

Kashmir Convener



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Lok Sabha passes Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha early Thursday passed the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, after over a 12-hour debate, which saw the ruling NDA strongly defending the legislation as beneficial for minorities, while the opposition described it as "anti-Muslim".

The Bill was passed after all amendments moved by the opposition members were rejected by voice votes. It was passed after a division of votes – 288 in favour and 232 against.

In his reply to the debate, Union Minorities Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said there is no place in the world safer than India for minorities and they are safe because the majority is entirely secular.

He said even a minuscule minority community like the Parsis are safe in India and all minorities here live with pride.

"Some members have said that



minorities are not safe in India. This statement is completely false. There is no place safer than India for minorities. I am also a minority and we all are living here without any fear and with pride," he said after the debate on the Bill.

The minister said whenever a minority community faces persecution, it always

comes to India to take refuge and cited the examples of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan community, minorities of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

"Minorities of Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan came to India after facing religious persecution in their respective

countries. How can you say that minorities are not safe in India. Very, very wrong to say this.

"The coming generation will never forgive you. Minorities in India are safe because the majorities of the country are fully secular. This is not the case in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. But still, you abuse us," he said.

Rijiju said, through the Bill, the NDA government is going to unify all minorities in the country. He also highlighted the "wholehearted" support of the Christian community for the Bill. He said a large number of disputes are pending with the Waqf tribunals and through the legislation, the government wants to expedite these cases. "We want to expedite the resolution of the disputes in the tribunals. Justice delayed is justice denied. Widows, divorcees, and orphans will be given justice through the Bill," he said.

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Amit Shah to visit J&K for three days from April 6

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be on a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir from April 6, sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) on Thursday.

They said that Shah will arrive in Jammu on April 6 and will stay there for 2-days. On April 7 evening, he will leave for Srinagar and stay there for a night. The Union Home Minister would return to New Delhi on April 8.

Sources said that during his stay in Jammu, Shah is likely to visit some of the border areas and hold separate review meetings with senior officials of various security agencies and the local administration.

"He (Shah) will discuss the progress made on various centrally sponsored developmental projects and



discuss other important issues with the officials.

Sources said that Shah will also review the security situation and will also inaugurate some projects in Jammu and Kashmir regions.

"The security review meeting will be attended by senior officials of the Police, Army and other paramilitary forces," they added.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is also likely to meet the Union Home Minister during

his three-day visit to J&K, sources told KNO.

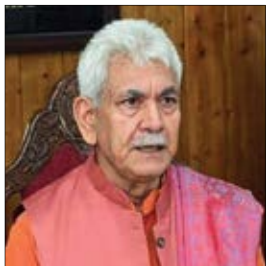
Pertinently, on Tuesday Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had told reporters that the Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit is not linked to the anti-terror operation underway in Kathua and its neighbourhood. "Do not link his visit to the Kathua operation. His programme was finalised before the encounter. It is a coincidence that his visit comes around this time," Omar had said.

LG Sinha Reviews SANJY arrangements

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired a meeting with the senior officials of Shri Amarnath ji Shrine Board (SASB) and executing agencies and reviewed the progress for development of Disaster Management and Yatri Niwas Complexes.

The Lieutenant Governor took appraisal of the works under execution at Baltal, Nunwan, Sidhra and Bijbehara.



He directed the officials and executing agencies to expedite the ongoing works being carried out at different locations to further improve the facilities for the devotees. He also directed for completing the vital infrastructure projects at Baltal and Nunwan base camps before the commencement of Yatra.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Executive Officer, SASB, senior officials of SASB and executive agencies.

Govt raises marriage assistance to Rs 75000 for AAY category girls



KC News Network

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has enhanced the Financial Assistance under the State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS) for poor girls, increasing

the amount from 50,000 to 75,000 for families holding Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration cards.

An order issued by the Department of Social Welfare stated that in partial modification of Government

Order No.49-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated March 22, 2022, the financial assistance has been increased to 75,000 (one time) for eligible AAY category girls of marriageable age under the scheme.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that it is "a step towards dignity and empowerment.

"Our government stands committed to uplifting every household in need. This support will be directly credited before marriage via DBT," he remarked.

The decision follows Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's Budget

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"our commitment to an inclusive and caring welfare state": Omar

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards social welfare, the Jammu and Kashmir Govern-

ment, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has ordered the enhancement of pensions under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS).

This move marks the fulfillment of a key commitment made by the Chief Minister in the J&K Legislative Assembly on March 7.

As per the revised structure, effective from April 1, 2025,

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CM Omar to chair crucial meeting of ruling alliance MLAs today

● Likely to discuss transfers of 48 JKAS officers, restoration of statehood



KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has convened a crucial meeting of legislators of J&K's ruling alliance on Friday morning here. The meeting is likely to discuss the alliance's response over recent transfer of 48 officers of J&K Administrative Service (JKAS) by Lieutenant Governor and "delay" in restoration of statehood.

In a sudden move, National Conference chief whip Mubarak Gul on Thursday morning informed party MLAs that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah would chair an important meeting of MLAs of the ruling alliance on Friday at Deputy Chief Minister's Fairview residence here.

"Keeping in view the importance of the meeting, all the Hon'ble members are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting on the aforesaid date, time and venue," reads the notice, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Sources said the meeting has been convened to discuss recent transfers of 48 JKAS officers by LG Manoj Sinha—a move the elected government views as encroaching on its mandate.

When questioned about the emergency meeting of legislators called by the Chief Minister, NC spokesman and MLA Tanvir Sadiq said that the

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Karra, Mir to skip 'emergency meeting'

Mubashir Alam Wani

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief, Tariq Hameed Karra and senior Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir are all set to skip "emergency meeting" of legislators from ruling alliance called by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday. Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that Karra and Mir will be absent due to

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Congress criticises transfers

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Congress on Thursday criticised Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's decision to order transfer of middle and lower-rung officers in the Union Territory, saying the latter should have awaited the approval of business rules before announcing his decision.

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Union Secretary reviews FCS&CA Dept, FCI in J&K



KC News Network

JAMMU: Union Secretary, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Sanjeev Chopra today visited Jammu and reviewed the functioning of Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs and FCI here.

He also assessed the status of implementation of schemes and other reforms across Jammu and Kashmir.

Interacting with the officers of the FCS&CA Department, J&K and FCI, J&K, here, the Union Secretary hailed the efforts made by the department in making the Public Distribution System clean and efficient. He asked the officers to continue these efforts and take follow up actions on suspect beneficiaries, whose details are

being shared by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, with States/UTs.

The Union Secretary while advising the Department to share details of savings made, subsequent to implementation of Optimized Route Plan, also instructed the FCI to make available food grains in different districts as per Route Optimization Plan.

The Union Secretary also reviewed the operations of FCI, J&K region.

While reviewing the wheat procurement in the J&K region, he emphasised that FCI and FCS&CA J&K should make all out efforts to ensure procurement of wheat and try achieve the target fixed by GOI in RMS 2025-26.

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Raksha Mantri Addresses Army Commanders' Conference

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: The Army Commanders' Conference, an apex level biannual event, is being held in New Delhi from 01st Apr to 04th April 2025. During the event, Indian Army's apex leadership comprehensively deliberated upon all aspects of existing security scenarios,



situation along the borders, in the hinterland and challenges for the present security apparatus. In addition, the conference also focused on issues pertaining to organisational restructuring, logistics, administration, human resource management, modernisation through indigenisation, induction of Niche technologies and assessment of

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NEP Builds Equitable, Inclusive, Pluralistic Society: LG Manoj Sinha

KC News Network

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today addressed 'Bharat Shiksha Summit' organised by Balaji Foundation at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Brajesh Pathak, Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh also graced the occasion.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the importance of Ethics, Values and National Identity in education and pointed out that Ethics and Values, guides us for the welfare of society and nation-building.

He said the deliberations and exchange of ideas during the Summit on overarching issues in education will explore challenges and opportunities and prepare a future roadmap for educational institutions.

"In the educational journey, students develop consciousness and their moral values become sharper. During this journey, students adopt life values like compassion, peace, truth, love, virtuous life, harmony and benevolence and collect all the experiences. All these physical, intellectual and emotional experiences together develop student's knowledge" the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the aim of National Education

Policy 2020 is that students should become a living source of knowledge rather than a storehouse of memories obtained from books.

education system.

We need students who are proficient in algorithms, talented in their chosen field,



"National Education Policy promotes creative imagination, ethical values and a sense of determination to contribute towards building an equitable, inclusive and pluralistic society," he further added.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the educational institutions to focus on developing personalities that are perfect blend of compassion and innovation.

"Three 'H' - Head, Heart and Heritage- will help in this mission and they will also restore the broken moral link in the

sensitive towards social issues and also realise their duty towards nation building.

Our students should be a selfless individual as well as a skilled researcher, writer or artist, deeply connected to their roots. This perfect balance in personality could be transformative for students, educational institutions and the society," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the teachers need to integrate

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‘Adding insult to injury’: Cong on LS confirmation of President’s rule in Manipur

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Thursday accused the government of “bulldozing” in the Lok Sabha the statutory resolution confirming the imposition of President’s rule in Manipur, and said this was “adding insult to injury”.

Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the “frequent flier flies off again”.

“This time it is to Bangkok. Look East by all means but why continue to ignore Manipur?” Ramesh said on X.

“And why bulldoze the proclamation on President’s Rule in the state at 2AM this morning in the Lok Sabha, leaving just an hour for debate and discussion but just about enough time for the Home Minister’s falsehoods, twists, and distortions? This is adding insult to injury,” the Congress leader said.

Ramesh’s remarks came after the Lok Sabha early Thursday adopted a Statutory Resolution confirming the imposition of President’s rule in Manipur.

Replying to a short debate, Union Home



Minister Amit Shah said the government has taken all possible steps to bring back normalcy in the restive northeastern state.

He said there has been no violence in Manipur in the last four months, adding that talks were on with both Meitei and Kuki communities for a peaceful solution.

“By and large the situation is peaceful. As long as people are in camps, I would not say the situation is satisfactory. The government is taking all possible steps to restore peace in Manipur,” he said.

The home minister said the ethnic violence in Manipur had started following an order of the state’s high court.

“The day the order came, we sent the central forces by air. There was no delay on our part (in taking action),” he said.

He said, so far, 260 people have died in the violence that started in May 2023 and 80 per cent of them lost their lives within the first month.

Shah said he did not want to compare the violence that had taken place during the tenure of the previous governments but wanted to tell the House about the clashes between the Naga and Kuki communities that took place in the 1990s over five years. “Sporadic violence continued for a decade where 750 people lost their lives. There were Kuki-Paite clashes in 1997-98 when 352 people were killed. In the Meitei-Pangal clashes

in the 1990s, over 100 people died. Neither the then prime minister nor the then home minister visited Manipur,” he said.

The home minister also said an impression has been given that violence erupted only during the BJP rule, which is not correct.

Earlier, participating in the debate, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said his party supported the resolution but wanted the restoration of peace and stability in the state.

“End insurgency, restore peace and stability, promote dialogue with each other, promote inclusivity,” he said.

The resolution ‘Consideration on the Proclamation issued by the President on the 13th February 2025 under article 356 (1) of the Constitution in relation to the State of Manipur’ was adopted by the House by a voice vote. The violence started after a ‘Tribal Solidarity March’ was organised against the high court order. There have been many efforts from the central government to bring the warring communities to the negotiating table.

Kharge Says Anurag Thakur’s Remarks Damaged His Reputation, Seeks His Resignation

NEW DELHI: The Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, on Thursday termed the allegations levelled against him by Anurag Thakur in the Lok Sabha baseless, saying the remarks damaged his reputation as he dared the BJP MP to prove them or else resign.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha, the Congress president said the BJP MP was compelled to withdraw his defamatory remarks made during the debate on the Waqf Bill in the Lower House.

