostering pluralistic intellectual traditions and investing in research and education, Muslims can reignite an era of intellectual and spiritual illumination-one that unites faith with reason, tradition with progress, and ethics with innovation.

The role of education in countering extreme positions

and fostering critical thought is another crucial dimension in this discourse. Education must not be reduced to mere career advancement but should cultivate wisdom, moral integrity, and a sense of responsibility toward humanity. The suppression of women's education by ideologically driven groups, the monopolization of religious discourse by rigid literalists, and the intellectual passivity of many Muslim communities are all symptoms of a deeper crisis.

Education remains the most potent antidote to extremism, ignorance, and cultural decline.

Beyond institutional reforms, there is a need for a cultural transformation in how knowledge is perceived and pursued. Knowledge must once again be seen as a means of cultivating wisdom and ethical integrity rather than merely a tool for economic advancement or political leverage. The Muslim world must foster

considerations inform scientific and technological advancements rather than being treated as separate domains.The way forward requires a radical rethinking of the epistemological foundations upon which contemporary Muslim intellectual life is built. The revival of knowledge in the Muslim world cannot be achieved through superficial reforms or isolated initiatives but necessitates a civilizational project that reinstates the primacy of wisdom as



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Restoration demands a revival of the Iqbalian and Al-Afghani-inspired awakening, where faith and reason coexist dynamically. The Ottoman Tanzimat reforms, Aligarh Movement, and modern centers of learning like Hamad Bin Khalifa University and KAUST exemplify attempts to rekindle the lost spirit of inquiry. The remedy lies in nurturing critical thought, fostering innovation, reclaiming lost epistemological confidence, and bridging traditional wisdom with contemporary advancements, ensuring that knowledge once again becomes a force of illumination rather than mere ornamentation.

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a culture that values deep intellectual engagement over superficial credentialism, where scholars, scientists, and philosophers are not only respected but also provided with the necessary resources and institutional support to contribute meaningfully to global knowledge production. This requires a shift from a passive consumerist mindset to an active engagement with the frontiers of human thought, ensuring that the Islamic intellectual tradition remains a living force capable of addressing contemporary challenges with depth, insight, and moral clarity.

Similarly beyond formal education, a deeper engagement with classical Islamic philosophy and spirituality is essential for rekindling intellectual vitality. The Sufi tradition, with its rich metaphysical insights, has historically played a vital role in shaping a holistic worldview that integrates knowledge with ethical responsibility. Thinkers like Ibn Arabi and Rumi exemplified a vision of knowledge that transcended mere accumulation of facts, urging a pursuit of wisdom that is transformative both individually and collectively. A revival of this integrative approach to knowledge-where scientific advancement and spiritual depth reinforce rather than contradict one another-offers a promising path forward.

The challenge of reclaiming intellectual leadership in the Muslim world is not merely an academic concern but a civilizational imperative. It demands a collective effort from scholars, educators, policymakers, and communities to cultivate environments that encourage inquiry, creativity, and ethical consciousness. Universities and research institutions in the Muslim world must strive for academic excellence while remaining deeply rooted in ethical and spiritual traditions. The adoption of critical methodologies in Islamic studies, alongside advancements in interdisciplinary research, can revitalize the intellectual spirit that once made the Muslim world a beacon of knowledge.

A knowledge-driven revival demands increased R&D investment, as most Muslim nations allocate less than 0.5% of GDP compared to 4 to 5 % in Western countries. Faith and reason must reunite, as the Quran urges reflection (tadabbur) and inquiry (tafakkur), a vision upheld by Al-Ghazali, Ibn Arabi, and Iqbal, who championed holistic knowledge. Education must foster critical thinking, integrating Islamic and global intellectual traditions. Research funding must expand, establishing world-class universities and think tanks. A culture of inquiry and open discourse will restore literary and scientific excellence. Iqbal, Rumi, and Al-Jahiz must be revived in contemporary thought, blending spiritual depth with intellectual innovation.

