

Kashmir Convener



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Ensure Zero Terror Plan in mission mode: HM Shah

Chairs J&K security review meeting in Raj Bhawan

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Reiterating that the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to build a secure and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday directed the security agencies to further intensify anti-terror offensives in the Union Territory.

After chairing a high level security review meeting at Raj Bhawan here, Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), wrote on X: “Chaired a security review meeting for J&K along with Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha Ji and senior officials. Agencies crippled terror in J&K through the Modi Govt's multi-pronged approach to security. Instructed to



further intensify anti-terror offensives by advanced vigilance and seamless mutual coordination to achieve the goal of uprooting terror for good.”

“The Modi government is committed to building a secure and prosperous J&K,” he added.

As per the details available with KNO

the security review chaired by the Union Home Minister was attended by LG Sinha, Union Home Secretary, Army Chief, GOC Northern Command, Deputy Chief of Army, GOCs of 15, 16 and 9 Corps, Director IB, Chief Secretary, J&K Director General of Police; Director Generals of Indo Tibetan Border Police, Central Reserve Police Force, Railway Protection Force, Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal and National Investigation Agency.

Others who were present in the meeting included Principal Secretary Home J&K, Additional Secretary RAW, Special Director IB, Joint Secretary Home Affairs J&K, Ladakh, Principal Secretary to LG Sinha and Chief Executive Officer Shri Amarnath Shrine Board,

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GOI will establish new dimensions of development in J&K: Amit Shah

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Government of India is fully committed to establishing new dimensions of development in Jammu and Kashmir and paving the way for prosperity for the local people.

“The all- inclusive development in every aspect of public welfare underlines the Modi government's commitment to transform Jammu and Kashmir through positive reforms,” he said while chairing a review meeting on development projects in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in Srinagar today.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant Governor of Jammu



and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Union Home Secretary and senior officials of the Central and Jammu and Kashmir Governments.

Union Home Minister said that the Modi government is working with an unwavering resolve towards building a developed Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the tireless efforts of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi are ushering in a new era of prosperity for every citizen through development and welfare initiatives. Shah said that Jammu and Kashmir is accelerating on the path of growth in every sector.

Untiring efforts of the Modi Government to accelerate the pace of development in Jammu and Kashmir

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SC Likely To Hear On Apr 15 Pleas Challenging Waqf Act

>>> Centre Files Caveat <<<



KC News Network

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court would likely on April 15 hear a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

The Centre, however, on Tuesday filed a caveat in the apex court and sought a hearing before any order was passed in the matter.

Caveat is filed by a party in the high courts and the apex court to ensure that no orders are passed without hearing it.

A Government notification, in the meantime, said Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, which was passed by Parliament last week, comes into force on Tuesday.

“In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section

(2) of section 1 of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 (14 of 2025), the Central Government hereby appoints the 8th day of April, 2025 as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force,” the Ministry of Minority Affairs notification said.

Over 10 petitions, including those by politicians and the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, were filed in the top court challenging the validity of the newly-enacted law.

Lawyers privy to the development said the petitions were likely to be listed for hearing before a bench on April 15 though it is not reflected on the apex court website as of now.

On April 7, a bench headed by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna assured senior

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Army steps up surveillance in higher reaches of Doda



KC News Network

BHADERWAH: With the melting of snow and opening of mountain passes, the Army has increased surveillance in the densely forested area of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district to maintain peace and thwart any attempt by terrorists to cross over into the Chenab valley, security officials said.

The stepped-up surveillance in

the high-altitude areas of Bhaderwah valley comes close on the heels of a massive ongoing operation against terrorists, who managed to infiltrate from across the International Border into Kathua district last month.

Kathua has emerged as a major infiltrating route for the Pakistan-based terrorists to reach higher reaches of Udhampur, Doda and Kishtwar districts and further to Kashmir over the past one year.

Anticipating movement of terrorists, the officials said the Army has revamped the surveillance measures in the higher reaches of the Bhaderwah valley with the melting of snow and heightened security concerns after recent encounters and sightings of terrorists in Kathua.

Four police personnel and two terrorists were killed in a fierce encounter in Kathua on March 27, five days after the first gunfight with a group of five Pakistani terrorists near the International border in Hiranagar sector.

Police, paramilitary forces and Army are conducting relentless operations in the higher reaches of both Kathua and adjoining Udhampur districts,

bordering Doda and Samba to track down and neutralise the fleeing terrorists. Despite very difficult circumstances in view of the threat of snow avalanches,

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Rajnath Singh holds meeting with UAE Leadership

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh held a meeting with the Crown Prince of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Defence of UAE Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum at South Block, New Delhi on April 08, 2025.

The two leaders expressed happiness on the current defence cooperation through institutional mechanisms, military exercises, exchange of training programmes etc.

Both the Ministers acknowledged that defence cooperation needs to be scaled up to match the progress



made in other areas such as trade and business, in line with the vision and determination of the two leaders - Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. They identified training exchanges as one of the key areas of defence cooperation which would enable understanding of each other's defence ecosystems and accelerate strengthening of bilateral defence ties.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction on the active Coast Guard-to-Coast Guard cooperation and committed to further deepen it by formalising the same through an MoU. They were convinced that close collaboration between the defence industries should be an integral part of the bilateral cooperation. They emphasised on increasing

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Three More Groups In J&K Dissociate From Hurriyat: Amit Shah

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu Kashmir Islamic Political Party, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Democratic League and Kashmir Freedom Front have disassociated themselves from separatists conglomerate

Hurriyat Conference, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on Tuesday.

Eleven such organisations in Jammu and Kashmir have shunned separatism so far.

Shah asserted that the move demonstrated people's trust in the Constitution.

“Three more organisations, namely Jammu Kashmir Islamic Political Party, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Democratic League, and Kashmir Freedom Front, disassociate themselves from the Hurriyat. It is a prominent demonstration of the people's trust in the Constitution of India within the valley,” he wrote on X.

The announcement came in the midst of the home

minister's three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a united and powerful Bharat stands even more bolstered today, as so far 11 such organisations have shunned separatism, proclaiming unwavering support for it.

Last month several constituents of the Hurriyat Conference announced their disassociation from the separatists conglomerate.

Among the groups which announced their separation from Hurriyat include Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement, headed by Shahid Saleem, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Political Movement, led by Shafi

Reshi, an advocate, and Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Movement, headed by Mohd Sharief Sartaj.

When the groups made the announcement on March 25, Shah had said the unifying policies of the Modi government have “tossed” separatism out of Jammu and Kashmir.

Two days later, two more constituents of Hurriyat Conference — Jammu and Kashmir Tahreeqi Istegal and Jammu and Kashmir Tahreek-I-Istiqamat — announced their disassociation from Hurriyat.

The J-K Tahreeqi Istegal is headed by Gulam Nabi Sofi and J-K Tahreek-I-Istiqamat is led by Ghulam Nabi War. (Agencies)

PDP Submits Fresh Resolution To Repeal Waqf Act

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: The People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Tuesday submitted a fresh resolution in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly,



urging the Union Government to repeal the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

PDP President Mehbooba Mufti condemned the Act, asserting that it goes beyond religious matters and represents a direct assault on the rights, beliefs, and dignity of the country's crores of Muslims. Mufti emphasised that as the only Muslim-majority

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270 posts of assistant surgeons, 1590 paramedics vacant in Kashmir: Govt

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: The government of Jammu and Kashmir said that there are 270 posts of Assistant Surgeons and 1,590 posts of paramedics lying vacant in the Health Department in the Kashmir Division.

Responding to a question by MLA Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani, Health and Medical Education Department Minister Sakina Itoo, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the department is in the process of establishing dialysis units at all Community Health Centres (CHCs).

She added that dialysis units will be established at the CHCs of Magam and Beerwah (in Budgam district) in a phased manner.

“Out of the total sanctioned strength of 1,736 Assistant Surgeons, 1,466 are in position and 270 are lying vacant in Kashmir. Regarding paramedical staff, out of the 4,218 sanctioned strength, 2,628 are in position and 1,590 are vacant,” Itoo said.

The minister said that the vacancy of medical officers filled during the last two years by way of appointment includes 52 appointments in 2023 and 226 appointments in 2024.

“The upgradation of health centres/institutes is taken up in accordance with the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms. Feasibility reports are sought from concerned quarters, and if the reports

are in sync with the IPHS norms, proposals will be considered,” she said.

Replying to a question by MLA Saif Uddin Bhat,



Omar Abdullah, who is the Minister in charge of Tourism, said the revision/formulation of master plans for Tourism Development Authorities, including Doodhpathri and Tosamaidan Development Authorities, is presently under consideration in the department.

“The Tourism Department has constructed food courts and kiosks in Doodhpathri for the convenience of tourists, which have been outsourced,” he said. “The department has not

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3 Opposition MLAs Move No-Confidence Motion Against Speaker

KC News Network

JAMMU: Three opposition legislators led by People's Conference leader Sajad Gani Lone on Tuesday presented a no-confidence motion against Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather.

Lone alleged that the Speaker had become an “impediment” in voicing their opinion against the Waqf (Amendment) Act in the Assembly. The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly witnessed pandemonium for the second straight day on the issue, prompting the Speaker to adjourn the House initially for 30 minutes shortly after the start of the day's business.

The House was later adjourned till 1 pm. On Monday when the House assembled after a 12-day recess, it descended into chaos with religious and jingoistic sloganeering after the Speaker rejected an adjournment motion, moved by the ruling National Conference members, to discuss the Waqf (Amendment) Act, saying the



matter was sub-judice.

“Following Rule 215(A) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly, we hereby submit this notice of our intention to move a resolution for the removal of the Speaker of the Assembly.

“This decision stems from widespread outrage within the House over the Speaker's actions, including the rejection of discussions on an adjournment motion and the refusal

to entertain a resolution brought forward by opposition parties.

Such conduct undermines the democratic principles and procedures governing this esteemed institution, prompting this resolution to address the matter,” Lone, MLA from Handwara, said in a letter addressed to the secretary of the Assembly.

PDP legislators Fayaz Ahmad Mir (Kupwara) and Rafiq Ahmad Naik (Tral) are the

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Doctors Warn Of Serious Health Risks As IMD Issues Yellow Alert Amid Spiralling Mercury

NEW DELHI: The mercury has been soaring in Delhi and doctors have warned that exposure to extreme heat can lead to a range of health issues — from mild rashes and muscle cramps due to excessive sweating and salt loss, to serious conditions like heat exhaustion and heatstroke.

Delhi recorded its first heatwave of the season on Monday with the maximum temperature touching 40.2 degrees Celsius. The city is currently under a yellow alert, which will remain in place till Wednesday.

In the India Meteorological Department's (IMD's) colour code, a yellow alert stands for "be aware" and advises people to avoid heat exposure, wear lightweight, light-coloured and loose cotton clothes, and cover their heads.

Under these conditions, vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, pregnant women, and individuals with pre-existing conditions such as cardiac or kidney disease are at a greater risk.