“But the damage has been done,” Kharge said.

He also sought an apology from Thakur as well as the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, J P Nadda, over the issue.

“Yesterday, Anurag Thakur hurled completely false and baseless charges at me in the Lok Sabha. When my colleagues challenged him, he was compelled to withdraw his defamatory remarks. But the damage has been done,” Kharge said.

The Congress chief, however, said despite the withdrawal of the remarks, the same did the rounds on media and social media platforms.

Rahul Gandhi Slams Govt Over ‘China Occupying Land’, US Tariff Issue; BJP Hits Back

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Thursday claimed that China had taken over 4,000 square kilometre of Indian territory and that reciprocal tariffs or import duties imposed by the US would “completely devastate” the Indian economy, as he demanded answers from the government over these issues.

The BJP hit back at Gandhi over his remarks during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, saying “not an inch of land” had been given to China under BJP rule and it was under Congress rule that China had occupied Indian territory.

The ruling party also said it is the country’s good fortune that the PM of this country is Narendra Modi before whom the world bows.

Speaking during the Zero Hour, Gandhi slammed the government over the celebration of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties by India and China.

“China is sitting on 4,000 square kilometre of our territory. I was shocked some time back to see that our foreign secretary (Vikram



Misri) was cutting a cake with the Chinese ambassador. The question is – what exactly is happening to this territory of 4,000 sq km that China has taken?” the former Congress president said.

Referring to the Galwan incident, Gandhi said 20 jawans were martyred in 2020.

“There is a celebration taking place over their martyrdom by cutting a cake. We are not against normalcy but there should be status quo before that. We should get our

land back. It has also come to my notice that the President and the Prime Minister have written to the Chinese,” he said.

“We are not finding this out from our own people, it is the Chinese ambassador who is telling the people of India that the PM and the President have written to them,” Gandhi said. He said foreign policy is about managing external countries and pointed out that on one hand, “you have given China 4,000 sq km of our land”, and on the other hand our ally US has suddenly decided to impose tariffs on us.

He said the tariffs imposed by the US are going to “completely devastate” the Indian economy, particularly sectors like the auto industry, pharmaceuticals and agriculture.

“Somebody once asked Indira Gandhi ji- ‘In the matter of foreign policy you lean left or you lean right’, and Indira Gandhi ji answered ‘I don’t lean left or right, I stand straight. I am Indian and I stand straight’.

SC Judges To Make Declaration Of Assets Public

NEW DELHI: In a bid to ensure transparency, Supreme Court judges have agreed to make declaration of their assets public on assuming office.

In a full court meeting, the top court judges decided to disclose their assets and the data will be uploaded on the SC website.

Placing the declaration of assets on the Supreme Court website will be on a voluntary basis, the apex court website said. Thirty judges, including Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, have submitted their declarations of assets. “The full court of the Supreme Court had resolved that judges should make a declaration of their assets on assuming office, and whenever any acquisition of a substantial nature is made, to the Chief Justice.

Yogi accuses Waqf Board of land encroachment, calls it ‘land mafia’

PRAYAGRAJ: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the Waqf Board, accusing it of land encroachments and asserting that its “arbitrary claims” over public and historical sites would no longer be tolerated.

Speaking at a gathering in Prayagraj, Adityanath said, “The Waqf Board had been making baseless claims over lands across cities. Even during the preparations for the Kumbh Mela, they declared that the event’s land belonged to them. We had to ask – has the Waqf Board turned into a land mafia?” He emphasised that under his government, such encroachments had been removed, and mafias had been driven out of Uttar Pradesh.

“Encroachments were made in the name of Waqf at various places, including the sacred land associated with Nishad Raj. But this will not be allowed to continue. A grand and divine Kumbh Mela was organised despite their objections,” he said.



The chief minister also lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for taking legislative action against the alleged irregularities of the Waqf Board.

“We are grateful to the prime minister and the home minister for ensuring that the Waqf Board’s arbitrary practices are curbed. A crucial act addressing this issue has already been passed in the Lok Sabha and will now be cleared in the Rajya Sabha,” he stated.

Waqf Amendment Bill Assault On Constitution, Polarises Society: Sonia

NEW DELHI: Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Thursday termed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill as a “brazen assault” on the Constitution, saying it was part of the BJP’s strategy to keep society in a state of “permanent polarisation”.

Hours after the Lok Sabha passed the Waqf amendment bill, Gandhi said the bill was “bulldozed” through in the lower house.

Addressing party MPs at a meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party in Samvidhan Sadan here, she also said that the One Nation, One Election Bill is another subversion of the Constitution and the party would strongly oppose it.

“Yesterday, the Wakf Amendment Bill, 2024 was passed in the Lok Sabha and today it is scheduled to come up in the Rajya Sabha. The bill was in effect bulldozed through. Our party’s position is clear. The Bill is a brazen assault on the Constitution itself. It is very much part of the BJP’s deliberate strategy to keep our society in a state of permanent polarization,” Gandhi said.

The Lok Sabha passed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill well past midnight after a 12-hour debate. The Bill was passed after all amendments moved by the opposition members were rejected by voice votes. It was passed after division of votes – 288 in favour and 232 against. The Bill will now come up in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

The former Congress president also said their plea for the immediate implementation of the women’s reservation bill passed by both Houses two years back continues to be wilfully ignored along with the other demand for one-third reservation for women belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled

tribes and OBC communities.

“Whether it is education, civil rights and liberties, our federal structure or conduct of elections, the Modi government is dragging the country into an abyss where our Constitution will remain on paper and we know their intention is to demolish even that,” she charged.

“It is vital for all of us to continue to fight



for what is right and just, to expose Modi government’s failing and intention to turn India into a surveillance state,” Gandhi told MPs at the meeting.

All party MPs, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, were present at the meeting.

Gandhi also said they have repeatedly been raising the issue of free and fair elections and the need for Parliament to debate the functioning of the Election Commission and its “opaque” rules and procedures, some of which are presently under challenge in the Supreme Court.

Targeting the prime minister, she accused

him of rebranding, repackaging and marketing numerous initiatives taken during 2004-2014 as his own personal accomplishments.

That too needs to be exposed through our own public outreach activities, she asserted.

Speaking on the functioning of both houses of Parliament, she charged that the Leaders of Opposition are not allowed to speak and the treasury benches are often found to be creating disturbance in a bid to not allow the Congress to raise their issues.

“It is a matter of grave concern to our democracy that the LoP in the Lok Sabha is not permitted to speak. Similarly, time and again, the LoP in the Rajya Sabha, Khargeji is also not allowed to say what he wants to say and indeed must say.

“Like you, I have been witness to how the House gets adjourned not because of us but because of the protests by the treasury benches themselves. This is quite extraordinary and shocking designed to prevent the Opposition from raising their concerns that would put the government on the spot,” she noted.

Noting that the BJP members aggressively target Congress-ruled state governments, with “total falsehoods”, she urged party MPs to be equally aggressive and raise the failures and mis-governance in BJP-ruled states. This will mean much more pointed homework and research on our part, she noted.

The CPP chairperson said Congress MPs have effectively highlighted the real state of the economy and have exposed the vast gap between what the government claims and what the overwhelming reality is in relation to price rise, unemployment and growing inequalities.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR Tender Notice

eNIT No. STD-II / 05 of 2025-26 Dated 27-03-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from A-class electrical contractors/ registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency/Transformer Repairing Agencies for “Erection of 33kv Tap Line for 33/0.433KV, 1.6 MVA ESIC Hospital opposite NIFT on 33KV Budgam SIDCO Line.”

SNO	Description of Work	E/ Money (in Rs)	E/Cost (in Rs)	Last date of submission of e-bid
01	Erection of 33kv Tap Line for 33/0.433KV, 1.6 MVA ESIC Hospital opposite NIFT on 33KV Budgam SIDCO Line.	Rs25,760/-	Rs12,88,000/-	21-04-2025; 2:30pm

- Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
- The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 29-03-2025; 4:30pm
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	29-03-2025; 4:30pm
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	21-04-2025; 2:30pm
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format	29-03-2025; 4:30pm
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	21-04-2025; 2:30pm
F	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	22-04-2025; 2:30pm
G	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar
I	Cost of e-bid document	Rs1000.00(Rupees One Thousand Only)
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 25760.00(Rupees Twenty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Only)

- The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated above through e- Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No demand Draft shall be accepted.
 - All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR / FDR only, pledged to the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department
 - a. Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bids.
 - b. The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- No: STD-II/2038-40/TS
Dated: 03-04-2025

DIPK-NB-14/25

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Sub Transmission Division-II,
Rajbagh, Srinagar**

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 01 of 2025-26 Dated: 02-04-2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South (Awantipora), invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms of A class registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways/JKPDD or any other state Government for “Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Electrical equipments at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora”. The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre-Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid on percentage basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work	Esttd. Cost (Lacs)	Tender fee (in Rs)	E/Money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of electrical equipments at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.	Work/Scheme wise details given in Form-I of Tender Document	Rs.300/- for each work	02% of the estimated cost of each work	120 days	As indicate against each item in Form-I of Tender Document

The tender inviting authority & awarding authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.
Critical Dates:

I	Publish Date on Tender Portal	02-04-2025 (06:00 pm)
II	Document Download/sale start Date	02-04-2025 (06:00 pm)
III	Bid submission start date	02-04-2025 (06:00 pm)
IV	Document Download/sale end Date	09-04-2025 (06:00 pm)
V	Bid submission end date	09-04-2025 (06:00 pm)
VI	Date and time of Bid opening	10-04-2025 (01:00 pm)

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
 - The pre-bid meeting will be held in the office chamber of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.
 - The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.
 - The bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.
 - a. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified against each item of work.
 - b. Bid Security to be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora. Bid Security will have to be in form of CDR/FDR/BG of any scheduled Bank and shall be valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bid.
 - c. The cost of tender documents should be in form of TR/e Challan in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.
 - The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-Challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
 - The bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
 - Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
 - Queries by email if any should be made at xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com.
- No: JSD/MDSA/17-19
Dated: 03/04/2025

DIPK-37/25

**Sd/-Executive Engineer,
PHE Mechanical Division,
South Awantipora.**

Bandipora Police Arrests Youth for Glorifying Separatist Leaders on Social Media

BANDIPORA: Bandipora Police have booked and arrested a person for allegedly glorifying Mohammad Yasin Malik, head of the banned outfit Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), and other separatist leaders on social media.

An official spokesperson of the Bandipora Police said during routine cyber surveillance and patrolling, the police identified a social media account posting content that promoted militancy and extremist ideologies. The accused, identified as Sajad Naseer Bhat alias Sahil, son of Naseer Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Naidkhai Sumbal, had reportedly uploaded images of

Yasin Malik and other separatist figures with the intent to disturb public order.

Following the discovery, police arrested the individual and registered a case under FIR No. 65/2025 at Police Station Sumbal under Section 152 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 66 of the IT Act. "Further investigation into the matter is underway".

Bandipora Police have intensified monitoring of social media platforms to detect and take action against individuals engaged in spreading extremist content, inciting violence, or attempting to disrupt public order.



"Any attempt to glorify terrorism, promote secessionist ideologies, or spread misinformation against national integrity will be dealt with strictly under the law," a police spokesperson said.

The police have urged social media users to act responsibly and refrain from engaging in activities that violate legal and ethical norms. They have also warned that stringent legal action, including prosecution under relevant laws, will be taken against those misusing digital platforms for unlawful purposes.

MLA Sonawari, DC Bandipora visit Semi Ring Road Project site Shadipora to address public concerns

BANDIPORA: In a significant step towards addressing public grievances and expediting infrastructural development, Member of

He assured the public that their concerns would be addressed in co-ordination with NHAI and other concerned departments.