The madrasah system must be reformed to include not only traditional Islamic disciplines but also philosophy, natural sciences, and social sciences, ensuring that religious scholars are equipped with the intellectual tools necessary to engage with the complexities of the modern world. Universities and madrasas must engage in meaningful dialogue rather than existing in separate silos. Likewise, universities in the Muslim world must foster an environment of critical inquiry, where philosophical and ethical

a guiding principle. This demands an educational paradigm that bridges the artificial divide between the religious and the scientific, restoring the integrated vision that characterized the golden age of Islamic thought.

Scientific research must be encouraged as a form of divine exploration rather than being viewed as a foreign import. Investment in higher education, technological innovation, and humanities scholarship must be prioritized if the Muslim world is to reclaim its intellectual legacy. At the same time, ethical considerations must not be sidelined in the pursuit of knowledge. The examples of past intellectual giants serve as a reminder that true knowledge is not an accumulation of facts but a transformative force that elevates both the individual and society.

The journey toward rekindling intellectual and spiritual light within the Muslim world necessitates a paradigm shift-one that transcends narrow disciplinary boundaries and restores the unity of knowledge (taw d) that defined classical Islamic scholarship. This transformation demands a holistic re-examination of educational systems, a reintegration of reason with revelation, and a re-engagement with the critical, creative, and ethical dimensions of learning. A renewed commitment to intellectual rigor, spiritual depth, and ethical responsibility can enable the Muslim world to reclaim its role as a vital contributor to global knowledge production. By drawing upon the timeless wisdom of thinkers like Al-Ghazali, Rumi, and Ibn Arabi etc. alongside contemporary scholars such as Syed Hossein Nasr , Muhammad Iqbal and scores of others , this research underscores the necessity of integrating tradition with modernity, faith with reason, and empirical inquiry with moral vision. The rekindling of intellectual and spiritual enlightenment is not merely about recovering a lost past-it is about constructing a future in which the pursuit of knowledge is once again a means of human elevation, societal transformation, and civilizational progress. By realigning with its rich heritage while engaging dynamically with contemporary challenges, the Muslim world can illuminate a path that is not only relevant for itself but also for the broader human civilization, offering a vision of knowledge that is at once timeless, inclusive, and profoundly transformative. The Qur'an's repeated exhortations to think, reflect, and seek knowledge are not remnants of a bygone era but a timeless call to action.

This framework also aims to revive the Qur'anic vision of knowledge, where intellect (Aql), revelation (Wahy), and spiritual purification (Tazkiyah) harmoniously guide Muslim communities. True knowledge must transform hearts, enlighten minds, and serve humanity. A new Renaissance is only possible when we synthesize faith, Intellect/ reason, ethics, and action, reclaiming the Ummah's lost legacy of intellectual and spiritual leadership. The choice remains in the hands of those willing to answer that call.

Author can be mailed at shabirahmed.lone003@gmail.com

Continued From P1...

No timeframe

The Union Home Minister Amit Shah exuded confidence that the BJP will remain in power at the Centre for at least 30 years. “When I was the national president of the BJP, I had said the BJP will remain in power for the next 30 years. Only 10 years have gone now,” he said.

Asked whether the RSS interferes in the functioning of the government, Shah said, “The RSS has been preparing patriots for the last 100 years. I have learnt from the RSS how to keep patriotism at centre while keeping many dimensions together. There is no question of interference,” he said.

Asked about the prevailing security situation, Shah said as the Union Home Minister he got three problems as legacy issues: Naxal violence, terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and insurgency in the Northeast. “In last 10 years, 16,000 youths have surrendered in these three theatres. As the Home Minister of the country, it is my duty to bring peace in all these places. It is the priority of the Prime Minister and naturally it is my priority too,” he added

Need More

their lives in the line of duty during the Kathua encounter. Their sacrifice is etched in our hearts forever. We stand with their families in this hour of grief,” according to a post on the X handle of the Chief Minister’s Office.