Dr Mukesh Mehra, senior director (Internal Medicine) at Max Super Speciality Hospital in Patparganj, said extreme heat can overwhelm the body's natural cooling system, leading to severe health consequences.

"Heatstroke, the most serious form of heat-related illness, occurs when the body temperature exceeds 104°F. It often manifests itself with symptoms such as confusion, dry and hot skin, rapid heartbeat, and even seizures. Other signs include



dizziness, headache, nausea, and vomiting," he explained.

"In such conditions, vital organs like the brain and heart may be strained due to reduced cooling and redirected blood flow. Recognising these symptoms early and seeking immediate medical attention is essential to prevent life-threatening complications," Mehra added.

Rajat Sharma, a resident doctor of community medicine at UCMS and GTB Hospital, said exposure to extreme heat on days when temperatures are particularly high can cause a variety of health problems.

Apart from heat rash and muscle cramps caused by excessive sweating and loss of electrolytes, more serious conditions such

as heat exhaustion can lead to dizziness, fatigue, heavy sweating, and nausea, he said.

The doctor explained that if not treated in time, this can escalate to heatstroke — a life-threatening emergency where the body's temperature regulation fails, leading to confusion, loss of consciousness, and even death in some cases.

Doctors have advised people to stay well-hydrated, avoid stepping out during peak sun hours and wear light, breathable clothes. "If someone shows symptoms of heat-related illness, they should be immediately moved to a shaded or cooler place," Dr Sharma said.

Echoing similar concerns, Dr Mehra stressed the importance of preventive

measures against heat-related illnesses.

"As heatwave conditions intensify, prevention is our best protection. Staying hydrated... supports the body's cooling system. People should limit outdoor activities during peak hours, take regular rest if working outdoors, and gradually acclimatise to rising temperatures," he said.

"Being aware of personal risk factors such as age, chronic illnesses, or medications can significantly reduce the chances of developing heat-related complications like exhaustion or stroke," Dr Mehra added.

Dr Ushast Dhir, the director of the Department of Liver Transplant and Hepatobiliary Surgery at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said that with the onset of summer, there is an increased risk of exposure to new viral infections and water contamination.

He cautioned that the elderly, children, and diabetics are at a higher risk of heatstroke and should avoid direct sun exposure, especially during the afternoon hours. "With rising temperatures, the risk of dehydration also increases. We should stay hydrated with non-caffeinated fluids. Tea, coffee, and carbonated drinks can further dehydrate the body and should be avoided during peak summer months," Dr Dhir advised.

Delhi is likely to experience cooler days after April 10 with Skymet Weather Services Vice President Mahesh Palawat predicting cloud cover and a drop in temperatures due to a western disturbance over North India.

Heatwaves Drove 1/3rd Of Rise In India's Power Demand During 2024 Summer: Report

NEW DELHI: India's electricity demand during the severe heatwave months of April to June 2024 rose by 10.4 per cent compared to the corresponding period the year before, with increased use of air conditioning contributing to nearly a third of the rise, according to a new report released on Tuesday.

The sixth edition of global energy think tank Ember's Global Electricity Review also said heatwaves were responsible for almost a fifth of the increase in global electricity demand in 2024 and were the main reason behind a 1.4 per cent rise in fossil fuel-based power generation.

This led to a 1.6 per cent increase in global power sector emissions, adding 223 million tonnes of carbon dioxide and pushing total emissions to a record high of 14.6 billion tonnes.

Without the heat-related demand, fossil generation would have grown just 0.2 per cent, as clean energy met 96 per cent of the demand growth not caused by hotter temperatures, said the report. In India, electricity demand during April-September 2024 was 6.1 per cent higher compared to the corresponding period in 2023. Ember estimated that 19 per cent of this rise was due to higher temperatures. During the peak heatwave months from April to June, the demand was 10.8 per

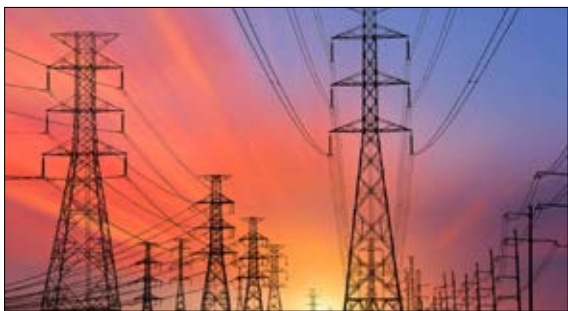
cent higher than the previous year.

"This was primarily driven by economic growth, with air conditioning accounting for an estimated 30 per cent of the year-on-year increase. In May, cooling was responsible for more than one-third of the year-on-year demand increase," the report said.

India's total electricity

use in India rose from 22 per cent in 2012-13 to 25 per cent in 2022-23. Experts say this is largely due to economic growth and higher demand for cooling as temperatures continue to rise.

Ongoing research at the Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development says that in a world that is 2 degrees



demand rose by 5 per cent in 2024. Clean energy sources met 33 per cent of this additional demand, while coal accounted for 64 per cent. This is a drop from 2023, when coal met 91 per cent of the increase. A recent study said India may add 130 to 150 million new room air conditioners in the next decade, which could push peak power demand up by over 180 GW by 2035, straining the electricity grid. PTI reported last month that India is likely to see a nine to 10 per cent increase in peak electricity demand this summer as more heatwave days are expected. The share of household electricity

Celsius warmer than pre-industrial times, India will see the highest cooling demand in terms of population, followed by China, Nigeria, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, the Philippines and the United States.

Earlier this month, the India Meteorological Department said that the country is likely to experience above-normal temperatures from April to June, with more heatwave days in central and eastern India and the northwestern plains.

The year 2024 was also the warmest recorded both in India, and globally.

Thackeray vows to reclaim lost voter base in Konkan, says party led by him is only Shiv Sena

MUMBAI: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday asserted his party will reclaim the lost ground in Maharashtra's coastal Konkan region, where it faced reverses in Lok Sabha and state assembly polls last year.

Taking a dig at the rival Shiv Sena headed by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Thackeray declared there is only one Shiv Sena and that is led by him.

Speaking at "Matoshri", his private residence in Bandra, the former CM insisted the people of Maharashtra need the Shiv Sena (UBT) at this juncture as it is the only political party in the state that keeps its word and fulfils promises.



On the occasion, Mumbai Congress leader Sahdev Petkar re-joined the party.

"We will reclaim Konkan. The (poll) results of Konkan were unexpected. People can be fooled once, but not all the time," he averred. The Shiv Sena (UBT),

a constituent of the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), won nine Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra last year, but failed to emerge victorious in its one-time strongholds of coastal Raigad and Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg constituencies, which were bagged by the NCP and the BJP, respectively. In the November 2024 Assembly polls, the Shiv Sena (UBT) won just one seat in the region — Guhagar. The party was virtually wiped out from south Konkan, where it ceded space to Shinde-led Shiv Sena. The poll reverses were followed by a series of desertions of leaders from the opposition party from the region, including former MLA Rajan Salvi, who joined the ruling Shiv Sena. Thackeray assured party workers he will tour the entire Konkan region, where the united Shiv Sena held sway for decades, to rejuvenate cadres and strengthen the organisation.

Akhilesh Yadav attacks BJP over LPG price hike, stock market crash, MUDRA scheme irregularities

LUCKNOW: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the

BJP-led government on issues of LPG cylinder price rise, stock market crash and alleged discrepancies in the MUDRA loan scheme.

"On completion of 10 years of the MUDRA scheme, contradictory data has exposed scams and irregularities worth Rs 33 lakh crore under the BJP government," Yadav wrote in an X post.

He said stock market investors lost Rs 19 lakh crore recently, LPG cylinder prices have been hiked

by Rs 50 and excise duty on petrol has increased by Rs 2 per litre.

Yadav also raised serious concerns about law and order in Uttar Pradesh, claiming that a young girl was gang-raped in Varansi, which he referred to as "the most prominent parliamentary constituency of the country."

The Samajwadi Party chief added that BJP leaders and their associates in Kanpur were booked for

disturbing peace by spreading rumours.

"In Uttar Pradesh, a bureaucrat is in the news for allegedly amassing huge wealth under the protection of those in power," he further said, alleging a general breakdown in governance and accountability.

Yadav ended his post on a cryptic note. "Someone went to meet someone important, but..." he wrote, hinting at undisclosed political developments.

Modi will continue to be prime minister even beyond 2029: Fadnavis

MUMBAI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will continue to lead the country even beyond 2029 and there is no question of discussing a successor, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Tuesday.

Fadnavis' assertion comes in response to Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut's claim last month that Modi had visited Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh headquarters in Nagpur to convey the message that he is "retiring".

When asked about his earlier comments made in Nagpur about Modi's successor, Fadnavis on Tuesday said, "I have said that it is not the right time to think of a successor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, because, in 2029, Modi will be prime minister again".

He was speaking at the India Global Forum in Mumbai.

Raut had claimed that Modi probably went to the RSS headquarters on March 30 to "write his retirement application in September," alluding to some leaders in the BJP retiring at 75.

Modi, who is in his third term as PM, turns 75 in September this year.

"It appears that Modi's heir will be decided



by the RSS which is why Modi was called (to the RSS headquarters) and discussions took place. Sangh's discussions are held behind closed doors. The indications are very clear. The Sangh will decide the next leader and that leader could be from Maharashtra," the Rajya Sabha member had claimed.

Fadnavis had rejected Raut's claim, saying, "In our culture, when the father is alive, it is inappropriate to talk about succession. That is Mughal culture. The time has not come to discuss it".

Senior RSS leader Suresh Bhaiyyaji Joshi had said he was unaware of any talk of (PM's) replacement.

Congress-Led Standing Committees Made Several Suggestions To Improve Lives Of Indians: Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the Congress-led standing committees made several suggestions to improve the lives of Indians and asserted that even while in Opposition, the party will continue to use every democratic institution to fight for the rights and well-being of the people.

The former Congress president said that in the Budget session of Parliament, the Congress-led Standing Committees made several suggestions to improve the lives of Indians.

The Committee on Agriculture, chaired by Charanjit Singh Channi, expanded on its previous call for a legal MSP and recommended additional compensation for stubble collection, along with a number of key protections for farmers and fishermen, Gandhi said in a post on X.

"Under Saptagiri Ulaka ji, the Rural Development Committee advocated for the expansion and strengthening of MNREGA, urging the removal of unnecessary obstacles," he said. The Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, led by Digvijaya Singh,



called for recruiting more teachers, reforms to end paper leaks and higher and timely-paid honorariums for Anganwadi workers, Gandhi said. Meanwhile, the External Affairs Committee, chaired by Shashi Tharoor, emphasised the need for safeguards for Indian migrant workers abroad, he said. "These are just a few examples of the Congress Party's commitment to people's welfare. Even while in Opposition, we will continue to use every democratic institution to fight for the rights and well-being of the people of India," Gandhi said.