Legislative Assembly for Sonawari Constituency of Bandipora District Hilal Akbar Lone, along with Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, today visited under construction semi Ring Road project site Shadipora sumbal.

The visit was aimed to assess the progress of the project, address concerns raised by local residents, and ensure timely completion of the project.

During the visit, the MLA and Deputy Commissioner interacted with the locals to understand their grievances regarding land acquisition, compensation, and road connectivity.

The MLA emphasized the importance of the project in enhancing transportation, reducing traffic congestion, and boosting economic activities in the area.

Qadri, while reviewing the progress of the project, emphasized the adherence to the deadlines while maintaining quality standards. He highlighted the administration's commitment to resolve any pending issues in a transparent and time-bound manner.

During the visit, engineers and officials of NHAI briefed regarding completion timeline, challenges faced, and measures required to ensure smooth execution of the project.

MLA and Deputy Commissioner urged the officials to expedite the work while ensuring minimal inconvenience to the public. They assured continued engagement with the stakeholders to facilitate the seamless completion of the project.

SDM Sumbal Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh and other concerned were also present on the occasion.

BJP leaders Organizes Eid Milan at Saffron town Pampore

BILAL HABIB

PAMPORE: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) unit Pulwama organised an Eid Milan Programme at Saffron town Pampore, under the leadership of BJP Pulwama President Er Showkat Ahmad Gayoor.



of party workers. During the event, they exchanged Eid greetings and celebrated the spirit of unity and harmony.

Addressing the party workers, BJP leaders said that their competition is with the National Conference and PDP. With the upcoming Municipal and Panchayat polls, BJP leaders will work together to strengthen the party at every booth in the district. When the booths are strong, they will be able to win every election. They urged party workers to put in their efforts to make the upcoming Bharatiya Janata Party programmes successful.

Speaking to Kashmir Convener, Er. Showkat Gayoor Andrabi said the purpose of this meeting was to promote the party's programmes in the district, ensure their success, and encourage new people to join the party. He also mentioned that he made an effort to bring together all Morcha leaders and senior leaders from the provided list, facilitating discussions with them on a common platform. The team I am forming is being discussed and created with full transparency in every aspect.

He said for the upcoming elections, our effort will be to work hard on the five Municipal Committees in Pulwama district. "We will strive to ensure that our party secures the chairmanship of all five Municipal committees and achieves victory. In both the Municipal and Panchayat polls, we aim to bring forward capable individuals who will genuinely serve the people".

DC Kupwara Reviews Measures For Curbing Drug Menace

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan chaired the meeting of the District Level Committee of Narco Coordination (NCORD) to review the measures put in place for curbing drug abuse in the district.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed appraisal from concerned officers regarding the present scenario of drug related occurrences, various issues related to menace of drug addiction, its control and rehabilitation and areas of concern.

Deputy Commissioner meticulously reviewed the implementation of the measures taken and progress achieved to eliminate drug abuse and its peddling.

She took feedback from the members of the Committee who presented the latest report related to action taken against drug-addiction and drug trafficking in the District.

DC also emphasized the Officers including Enforcement agencies for identification and close vigil of entry points, hot spots of drugs, public places and abandoned buildings.

She also laid thrust on further intensifying IEC campaigns at Schools and Colleges levels to sensitize students and common masses about ill-effects of drugs. She sought close coordination between Health, Police, Education and other line departments for consolidated efforts towards eradication of drug menace.

DC meticulously reviewed the functioning of Drug De-addiction Centre Kupwara and Addiction Treat-

ment Facility Centre (ATFC) Handwara and stressed for upscaling of the therapeutic management and proper counseling of the drug addicts which

district.

Further, she impressed upon all the concerned departments to ensure their participation in the campaign



can help the addicts to come out of the menace.

She also reviewed the progress of providing self employment opportunities to the drug victims who have been recovered so that they can live a dignified life in the society.

Nodal Officer for NMBA Campaign, Mudassir Ahmad also spoke and briefed the officers about the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abiyani Campaign which is set to be launched on April 7th in the

for mass awareness among the people about ill effects of drugs. She directed the officers to take separate review meeting of their respective subordinate staff and field functionaries for smooth conduct of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Campaign.

The meeting was attended by SSP Kupwara, ASP Handwara, CMO, CEO, Medical Superintendent DH Handwara, Assistant Drug controller, Tehsildars, besides other concerned Officers.

Javed Rana lauds efforts of stakeholder s in achieving target under ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam’ campaign

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir has successfully met its ambitious goal of planting 150 lakh seedlings under "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign.

that the campaign aligns with the quest for sustainable development. He commended the efforts of Forest department in leading the campaign saying that



Lauding the achievement of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana credited it to the collective efforts of government agencies, village-level institutions, local people and other stakeholders.

"The aim of the campaign is to contain land degradation and promote restoration of degraded land for a sustainable future," he said adding

tree plantation raises awareness about environmental sustainability and the importance of afforestation.

"Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" was launched across the country to encourage the people to plant a tree as a mark of love, respect and honour for their mothers and pledge to protect trees and earth.

The Forest Department led the campaign for planting 1,50,18,803

saplings in J&K, involving the students, NGOs, security forces, government departments, citizens and nature lovers. Under the initiative, the Forest department and its wings planted 91 lakh plants on forest and non-forest lands. Besides, it distributed 59 lakh plants among various stakeholders for planting at various locations throughout the Union Territory.

More than one lakh plants were planted by Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and about two lakh plants were distributed on the day of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Javed Rana complimented various sections of the society for their contribution in achieving the target. He said that each stakeholder has made substantial contributions to this initiative, demonstrating a collective commitment towards sustainability, green cover enhancement and fostering public engagement.

"It was heartening to see how enthusiastically people embraced the campaign, reinforcing the importance of environmental stewardship for the well-being of future generations. We would not have been able to achieve the target without the active participation of the local people" he said.

During the campaign, the forest department sensitised the locals about the importance of tree plantation in combating the climate change and enhancing greenery.

Cyber Police Kashmir Cracks Down on 200 Social Media Handles Spreading Anti-National Propaganda

Srinagar: In a decisive crackdown on online anti-national propaganda, radicalization, and the glorification of terrorism, Cyber Police Kashmir has intensified its monitoring and enforcement efforts over the past three months. Adverse social media handles operating across multiple platforms, including those managed from outside the country, have been identified and targeted through legal and preventive action.

During this period, 200 adverse social media handles engaged in spreading misinformation and extremist content have been identified, with 100 of them operating from outside the country. Several of these accounts have been blocked to curb their influence, while legal action has been initiated against key propagators, including multiple FIRs under relevant criminal laws. Security proceedings have also been started against several individuals involved in such activities.

"This crackdown sends a strong message—cyberspace cannot be misused to spread anti-national propaganda or glorify terrorism. We are actively dismantling online ecosystems that pose a threat to security," Iftekhar Talib, SP Cyber Crime Kashmir told Kashmir Dot Com.

At the same time, Cyber Police Kashmir remains committed to counter-radicalization efforts. Many individuals influenced by such online propaganda have been counseled and handed over to their families as part of a de-radicalization initiative.

"While we are taking strict action against key propagators, we also recognize the need for counter-radicalization. Those misled by extremist content are being counseled and reintegrated into society," added SP Iftekhar Talib.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police reaffirm their commitment to safeguarding national security in both physical and digital spaces. Cyber Police Kashmir will continue its proactive monitoring of online platforms to disrupt terrorism-linked narratives and prevent the misuse of cyberspace for extremist purposes.

Citizens are urged to remain vigilant and report suspicious online activities to the authorities. Cyber Police Kashmir remains steadfast in its mission to counter online threats and ensure a safe and secure digital environment. (KDC)

Army Conducts Medical Patrol for tribal Communities in Poonch, Rajouri & Reasi

POONCH/RAJOURI/REASI: Indian Army organized an extensive medical patrol to provide healthcare services to the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in multiple remote villages, including Sarsoti Harni, Jhalamang, Maniyal, Kharsun, and Upper Pargai in Poonch, Rajouri, and Reasi districts.



An official spokesperson said a team of Army medical personnel provided essential medical care, treatment, and free medicines to the local population, addressing a range of health concerns. Given the nomadic lifestyle of these communities, access to regular healthcare remains a challenge. The medical team also offered health

awareness sessions to educate residents on preventive care and hygiene.

He said the initiative underscores the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to serving and supporting marginalized communities in remote and inaccessible areas. By conducting such medical outreach programs, the Army aims to enhance healthcare access, foster trust, and strengthen its bond with the local population.

The success of this medical patrol highlights the Army's dedication to health awareness and welfare and has encouraged the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities to prioritize their well-being and seek timely medical attention.

Defence Minister Flags Off Expeditions to Mt Everest & Mt Kangchenjunga

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off two Indian Army expeditions to Mount Everest (8,848m) and Mount Kangchenjunga (8,586m) from South Block, New Delhi.

The Indian Army's Mount Everest expedition, comprising 34 climbers, will be led by Lieutenant Colonel Manoj Joshi and will follow the traditional South Col Route. Simultaneously, a joint Indo-Nepal expedition to Mount Kangchenjunga will include 12 Indian Army mountaineers and six from the Nepali Army, led by Colonel Sarfaraz Singh.

In addition, an NCC expedition to Mount Everest will be led by Colonel Amit Bisht. The team consists of 10 NCC cadets (five boys and five girls), four officers, and 11 permanent instructors.

Addressing the mountaineers, Raksha Mantri lauded their courage, resilience, and dedication, expressing confidence that their achievements will inspire the youth and reinforce India's leadership in high-altitude mountaineering.

The event was attended by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, Nepal's Ambassador to India Dr. Shankar P Sharma, and other senior civil and military officials.

These expeditions aim to set new benchmarks in mountaineering, demonstrating the strength and determination of the Indian Armed Forces while inspiring future generations to embrace challenges with courage and perseverance.

Editorial

India’s 6G Vision

India's 6G Vision is a Roadmap for Technological Leadership. India is setting its sights on becoming a global leader in 6G technology by 2030, as outlined in the Bharat 6G Vision Document released in March 2023.

With a commitment to ubiquitous, intelligent, and secure connectivity, the government is spearheading a range of initiatives to position India at the forefront of next-generation communication networks.

A key component of this vision is research and innovation, with the government funding two 6G testbeds—the 6G THz Testbed and the Advanced Optical Communication Testbed—to facilitate cutting-edge research. To build a 6G-ready ecosystem, 100 5G labs have been set up in academic institutions across India, fostering innovation and nurturing talent. Additionally, 111 research proposals on 6G network ecosystems have been approved to accelerate indigenous technology development.

The formation of the Bharat 6G Alliance marks a significant step in bringing together industry leaders, academic institutions, and research organizations to develop an actionable roadmap. India has also strengthened its global collaborations, signing MoUs with leading international 6G alliances and contributing to the International Telecommunications Union's IMT-2030 framework. By advocating for "Ubiquitous Connectivity" and prioritizing coverage, interoperability, and sustainability, India is actively shaping global 6G standards.

Hosting events like the International 6G Symposium alongside WTSa 2024 and India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2024, India has demonstrated its intent to be a key player in the global 6G race. With a strong foundation in research, innovation, and international collaboration, the country is poised to revolutionize wireless communication and drive the next wave of digital transformation.

Marks Secured In Examinations Are No Criteria



By: Sahil Bilal

We all know the importance of education in India. But have we ever wondered if marks are the only criterion to measure a student's future? The answer, unfortunately, is yes. In India, a student's academic performance is often seen as the sole factor that determines their future.

The Pressure to Perform

The pressure to perform well in exams starts from a very young age in India. Children as young as 5 or 6 years old are expected to perform well in their school exams, and this pressure only increases as they grow older. The constant emphasis on marks and grades creates a high-stress environment that can have serious consequences on a child's mental and emotional well-being.