Talking to reporters after visiting the home of selection grade constable Tariq Ahmad, the chief minister said encounters and terror attacks were nothing new and had been happening in the Jammu region for the past three to four years.

“Even in Reasi district, there was an attack on a passenger bus (ferrying pilgrims last year). There were attacks in Jammu city. The reason behind this is that when the Chinese army made an incursion into Ladakh, we needed an army to counter them,” Abdullah said.

“We could not remove the army from the valley and so the troops stationed in Jammu were sent to Ladakh, as a result of which there was a shortage somewhere. Now, that shortage is being slowly overcome,” he added.

Assuring that the compensation cases of the fallen policemen would be taken up by the home department when offices reopened after Eid next week, he said “we should try not to have such incidents”.

CM Omar pays

will always be remembered. May his soul rest in peace.”

Later, the Chief Minister visited the families of the slain policemen—Balvinder Singh, Tariq Ahmad, Jaswant Singh, and Jagbir Singh—expressing his deep condolences.

“Visited the families of our brave hearts—Balvinder Singh, Tariq Ahmad, Jaswant Singh, and Jagbir Singh—who laid down their lives in the line of duty during the Kathua encounter. Their sacrifice is etched in our hearts forever. We stand with their families in this hour of grief,” the Chief Minister said.

Over 1.33 lakh

uninterrupted access is drawing more tourists, benefiting hoteliers, travel agents, and local businesses.

This increase in tourist activity is seen as a hopeful sign not only for Sonamarg but for the wider revival of winter tourism across Kashmir. As infrastructure improves and travel becomes easier, experts predict a sustained boost to the region’s economy and the tourism sector in the coming years.

Sonamarg Development Authority CEO Gh Mohd Bhat told KNO, “Sonamarg has immense natural potential with its snow-covered mountains, and

the inauguration of the Sonamarg Tunnel this year has brought significant benefits to both locals and hoteliers.”

“We are optimistic that this year will break all previous records in terms of tourist arrivals. All necessary arrangements have been made to ensure a smooth experience for visitors. We are also working on several future projects to further develop Sonamarg as a premier tourist destination,” he added

Stop sponsoring

will never want our children to be martyred. Our children are being martyred because of conspiracies hatched from across the border but they (Pakistanis) should understand that they have been killing our children for the last over 30 years and achieved nothing.” Choudhary said the country which is sponsoring terrorism in J&K has destroyed itself.

Paying tributes to the fallen policemen, he said their sacrifice has plunged the whole of J&K into grief even as they belonged to different communities – one is a Muslim and three Hindus.

“Our brotherhood is strong and nobody can break it whatever the efforts,” he added.

Army Commander

policeman and two slain terrorists were recovered from a remote forested area in Kathua.

LG Sinha

personalities of Purvanchal who worked with dedication to build a modern India and illuminated people’s lives with their intellectual and creative efforts.

“The values that Purvanchal has given to humanity can never be erased. Many of our ancestors who are no longer in this world have left behind a rich legacy for the society which can ensure a secure future for generations to come.

There are thousands of great stars in the sky of Purvanchal. There is nothing more sacred and precious than their creations and their ideals. The Maati Trust and their associates have a huge responsibility to preserve and promote this sacred legacy,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the future generation should be connected with linguistic richness and cultural diversity.

“The young generation should be connected with those traditions which have served as a source of emotional bonding, peace, ideals and inspiration for thousands of years,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the Maati Trust for its commendable efforts in roping in around 51,000 educational institutions for scholarships, jobs, startups, entrepreneurship for the youth and promotion of culture through a proposed cultural centre.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also felicitated and congratulated the achievers of Purvanchal who were conferred with the ‘Maati Samman’.

DSEK Tightens

No. 52 DSEK of 2025, issued by Director School Education Kashmir GN Itoo, academic inspections will be intensified, and officials at various levels of the School Education Department are now required to conduct field visits regularly and submit Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs).