Kharge Slams BJP For Appropriating Patel's Legacy, Recalls He Banned RSS

Ahmedabad: Accusing the BJP-RSS of carrying out a "well-planned conspiracy" against national heroes, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday asserted that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's ideology was contrary to the RSS' ideas and said it is laughable that today that organisation which "has no contribution" in the freedom struggle claims his legacy.

In his opening address at the Extended Congress Working Committee meeting at the Sardar Patel Memorial here, Kharge also said that today, attention is being diverted from the basic issues of the country by indulging in communal division.

"On the other hand, oligarchic monopoly is on the path of controlling the government by capturing the resources of the country," he said, quoting Sardar Patel.

Kharge said organisational strength was important and mere numbers without the organisation was meaningless.

For the last several years, a well-planned conspiracy has been carried out regarding many national heroes, he alleged.

"An atmosphere is being created against the Congress party which has a glorious history of serving and fighting for the country for the last 140 years. This work is being done by those people who have nothing

to show as their achievements," Kharge said. They have nothing to show as their contribution in the freedom struggle, he said, attacking the BJP-RSS.

"They conspired to show that the relationship between Sardar Patel and Pandit Nehru was such that the two heroes were against each other. While the truth is that they were two sides of the same coin. Many incidents and documents are witness to their cordial relationship," he asserted.

Citing a speech of Sardar Patel in Gujarat Vidyaapeeth in 1937, Kharge narrated an incident that during that time Nehru was the president of the Congress and the youth of Gujarat wanted that he be called to campaign in the provincial elections.

"Sardar Patel said on March 7, 1937 that 'The day Gujarat proves its loyalty to the Congress by becoming victorious in this election movement, we will welcome Congress president Nehruji with flowers and welcome him with open hearts'," Kharge said.

"You can understand from this how much Sardar loved Nehruji. On 14 October 1949, Sardar Patel had said in a book for Nehruji that 'No one knows better than me the tireless efforts Nehruji has made for the country in the last two difficult years. During this period, I have seen him grow



old very fast due to the burden of heavy responsibilities," he said.

Kharge said these things are recorded in the public record.

"There was almost daily correspondence between the two. Nehruji used to take his advice on all matters. Nehruji had immense respect for Patel sahab. If he had to take some advice, he himself would go to Patelji's house. For Patelji's convenience, CWC meetings were held at his residence," Kharge said.

He asserted that Patel's ideology was

contrary to the ideas of RSS and he had even banned the organisation.

"But it is laughable that today the people of that organisation claim Sardar Patel's legacy," Kharge said.

Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel played an important role in making Baba Saheb Ambedkar a member of the Constituent Assembly, he claimed.

Ambedkar himself had said in his last speech in the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949 that "the Constitution

could not have been made without the support of the Congress Party", Kharge recalled.

"But when the Constitution was made, the RSS criticised Gandhiji, Pandit Nehru, Dr. Ambedkar and the Congress a lot. They burnt the effigies of the Constitution and these leaders at Ramlila Maidan. They also said that the Constitution was not inspired by Manuwadi ideals," he said.

The Modi government insulted Gandhi and Baba Saheb by removing their grand statues from Parliament premises and putting them in a corner, he alleged.

"The Home Minister (Amit Shah) mocked Baba Saheb in the Rajya Sabha by saying that 'you people keep saying Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar'," he said.

Kharge asserted that the Congress party respects both the Constitution and the Constitution makers and knows how to protect it.

"Sardar Patel Saheb lives in our hearts, lives in our thoughts. We are taking his legacy forward. We have organised this CWC meeting in Ahmedabad at the Sardar Patel Museum with this thought in mind. We pay our heartfelt tribute to him," he said.

Kharge further alleged that today, the BJP and Sangh Parivar people are taking

over institutions associated with Gandhi and handing them over to his ideological opponents.

"They have also taken over Sarva Seva Sangh in Varanasi. You all know what happened in Gujarat Vidyaapeeth. Gandhian people and people of the cooperative movement are being marginalised," Kharge alleged. "People with such thinking can steal Gandhiji's glasses and stick. But they can never follow his ideals. Gandhiji's ideological legacy is the real capital which only the Congress party has," he asserted.

"This year is the centenary of Mahatma Gandhiji becoming the Congress President. In December 1924, the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhiji Ji, became the President at the Belagavi Congress session in my home state, Karnataka. We celebrated this centenary in Karnataka on December 26," he said.

Three great personalities born on the land of Gujarat made the name of Congress famous all over the world, he said.

Dada Bhai Naoroji, Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel — all of them were the Presidents of our Congress Party, he pointed out. "Gandhiji gave us the weapon of truth and non-violence against injustice. This is such a strong ideological weapon that no power can stand in front of it," Kharge said.

Editorial

E-Shram Card

Over 30.42 crore unorganised workers have registered on the eShram portal, an initiative by the Government of India designed to support the unorganised workforce. To expand the range of benefits, the eShram portal has been integrated with several government schemes, enabling workers to access a variety of social security services. One of the key features of eShram is its integration with the National Career Service (NCS) Portal, allowing unorganised workers to register using their Universal Account Number (UAN) and search for job opportunities. Additionally, eShram is linked to the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) pension scheme, which offers a monthly pension of ₹3,000 to workers aged 18-40. The government contributes 50% of the scheme's funding, making it an affordable option for workers. Moreover, eShram's integration with the Skill India Digital Portal provides unorganised workers with access to skill development and apprenticeship opportunities, enhancing their employability. In addition to these services, eShram is connected to the myScheme portal, which helps workers discover and access various government schemes based on their eligibility. On October 21, 2024, the Ministry of Labour and Employment launched eShram as a One-Stop-Solution for unorganised labour, aligning with the recent budget announcements. This new platform centralises multiple social security schemes, allowing workers to access all the benefits they are entitled to through a single portal. Currently, 12 central schemes are integrated, including Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Ayushman Bharat, and PM Awas Yojana, among others. This integration of various welfare schemes through eShram is a significant step toward providing unorganised workers with easier access to government services and financial security, reinforcing the government's commitment to their well-being.

Use Of Social Media By Scholars: A Curse Or A Blessing In Kashmir?



By: Mir Muzamil
(myemailid1126@gmail.com)

In the modern era, social media has emerged as a powerful tool, influencing societies and shaping public discourse. In Kashmir, the use of social media by Maulanas and scholars has sparked a profound debate: Is it a means of spreading the true essence of Deen (faith), or is it becoming a divisive force that distances the youth from the spiritual core of Islam? While these platforms offer unparalleled opportunities for religious outreach, they have also contributed to a rising fragmentation within the Ummah, creating ideological rifts rather than fostering unity.

The Digital Pulpit: A Double-Edged Sword

The internet provides religious scholars with an unprecedented platform to disseminate Islamic teachings. Through online lectures, videos, and posts, they can reach a vast audience, offering guidance rooted in the Quran and Hadith. However, this digital reach has also come with challenges. Many self-proclaimed scholars, lacking proper religious training, use social media to promote their own interpretations, often leading to misinformation and unnecessary sectarian disputes. Instead of uniting believers under the core tenets of Islam, some have sown discord, emphasizing divisions rather than shared spiritual values.

Rising Divisions Among the Ummah

The Ummah, once bound by a common faith and shared principles, is witnessing growing sectarian divides exacerbated by social media. In Kashmir, as in other parts of the world, ideological battles between different religious groups are increasingly being played out online. Scholars, instead of bridging these divides, sometimes act as catalysts for division, engaging in debates that fuel intolerance rather than fostering mutual understanding. When religious discourse turns into a battle of superiority,

the youth—who are already grappling with modern challenges—find themselves further alienated from the spiritual essence of Islam.

The Distancing of Youth from True Spirituality

Rather than drawing young minds closer to the beauty of Islam, social media has, in many cases,

there is an urgent need to revisit the teachings of Sufism—a school of thought deeply embedded in Kashmiri Islamic traditions. Sufism emphasizes love, tolerance, self-purification, and the pursuit of divine closeness, values that are increasingly absent in online religious discourse. The Quran and Hadith highlight the importance of mercy, patience, and unity, yet these fundamental principles are often

youth while fostering a deeper connection with the spiritual and ethical dimensions of Islam.

• Use a compassionate and inclusive approach, avoiding rhetoric that alienates or intimidates followers.

Conclusion

Social media holds immense potential for re-



pushed them further away. The constant influx of conflicting religious opinions, aggressive rhetoric, and politicized sermons has left many disillusioned. Instead of offering solace and answers to their spiritual and moral dilemmas, social media-driven religious content often overwhelms them with rigid interpretations and fear-based narratives. The emphasis on theological disputes rather than spiritual nourishment has caused many young individuals to disengage from religious discussions altogether.

The Need for a Sufi Approach: Reviving the Spirit of Deen

Amidst the rising divisions and controversies,

lost in the noise of online debates. Scholars must take inspiration from the Sufi approach, focusing on spiritual guidance rather than ideological dominance.

Striking a Balance: The Way Forward

The use of social media by religious figures is not inherently harmful, but it must be approached with responsibility and wisdom. To ensure that social media becomes a blessing rather than a curse, scholars must:

- Prioritize education, ensuring that religious teachings are authentic and well-researched.
- Promote unity rather than sectarianism, emphasizing common Islamic values rather than differences.
- Encourage a spirit of inquiry among

ligious outreach, but its misuse can have serious consequences. In Kashmir, where religious teachings have traditionally been deeply spiritual and inclusive, it is imperative that Maulanas or scholars use digital platforms to spread harmony rather than division. By reviving the essence of Deen through love, wisdom, and unity—guided by the teachings of the Quran, Hadith, and Sufi traditions—scholars can truly become beacons of guidance rather than sources of conflict. The choice remains in their hands: Will they use social media as a tool for enlightenment or as a means of deepening the divisions within the Ummah?

Ultimately, they will have to answer for all of this before ALLAH.

Role of Experiential Learning in Education



Mukhtar Ahmad Qureshi

Education is not merely the act of memorizing facts and numbers. Education is learning about ideas and applying them to life. When we confine learning to books only, we lose out on the very purpose of education. Experiential learning transports us away from book pages and into actuality.

Experiential learning enables students to experience knowledge in a way that is personal and pragmatic. The National Education Policy 2020 focuses on the experiential learning approach. The National Curriculum Framework also endorses this method. It promotes learning that is active, engaging, and experience based.

We all recall instances when we actually comprehended something. It was not when we read it in a book. It was when we did it ourselves. A science experiment in lab class a field trip to a historical landmark a project done with our hands or even a role play activity can teach us so much more than any paragraph written in a book. Learning is best when we learn through experience. We relate to it. We tie it to our own lives. This is the power of experiential learning.