According to a study by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), over 60% of students in India suffer from exam-related stress. This stress can lead to anxiety, depression, and even suicidal tendencies. The study also found that the pressure to perform well in exams is one of the main reasons why students in India are increasingly turning to coaching classes and private tutors.

For example, a study by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) found that over 70% of students who took the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) in 2020 had attended coaching classes. This is a staggering number, and it highlights the pressure that students are under to perform well in exams.

The Coaching Class Culture

The coaching class culture in India is a multi-billion dollar industry that has grown exponentially over the past few decades. Coaching classes and private tutors have become an essential part of a student's life in India, with many parents spending thousands of rupees every month on coaching classes alone.

According to a report by the market research firm, Technopak, the coaching class industry in India is expected to grow to over \$20 billion by 2025. This is a staggering number, and it highlights the pressure that students are under to perform well in exams.

While coaching classes can provide additional

support and guidance to students, they can also create a culture of dependency and rote learning. Many students rely solely on coaching classes to prepare for their exams, rather than putting in the effort to study and learn on their own. This can lead to a lack of critical thinking and problem-solving skills,

to education in India.

The Need for a Change

It is clear that the current education system in India, with its overemphasis on marks and grades,



which are essential for success in the real world.

The Impact on Mental Health

The pressure to perform well in exams, combined with the coaching class culture, can have serious negative consequences for students' mental health. The pressure to perform can lead to stress, anxiety, and depression, which can have long-term effects on students' self-esteem and confidence.

According to a study by the World Health Organization (WHO), India has one of the highest rates of depression and anxiety in the world. The study found that over 50% of students in India suffer from depression and anxiety, with the pressure to perform well in exams being one of the main contributing factors.

For example, a study by the Indian Journal of Psychiatry found that over 70% of students who took their own lives in India were under pressure to perform well in exams. This is a shocking statistic, and it highlights the need for a more holistic approach

is not sustainable. The pressure to perform well in exams, combined with the coaching class culture, is having a devastating impact on students' mental health and well-being.

There is a need for a change in the way we approach education in India. We need to move away from the current system, which places so much emphasis on marks and grades, and towards a more holistic approach that emphasizes creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

We need to encourage students to explore their passions and interests, and to develop a love of learning that goes beyond mere grades. We need to provide students with opportunities to engage in hands-on, project-based learning that allows them to develop practical skills and apply theoretical concepts to real-world problems.

The Role of Parents and Teachers

Parents and teachers play a crucial role in shaping a student's future. They need to understand that marks are not the only measure of a student's success. They need to encourage students to explore

their passions and interests, and to develop a love of learning that goes beyond mere grades.

Parents and teachers also need to be aware of the pressure that students are under to perform well in exams. They need to provide students with support and guidance, and to help them develop coping mechanisms to deal with stress and anxiety.

The Role of the Government

The government also has a crucial role to play in shaping the education system in India. They need to recognize the limitations of the current system and to take steps to reform it.

The government needs to provide more funding for education, and to ensure that schools have the resources they need to provide a high-quality education. They also need to take steps to reduce the pressure on students

Conclusion

In conclusion, the current education system in India, with its overemphasis on marks and grades, is not sustainable. The pressure to perform well in exams, combined with the coaching class culture, is having a devastating impact on students' mental health and well-being.

It is time for us to rethink our approach to education in India. We need to move away from the current system, which places so much emphasis on marks and grades, and towards a more holistic approach that emphasizes creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

We need to encourage students to explore their passions and interests, and to develop a love of learning that goes beyond mere grades. We need to provide students with opportunities to engage in hands-on, project-based learning that allows them to develop practical skills and apply theoretical concepts to real-world problems.

By taking a more holistic approach to education, we can create a system that truly prepares students for success in the 21st century. We can help students develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes they need to thrive in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing world.

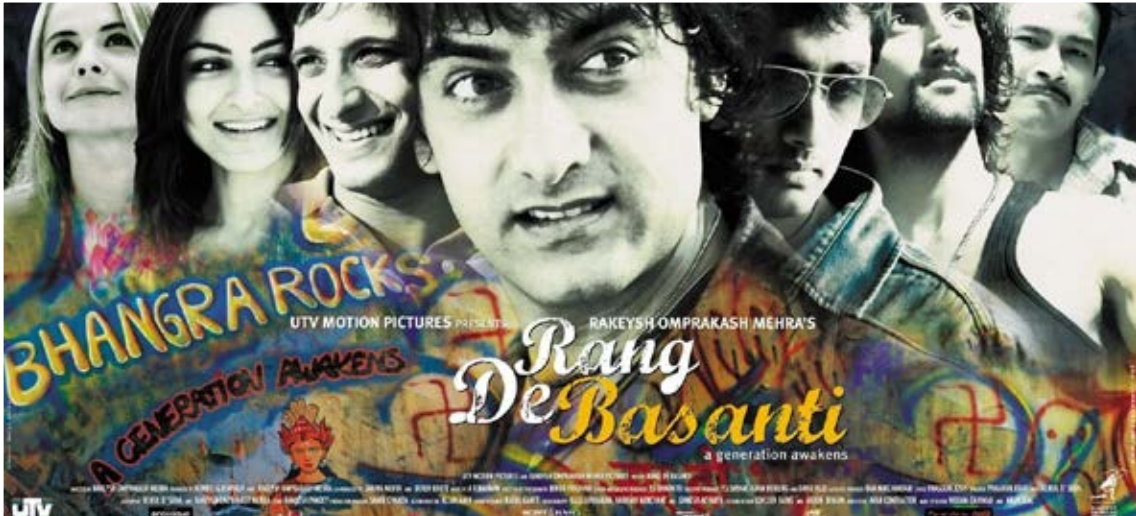
So, let us work together to create a better education system for India's future generations. Let us prioritize the well-being and happiness of our students, and provide them with the support and guidance they need to succeed. Only then can we truly say that we are providing our students with the education they deserve.

Collective Effervescence Unleashed: Rang De Basanti and the Power of Unity



Aasif Ahmad Shah

Rang De Basanti is a film directed by Rakesh Omprakash Mehra and Released on January 26, 2006. The meaning of the film is 'Paint me Saf-



ron'. The film revolves around the Characters of Aamir Khan, Siddharth, Sharman Joshi, Kunal Kapoor, Atul Kulkarni, Soha Ali Khan, and Alice Patten). The movie is based on a story by Kamlesh Pandey and Scripted by Rensil D' Silva and Mehra.

The movie is a powerful masterclass; it reminds me of the text of Thomas Kuhn's work on the discussion of paradigm shifts. This movie has achieved a similar level of work in Bollywood Cinema. This changed the film industry's perception of youth consumption. I'm telling you that this movie was like a paradigm shift for a simple reason: it takes you to the Pre-independence era, then to the contemporary period, and the future of our Society, particularly in India.

The story of the film unfolds through the journey, which begins with Sue McKinley (Alice Patten), a British filmmaker inspired by her grandfather's journal, a collection of his experiences serving as an officer during India's struggle for

independence. The reason for her visit to India is to work on a documentary based on her grandfather's diary. She sets the auditions, etc., and selects DJ (Aamir Khan), Karan (Siddharth), Sukhi (Sharman Joshi), Aslam (Kunal Kapoor), and Sonia (Soha Ali Khan); these selections occur accidentally, not by her intention. She may not have given much thought to the roles she assigned to the characters mentioned in the documentary, including those of Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Rajguru, Ramprasad Bismil, and Ashfaqullah Khan. Mixing the young group into the documentary play and assigning them roles that might have never

crossed their minds, as they are busy with their lives on campus and feel like the king of their campus. The group had been selected without an audition for the Documentary, and they began discussing various aspects of the country's ongoing corruption and other topics. They felt it was worthless to make a documentary on Sue's grandfather's diary. However, things changed for them when they heard about their friend's MiG21, which crashed in the air, and this led to a new reflection on their seriousness about changing their society. With this incident, they felt that it is the youth, 'us', who have to take charge of transforming society; there is no one coming from outside to change it.

ously measuring the ideal standards of developed nations and feeling the need for the same for their country, which involves the production and reproduction of material within their country, thriving based on an inclusive policy for all.

The non-seriousness of the youth, which they reflect in the movie, and then the planned death, which is shown as an accidental death to the people through media, sparks the fuel within all the members of the group, which Emile Durkheim describes through his Concept of 'Collective effervescence' this is the surge of shared feeling that Propels a group to act in Unison. The group in

keep rewriting with our sweat and blood. The transition of the group from passivity to taking action regarding the nation's problems is the best indicator of how this film links the past with the present and then the present with the future.

The title of this film accurately reflects what is shown within it; the young group is prepared for anything for a cause. The movie has shown the extreme steps that youth have taken. They are not afraid of 'Brown Sahibs', and they stake their life in the cause.

The film also highlights a divide, as college graduate students are living the urban life and have a limited understanding of rural life and how they are perceived by the 'Brown Sahibs'. One more thing about Aslam's part in the film is how his family inquires about his religious identity and tends to make him understand that he doesn't belong to the group with whom he constantly roams in society and college, and excludes him from their friend circle. Despite these things, he prefers to be part of his group's union. He justifies himself, along with other group members, by referencing legends and freedom fighters who fought against the British Empire. Max Weber's concept of social unity is relevant here, as common aims can bridge divides, although the film doesn't linger on this tension.

The Concept of the "public sphere" by Jürgen Habermas is highly relevant to the film, mainly when the group takes over the radio station, illustrating how media can influence the masses. By spilling their story over the airwaves of the Radio station, they started jolting the sleeping public. It is bringing consciousness among the masses. The film 'Rang de Basanti' blurs the line between art and life, demonstrating that stories can inspire real-world action.

'Rang de Basanti' blends showmanship with soul-searching depth. It empowers us to question our place in the world by recasting patriotism as a fight, not a salute. Through its projection through the college students who don't have a collective consciousness about grouping for the exact cause and then how the air crash got them into an idea of fighting back with 'Brown Sahibs' and they get into some seriousness and into the collective consciousness about to fight for the cause for the better future, for the better present and to glorify the freedom fight of India.

Author is an Independent Researcher, Alumnus of JMI University, New Delhi. He can be mailed at Pirasif@live.com

The non-seriousness of the youth, which they reflect in the movie, and then the planned death, which is shown as an accidental death to the people through media, sparks the fuel within all the members of the group, which Emile Durkheim describes through his Concept of 'Collective effervescence' this is the surge of shared feeling that Propels a group to act in Unison. The group in Unison pushes back against the political narratives that control the paradigms of state progression. The concept of "collective effervescence" is best illustrated through the movie.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo reviews draft J&K Hydro Power Policy 2025

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a meeting held to review the draft Jammu and Kashmir Hydro Power Policy 2025, emphasising the Union Territory's significant potential in hydropower generation and its role in economic development.

The Chief Secretary highlighted the vast opportunities in the power sector, stating that Jammu and Kashmir possess immense potential for power generation which can substantially boost the region's economy. He also underscored the necessity of reducing power losses, noting that such inefficiencies constitute a substantial drain on resources.

The draft policy aims to attract the private investment in hydropower generation by revising the existing framework. It proposes categorising hydroelectric projects into two segments: Small

Hydroelectric Projects (up to 25 MW) and Large Hydroelectric Projects (above 25 MW and up to 100 MW). The Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) has been designated as the nodal agency for projects up to 10 MW, while the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (JKPDCL) will oversee the projects above 10 MW.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Power Development Department, H. Rajesh Prasad; Principal Secretary Finance, Santosh Dattatraya Vaidya; Managing Director JKPDCL, Pankaj Magotra and Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) and JKPCL, Ch Mohd Yasin besides others.

The discussions focussed on finalising the policy framework to effectively harness the Jammu and Kashmir's hydropower potential, aiming to attract private investment and promote sustainable development in the region.