According to the circular Joint Directors of School Education shall conduct visits in different districts at least twice a week and submit consolidated reports with recommendations to the Director of School Education Kashmir.

Search Operation For Terrorists Extended To New Areas In J&K’s Kathua



JAMMU: Security forces on Saturday extended the ongoing search operation to new areas after the body of the fourth policeman and two slain terrorists were recovered from the scene of a gunfight in a remote forested area in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Body of head constable Jagbir Singh was retrieved from Ghati Juthana forest in Rajbagh and was shifted to Jammu where a wreath laying ceremony for the deceased was held near police headquarters Gulshan Ground, they said.

The officials said bodies of two Pakistani terrorists, believed to be affiliated with proscribed Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit, were also recovered along with war-like stores.

The encounter in the area began on Thursday morning and continued throughout the day on Friday. A total of four policemen and two recently infiltrated terrorists were killed, while the search for other members of the terrorist group is continuing for

the third day on Saturday.

Earlier, officials had put the death toll of terrorists at three but the Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat late Friday evening clarified that only two terrorists and four policemen were killed in the encounter.

Bodies of three policemen — Balwinder Singh Chib, Jaswant Singh and Tariq Ahmed — were retrieved last evening and their wreath laying ceremony led by the DGP was held at District Police Lines Kathua before their bodies were handed over to their families.

The officials said security forces are sanitising the scene of the encounter while the search operation was extended to adjoining areas including Billawar heights to track down and neutralize the terrorists.

Gunfire and deafening sounds of explosions were also heard near the scene of the encounter this morning as well but it was later clarified that the firing was deliberate by the security forces as part of the counter terror strategy and the blasts were the result of disposing off littered explosive

Chief Education Officers (CEOs) and Deputy CEOs have been tasked to visit different schools at least twice a week, with a focus on far-flung areas, and submit their reports to their respective Joint Directors.

Complex/Cluster Heads have also been asked to conduct school visits along with the Academic Monitoring Committee at least twice a week and submit reports to their respective Joint Directors.

Moreover DSEK in the fresh circular has asked Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) to visit schools at least twice a week, prioritizing remote areas, and submit reports to their respective CEOs.

According to the circular Official Meetings Shall Not Hinder Inspections and the officers have been instructed not to cancel their school visits due to departmental meetings. “Instead, they are advised to attend meetings online, unless directed otherwise by the Director of School Education Kashmir”.

Furthermore Joint Directors have been asked to compile all reports/recommendations of a month and submit the same for the perusal of the Director School Education Kashmir before every 7th of the month.

The circular also warns that any deviation from these instructions will be taken seriously, ensuring strict compliance to prevent future lapses in academic monitoring.

Meanwhile civil society members and concerned citizens have hailed the Director GN Itoo for acting tough against non-performing teachers and intensifying monitoring mechanism hoping that it will further improve the accountability especially in schools of remote areas.

Locals said the students of remote areas especially in tribal areas are given step-motherly treatment as such schools are usually understaffed while schools in towns and cities are over staffed.

Dy CM, Satish

the martyr’s mother and other family members, assuring them of full support from the J&K government.

DSEK orders change in school timing

SRINAGAR: The Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Saturday ordered change in school timing for Kashmir division with effect from April-01.

DSEK in a order said that the schools within Srinagar municipal limits shall have a school time of 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in all government and private schools.

It also said that the educational institutes outside municipal limits of Srinagar and other areas of Kashmir province shall have timing of 09:30 am to 03:30 pm.

“The order and instructions shall be adhered to strictly by all the concerned institutions. Any deviation in this regard shall be viewed seriously,” DSEK said.

J-K govt to set up early warning system to deal with sudden glacial lake breaches

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government is establishing an early warning system to enhance preparedness for any sudden breach of glacial lakes due to the climate change-induced rapid melting in the Himalayas, officials said here.

They said there is an “imminent risk of sudden breach” of Glacial Lakes in the high-altitude regions, particularly in the Himalayas, and the government has adopted a proactive approach for mitigation and risk reduction to address the growing threat.