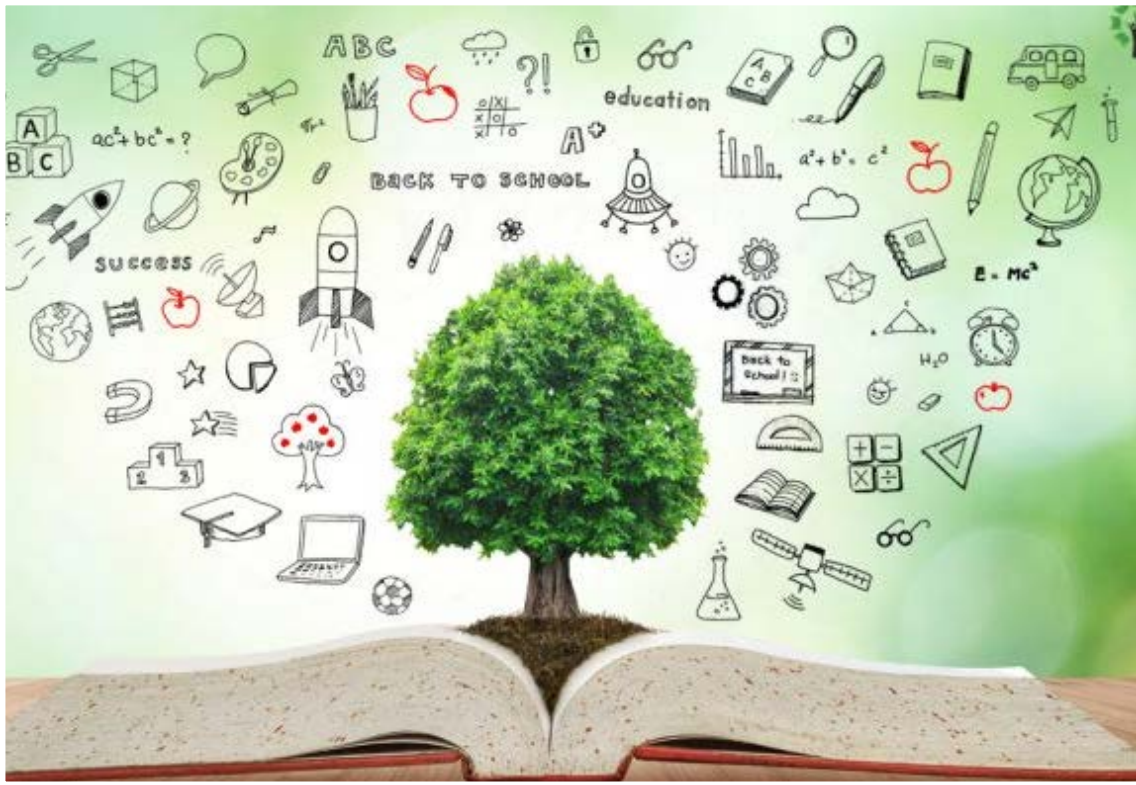
The NEP 2020 emphasizes the necessity of a transition from rote learning to competency based education. It emphasizes critical thinking creativity and problem-solving skills. These cannot be acquired by just reading a textbook. They need to be applied to real life situations. For instance a student studying ecosystems can learn more by going to a forest seeing plant and animal interactions and thinking about environmental problems. Such experiences produce long lasting knowledge that is much more precious than memorized definitions.

One of the strongest suggestions of the National Curriculum Framework is to make learning enjoyable and fun. Learning must not be a burden. It must be a thrilling experience of discovery. When students are provided with chances to explore experiment and express themselves they learn to love learning.

This is the reason why most progressive schools have incorporated experiential learning into their curriculum. They employ project based learning

activity-based instruction and interdisciplinary methods. These ensure that students do not only pass exams but also acquire skills that will serve them in life.

Consider mathematics for instance. Most students find numbers and formulas difficult because they perceive them as abstract. But when they use mathematics in real life situations, they realize better. When we request students to take



measurements of ingredients for a recipe or the costs of travel, they appreciate how math relates to it. They start appreciating its importance. Likewise, history is not simply dates and events. As students tour historical sites examine artifacts and hear firsthand accounts they engage the past on a deeper level. It is a narrative that they can connect to, not a list of facts to memorize.

Language acquisition also has a place for experiential learning. Reading and writing are necessary but language is best acquired through interaction and immersion. Students who participate in storytelling debates dramatizations and group discussions develop greater confidence in their communication skills.

They learn not only grammar and vocabulary but also how to communicate ideas effectively. This is in complete agreement with the NEP 2020

suggestion that focuses on multilingualism and communication skills.

Experiential learning promotes social and emotional growth. By working in teams, students acquire collaboration and understanding. They also acquire leadership roles and responsibility. A school sponsoring community service activities is teaching student compassion and civic duty. As students engage in these activities they real-

and methodologies. They must be incentivized to move away from traditional teaching and try new things. Schools must redesign their classrooms to promote hands on activities. Assessments must be about skills application and creativity, not rote memorization.

Parents also have a role to play. They need to promote curiosity and exploration in the home. Rather than confining learning to homework

able to repeat answers or do we need students who are capable of thinking analyzing and innovating. The choice is obvious. We need education

Technology has also taken a major part in experiential learning. Online simulations, virtual labs and educational games give learning an interactive feel. Augmented reality and virtual reality provide the learner an opportunity to travel through the solar system give the learner an experience of performing chemistry experiments safely or even investigate past events with an immersive experience of storytelling. According to NCF, it suggests incorporating technology for more engaging and effective learning.

that transcends textbooks. We need experiential learning that enables students to comprehend apply and generate knowledge. This is the way to a brighter tomorrow.

(The author is a Teacher and a columnist)

Chief Justice inaugurates training program on Computer Skill Enhancement

JAMMU: Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, who also serves as the Patron-in-Chief of J&K Judicial Academy, on Monday inaugurated a one-day training programme on computer skill enhancement for advocates of Jammu district at the J&K Judicial Academy in Janipur.

The training programme, titled “Level I & II” (ECT_7_2024 & ECT_12_2024), was organized in collaboration with the eCommittee of the Supreme Court of India and aims to empower lawyers with essential digital skills to keep pace with the ongoing technological advancements in the judicial system.

On the occasion, the Chief Justice also released two significant legal publications—‘Breaking Barriers: Landmark and Recent Judgments Shaping the POCSO Act’ and ‘Redefining Justice: Landmark and Recent Judgments Shaping the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2015’. These compendiums compile key judgments and are expected to serve as valuable resources in strengthening child protection laws in the country.

The inaugural session was also graced by K. Nirmal Kotwal, President of the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, along

with his executive members, and Bhagirath, President of the Young Lawyers Association.

In his address, Justice Rabstan said the convergence of law and technology is no longer futuristic—it is the present reality. “The digitization of court processes, integration of e-Courts services, and adoption of digital tools are reshaping how justice is delivered. It is essential that the Bar remains well-versed with these tools to complement the efficiency of the Bench,” he emphasized.

Justice Sindhu Sharma, in her welcome address, said the e-Courts initiatives are not just policy matters but represent a vision to bring judicial services directly to citizens. “It is our collective duty to ensure that no advocate is left behind in this digital transformation,” she noted, while appreciating the Judicial Academy’s efforts in releasing the two compendiums.

The first technical session was chaired by Justice Atul Sreedharan, who shared insights on how judges are using Artificial Intelligence tools and digital platforms for research and drafting judgments.

The second technical session was conducted by Anoop Sharma, Registrar (IT) of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and his team.

The sessions concluded with an interactive Q&A segment where participants raised queries regarding the practical use of e-Court services.

The questions were addressed by the experts, and advocates shared their experiences and challenges in adapting to digital tools.

Sonia Gupta, Director of the J&K Judicial Academy, conducted the proceedings of the inaugural session and coordinated the technical discussions throughout the day .

Javed Rana hears public grievances at Jammu

JAMMU: Scores of delegations from Jammu and other areas today met Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana at Civil Secretariat, Jammu to apprise him of their grievances and issues.

The delegations raised collective and individual issues and sought their early redressal.

While giving patient hearing to grievances brought into his notice by various delegations and individuals, the Minister assured the visiting deputations that all their genuine issues would be examined for early redress.

Minister said that Omar Abdullah led government is committed to delivering effective governance and ensuring that public grievances are resolved on priority basis.

He also said that government has a primary focus on improving the standard of living further and highlighted several key initiatives undertaken by the government in this direction.

Director Colleges visits Degree Colleges



SRINAGAR: In order to evaluate the academic, administrative and infrastructural operations of the Colleges in accordance with regulatory norms, the Director Colleges Higher Education J&K, Dr. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir visited various Degree Colleges here.

The Director visited Government Degree College (GDC) Soibug, GDC Eidgah, GDC Hyderpora and Government Women's College Nawakadal and engaged in an insightful interaction with the staff members and students to gain insights into the educational standards, teaching methodologies and available facilities.

He deliberated on several pertinent issues and emerging opportunities within the Department of Higher Education. He laid particular emphasis on the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the transformative potential it holds for the academic landscape.


Key areas of discussion included strategies to address the challenge of low student enrolment, promotion of research culture in undergraduate institutions, smooth rollout of the Fourth year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP), and the integration of diploma-holding polytechnic students into mainstream college education.

During the visit, meetings were held with the teaching staff and Admission/Academic Coordinators, wherein the Director reviewed the academic performance, teaching plans, internal assessments and student progression. He emphasized improving teaching quality, encouraging maximum student attendance, and boosting Skill development programs.

The Director also undertook a comprehensive campus tour of the colleges, visited the newly constructed academic blocks, classrooms and lecture halls.

Director colleges instructed the Principals to enhance the student presence and attendance to the colleges, by providing students with a rich academic and co-curricular environment. He also asked them to take measures against students falling short of attendance by notifying them and taking corrective measures as per statutory provisions.

ARTO Pulwama conducts inspection drive of School Buses



PULWAMA: In a concerted effort to ensure the safety and security of school-going children, the Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Pulwama launched an inspection drive across the district, targeting school buses for rigorous checks in line with prescribed safety norms and traffic regulations.

During the drive, the officials inspected more than 300 school buses operated by various educational institutions of the district. Officials thoroughly inspected a range of safety parameters, including the presence of first aid kits, functional fire extinguishers, vehicle fitness certificates, installation of CCTV cameras, valid driving licenses of school buses and any instances of overloading. It was found that almost all the school buses were compliant with the existing rules and regulations in place. In addition to inspections, the ARTO team conducted awareness sessions for transport staff and drivers, emphasizing the importance of adherence to traffic regulations, maintaining vehicles and prioritizing student safety. Emphasizing the significance of student welfare, officials underscored the need for strict compliance with all safety protocols by educational institutions operating transport services for ensuring student welfare.

Dr Jitendra inaugurates Himalayan High Altitude Atmospheric, Climate Research Centre at Mandlote, Chenani



UDHAMPUR: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, today inaugurated the Himalayan High Altitude Atmospheric and Climate Research Centre and flagged off the Indo-Swiss Joint Research Project titled ICE-Crunch at Village Mandlote, Chenani in Udhampur district.