It is pertinent to mention that the UT administration will also hold consultations with the stakeholders on this account.

Sakeena Itoo inspects OPD, IPD sections of GMC Anantnag



ANANTNAG: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, conducted inspection of OPD and IPD sections of Maternity and Child Care Hospital (MCCH) here today, currently functioning from newly constructed block of Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag.

During the inspection, the Minister took stock of the facilities being provided for the newly born babies and children. She interacted with the doctors, staff and attendants and took appraisal from them about the facilities available.

While speaking on the occasion, Sakeena highlighted the government's commitment towards strengthening healthcare infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir. She said that the construction on newly announced 250-bed Maternity and Child Care Hospital will commence soon. "This new facility will significantly boost the Pediatric healthcare services in South Kashmir, ensuring better treatment and care for our children", she stated.

The Minister said that due to the congestion at MCCH Sherbagh, we have shifted some sections of the hospital to this building, adding that in coming days more facilities will be developed here for the ease of patients.

MLA Anantnag-West, Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larmi); MLA Shangus-Anantnag-East, Reyaz Ahmad Khan; Principal GMC Anantnag, Medical Superintendents and other concerned officers accompanied the Minister during the visit.

Tawi, Ravi Canals being recharged on April 7-2025

JAMMU: The Irrigation Department has geared up to release waters in Tawi and Ravi Canals on the coming Monday, a departmental notification stated today.

"It is notified for the information of the public in general and farmers in particular that the water in Tawi and Ravi Canals of this department shall be released from 07.04.2025.

The Executive Engineers of RCC U/Division, Kathua/RCC Lower Division Hiranagar besides TCC Division Jammu are directed to plan their activities to ensure completion of all the ongoing works well before the recharging of the canals", it stated.

The Executive Engineer concerned have been asked to constitute teams in their respective jurisdiction which shall monitor flow in canals/distributaries system during release of water as it reaches their jurisdiction to ensure its safe passage right up to tail and to avoid any untoward incident.

Chief Justice e-inaugurates Munsiff Court Complex, Ukhral

RAMBAN: In a significant development aimed at enhancing access to justice and improving the legal infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, the newly built Munsiff Court Complex, Ukhral in district Ramban, was today virtually inaugurated by Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Tashi Ranstan, in presence of Justice Puneet Gupta, Administrative Judge for Ramban district.

Deepak Sethi, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Ramban, Anjana Rajput, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ramban, Priyanka Mahajan, Secretary, DLSA Ramban, Suraj Singh Parihar, Bar President Ramban, Tehsildar Ukhral, Nasir Javaid besides officers and officials from High Court of J&K and Ladakh, district Judiciary, district administration and District Police, Ramban were present in the ceremony.

Deepak Sethi, Principal District & Sessions Judge, in his welcome address, expressed optimism regarding the positive impact this new facility will create in terms of reducing delays in case

processing. He said that this step was not just the opening of a new court building but enhancement



of our judicial system, a commitment to justice and a promise to uphold the rule of law.

In his inaugural address, the Chief Justice emphasized the importance of expanding the

judicial facilities across the region. He stated that this is a momentous occasion that will significantly improve the accessibility of justice for the people of Ukhral, which is a rural and far-flung area.

He also remembered the Former Chief Justice of India, T.S. Thakur and named the construction of this Court building as his dream project. He stated that with establishment of this court, we are taking a crucial step towards ensuring that the legal needs of our citizens are met efficiently and fairly.

Amarjeet Singh, Bar President, Munsiff Court Ukhral, emphasized that the new Court building will play a vital role in expediting the delivery of justice, especially for the people residing in the Ukhral area and surrounding villages.

He also appreciated the role of Former Chief Justice of India, T.S. Thakur who had laid down the foundation stone for the building.

Manzar Muneer, Munsiff, Ukhral presented vote of thanks.

J&K guarantees smooth rollout of New Criminal Laws: MoS Home

‘Over 70,000 police officers trained, translation of laws finalised to ensure effective implementation’

Raja Syed Rather

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has launched a comprehensive strategy to ensure the effective implementation of three new criminal laws in the region, emphasising training, technological integration and public awareness.

In Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), revealed that several key measures have been taken, including the formation of a steering committee under the Chief Secretary and an Empowered Committee under the Director General of Police (DGP) of Jammu and Kashmir.

These committees aim to oversee the smooth rollout of the new legislation.

He said training programmes have been organised across various platforms, including the Police Academy, Police Training Institutes, District Police Lines, and Battalion Training Centres.

The translation of the new criminal laws into regional languages such as Urdu, Dogri and Kashmiri has been completed to ensure better understanding and accessibility for local communities, he added.

To raise public awareness, the Jammu & Kashmir Police, criminal laws, the minister said, adding that 191 Master Trainers



in collaboration with other state departments, has been conducting joint awareness programmes across all 282 blocks, the minister said, adding that these programmes are held in the second and fourth weeks of each month, as part of an ongoing effort to engage with citizens about the new laws.

Rai said the government has also integrated cutting-edge technology into the process, with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) fully operational.

This includes tools like e-Sakshya, an audio-video recording application for Investigation Officers (IOs), as well as the functionality to send e-summons, SMS, and emails.

In terms of training, 975 Gazetted Officers, 60,890 police personnel, and 254 Judicial Officers have already received instruction on the new

have been trained through the Training of Trainers (ToT) program, and 118 personnel received specialized training at the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in Gandhinagar.

Jammu & Kashmir Police have also embraced the iGot Karmayogi platform, with 50,984 personnel completing over 121,000 courses, including 110,773 focused on the new criminal laws. Rai said. To monitor the implementation, review meetings are held regularly.

"The Chief Secretary conducts bi-weekly meetings, while the Principal Secretary (Home), DGP, and senior police officials meet weekly. Reports from these meetings are circulated internally within the government to ensure continuous oversight," the minister said—(KNO)

Sakeena Itoo conducts extensive tour of Shangus-Anantnag East Constituency

Inspects SDH Shangus, PHC Nowgam, reviews healthcare facilities

ANANTNAG: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today conducted an extensive tour of Shangus-Anantnag East Constituency to assess the public healthcare facilities and educational infrastructure in the area.

MLA Shangus-Anantnag-East, Reyaz Ahmad Khan; MLA Anantnag-West, Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larmi); Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Syed Fakhruddin Hamid; Director Health Services Kashmir, Director School Education Kashmir, Director Social Welfare Kashmir besides other district officers also accompanied the Minister during the visit.

While inspecting the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Shangus, Sakeena took stock of medical services, availability of essential supplies and overall patient care at the facility.

She engaged with the hospital staff and enquired about the overall healthcare delivery at the hospital. She assured them that necessary interventions would be made for infrastructural and other advanced medical care services at the facility to provide world-class healthcare facilities to the public.

The Minister also interacted with the patients and had on-spot feedback from them about

the services being provided at the hospital.

Sakeena Itoo also engaged



Later, the Minister visited the Primary Health Centre (PHC) Nowgam, assessing its operational efficiency, availability of medicines as well as other facilities.

Meanwhile, Sakeena Itoo also inspected the Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Shangus, and took stock of its functioning.

She inspected the classrooms, laboratories and other facilities at the institution. She also interacted with the staff and the students.

Interacting with the Principal and other staff, Sakeena Itoo stressed on the importance of ensuring a conducive learning environment in line with the NEP-2020.

She assured them all possible support from the government for necessary infrastructure upgrades at the

with large number of locals at Shangus, assessing their issues and concerns.

Addressing the large gathering, Sakeena Itoo reiterated that the government is strengthening grassroots governance and ensuring that essential services reach every household and section of the society. "Healthcare and education are among the top priorities of Omar led government.

We are committed towards strengthening these sectors for a brighter future of Jammu and Kashmir", she stated.

She assured the people of Shangus that their concerns regarding healthcare and public welfare will be addressed on priority.

MLA Shangus-Anantnag-East, Reyaz Ahmad Khan also addressed the gathering.

ADDC Shopian kick-starts sale of Hi-Tech vegetable seedlings

Shopian: Additional District Development Commissioner, Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone in presence of Chief Agriculture Officer, Shopian, Farooq Ahmed and other officials of the Agriculture department kick-started the sale of Hi-Tech vegetable seedlings at Shopian, today. The sale of seedlings including Cauliflower, Cabbage, broccoli and other vegetables was held at Green House, Mini Secretariat, organised by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shopian.

The sale witnessed a overwhelming response of vegetable growers from Shopian and adjacent areas. Interacting with the growers, ADDC said that

the department is committed to promote the Kitchen Garden endeavour and aims at providing quality vegetable seedlings to the growers for better economic turnover.

He impressed upon the department to promote kitchen gardening in such a way that growers get more and more benefits.

On the occasion, it was emphasised that vegetable cultivation has a good potential of employment generation and the unemployed youth of the district with the help of modern technology and suitable agro-climatic conditions for vegetable cultivation in the Valley can take it to new heights.

Drug de-addiction awareness programs held in Shopian schools

SHOPIAN: A Mega drug de-addiction awareness programme on thursday was organised by School Education Department District Shopian at Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Shopian besides various other schools of the District.

On the occasion, Chief Education Officer Shopian Bashir Ahmad Malla, Principal BHSS Shopian other officers and officials of Department, and a large number of students participated in the important awareness programme.

The speakers emphasized on the ill effects of drug abuse and highlighted the need of taking immediate preventive and remedial measures for combating and eradicating the menace of drug addiction and other social evils in the district.

The organisers said that the main aim of the programme was to spread awareness

amongst the student community to take necessary steps for curbing the rising drug menace.

CEO Shopian, who was the chief guest



on the occasion, advised the students not to indulge in drug abuse and other social evils and instead be a role model in the field of education, sports and other activities.

Highlighting the harmful effects of drugs, he said that it starts merely as an amusement but ends up becoming addiction.

The young generation is the most-affected section of drug addiction that needs to be eradicated completely from the society, he said seeking cooperation of all stakeholders.

CEO further said that the Shopian administration would lend a helping hand to anyone who was feeling stressed and ensure that youth instead engage in academic, co-curricular and sports activities.

Principal BHSS Shopian, Mohd Ashraf Allaie and other speakers also spoke on the occasion and appealed to the students to stay away from the tobacco and other harmful drugs and live a healthy and peaceful life.

Later a rally with participating students and teachers was taken out for the mass awareness of the people. The programme was managed by Sajad Ahmad Bhat Cultural Coordinator Shopian.

DM Baramulla chairs 17th District Level NCORD, NMBA meeting

Baramulla: District Magistrate Baramulla, Minga Sherpa chaired the 17th District Level NCORD/NMBA meeting reviewing ongoing efforts to combat drug abuse and strengthen enforcement, awareness, and rehabilitation initiatives.

During the meeting, the DM issued several key directions to concerned officers. He emphasized the need to conduct awareness programs, training sessions for resource persons, and seminars to educate communities about the dangers of substance abuse. These initiatives will help enhance grassroots-level intervention and ensure effective implementation of anti-drug measures.

To engage youth in positive activities, the DM directed the organization of inter-youth club tournaments and district-level sports events to discourage drug abuse through sports and recreation. Additionally, he called for plantation drives at the village level, promoting environmental consciousness alongside anti-drug awareness.

A significant focus was placed on identifying and monitoring 20 hotspots in Baramulla and 6 in Sopore, where targeted interventions will be implemented to curb drug-related activities. Furthermore, rehabilitation programs will be strengthened to support affected individuals and help them reintegrate into society.

The DM urged all stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, civil society, and educational institutions, to work collectively in tackling drug abuse. He emphasized the need for sustained efforts, community participation, and strict enforcement measures to eliminate the menace of drugs and safeguard the future of the youth in Baramulla.