“The government of J-K has adopted a focused, holistic and a proactive approach which include comprehensive understanding of risk landscape and the development of robust mitigation and risk reduction strategies,” an

official said.

In this connection, the government has constituted the FGMC or Focused ‘Glacial Lake Outburst Flood’ (GLOF) Monitoring Committee which has conducted expeditions to various such lakes to enhance understanding and preparedness against potential hazards.

Geographical field expeditions were conducted to the two glacier lakes — Sheshnag and Sonsar enroute the Holy Amarnath Cave in the Himalayas, the officials said.

After the expeditions, a detailed report was shared with the FGMC highlighting the major findings and future possibilities for deliberations, they said.

Also, a specialised team carried out expeditions and undertook a comprehensive study of three other critical glacial lakes in the Kishtwar district, including Mundikar Lake, Hangu Lake and an unnamed lake, they added.

The officials said the expeditions provided valuable data on the conditions of the lakes, surrounding environmental factors, and potential risks of a breach, or technically, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF).

Another expedition was carried out to the Gangabal Lake, in central Kashmir’s Ganderbal district — a high-altitude glacial lake located in the northwestern Himalayas, they said.

The expedition examined the physical and geological characteristics of Gangabal Lake, and a particular focus was given to assessing the local geomorphology, the stability of the natural dam containing the lake, and the conditions of the glaciers feeding it, the officials said.

The investigation provided critical insights into the GLOF hazard potential of Gangabal Lake and contributed to broader efforts to enhance climate resilience in the region, they said.

Field expeditions for the rest of the categorised lakes are scheduled to be carried out in the coming months, the officials added.

They said these expeditions underscore the “urgent need” for enhanced monitoring and risk management strategies to address the growing threat of GLOFs in the Himalayas.

The insights gained through these exercise will be instrumental in formulating risk mitigation strategies and enhancing the early warning systems in the region as understanding the potential GLOF hazards associated with specific glacial lakes is crucial for disaster preparedness, they said.

Officials said more detailed studies are also being planned.

In the next phase, they said, the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR) will focus on more scientific multi-disciplinary studies like electric resistivity tomography, bathymetric investigation, hydrological study of discharge, geological studies, topography survey and susceptibility assessment among others.

The DMRRR has planned to install early warning systems for generating real-time alerts and automated weather stations (AWS) for regular monitoring at most of high-risk glacial lakes in the Union territory in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and a technical partner, the officials said.

The GLOF mitigation strategy is being implemented in a phased manner in the UT with the help of Expedition

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Bank account No: 0727040150600030, my name is mentioned as Shameema Bano, D/O Mushtaq Ahmad Mir. Now after my Marriage i want to change my name in my Bank account, as Shameema Begum, W/O Saleem Noorani Mir Gojer, as per my Aadhaar Card and Domicile Certificate, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the manager jammu and kashmir Bank branch office Garoora Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be.

Shameema Begum.
W/O Saleem Noorani Mir Gojer.
R/O Chettibandi, District Bandipora jammu and kashmir.

Indian Army Launches ‘Operation Brahma’ to Aid Myanmar Earthquake Victims

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army has launched ‘Operation Brahma’ to provide urgent medical assistance to Myanmar in the wake of a devastating earthquake that struck the country on March 28. A 118-member team from the Shatrueet Brigade Medical Responders, led by Lieutenant Colonel Jagneet Gill, is being deployed with essential medical equipment and supplies.

The Airborne Angels Task Force, known for its expertise in disaster response, will establish a 60-bed Medical Treatment Centre to provide immediate care to the injured. The facility will be equipped to handle trauma cases, emergency surgeries, and other critical medical needs, supporting Myanmar’s healthcare system, which has been overwhelmed by the disaster.

The deployment is part of India’s



‘Neighbourhood First’ policy and reflects the spirit of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’—the world is one family.