The Indo-Swiss project, in collaboration with ETH Zurich, Switzerland, focuses on study of ice-nucleating particles and cloud condensation nuclei properties in the north-western Himalayas.

While addressing a massive gathering, the Union Minister congratulated the people and expressed pride in establishment of the climate research centre in Chenani. He stated that the centre would focus on advanced research related to climate patterns including rainfall and has emerged among the top five global economies. To realize the dream of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, he emphasized the importance of value addition from previously unexplored areas, particularly

cloudburst predictions, which are crucial for the Himalayan region.

Highlighting India's scientific advancements, Dr. Singh said that prior to 2014, India was seen as a fragile economy, but today under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India

hilly regions like Jammu & Kashmir.

He added that India is leading global initiatives on climate concerns and has made remarkable improvements in weather forecasting, attributing this progress to

DC Ganderbal reviews preparations for SANJY-2025

GANDERBAL: In view of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, to ensure the smooth conduct of the Yatra.

While reviewing the progress on ongoing developmental works, all approved projects including pony stand fencing, extension of excess gates, and expansion of the pony track.

Mobile service providers were urged to ensure uninterrupted mobile connectivity up to the Holy Cave with enhanced network capacity.

The DC also underscored the importance of maintaining sanitation, ensuring sufficient public conveniences at Baltal base camp and halting points, implementing a proper drainage system, and ensuring 24x7 power and water supply along the Yatra route.

In a separate meeting, the DC reviewed the Yatra security arrangements with concerned agencies including SSB, 24 RR, 13 RR, 115 BN CRPF, and 118 BN CRPF. The agencies briefed the DC on the security deployment plan covering the stretch from Shalteng to Baltal.

The SSP was tasked with finalizing deployment locations in coordination with all involved security forces for Yatra transit camps and critical points along the route.

he directed all departments to expedite their respective works and submit status reports.

Beacon authorities were instructed to initiate snow clearance on the Yatra track to facilitate movement and mobilization of other departments towards the Holy Cave.

The Executive Engineer KPDCL was asked to ensure completion of underground cabling up to the cave and illumination of all identified points.

The R&B Department was directed to begin execution of

DC Budgam reviews status of works approved under District Mineral Fund

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting of District Mineral Fund (DMF) to review the status of works approved under Pradhan Mantri Kshetra Kalyan Yojna (PMKKKY) in the district.

DC reviewed the status of works approved under DMF in the areas with high priority and other priority sectors.

The series of developmental works amounting to Rs.327.71 lakh covers vital sectors including Health, Education, Power Development and Jal Shakti, aiming to strengthen public infrastructure and improve service delivery across the district.

Key works approved under the Health sector include the provision of hotline connectivity at CHC Kremshore, CHC Chattergam, PHC Soibugh, PHC Ompora, PHC Khag, and CHC Pakherpora.

In addition, procurement of critical medical equipment such as digital X-ray cassettes, biochemistry analysers, deep freezers, plasma expressers, autoclaves, and microscopes for District Hospital Budgam was approved.

replacements during exigencies.

The DC, while reviewing the status of approved works, emphasized that all the projects

Under the Jal Shakti Department, the procurement of water tankers of 9000-litre and 6000-litre capacities will address water supply needs in the district.

In the Education sector, works include the construction of a toilet facility at Mixed Primary School Gopalpora and provision of electricity at Government schools in Khan Mohalla Kuzwera and Dounkal Bagh Sail.

The Power Development Department will establish a buffer stock of 15 (100 KVA) transformers to strengthen power infrastructure and ensure timely

DC Kulgam reviews implementation of HADP credit-linked schemes

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan convened a meeting with officers from various line departments and representatives of banking institutions here today to review the implementation of credit-linked schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme.

The meeting focused on assessing the performance matrix, sanctioning and disbursement status of cases under HADP in the district.

The DC directed all concerned departments and banks to ensure maximum outreach, covering every farmer and farming family in the district under these schemes.

He set the target of 1500 registrations in different schemes with credit linkage and disbursement before the end of this month. Khan emphasized the need for block-level credit outreach camps to raise awareness among farmers about beneficiary-oriented schemes. He reiterated that achieving the desired targets in the agricultural sector requires the proactive involvement of banks in providing hassle-free credit facilities to farmers.

He further underscored the necessity of strong coordination between banks and government departments to ensure credit linkage and seamless implementation of schemes benefiting the farming community.

Distt Admin Srinagar organises awareness camp on New Criminal Laws at Khonmoh

SRINAGAR: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, an awareness camp on the newly enacted three criminal laws was today organised by the District Administration Srinagar at the Community Hall, Khonmoh.

The programme witnessed participation from key stakeholders, including Deputy Director Prosecution Srinagar, Javed Ahmed Bhat, Block Development Officer Khonmoh and representatives from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar and other allied Departments.

During the programme, the resource persons highlighted the key provisions and transformative aspects of the new criminal laws, public and stakeholders about the implications and changes brought forth by these legislations.

The event was attended by a large gathering, including public representatives, community members, school children, and local residents, who engaged enthusiastically in the interactive sessions. The awareness camp is part of a broader initiative by the District Administration to ensure effective dissemination of information regarding legal reforms and promote legal

Wild Tulips in Full Bloom: Tourism Department Celebrates Spring Festival in Samboora

Bilal Habib

Pampore: In a celebration of spring's vibrant arrival, the Department of Tourism Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday organized a colourful Wild Tulip Spring Festival at the picturesque Tourist Village Samboora in Pampore.

The event drew enthusiastic participation from locals, tourists, and officials alike, all gathered to witness the breathtaking bloom of wild tulips and mustard fields.

The festival was graced by Deputy Director Tourism Deepa Khalid, Assistant Director Jahid, Deputy Director Tourism Malik Waseem, Tourist Officer Pulwama Gowhar Rafique, Tehsildar Pampore Malik Asif Ahmad, environmental lawyer Adv. Nadeem Qadri, and several other dignitaries.

Featuring cultural performances, traditional music, local art displays, and eco-friendly activities like cycling, the festival created an atmosphere of community joy and cultural pride. The initiative aims to promote

highlight the natural and cultural wealth of Pulwama district.

Speaking to Kashmir Convener, Deputy Director Deeba Khalid said, “This spring festival marks a fresh beginning for Samboora community participation.”

She added that local involvement, especially from children, played a key role in the festival's success.

“Spring is a very special season in Kashmir, and places like Pampore—with their saffron fields now adorned with wild tulips—offer unmatched visual delight. We want tourists to experience this beauty, along with our rich culture, music, and handicrafts.”

Emphasizing the department's eco-friendly approach, she urged both locals and visitors to adopt green practices, reduce plastic use, and maintain cleanliness to protect Kashmir's natural heritage.

Highlighting the region's tourism potential, she noted that Pampore has already hosted a Bird Festival and Saffron Festival in recent months, with more such seasonal events planned throughout the year to promote sustainable tourism.

The festival concluded with a pledge to continue such initiatives that celebrate Kashmir's natural beauty while promoting

and its surrounding areas. Today, visuals of wild tulips and mustard blooms are being seen around the world.

This is not just about scenic beauty but

District-Level Coordination Committee meeting held at Shopian

SHOPIAN: On the directions of the Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, the first Coordination Committee meeting of various stakeholders of the justice delivery system of District Shopian was held today at the District Court Complex, Shopian.

The meeting was chaired by Principal District & Sessions Judge and Chairman Coordination Committee, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary.

From civil and police administration, the meeting was attended by DC Shopian, Shishir Gupta; SSP Shopian, Anayat Ali; ACR Shopian, Superintendent Special Jail Pulwama, and other district/sectoral officers and police officers.

The meeting was also attended by Sub-Judge/CJM and Secretary of the Committee, Sheikh Gowhar Hussain, and Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Mudasar Farooq.

During the proceedings, various issues pertaining to the timely delivery of justice to litigants were discussed, including infrastructural challenges and institutional requirements in the district.

The Principal District & Sessions Judge emphasized the need to strengthen and streamline the coordination between the judiciary and other stakeholders for ensuring an efficient and robust justice delivery mechanism.

MYSTIC THOUGHTS

PART II

Freedom To Flourish
For Muslim Women: Diversity Of
Opinions And Rights Discourse



DR MAROOF SHAH

The Principle of Love

The greatest law is that of love and if we are in doubt regarding any ruling or have to choose between two different interpretations we have to decide on the basis of this old principle: That is to be followed which leads to increase of love of God and love of neighbour.

The Principle of Spiritual Flourishing/Eu-
domonia

The Prophet’s words “By Him in Whose Hand is Muhammad’s life, I have not left anything which may bring you nearer to Paradise and take you farther from Hell unprescribed to you, nor have I left anything which may bring you nearer to Hell and take you away from Paradise unforbidden to you” may be seen as an emblem for this idea. What is forbidden by Islam is in principle forbidden by every tradition and every rational moral creature: “Say, My Lord has forbidden only shameful deeds, be they open or secret, and sin, and unjustified greed, and the association with God of that for which He has sent down no authority, and the saying against God of what you don’t know” (Quran, 7.33).

In Mukhtasar al-Quduri we find key statements on foundations of the Islamic Shari’ah as consisting in:

1. “Consideration of the welfare of the servants, both in this world and the Hereafter.
2. Connection of regulations to their rationales, and persistence of the regulations in the presence and absence of the rationales.
3. Gradual, progressive legislation.
4. Preclusion of hardship.
5. Establishment of justice”

The five fiqhi schools generally agree that “Islamic laws (1) change with the passage of time and with the change of place or circumstance; (2) must avoid harm” (al-Hibri, 1997). Jurists agree that Islamic laws “may be discarded if they are based on a cause (‘ilah) which itself has disappeared,” and “must serve the commonweal” (“public maslaha”) Early jurists viewed disagreements among them as a sign of God’s mercy, because they “injected Islamic laws with the degree of flexibility necessary for a religion which proclaimed itself suitable for all times, all people and all societies. Thus, hundreds of schools of Ijtihad developed, each best suited to its own community and that community’s culture, with its attendant customs and traditions” (al-Hibri, 1997).

Our task is to fight perception of women as unequal implying disadvantaged or marginalized, to question the assumption that her life mission is exhausted by raising a family (this leaves out not only childless women but 80 percent of time from birth to death that a woman has besides duty of child raising for say few years for fulfilling her human potential or diverse creative and other dimensions. Ibn Rushd had long back asserted the need for involving women in diverse careers as child raising is only one of her prerogatives. Most women who choose to stay at home have nothing to do in the age of gadgets and indulge in various evils or gossiping in their idle time. The classical Islamic period has great record of cases of active participation of women in economy and social life. The idea that women are to be segregated off into secret world devoted wholly to easing children in neither justified nor warranted in Islamic tradition. Bukhari has over a dozen chapters on social life of women and we find women contributing in different walks of life throughout Islamic history. Jurists agree that Islamic laws “may be discarded if they are based on a cause (‘ilah) which itself has disappeared,” and “must serve the commonweal” (“public maslaha”). One needs to note Fazlur Rahman’s point that

the process of questioning and changing a tradition in the interests of preserving or restoring its normative quality in the case of its normative elements-can continue indefinitely and that there is no fixed or privileged point at which the predetermining effective history is immune from such questioning and then being consciously confirmed or consciously changed. This is what is required for an adequate hermeneutical method of the Qur’an (Rahman, 1982:11).