Principal Government Medical College Baramulla, Prof. Majid Jahangir, Additional Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Syed Yasir Qadri, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Pattan, Gulzar Ahmad, District Social Welfare Officer, Sajad Ahmad Bhat besides other concerned officers were also present during the meeting.



Israel-Palestine Conflict: What Lies Ahead?



Firdous Ahmad Malik

The regional and global dynamics surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have shifted significantly in recent years, with normalization agreements, geopolitical rivalries, and competing national interests reshaping traditional alliances. While new opportunities for cooperation have emerged, these changes have also marginalized the Palestinian issue and complicated efforts to achieve a lasting resolution. Without renewed international engagement and a commitment to addressing the core grievances of Palestinians, the evolving regional order risks entrenching a status quo that perpetuates instability and undermines long-term peace prospects.

Israeli society remains deeply divided on the future of the conflict, with security concerns shaping much of the public discourse. Decades of violence, military operations, and waves of terrorism have instilled a sense of caution and skepticism among many Israelis regarding the prospect of a peaceful resolution. For a significant portion of the population, security remains the top priority, and any agreement that involves territorial concessions is viewed with suspicion. The fear of rocket attacks from Gaza, the potential for renewed violence in the West Bank, and the influence of regional actors such as Iran contribute to a national mindset

PART II

that prioritizes strength and deterrence over compromise. At the same time, there are segments of Israeli society that continue to advocate for peace and coexistence. Human rights organizations, peace activists, and left-leaning political groups emphasize the importance of dialogue and mutual recognition. However, these voices have become increasingly marginalized as Israeli politics shift to the right, and public sentiment favors policies that emphasize military deterrence over diplomatic engagement. The growing influence of nationalist and religious parties has further complicated efforts to build consensus around a path toward peace. These groups advocate for the expansion of settlements, reject the idea of Palestinian statehood, and promote a vision of Israeli sovereignty over the entirety of the land. The political polarization within Israel has created an environment where meaningful debate about the future of the conflict is often overshadowed by ideological battles and short-term security concerns.

Palestinian society, meanwhile, is marked by deep frustration and disillusionment, particularly among younger generations who have grown up knowing only occupation, blockade, and economic hardship. Many Palestinians have lost faith in their leadership's ability to achieve statehood through negotiations, viewing both the Palestinian Authority and Hamas as ineffective, corrupt, or disconnected from the realities on the ground. The failure of past peace processes, combined with ongoing settlement expansion and military incursions, has led to widespread cynicism about the possibility of a diplomatic solution. For many, the idea of a two-state solution feels increasingly out of reach, and alternative approaches, including calls for a single democratic state or continued resistance, have gained traction. This disillusionment has also fueled support for grassroots resistance movements, as Palestinians seek to challenge the status quo through protests, civil disobedience, and international advocacy. However, the absence of a unified national strategy has limited the effectiveness of these efforts. The division between the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza has created political fragmentation that weakens the overall Palestinian struggle. Without a clear vision for the future and a leadership that can rally broad support, the Palestinian national movement remains in a state of paralysis, with no clear path forward.

Despite the political deadlock, grassroots movements that promote dialogue and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians continue to work toward building trust and understanding. Civil society organizations that focus on joint initiatives in education, culture, and economic development offer a glimmer of hope for fostering coexistence. These initiatives, which bring together individuals from both sides to engage in constructive dialogue, challenge stereotypes, and build relationships, demonstrate that people-to-people engagement can help break down barriers. Programs that facilitate business partnerships, educational exchanges, and cultural collaborations have the potential to create shared interests and economic incentives for peace. However, these efforts often face resistance from hardline factions on both sides. Nationalist and militant groups dismiss dialogue initiatives as ineffective or even harmful, arguing that engagement with the other side legitimizes occupation or terrorism. Many activists involved in grassroots peace efforts face social and political pressure, with some being accused of betraying their own people. In addition, the broader political and security environment limits the impact of these movements. When violence escalates, grassroots initiatives struggle to maintain momentum, as fear and hostility overshadow efforts at reconciliation. The lack of political backing for these initiatives also means that their influence remains limited, as they operate on the margins rather than shaping mainstream discourse.

The societal perspectives on both sides of the conflict reveal a deep-seated distrust and a growing sense of hopelessness about the future. While some Israelis and Palestinians continue to work toward peace at the grassroots level, the overall trajectory of public sentiment points toward further entrenchment of existing divisions. In both societies, young people are growing up in environments that reinforce narratives of conflict rather than cooperation. Israeli youth are raised with a strong emphasis on national security and military service, while Palestinian youth experience the daily realities of occupation, restrictions on movement, and economic deprivation. These lived experiences shape attitudes toward the

other side, making reconciliation more difficult with each passing generation. Without significant political leadership that can offer a vision for the future, the cycle of mistrust and hostility is likely to persist. However, the resilience of grassroots initiatives suggests that there is still a foundation upon which a future peace could be built. The challenge lies in expanding these efforts beyond the margins and integrating them into a broader political framework that can create meaningful change.

A two-state solution remains the most widely endorsed framework for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, yet its feasibility appears increasingly distant. For this scenario to materialize, significant political will, domestic consensus, and international support would be required to address the core issues that have plagued past negotiations. Key questions surrounding borders, security arrangements, the status of Jerusalem, and the fate of Israeli settlements in the West Bank would need to be resolved through mutual compromise. A viable two-state solution would involve establishing an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, with secure and recognized borders. East Jerusalem would likely need to serve as the capital of a future Palestinian state, while arrangements ensuring security for both sides would need to be implemented and enforced over the long term. However, achieving such an agreement would require overcoming deep mistrust, addressing internal political fragmentation among Palestinians, and navigating the growing influence of nationalist and religious factions within Israeli politics. Without strong leadership capable of mobilizing public support and making difficult concessions, the prospect of a two-state solution will remain an elusive ideal.

In the absence of political breakthroughs, the status quo of occupation, settlement expansion, and periodic violence is likely

to persist, leading to a prolonged stalemate with no clear path to peace. This scenario envisions continued Israeli control over Palestinian territories without any meaningful progress toward Palestinian statehood. Israeli settlement expansion in the West Bank would continue, further eroding the territorial contiguity necessary for a viable Palestinian state. The division between the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza would remain unresolved, perpetuating internal Palestinian disunity and weakening the Palestinian national movement. Periodic flare-ups of violence, whether sparked by clashes in Jerusalem or military confrontations in Gaza, would continue to destabilize the region and exacerbate humanitarian suffering. The longer this stalemate endures, the more entrenched the existing power dynamics become, making it increasingly difficult to reverse course. Over time, this reality risks deepening resentment and despair among Palestinians, fueling extremism, and increasing the likelihood of sporadic violence that could spiral out of control.

As settlement expansion continues and the possibility of a two-state solution diminishes, the prospect of a one-state reality becomes more likely. In this scenario, Israel would maintain control over the West Bank and Gaza without granting Palestinians equal rights, leading to accusations of apartheid and growing international condemnation. The continued denial of political rights to millions of Palestinians under Israeli control would raise profound ethical and legal questions, intensifying pressure from the international community to address the inherent inequalities of such an arrangement. Alternatively, a one-state framework based on equal rights for all residents, regardless of ethnicity or religion, could emerge as a potential solution. However, this approach would fundamentally challenge the notion of Israel as a Jewish state, as granting equal



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The risk of a major escalation or regional war remains a looming threat that could reshape the landscape of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Continued tensions between Israel and Iran-backed proxies, including Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, combined with growing frustration among Palestinians, could trigger a broader conflict that destabilizes the entire region. A large-scale confrontation could draw in multiple actors, including Iran, Syria, and other regional powers, leading to devastating humanitarian consequences and widespread destruction. In such a scenario, military escalation could spiral beyond the confines of Gaza or the West Bank, potentially involving Lebanon's southern border, Syria's Golan Heights, and Iranian influence networks across the region...

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political rights to Palestinians would alter the demographic balance and potentially undermine Israel's identity as a Jewish and democratic state. This scenario would face significant political opposition within Israel, where concerns about maintaining a Jewish majority and preserving national security remain paramount. The prospect of a single democratic state where Jews and Palestinians coexist as equals is appealing to some activists and intellectuals, but it remains politically untenable in the current environment.

The risk of a major escalation or regional war remains a looming threat that could reshape the landscape of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Continued tensions between Israel and Iran-backed proxies, including Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, combined with growing frustration among Palestinians, could trigger a broader conflict that destabilizes the entire region. A large-scale confrontation could draw in multiple actors, including Iran, Syria, and other regional powers, leading to devastating humanitarian consequences and widespread destruction. In such a scenario, military escalation could spiral beyond the confines of Gaza or the West Bank, potentially involving Lebanon's southern border, Syria's Golan Heights, and Iranian influence networks across the region. The consequences of such a conflict would be catastrophic for civilians on all sides, deepening animosities and further diminishing the prospects for peace. A regional war could also exacerbate sectarian divisions, disrupt global energy markets, and create new refugee crises, adding to the complexity of an already volatile region.

Each of these scenarios presents distinct challenges and risks, underscoring the complexity of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the high stakes involved in determining its future trajectory. While a two-state solution remains the most widely accepted framework for a peaceful resolution, the political realities on the ground suggest that alternative scenarios, including prolonged stalemate, one-state outcomes, or regional escalation, are increasingly plausible. The choices made by leaders, civil society, and the international community in the coming years will determine whether the region moves toward peace, perpetuates the status quo, or descends into further violence and chaos. The future remains uncertain, but the consequences of inaction could be devastating for generations to come.

Any future peace effort between Israelis and Palestinians must prioritize rebuilding trust, a task that has become increasingly difficult after decades of violence, failed negotiations, and mutual suspicion. Trust cannot be restored overnight, and it requires a multifaceted approach that addresses past grievances, acknowledges the legitimacy of each side's aspirations, and promotes dialogue at both the political and societal levels. Political leaders on both sides must demonstrate a genuine commitment to dialogue and compromise, but grassroots initiatives that foster understanding and cooperation are equally essential. Civil society organizations that bring Israelis and Palestinians together to engage in meaningful dialogue can play a critical role in challenging narratives of

hatred and dehumanization. Through initiatives that focus on joint projects, cultural exchanges, and community engagement, these efforts create opportunities for ordinary people to see each other as partners rather than enemies. While these grassroots movements may not generate immediate political change, they lay the foundation for a future where mutual respect and understanding can replace animosity and fear.

Economic cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians presents another avenue for fostering peace and stability. Joint ventures in sectors such as technology, agriculture, and renewable energy have the potential to create shared economic interests that benefit both communities. Economic interdependence can reduce incentives for violence by demonstrating the tangible benefits of cooperation. For example, initiatives that provide Palestinian workers with access to the Israeli labor market or projects that facilitate cross-border trade can help alleviate poverty and improve living standards in Palestinian communities. Additionally, investment in Palestinian infrastructure and economic development can empower local communities and provide alternatives to extremism. However, while economic cooperation is an important tool for building trust and stability, it cannot serve as a substitute for addressing the core political issues at the heart of the conflict. Economic growth and development must be accompanied by a genuine commitment to resolving the political disputes that fuel the conflict, including issues related to borders, security, settlements, and the status of Jerusalem. Without meaningful progress on these fronts, economic cooperation alone will not be sufficient to create lasting peace.