The Indian Army’s swift response underscores the country’s commitment to standing by friendly

and Data Collection, identifying and studying glacial lakes that pose a high risk of GLOFs based on the assessments provided by the NDMA, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Central Water Commission (CWC), etc.

Detailed data will be gathered through bathymetric surveys, water sampling, and meteorological data collection. Additionally, the dynamics and characteristics of these lakes will be analysed to determine the feasibility of lake-lowering techniques for reducing the risk of potential GLOF events, they said.

The officials said a comprehensive risk mitigation strategy will be devised, developing and implementing specific mitigation measures. This includes creating comprehensive plans for lowering the water levels of high-risk lakes identified earlier.

A fully functional GLOF Early Warning System (EWS) will also be established to enhance preparedness, they said.

Personnel will be trained in the operation and interpretation of the EWS, ensuring effective responses to potential GLOF events. Wherever necessary, the lake-lowering techniques and site specific mitigation measures will be taken to further mitigate the risks, they said.

Efforts to expand the mitigation programme are being expedited, they added.

The officials said the NDRE, SDRF and ITBP have been sensitised to be prepared to deal with any emergent situation. ‘Aapda mitras’ have been sensitised and activated to remain vigilant in the local areas and be prepared.

The FGMC has asked the District Disaster Management Authorities to put in place the GLOF management plans and to be well prepared for GLOF hazard, they said.

Consistent and sustained efforts will be continued by the FGMC and department of DMRRR to address the GLOF Hazard involving all stakeholders and safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of people, they added.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Bank account No:0061040100039647, my name has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Raja Wasim Khan, S/O Qumar uddin khan. While as my Actual and correct name and parantege as per my Aadhaar Card is, Raja Wasim Gojer Turk, S/O Qumar Ud Din Gojer Turk. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Manager jammu and kashmir Bank branch Main Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Raja Wasim Gojer Turk.
S/O Qumar Ud Din Gojer Turk.
R/O Check Mantrigam Bandipora.

NOTICE

I, Mushtaq Ahmad son Of Mohammad Subhan bhat resident of Pattan BALIHARAN SINGHPORA, owner of vehicle number JK05H9020, have lost the Registration Certificate (RC) of my vehicle. I am applying for a duplicate RC from the ARTO Baramulla.

If anyone has any objections regarding the issuance of the duplicate RC, they must file their objections with the ARTO Baramulla within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after the stipulated period.

Owner Name: Mushtaq Ahmad
S/O Mohammad Subhan bhat
R/O: Pattan BALIHARAN SINGHPORA

All India Players Who Competed In Last Three ICC Events, Deserve Respect: Rohit

Rohit Sharma says the Indian team has endured cricket's vicissitudes in the last nine months but it waged a collective battle to achieve success and every member of the side that competed in the last three ICC tournaments deserves "respect".

In their last three ICC limited-overs tournaments, India have lost only one out of 24 matches, with the defeat coming against Australia in the 2023 ODI World Cup final in Ahmedabad.

The India team recently won the ICC Champions Trophy and the T20 World Cup at home last year.

In between a India lost rare home Test series against New Zealand and away in Australia.

Reflecting on his remarkable tenure as India captain, Rohit said: "Look at what this team has achieved in this big three tournaments. After playing the tournament like that and getting defeated only once and that too in a final (2023 ODI World Cup)."

"But imagine if we had won that as well to go undefeated in three ICC tournaments is crazy, never heard of but I will take this, 23 wins in 24 games is unheard of. It looks very nice from the outside but the team has gone through a lot of ups and downs.

"We had some really tough times as well but that is when you got to celebrate. If you do things like this you got to celebrate. I feel all the people who played these three tournaments, they deserve respect," Rohit said in a video posted by Mumbai Indians on their 'X' page.

Interestingly, Rohit's interview has come

on the day when BCCI top brass was due to sit the future roadmap for the side but somehow the meeting has been postponed.