Women’s Rights

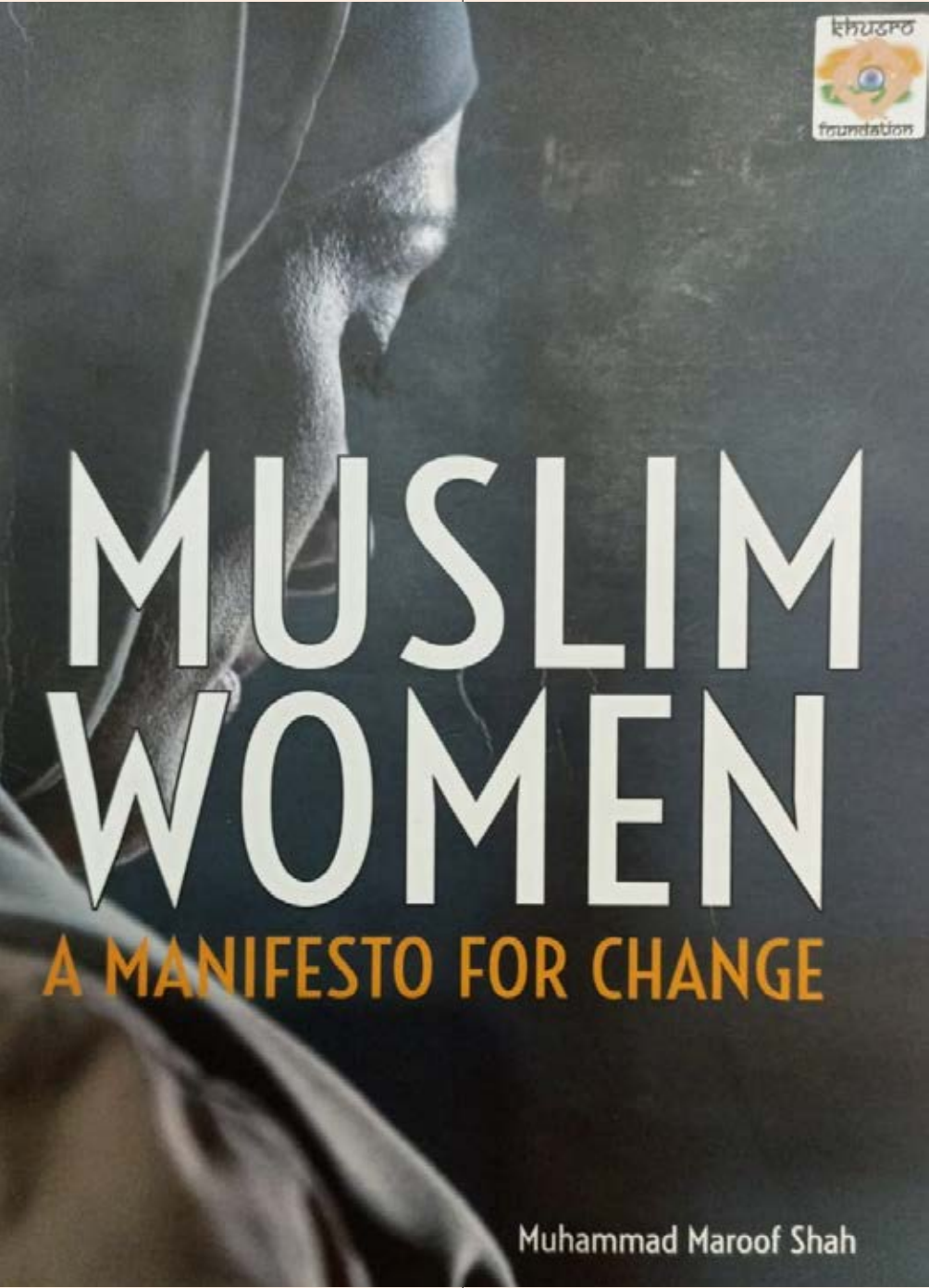
We may, as illustration, mention a few concrete points that are often raised in FAQs, to show how diverse are choices that women could exercise within the larger limits or range of wide highway of Shariah. Whenever any legal opinion appears constrictive of

freedom or not in synchrony with deeper rhythms of spirit, women can scan diversity of opinions from classical to contemporary times, to choose in the light of all the accumulated experience and wisdom what best leads to their spiritual growth or fulfillment. It is always important to remember that letter killeth and spirit gives life and we worship God who is Freedom. Limiting freedom in the name of blocking the means for less certain or imaginary harm has been compellingly criticized by several scholars including more recently Jasser Auda. Just a quotation will make it clear.

Harm is ‘probable’ some jurists claimed, ‘when a woman travels by herself,’ and ‘when people use legally-correct contracts with hidden tricks as means to usury.’ Again, Malikis and Hanbalis agreed to block

jurist Al-Sarakhsi considers Istihsan as “a method of seeking facility and ease in legal injunctions” and is in accords with the Quran (2:183). The Sahaaba in their judgments were not blindly literalists and sometimes (as in case of Umar and Aisha, for instance) seemed to have gone much beyond the imagination of even moderate reformists in subscribing to the spirit, keeping in view purpose and transcending the letter.

Given how little is specified in the Canon and how wide open the world of undetermined, we see mercy in operation. One is usually comfortable with the custom and Islam canonizes custom, so to speak. It is no wonder fiqh, especially Hanafi fiqh could adapt to so many continents or cultures and traditionally Muslims hardly felt difficulty in living by it. The Quranic declaration



these means, while others disagreed because the harm is not ‘certain’ or ‘most probable.’ For example, in the name of blocking the means, women are prohibited from ‘driving cars,’ ‘travelling alone,’ ‘working in radio or television stations,’ ‘serving as representatives,’ and even ‘walking in the middle of the road’ (Auda, 2008:41).

Mercy-Centrism, Choice and Open endedness

God obligates nothing that isn’t necessary for our true flourishing and disapproves nothing on the pain of hell that isn’t against the laws of moral, intellectual and spiritual flourishing. The true faq his defined by the Imam as “he who does not make people despair of the mercy of God, and does not make them lose hope in the gracious spirit of God.” It is in this sense that Ibn Arabi who thought his mission was to declare vastness of mercy of God may be read as true faqih. Jurists who end up sending people to hell for their imagined or real transgressions of this or that manual and who fail to link their formulations or opinions to overarching mercy here and hereafter are not to be trusted. Seek to show or demonstrate in every debatable case where other opinions/interpretations are forthcoming, as far as possible, to any inquirer/critic what Ibn al-Qayyim said:

The Islamic law is all about wisdom and achieving people’s welfare in this life and the afterlife. It is all about justice, mercy, wisdom, and good. Thus, any ruling that replaces justice with injustice, mercy with its opposite, common good with mischief, or wisdom with nonsense, is a ruling that does not belong to the Islamic law, even if it is claimed to be so according to some interpretation (Ibn Qayyim, 1973).

Istihsan, validated by majority of jurists, is “a method of exercising personal opinion (ra-y) in order to avoid any rigidity and unfairness that might result from literal application of law” (Kamali, 2004). A major

“Take what is given freely, enjoin what is ‘urf (known to be good), and turn away from the ignorant (al-A raf 7:199)” is readily appreciable as universally applicable liberating praxis for every sane moral person. We are asked to enjoin what is known to be good – this encompasses universal ethic.

From various scholarly works on Usul al Fiqh and Maqasid we may note certain points that further strengthen the case for mercy centrism.

- “The majority hold that Ijtihad is liable to error. The minority hold that each of the several verdicts may be regarded as truth on their merit.” (Shawkani, Irshad).
- As for the practical rules of Fiqh, most of them are from texts which are speculative in meaning (dhanni dalalah)
- Law isn’t absolute and changes with change in context, necessity, circumstances, even person. We know when one’s life is threatened, haram can be taken to the extent that life is saved.
- The Prophet discouraged asking questions and companions asked him only 13 questions
- We may further note the following points that expand our freedom to choose what impresses our aesthetic or affective or cognitive constitution or navigate amongst diverse options:
 - Qiyas has been opposed by Zahiri and some other fuqaha implying freedom for us to choose a course of action.
 - God takes a pragmatic view that we are imperfect creatures.
 - In the end we are weaned away from taking our agency too literally or seriously. It is grace that finally decides.
 - For any particular legal stipulation by jurists that one may appear problematic, remember that there have been equally competent jurists taking other views and besides fuqaha se have philosophers and Sufis

and poets who have engaged with the problem of law in their own creative ways that offer more refreshing perspectives or alternatives.

For those who use Ijma as an argument for closure of further discussion, it is to be noted that “Any agreement of majority can be a proof but cannot be a binding proof because to be binding, it must fulfill the conditions stated in the Ahadith quoted in support of Ijma (which is nothing short of Ijma of all people, at least all scholars.) There is no good ground to exclude any scholar of any school of Islam, as long as the school or group itself is not considered outside Islam by the Muslims.” We need to note that the Ulama have on the whole maintained that the textual evidence in support of Ijmadoes not amount to conclusive proof. The verses quoted in support of Ijma (4:59, 4:83; 4:115,

Fiqh is the attempt to think and concretize Shariah and it differs not just from school to school but even from jurist to jurist. Since God wants to save all souls or make the world livable for everyone who agrees not to destroy it for others, and people differ from region to region, from time to time, from stage to stage of their lives, fiqh adapts accordingly. Fiqh is open ended – we are invited to exert ourselves in choosing their decisions so that God’s intention is fulfilled – there are situations where no fiqh manual comes to our help and we stand naked before God/conscience. It is interesting to find all kinds of opinions within the prescribed limits entertained by Muslim jurists and we find upbringing, politics, theology, considerations of public good etc...

etc.) are not conclusive for Ijma. Imam Ghazzali says these verses are indications, not clear Nass on Ijma. Suyuti’s interpretation is the same. Al Amidi says, “these give rise to probability (Zann), not positive knowledge”. Imam Kashmiri had to read the Quran several times to get some clue in his search for some Quranic basis for Ijma.