Education plays a critical role in shaping attitudes toward the conflict and building a foundation for long-term peace. Efforts to promote coexistence, tolerance, and mutual understanding in schools can help break the cycle of hatred and mistrust that has persisted for generations. Educational programs that encourage critical thinking, empathy, and an understanding of multiple narratives can challenge deeply ingrained stereotypes and foster a culture of peace. Schools that expose young Israelis and Palestinians to each other's histories, cultures, and perspectives can help cultivate a sense of shared humanity and reduce the appeal of extremist ideologies. Moreover, empowering young people with the tools to engage in dialogue and advocate for peace can create a new generation of leaders committed to reconciliation. Programs that facilitate exchanges between Israeli and Palestinian students, as well as initiatives that promote joint learning and collaborative problem-solving, can contribute to a more open and tolerant society. However, these efforts must be supported by broader societal and political changes that create an environment conducive to peace. Without a supportive political climate and a genuine commitment to addressing the structural inequalities that perpetuate the conflict, educational initiatives alone will struggle to achieve lasting impact.

In addition to fostering dialogue, promoting economic cooperation, and empowering future generations through education, international actors also have a crucial role to play in supporting peace and reconciliation efforts. The international community can provide the necessary political, financial, and diplomatic support to sustain grassroots initiatives, facilitate economic development, and promote educational reforms. Furthermore, international pressure on both sides to adhere to human rights standards, uphold international law, and engage in meaningful negotiations can create incentives for progress. However, external involvement must be balanced with respect for local agency and ownership of the peace process. Sustainable peace cannot be imposed from the outside; it must emerge from within the societies that are directly affected by the conflict.

Ultimately, the path to peace and reconciliation requires a long-term commitment to addressing the root causes of the conflict and creating a framework for coexistence based on mutual respect, dignity, and equality. Rebuilding trust, fostering economic cooperation, and empowering future generations through education are all essential components of this process. While the challenges are immense and the road ahead is fraught with obstacles, the pursuit of peace is not a hopeless endeavor. By investing in initiatives that promote understanding, dialogue, and cooperation, Israelis and Palestinians can take meaningful steps toward breaking the cycle of violence and laying the groundwork for a future where both peoples can thrive side by side.

Conclusion

The future of Israel and Palestine remains uncertain, with multiple paths that could lead to vastly different outcomes. While the current trajectory suggests prolonged stagnation and deepening divisions, opportunities for peace and reconciliation still exist. Achieving a just and lasting resolution will require courageous leadership from both sides, willing to make difficult compromises and prioritize the long-term well-being of their people over short-term political gains. Without bold steps toward resolving the core issues—borders, security, settlements, and the status of Jerusalem—the likelihood of further entrenchment and violence increases.

Sustained international engagement is also crucial in shaping the region's future. The global community has a responsibility to encourage meaningful dialogue, uphold international law, and provide the necessary diplomatic and economic support to facilitate peace efforts. However, external involvement must complement, rather than replace, local agency and grassroots initiatives. Civil society organizations that promote understanding, dialogue, and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians have the potential to lay the foundation for lasting peace by challenging entrenched narratives and fostering mutual respect.

As the region faces an uncertain future, the choices made by political leaders, civil society, and global actors will determine whether the dream of peace can finally be realized. The challenges are immense, but the consequences of inaction could be catastrophic, perpetuating cycles of violence and despair for generations to come. Yet, there remains hope that with sustained efforts and a genuine commitment to justice and equality, Israelis and Palestinians can move toward a future where both peoples coexist in peace and dignity. The path forward will not be easy, but the pursuit of peace is a moral imperative that cannot be abandoned.

Author is student at University of Kashmir. He can be reached at Artistmalik61@gmail.com

Continued From P1...

Lok Sabha

Earlier, making an intervention in the debate, Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted that a vote bank was being created by intimidating minorities and confusion being spread in the country in the name of the Waqf bill.

“The Narendra Modi government runs on a very clear principle that we will not bring any law for vote bank because law is for justice and welfare of people,” he said, adding, “Everyone has the right to follow their religion, but conversion cannot be done for greed, temptation and fear.”

He stressed that it has become a fashion to create fear among the people of the minority community. “It is the resolve of the Modi government that no citizen of this country, irrespective of his religion, will be harmed,” Shah said.

He said the non-Muslims in Waqf council and boards are meant purely to ensure the administration of properties in accordance with stated aims.

Shah said if there had not been an amendment in the Wakf Act in 2013, there would have been no need to bring this legislation.

“Elections were due in 2014 and in 2013, the extreme Wakf law was made overnight for the purpose of appeasement. As a result, 123 properties in Delhi’s Lutyen’s Zone were handed over to the Wakf just 25 days before the elections,” he said.

He said a vote bank was being consolidated by intimidating minorities and confusion being spread to strike fear among minorities.

Earlier, there was no provision to include any non-Muslim among those who run religious institutions and the NDA government is not going to do it either, he said.

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said the INDIA bloc will oppose the proposed changes to the Waqf law and called the Bill an attack on the basic structure of the Constitution.

He accused the government of misleading Parliament, referencing past discussions on the matter.

“This Bill is an attack on the basic structure of our Constitution, an attack on our federal structure, and has four primary objectives: to dilute the Constitution, to defame minority communities, to divide Indian society, and to disenfranchise minorities,” he alleged.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav claimed that the Bill was a BJP ploy for polarisation following its reverses in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. He claimed the Bill would send a wrong message to the world and dent the country’s secular image.

The Bill will prove to be a “Waterloo” for the BJP as some of its allies might be claiming to support the legislation but inside they are not happy about it, he said.

Participating in the debate, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi staged a symbolic protest by tearing up a copy of the Bill.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, in a post on X, called the Waqf Bill a weapon, aimed at marginalising Muslims and usurping their personal laws and property rights.

“This attack on the Constitution by the RSS, BJP and their allies is aimed at Muslims today but sets a precedent to target other communities in the future,” he said.

According to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Waqf tribunals will be strengthened, a structured selection process will be maintained, and a tenure will be fixed to ensure efficient dispute resolution.

As per the Bill, while Waqf institutions’ mandatory contribution to Waqf boards is reduced from 7 per cent to 5 per cent, Waqf institutions earning over Rs 1 lakh will undergo audits by state-sponsored auditors.

A centralised portal will automate Waqf property management, improving efficiency and transparency.

The Bill proposes that practising Muslims (for at least five years) can dedicate their property to the Waqf, restoring pre-2013 rules.

It stipulates that women must receive their inheritance before the Waqf declaration, with special provisions for widows, divorced women and orphans.

The Bill proposes that an officer above the rank of collector investigate government properties claimed as Waqf.

It also proposes that non-Muslim members be included in the central and state Waqf boards for inclusivity.

Govt raises

Speech on March 7, in which he announced a series of pro-poor initiatives, including the enhancement of marriage assistance for AAY-category girls.

The revised scheme will take effect from April 1, 2025.

To ensure transparency and efficiency, the financial aid will be directly transferred to the beneficiary’s bank account through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system before the marriage.

In another major welfare initiative, the J&K government has approved the distribution of additional food grains free of cost to AAY households with four or more members under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

This move aims to strengthen food security for the region’s most vulnerable families and fulfills a key commitment made in Budget 2025-26.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah hailed the initiative as a significant pro-people decision, emphasizing that the government is delivering on its promises. “We are committed to ensuring food security for our most vulnerable families. Under this initiative, all AAY households will receive additional food grains free of cost. Each beneficiary in a family with 4 or more members will get up to 10 kg of food grains, reinforcing our commitment to social welfare,” he stated.

Furthering his Government’s commitment to women’s empowerment, the Chief Minister had also flagged off the Zero-Ticket Travel Initiative—a free Government bus service for women—on April 1 from the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Center (SKICC).

Speaking at the launch event, CM Omar Abdullah said, “This initiative will create an environment where women feel empowered to travel freely, without financial constraints. It marks another step towards ensuring gender equality and mobility for women across Jammu and Kashmir.” The Omar Abdullah-led Government has fulfilled yet another promise by implementing Zero Stamp Duty on property transfers through Gift Deeds within blood relations. In this regard, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has issued S.O. 75, dated 27th March 2025, under Section 9(a) of the Stamp Act, 1977, to remit Stamp Duty on such transfers.

The term “Blood Relations” includes parents, siblings, children, and grandparents. This notification has come into force w.e.f. 1st April 2025.

our commitment

pension beneficiaries will receive increased financial assistance.

“This is not just assistance—it’s our commitment to an inclusive and caring welfare state,” Chief Minister Omar Abdullah stated.

Individuals below 60 years of age will now receive 1,250 per month, while those aged between 60 and 79 years will be entitled to 1,500 per month.

Senior citizens 80 years and above will receive a monthly pension of 2,000, ensuring better support for the elderly.

As per the order, the government has announced significant enhancements in social pensions under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS) to provide better financial support to vulnerable sections of society.

Under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), the pension for individuals aged 60-79 years has been increased from 1,000 to 1,500, while those aged 80 years and above will now receive 2,000 instead of 1,000.

Similarly, under the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), widows aged 40-59 years will receive 1,250 (earlier 1,000), those aged 60-79 years will receive 1,500 (earlier

1,000), and widows 80 years and above will now receive 2,000.

Additionally, the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) has been revised, with pensions for disabled individuals in the 18-59 years category raised to 1,250, those 60-79 years receiving 1,500, and those 80 years and above now receiving 2,000.

Furthermore, under the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), which is UT-funded, pension rates have been revised across multiple beneficiary groups.

Old Age Pensions have been increased to 1,250 for females aged 55-60 years, 1,500 for those 60-79 years, and 2,000 for those aged 80 years and above.

Similarly, Widow/Divorcee Pensions have been enhanced to 1,250 for widows below 60 years with a legal marriageable age, 1,500 for those 60-79 years, and 2,000 for those 80 years and above.

The Disability Pension has been revised to 1,250 for those below 60 years, 1,500 for those 60-79 years, and 2,000 for those 80 years and above.

A similar structure applies to the Transgender Pension, ensuring increased financial assistance across all age categories.

CM Omar

Prime Minister and other central leaders in Delhi have praised the mandate of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasised that no one has the right to disregard this mandate. “We demand that the elected government be allowed to function without interference. As for the agenda of the meeting, it will be clarified tomorrow,” he added.

On April 01, LG ordered posting of 48 J&K AS officers as Additional Deputy Commissioners, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Assistant Commissioners Revenue.

Sources said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is upset over the move, perceiving it trespass in the domain of elected government.

Insiders suggest that Omar today wrote to the Union Government to express his displeasure over the transfers.

Sources said the issue of restoration of statehood is also likely to come up for discussions during the meeting.

“The Waqf bill and ongoing session of J&K assembly can also be discussed,” he said

Karra, Mir

prior commitments in New Delhi. “They will be attending a crucial central-level meeting where district presidents from across the country are participating in phase-wise discussions.”

However, despite their absence, the party sources said that other Congress legislators from Jammu and Kashmir are expected to attend Omar Abdullah’s meeting.

As per the sources, recent administrative decisions are making the elected government “uncomfortable” and the legislators will deliberate on future course of action. “The Congress party is also concerned over the recent bureaucratic reshuffle, questioning the rationale behind the transfers initiated by the Lieutenant Governor’s administration.”

A Congress leader told KNO that his party’s stand has been very consistent from the beginning. “We have always opposed this dual control system where elected representatives are sidelined. Recent transfers of KAS officers by the LG administration undermine democratic governance,” he added.

“The Congress party is committed to its longstanding demand for the restoration of statehood. The governance must lie in the hands of elected representatives rather than bureaucrats,” the leader said, adding, “If bureaucrats are going to run the show, what is the point of holding elections.”

Congress criticises

In a move seen by many as an attempt to take full control of the bureaucracy, the lieutenant governor (LG) ordered the transfer of 48 middle and lower-rung Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers, including 14 additional deputy commissioners and 26 sub-divisional magistrates.

The order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) on Tuesday came at a time when the National Conference-led government was waiting for a nod from the Union home ministry for the business rules it framed about a month ago and sent to the LG for approval to facilitate smooth

governance without confusion.

J-K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has convened a joint meeting of the coalition legislators in Srinagar on Friday where the issue is likely to be discussed.