"But thereafter we made a lot of things clear with the players that this is what we expect from you and this how we want you



"It's for any sportsman who are going through something and there is a low, they want to fight back, bounce back and try and make it whatever is front of you into a high.

"And thereafter we had a little bit of low where we lost a home series and we didn't play well in Australia and then came the Champions Trophy. These nine months are perfect example of how life is, it is always going to be up and down."

Rohit said the journey to glory and the change in mindset started in 2022 after India crashed out in the semifinal of the T20 World Cup in Australia.

to play. So there was lot of clarity, a lot of conversations with the players to perform.

"There needs to be a freedom amongst the group so that they go out and play without any fear. There were few lows, a few series that we lost but we never panicked and we never went away from our thought process.

"When you are building a squad the first thing that you need to put in front of you is what does the team want? Where did we lack in the previous series, previous tournaments? Why did we not get the results?"

Sportsman needs to have grit and determination

Reflecting on a forgettable 2024 IPL, where Mumbai Indians finished last, Rohit said every sportsman needs to have determination to bounce back. He said he was focussed to end his career in the shortest format which he did after the T20 World Cup triumph.

India defeated South Africa by 7 runs in Barbados to win the trophy.

"...that is where as a sportsman you need to show a little bit of grit, determination to comeback from the low. It (2024 IPL) was a low for the team and I think we didn't play our best cricket also and there were so many things after IPL to look forward to.

"I knew there was a World Cup coming up and I had to shift my focus to the World Cup, knowing that this is going to be my last T20 World Cup. So I really wanted to make it count, and obviously I knew without the help of other players it is not going to be possible. So we just got around as a group and there was a lot of collective performance from everyone throughout the tournament," Rohit said.

Faced many ups and downs in career

"My career for 17-18 years has always been up and down, which has taught me so many things in life, and these nine months were no different," he said.

Talking about his journey with MI, the dashing opener said: "Obviously, since the time I started till now lot of things have changed because I used to bat middle-order then, now I am opening the batting. I was captain then (MI), now I am not the captain. There were a few teammates with whom I won championships, they are not there, they are in the coaching role now.

No hiding place when it comes to facing India: England's Joe Root

LONDON: Charismatic England batter Joe Root has advocated consistency to counter India in the upcoming five-Test series, saying "there's no hiding place" when it comes to facing such an indomitable opponent.

India will commence their 2025-27 World Test Championship cycle in England with the opening match scheduled at Headingley from June 20.

Root, who surpassed Alastair Cook as England's all-time highest Test run-getter last year, is gearing up for the challenge following an impressive showing in the Champions Trophy recently.

"We are good in our own conditions but with India coming over for a five-match series there's no hiding place. It's a long old slog, you've got to be consistent. You've got to put in those match-winning performances time and time again," the former England skipper told Sky Sports.

Root, 34, led the England Test team from 2017 to 2022, recording 27 victories in 64 matches - the most by any captain from the country.

However, a difficult period in 2021, where the team won just one of 17 matches and suffered an Ashes debacle Down Under, led to his decision to step down from the role.

But he continues to be the batting mainstay of the side, which was yet again fortified by his performance in the recently-held Champions Trophy, where he was the fourth-highest run-getter with 225 runs in three innings, including a century.

Despite his exploits, England had a miserable run in the marquee eight-team event, which India won.

"The Champions Trophy was disappointing. We didn't play anywhere near what we're capable of but there's so much talent and so much more to come from that team," Root said.

"I think it's a really good opportunity to reset and to move forward again as a group and get back to the heights that we know we're capable of and where we were in and around that 2015 to 2019 phase (winning the World Cup in 2019)," he added.



"But imagine if we had won that as well to go undefeated in three ICC tournaments is crazy, never heard of but I will take this, 23 wins in 24 games is unheard of. It looks very nice from the outside but the team has gone through a lot of ups and downs.

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رمضان
مبارک

Spectrum Ads | 7006500019

+91 1943501600

info@khybercement.com

www.khybercement.com

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