Validated by Hanafi, Maliki and Hanbali jurists. Istihsan means to deem something preferable and is a method of “exercising personal opinion (ra-y) in order to avoid any rigidity and unfairness that might result from literal application of law. Istihsan as a concept is close to equity in western law.” Despite disagreement by Imam Shafi, Shii and Zahiri Ulama, majority have accepted Istihsan. We need to note, however, that Istihsan in the sense of setting aside an established analogy in favor of an alternative one that serves the ideals of justice and public interest in a better way, as originally considered by Imam Abu anifah and his main disciples, as Ibn Taymiyyah noted, is “not the form that was denounced by Imam ash-Shāfi i and Imam A mad when they encountered some of the later anafi scholars practicing it. Al-Āmidī (Shāfi i jurist) stated that, notwithstanding his explicit denunciation of isti sán, Imam al-Shāfi i himself resorted to isti sán on several occasions.”

Istihsan and Maslaha are also important sources framed for the fiqh of mercy. The discipline of maqasid is also linked to fiqh of mercy. We may focus more on these in comparison to seeking to find a point of Ijma in our contemporary times. It has been noted that once scholars have differed upon an issue there can never be Ijma in the classical sense of agreement of all scholars by future generations since scholarship is eternal. Historically Ijma has been recorded on very few issues that are no longer object of debate and as such Ijma can’t be invoked to stifle contemporary scholarship on new issues that are primarily object of debate between fuqaha or modern critics of medieval fiqh.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Continued From P1...

Ensure Zero

Joint Secretary RAW, Joint Director IB, Additional Director General CID, Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir & Jammu. Inspector General of Police, Kashmir & Director Security of Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Union Home Minister while addressing the meeting said, “Under the leadership of PM Modi, the Government of India is committed to establishing lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir and completely eradicating terrorism.”

He lauded the efforts of security agencies for significant reduction in terror-related incidents, infiltration and recruitment of youth in terrorist organisations.

Shah, as per KNO, reiterated the zero tolerance policy against terrorism under the leadership of PM Modi. “Due to sustained and coordinated efforts of the Modi Government, the entire terror eco-system nurtured by elements inimical to our country in Jammu and Kashmir has been crippled.”

He directed all security agencies to continue efforts with a coordinated approach to eliminate terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also directed that the implementation of Area Domination Plan and Zero Terror Plan must be ensured in mission mode. The Home Minister said, “All agencies should continue to work in a coordinated manner so that the gains made after the abrogation of Article 370 in the Union Territory can be sustained and the goal of ‘terror free J&K’ can be achieved at the earliest. The government led by PM Modi is providing all resources necessary to achieve this goal.”

The Union Home Minister also reviewed the preparations for forthcoming annual Amarnath Yatra which is scheduled to commence on July 3. He directed concerned agencies to take all necessary action for conducting pilgrimage peacefully.

GOI will

have resulted in comprehensive changes in all sectors in the Union Territory. During the review meeting, the achievements of the Union Territory in the fields of power, connectivity, industry, tourism, agriculture etc. were presented to the Union Home Minister. Apart from this, the financial assistance given to Jammu and Kashmir so far by the Union Home Ministry and the financial assistance allocated to the Union Territory under various heads in the financial year 2024-25 was also mentioned in the presentation. The Home Minister directed to take all necessary steps to further accelerate the pace of development in Jammu and Kashmir so that the full potential of the Union Territory can be utilized.

SC Likely

advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, to consider listing the petitions.

President Droupadi Murmu on April 5 gave her assent to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which was passed by Parliament after heated debates in both houses.

The bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it. It was cleared by the Lok Sabha with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Congress MPs Imran Pratapgarhi and Mohammad Jawed, AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi, RJD MPs Manoj Jha and Faiyaz Ahmad, AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan have also filed petitions in the apex court challenging the validity of the Act.

The DMK moved the top court through its deputy general secretary A Raja and said in a press release, “Despite widespread opposition, the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025 was passed by the union government without proper consideration of the objections raised by the members of the JPC and the other stakeholders.”

The party said the immediate implementation of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 infringes and prejudices the rights of about 50 lakh Muslims in Tamil Nadu and 20 crore Muslims in the other parts of the country.

The AIMPLB filed the plea in the top court late April 6.

In a press statement, SQR Ilyas, the AIMPLB spokesperson, said the petition strongly objected to the amendments passed by Parliament for being “arbitrary, discriminatory and based on exclusion”.

The amendments, it said, not only violated the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution of India but also

clearly revealed the government’s intention to take complete control over the administration of Waqf, therefore, sidelining the Muslim minority from managing their own religious endowments.

Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution ensure freedom of conscience, the right to practice, propagate religion, and the right to establish and manage institutions for religious and charitable purposes, it said.

The plea is settled by advocate M R Shamshad, with advocate-on-record Talha Abdul Rahman representing the Muslim personal law board, through its General Secretary Maulana Fazlur Raheem Mujaddidi.

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind also filed a petition in the apex court, claiming it was a “dangerous conspiracy” to strip Muslims of their religious freedom.

In its petition, Jamiat said the law was a “direct attack on the country’s Constitution, which not only provides equal rights to its citizens but also grants them complete religious freedom”.

In its separate plea filed in the top court, Samastha Kerala Jamiathul Ulema, a religious organisation of Sunni Muslim scholars and clerics in Kerala, has claimed the Act was a “blatant intrusion” into the rights of a religious denomination to manage its own affairs in the matter of religion.

Jawed’s plea alleged the Act imposed “arbitrary restrictions” on Waqf properties and their management, undermining the Muslim community’s religious autonomy.

The petition, filed through advocate Anas Tanwir, said the law discriminated against the Muslim community by “imposing restrictions that are not present in the governance of other religious endowments”.

In a separate plea, Owaisi said the bill took away from Waqfs various protection which are accorded to Waqfs and Hindus, Jain and Sikh religious and charitable endowments alike.

“This diminishing of the protection given to Waqfs while retaining them for religious and charitable endowments of other religions constitutes hostile discrimination against Muslims and is violative of Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution, which prohibit discrimination on the grounds of religion,” said Owaisi’s plea, filed through advocate Lzafeer Ahmad.

NGO Association for the Protection of Civil Rights also filed a petition in the apex court challenging the constitutional validity of the Act.

AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan sought the law declared as unconstitutional, being violative of “Articles 14, 15, 21, 25, 26, 29, 30 and 300-A of the Constitution”. (AGENCIES)

Army steps

Army’s Rashtriya Rifles unit based at Bhadarwah has increased surveillance in 15,500 feet high Kailash Kund mountains besides snow covered Seoj Dhar, Padri Galli, Shankh Padder and Chattergalla pass, an army officer said.

He said besides sending in the additional troops to the high altitude passes bordering Kathua, Samba and Udhampur, a high security joint picket is being established at Chattargalla paas, the highest point on Bhadarwah-Pathankot highway located at a height of 10,531 ft above sea level.

“High end night vision electronic gadgets are being used for foolproof security at the high altitude pass that will be jointly manned by Army, CRPF and Special Operations Group of Jammu and Kashmir Police,” a police officer said.

Last year on July 11, six security personnel were injured when terrorists attacked their picket at Chattargalla, marking the first terrorist attack in the district in four years. The incident followed several gunfights that left five security personnel and four terrorists dead in 2024.

Rajnath Singh

defence industry collaboration and discussed opportunities for enhancing partnership in defence manufacturing.

Both the Ministers acknowledged active participation from the two sides in each other’s exhibitions & defence expos, and welcomed India-UAE Defence Partnership Forum which has the potential to result in strategic Joint Ventures and co-production projects benefiting both countries. They also agreed to focus on complementarities for the two countries in the Make-in-India and Make-in-Emirates initiatives.

Through a post on X after the meeting,

Raksha Mantri stated that the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with the UAE is of immense priority for India. “In the coming years, we are eager to work closely in areas such as defence cooperation, co-production and co-development projects, innovation and technology. Both India and the UAE are committed to work towards peace and prosperity in the region,” he added.

The Defence Cooperation MoU with the UAE was signed in 2003, and an MoU on Defence Industry Cooperation was signed in 2017. India and the UAE have strong bonds of friendship based on centuries-old cultural and economic ties.

PDP Submits

region, Jammu and Kashmir has a crucial role to play in defending the rights of its people and urged the Chief Minister, the Legislative Assembly, and the J&K government to demonstrate political resolve and stand firm against any encroachment on the rights of its people.

In her appeal, Mufti called on the government to take the matter seriously and ensure that the people’s voice is heard.

In a post on X, Mehbooba Mufti posted, “The Waqf issue transcends matters of faith. It is a direct assault on the rights, beliefs, and dignity of 24 crore Muslims in India. As the only Muslim-majority region, Jammu and Kashmir must rise to the occasion and defend the rights of its people.”

“In light of this, PDP has submitted a fresh resolution addressing this crucial issue. The government must take it seriously to ensure that the voice of the people is heard. I urge the Chief Minister, the Legislative Assembly and the J&K government to show political resolve and stand firm against any encroachment on the rights of its people,” she posted, while tagging JK Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. (Agencies)

270 posts

constructed any Yatri Niwas buildings at Raithan, Raiyar, Doodhpathri, and Sitaharan Tosamaidan. However, certain accommodation facilities have been created at Doodhpathri and Tosamaidan by the Development Authority for the facilitation of tourists,” he added.

Omar said the department has taken various steps to improve tourism infrastructure in Doodhpathri and Tosamaidan by developing various facilities like budget accommodations, huts, cafeterias, kiosks, tourist facilitation centres, viewing decks, and public conveniences.

Besides, accommodation facilities have been created at Doodhpathri and Tosamaidan for the facilitation of tourists, he said.

“Additionally, plans are in place to further improve the tourism infrastructure, such as huts, cafeterias, parking spaces, upgradation of roads and wayside amenities, and developing new trekking and hiking routes to enhance visitors’ experience,” Abdullah added.

3 Opposition

other two signatories of the letter. “We have presented a no-confidence motion against the Speaker. He has become an impediment in voicing our opinion against the Waqf bill,” Lone said in a post on X, also making the letter public.

We have presented a no confidence motion against the Honble Speaker. He has become an impediment in voicing our opinion against the Waqf bill.

J&K is the only Muslim province in India. History will hold us in contempt if we do not send a strong message against this bill. pic.twitter.com/8rMbyNetph — Sajad Lone (@sajadlone) April 8, 2025

Talking to reporters outside the Assembly, Lone requested protesting National Conference members to support the motion against the Speaker. “We appeal NC members to support the motion. If they don’t (support), they will be exposed.

How it can be tangible that a National Conference legislator who is the Speaker disallows the adjournment motion and other members of the party are protesting? The whole world is watching this drama,” Lone said.

He said they are not saying “we are going to change the law but at least we can register our protest on behalf of the only Muslim-majority region of the country.” (Agencies)

Kashmir parts likely to witness rains, gusty winds till April 11: MeT

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological department

today forecast light rains, snow and gusty winds over several parts in Kashmir till April 11.

It also predicted improvement in weather



conditions across Jammu & Kashmir from April 12.

An official told that the weather will likely be generally cloudy towards afternoon with possibility of light rains, thunder, gusty winds and snow over higher reaches in north and central Kashmir towards April 08 evening and night.