“The chief minister has called for a joint legislative party meeting of coalition partners in Srinagar at 11 am tomorrow. The issue of transfers is likely to be discussed although the agenda for the meeting has not been conveyed so far.

“It would have been advisable for the LG to wait a while as the business rules are pending approval. The LG should have been more patient,” Gulam Ahmed Mir, national general secretary of the Congress, said.

Mir, who also serves as the leader of the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) in the J-K Assembly, said the government has already proposed the business rules and forwarded them to New Delhi for approval.

“Taking such a step was not advisable,” the Congress leader said.

According to the current business rules, Mir said, “transfer of local JKAS officers falls under the chief minister’s domain”.

“The previous rules stipulated that local JKAS officers will be handled by the chief minister, while senior officers (IAS) will be transferred by the LG,” Mir said.

Mir also said the LG’s action, knowing that the business rules proposal is pending approval in Delhi, sent a wrong message about the state of affairs within the J-K administration.

“It has sent a wrong message that everything is not well (within the administration). The LG knew it well that the proposal for business rules is under consideration, yet he took this step,” Mir said.

Union Secretary

Earlier, in his presentation, Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Zubair Ahmad presented an overview of the functioning of the department with stress on new initiatives and issues flagged by Central Government.

He informed the Union Secretary that the Department is presently providing free and subsidised food grains to 24.76 lac households, comprising 98.81 lac beneficiaries in J&K. While 67 lac beneficiaries are provided free foodgrains every month under PMGKAY, another 31.75 lac beneficiaries are provided food grains at highly subsidised rate in NPHH group.

He also said that the distribution network across J&K is built around 6622 sale outlets and 6390 such outlets are presently working in an online mode. He added that Aadhaar authentication rate of 95% has been achieved in distribution process by now.

He also informed that after achieving 100% Aadhaar seeding, the Department has completed e-KYC of 87% beneficiaries under NFSA and 75% of beneficiaries in Non Priority Households group. He also apprised the Union Secretary that the department has started implementation of Route Optimization Plan in eight districts of J&K on trial basis and complete implementation across all the districts would commence in the month of June, 2025.

The Union Secretary was also apprised about the status of implementation of SMART PDS in J&K.

Regarding One Nation-One Ration Card (ONORC), the Union Secretary was informed that till now 1.66 lakh interstate and 29.33 lakh intrastate transactions were made under NFSA alone, taking J&K to 9th position in the country.

Later, Sanjeev Chopra also visited Fair Price Shop at Hajjar Kotli and interacted with the dealer and the beneficiaries. He advised the officers to undertake updation of mobile numbers of beneficiaries and also emphasized on enhancing the viability of FPSs.

The Union Secretary was accompanied by Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Director, FCS & CA Jammu, Rifat Kohli; General Manager, FCI, L.Chattru Naik and other officials of the Department.

Raksha Mantri

impact of the various existing global situations. The main highlight of the third day of the conference was the address by the Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh, to the senior leadership of the Indian Army, which was preceded by a brief on the “Year of Reforms”

NEP Builds

moral values with skills needed in the modern world so that qualities like strong character and intellectual curiosity can be nurtured.

“Without unprecedented inventions, moral values alone will have no value. But it is also true that without ethics and values, cutting-edge education and skills would be aimless.

There should be conversations and not monologues in the classroom. There is a need to link innovation and growth with the ethical values of the society and integrate them with the course curriculum,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further called for encouraging hands-on, experiential and project-based learning. The young minds should be exposed to challenges of the real world. Now the time has come to take education out of the lab and into the real world, he said.

During an interactive session, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the educational reforms taking place in J&K, under the guidance of Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the past few years. He said the innovative programmes launched in the UT have ensured inclusive and quality education for all.

“The talent pool within Jammu Kashmir is being provided with better opportunities. Dedicated efforts have been made to promote multidisciplinary learning, and skill development of youth. We have also actively initiated campaigns to bring dropout students back to school. Through Mission Yuva, we have prepared a blueprint to foster entrepreneurship culture at college and university level.

Schools, colleges and universities are functioning without any disturbances. Earlier practice of hartals, strikes, stone pelting and bandhs are things of the past now. Today, J&K, with its full potential, is moving ahead towards a prosperous and brighter future,” the Lieutenant Governor said. On the occasion, the prominent personalities and institutions are also conferred with the Bharat Shiksha Samman for their valuable contribution in the field of education. Naveen Jindal, Member of Parliament; Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities; Rajshree Rai, Chairperson, Balaji Foundation; educationists, experts, heads of various institutions, teachers and youth in large number were present.

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This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216020016453, which is Registered in the name of Atta Mohd chachi, S/O Abdullah chachi, Now i want to apply for change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Atta Mohd Chohan, S/O Mohammad Abdullah Chohan , in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Kaloosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Atta Mohd Chohan.
S/O Mohammad Abdullah Chohan.
R/O Awan mohaalh, Turkpora Bandipora.

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This is an information for general public that the DOB of my Daughter has been Mistakenly Mentioned in her School Records as 03-10-2015, while as her actual and correct DOB is 03-10-2014. 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 Headmaster GOVT Primary school T A Shah Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Nazir Ahmad Khan.
F/O Asiba Nazir.
R/O T A Shah, Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK08 20040028737, my name has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Imtiyaz Masood, S/O Mohd Masood, while as my Actual and correct name as per my Aadhaar Card is Imtiyaz Masood Chaket, S/O Mohd Masood Chaket. 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 Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Imtiyaz Masood Chaket.
S/O Mohd Masood Chaket.
R/O Gurez, District Bandipora.

Chief Secretary Asks For Accelerated Execution Of National Highway Projects In J&K

KC News Network

JAMMU Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high level meeting to assess progress on National Highway projects being executed across the Union Territory.

Emphasising the critical importance of these projects, he issued firm directives to ensure their timely completion while minimising public inconvenience.

The meeting was attended by senior officers including Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar; Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda; Secretary, Public Works (R&B), Bhupinder Kumar and Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar while other officers participated online.

Representatives from key agencies like the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) were also present.

The Chief Secretary reviewed various National Highway projects, examining the individual packages, scheduled completion dates and current progress. He specifically instructed the NHAI to expedite project completion while ensuring that public inconvenience is minimised. “Delays are unacceptable. We must prioritise efficiency and public convenience in equal measure,” he asserted.

The review encompassed critical infrastructure projects like Delhi-Amritsar-Katra (DAK) Expressway, four-laning of Banihal Bypass, Srinagar Ring Road, Jammu-Akhnor National Highway, Chenani-Sudhmahadev Road, Khellani Bypass Tunnel and various projects under Project SAMPARK.

Dulloo scrutinised the physical and financial status of these



projects, emphasising added accountability and swift resolution of any impediments.

Addressing the challenges posed by the region’s unique topography, the Chief Secretary emphasised the need for proactive planning. “Weather conditions and natural challenges must be anticipated and integrated into our project timelines to prevent unnecessary delays,” he directed the officers.

In a move to prevent resource-related delays, the Chief Secretary directed Director Geology and Mining, Suraj Parkash Rukwal, to conduct field visits and ensure that mining activities do not hinder

the project progress.

Furthermore, he discussed the forest clearance issues with Commissioner Secretary, Sheetal Nanda.

Officers from the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department Kashmir and R&B Pir Panjal also presented updates on their respective projects.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the progress on Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and engaged with Deputy Commissioners to identify and address district-specific challenges, particularly those related to land acquisition. He asked them to expedite the processes and resolve issues promptly to facilitate smooth project execution.

Exposure to difficult conditions helped evolution of my T20 batting: Sai Sudharsan

Opener B Sai Sudharsan felt exposure to "difficult conditions" during his current stint with IPL side Gujarat Titans has contributed immensely to him evolving as a T20 batter.

Sudharsan played a fine innings of 49 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in GT's eight-wicket win here on Wednesday night.

"It's my fourth year (in the IPL), so I feel it has given me a lot of experience. I got exposed to a few difficult conditions. I got exposed to a lot of fast bowling in the nets with GT," Sudharsan said in the post-match press meet.

"I feel the most important thing which has helped my evolution or the way I've improved my T20 batting is the game-time I get here and the practice time I get here with the Titans, with the bowlers, all quality international bowlers," he added.

Sudharsan now sits on the second place in the run-markers' chart with 186 runs. The left-hander has made those runs at an average of 62 and at a strike-rate of 158.

"So, I feel that has helped me even from the nets, I would say. I got exposed to a lot of things, a lot of difficult conditions.

"I've learnt a lot in these three years. I feel it has helped me understand the game better and the basics of the game as well," he said.

Flower rues early wickets

RCB head coach Andy Flower said losing four wickets in the first seven overs made it tough for his side.

"We played very aggressively in the power play and lost some wickets, lost three wickets in the power play. Four wickets in power play.

"So, that was obviously a big swing in the game — if you lose power play, you're in trouble," he said.

"But it's also important to acknowledge that, that's not the reason for the result. Siraj bowled very well, didn't he? He bowled an

that risk-reward balance is part of a batsman's job always.

"In the face of some good, accurate bowling



Flower identified Siraj's outstanding spell (3/19) as one of the reasons for RCB's defeat, but stopped short of blaming a slower than usual Chinnaswamy deck for the result.

"It definitely wasn't a typical Chinnaswamy wicket, where you'd expect the ball to come on a little bit quicker than that. In the first innings, the ball did rip off the seam with the drier ball. So, I think that was fairly important in the context of the game.

outstanding spell with the new ball. His lines were really tight, lengths were good, and he threatened the stumps a lot," he said.

The Zimbabwean said RCB would continue their aggressive batting ways despite the reversal against GT.

"This is an attacking game, and aggression is very much a part of the game. I think there's always an assessment of risk you're making in any format of the game. So, getting

from GT, struggled in power play, no doubt about that. But sometimes that happens," he said.

Flower also patted Sudharsan for playing a lovely hand for the Titans.

"Sudarshan played beautifully, I thought. You know, the choice of shots, he played the spin nicely, he chose the areas he wanted to hit the spin, I thought, really well. So, you know, he's had a good start to the competition," he said.

"I feel the most important thing which has helped my evolution or the way I've improved my T20 batting is the game-time I get here and the practice time I get here with the Titans, with the bowlers, all quality international bowlers," he added.

Pretty embarrassed at dropping Salt, so was determined to score some runs: Buttler

Gujarat Titans senior batter Jos Buttler admitted that he was "embarrassed" at dropping Royal Challengers Bengaluru opener Phil Salt while keeping in their IPL match here, but he was able to make amends, using the long handle to help his side to an eight-wicket win.

Buttler struck and imperious 73 not out off just 39 balls, with his innings marked by creativity and sustained aggression, as GT chased down the target of 170 in 17.5 overs on Wednesday.

"I don't know, pretty embarrassed. We know Salt is a dangerous player. I barely got a glove on it and it hit me in the chest, so was determined to score some runs," said the England stalwart after the match.

Buttler dropped a regulation catch off the bowling of Mohammed Siraj in the first over after RCB were sent in to bat. Salt charged down the track, looking to slap the ball through the off-side but it took the edge and went through to Buttler who, however, barely got a glove to it.

GT captain Shubman Gill and Siraj were celebrating even before the ball had reached the keeper, only for Buttler to spill it.

"As a team, we did not field well... fielded poorly. Had we fielded better, myself included, we would have chased less. Nice win and well deserved. But really enjoyed it. Felt the bowlers did a fantastic job," said the 34-year-old England great.

The Englishman was slightly jittery to begin with but once he found the right gears, he was unstoppable, fetching those thunderous shots off the shelf regularly.

Buttler, who gave up the England white-ball captaincy after their Champions Trophy exit, said he was motivated by "a few months of pretty unenjoyable cricket".

"Tried to play with freedom and intent – had a few months of unenjoyable cricket, trying to give my best and excited to be here.



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