He said from April 09-10 the weather will likely remain generally cloudy with intermittent spells of light rain and snow over higher reaches at many places with possibility of thunderstorm and gusty winds measuring 30-40 KMPH speed at few places.

The official continued that on April 11 there will be generally cloudy with light rain and snow over higher reaches at scattered places towards morning and improvement thereafter.

From April 12-17 the weather across Jammu and Kashmir will likely remain dry, he said.

He added that from April 18-20 there is again a possibility of fresh spell of rain and snow over

higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir.

The MeT advised travelers, tourists and transporters to follow advisories being issued from administration and traffic department. Besides it advised farmers to suspend farm operations during April 09-10.

Evaluation of AI-Large Language Model applications in final stage: Vaishnaw

NEWDELHI: The evaluation of AI-Large Language Model applications is in the final stage, and over the next few weeks, the government will shortlist entities that will receive funding under the India AI Mission, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Monday.

Vaishnaw was speaking at an event to inaugurate the Vinod Dham Centre of Excellence for semiconductors and microelectronics at Delhi Technological University (DTU).

“The evaluation of the AI LLM (Large Language Model) applications is in its final stage. Within the next few weeks, we should be able to award the first few LLM model teams,

who will then start getting the funding under the AI mission,” Vaishnaw said.

The minister in February announced that India will have its own AI platform in the next 18 months, for which the government had invited proposals. It has received 67 applications for the project.

Now, industries have started creating AI applications, and many of them have been recognised by the AI mission, he added.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 20210000474, my name and parantege has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Hamid Majeed Beig, S/O Ab Majeed Beig, while as my Actual and correct name and parantege as per my Aadhaar Card is Hamid Majid , S/O Ab Majid Beigh. 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.

Lateef Ahmad Bhat.
S/O Mohammad Shaban Bhat.
R/O Watapora Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that i have lost Number plate of my vehicle Bike bearing Registration No: JK15 A-0384, some where Now i want to apply for its duplicate and also want to submit missing report in police station, 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.

Lateef Ahmad Bhat.
S/O Mohammad Shaban Bhat.
R/O Watapora Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 - 20200000051, my name has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Sheikh Wajid, while as my Actual and correct name is Wajid Mushtaq, S/O Mushtaq Ahmad sheikh. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the objection 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.

Wajid Mushtaq.
S./O Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh.
R/O Ashtangoo, Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Bank account No.; 0061040100016366, my name has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Mohd Qasim Cheechi. S/O Mohd Ishaq Cheechi, while as my Actual and correct name and parantege is Mohd Qasim chachee, S/O Mohd Ishaq chachee. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office Manager jammu and kashmir Bank branch Main Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice. After that No Ojection shall be accepted.

Mohd Qasim chachee
S/O Mohd Ishaq Chachee.
R/O Tanghat Bonakoot, Bandipora.

انتقال پرملاں

انالله وانالیه راجعون

نہایت ہی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ یہ اطلاع ساجھی کی جاتی ہے کہ اہلیہ شجاعت پرویز احمد رفیقی ساکنہ خانہ واری ڈالڈر گر سینکڑ آج یعنی ۱۸ اپریل ۲۰۲۵ بروز منگل اس دار فانی سے انتقال کر گئیں۔ مرحومہ ایک نہایت نیک، صوم و صلوت کی پابند اور اخلاقی خوبیوں سے مزین شخصیت تھیں۔ ان کی زندگی دوسروں کے لیے ایک مثال تھی، اور ان کی کمی ہمیشہ محسوس کی جائے گی۔ ہم دعا گو ہیں کہ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا فرمائے، ان کی نیکیاں قبول کرے، اور اہل خانہ کو اس ناقابل تلافی صدمے کو برداشت کرنے کا حوصلہ دے۔

(نوٹ) تعزیت فقط تین روز تک رہے گی اور کوئی چہارم نہیں ہوگا اور تعزیت کے لئے آنے والوں سے تاکید کی جاتی ہے کہ میوہ وغیرہ ساتھ لانے کی زحمت نہ کریں۔


سگووارن: شجاعت پرویز احمد رفیقی (خاوند)

آصف عرفان الحق رفیقی و احسان الحق رفیقی

جاوید حمید مخدومی، محمد عمران حمید مخدومی

Medialine Advt

PhysicsWallah expands presence in Srinagar with second tech-enabled offline Vidyapeeth Center



SRINAGAR: PhysicsWallah (PW), an education company, has expanded its presence in Srinagar with the inauguration of a new tech-enabled PW Vidyapeeth centre at Rajbagh. Furthermore, registration for the PWSAT is also open, allowing students the opportunity to secure tuition fee waivers for offline courses.

The exam will be conducted in both offline and online modes and will be open to students from class 7 to 12, as well as droppers aspiring to study for JEE or NEET. PW Vidyapeeths are tech-enabled offline centres where students attend in-person classes led by experienced teachers.

The new PW Vidyapeeth is located on the 2nd & 3rd Floor, The Qureshies, Near Modern Hospital, Rajbagh Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir- 190008. PW’s other existing Vidyapeeth centre in the city is situated in Bhagat. Ankit Gupta, CEO Offline, PhysicsWallah (PW) said, “At PW we always try to find avenues of making students’ learning experience better. By opening a new centre in Srinagar, in addition to our existing centre, we aim to provide our service to more students and bring quality education closer to their homes.”

PhysicsWallah (PW), an education platform, was founded in 2020 by Alakh Pandey and Prateek Maheshwari. Headquartered in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, PW aims to democratize education through online, offline and hybrid platforms. Initially launched as a YouTube channel in 2016, PW now offers education to students through its YouTube channels, including vernacular languages.

PW aims to create a hybrid education ecosystem in the country by establishing tech-enabled offline and hybrid centres in cities nationwide. PW’s offerings span various educational segments, including test preparation, a skilling vertical, higher education, and education abroad. PW has raised funding from investors, including Hornbill Capital, Light speed Ventures, West Bridge and GSV Ventures

Devdutt Padikkal: Took me 3-4 years to find what I am as a cricketer in IPL

Young batter Devdutt Padikkal acknowledged that the constant shifting through the teams "was challenging" and delayed his blooming as a cricketer in the Indian Premier League.

Devdutt began his IPL career at Royal Challengers Bengaluru in 2020 and shifted to Rajasthan Royals after two seasons. After being in the ranks of RR for two years (2022-2023), the left-hander moved to Lucknow Super Giants in 2024, before returning to his home franchise RCB this season.

He is yet to fire big this season, but Devdutt showed signs of being in his dominant self with a 22-ball 37 against Mumbai Indians here on Monday.

"It's definitely challenging when you are not settled on any side. As a 21-year-old, I was in RCB and when I made that move to another franchise, it was a little uncomfortable, obviously," he told the media in the post-match press meet.

"I wasn't very confident about myself and it took me three-four years to really find what I am as a cricketer in the IPL. It's not that easy. You try your hardest, but at times it just doesn't work," he added.

Devdutt said he had made a dedicated pre-season effort to iron out certain flaws in his batting.

"Coming into this season, obviously, I had to work really hard. I knew there were things that I needed to improve on. There were lots of aspects of the game that I wasn't up to the mark I felt in the last year. I had a good couple of months before the IPL started

and I feel all that hard work is coming into effect now," he said.

Devdutt, who added 91 runs for the second

"He makes it look easy, but it isn't that easy to be honest, to come in every single year and get above 400, 500 runs. As youngsters in

the past and had success against him. So, I'm sure that was the thinking behind that move," he said.

Devdutt did not reveal much about RCB's elation after they defeated Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium after six attempts but took a more pragmatic view of the victory.

"To be honest, every game is important for us. It doesn't matter who we are playing and where we are playing. That was the same way when we were playing CSK (in Chennai). It was the same when we played KKR (in Kolkata) and it's the same now that we have played MI (in Mumbai)," he said.

"It's important that we take every game at a time and try to win each and every game because you never know where the momentum takes you in this tournament. I really feel that we went out there, wanted to win, and we got that," he added.

Devdutt said it was "boring" to be left out during the team's fielding innings and hoped to get more time in the field. He was swapped with Impact Sub Suyansh Sharma during RCB's target defence.

"Honestly, it's not ideal. I've always enjoyed fielding and that's something I've always wanted to do in every single game," he said.

"I feel I can make that difference when I'm on the field. But the team is set up in such a way that I have to be the one that sits out and we have some great fielders on the ground even then."

"It is a rule that they feel helps the game. Hopefully, I can eventually start fielding again because it's pretty boring sitting out and watching," he added.



“It's important that we take every game at a time and try to win each and every game because you never know where the momentum takes you in this tournament. I really feel that we went out there, wanted to win, and we got that,” he added.

wicket with Virat Kohli to help RCB set a huge target of 222 against MI, said batting with the star batter was always a "pleasure".

"Obviously, batting with Virat is a pleasure. He's done this over and over again for so many years so that's the level of consistency that you aim for as a young cricketer playing the IPL," he said.

the team, we are looking to learn that from him," he said.

Devdutt said Rohit Sharma's struggles against left-arm pace was the reason behind bringing on Yash Dayal early into the attack.

"That is actually true, I don't attend the bowlers' meeting. But I am aware that a lot of left-hand pacers have bowled to Rohit in

"To be honest, every game is important for us. It doesn't matter who we are playing and where we are playing. That was the same way when we were playing CSK (in Chennai). It was the same when we played KKR (in Kolkata) and it's the same now that we have played MI (in Mumbai)," he said.

Jasprit Bumrah in good nick; Mumbai Indians want to ease him into competition: Jayawardene

India pacer Jasprit Bumrah is in "good nick" following a three-month-long injury lay-off and Mumbai Indians want to ease him into competition mode in the Indian Premier League, said head coach Mahela Jayawardene.

Bumrah made his return to top flight cricket here on Monday in MI's IPL clash against Royal Challengers Bengaluru after another back-related trouble sidelining him in early January.

While he was welcomed back with a six over mid-wicket by India teammate Virat Kohli on the first ball, Bumrah couldn't force matters on his own apart from a customary tidy spell as RCB notched up a 12-run win to hand MI their fourth loss in five matches.

"I just spoke to him after the game and he looks in good nick. He's disappointed as well, he wanted a win when he came back but other than that he looks fine. The pace was up, the execution was good," Jayawardene told the media after the match.

Jayawardene defended MI's call to introduce Bumrah late into the attack, saying the team management wanted to ease him into the competition.

"(To have Bumrah back) it just gives us more options," Jayawardene said.

"We (have) got two swing bowlers (and) we need to give them that opportunity first up. Boom (Bumrah) is coming back from a three-month layoff as well, so we just wanted to ease him into the competition," the MI head coach said.

"But he bowled well and and controlled things really well, so the more he starts playing game time, he'll get into it. The last time he was playing a Test match so all of a sudden he's playing a T20 so we need to understand that, but the skills were brilliant," he added.

Jayawardene sounded assured of Bumrah's progress as well as current status in terms of fitness and form.



Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

