

Kashmir Convener



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No one will be allowed to spread terror in J&K: HM Shah

➤➤➤ "Meeting with CM Omar was cordial" ◀◀◀

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said that no one will be allowed to conspire to spread terror in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a conversation with a national news channel, Shah, said, "We will not let anyone conspire to spread terror in J&K. If anyone tries such things, they will be punished."

The Union Home Minister maintained that national security is a top priority for the Centre and its stand on security and separatism is firm. "We will not compromise, nor will we allow anyone else to do it," he added.

Referring to his recent visit to Jammu and Kashmir, Shah said, "Meeting with Chief



Minister Omar Abdullah was cordial and focused on development and governance.

We have always supported regional governments equally, without any bias."

He reiterated that the Centre is committed to working with J&K's elected leadership.

Asked whether a recent terror incident in Kathua was caused by Pakistan-backed infiltration, Shah said, "Infiltration is, of course, backed by Pakistan and not someone else like Russia. And this has been happening for years. But our soldiers and the government are both alert. We will punish them if they try." Pertinently, the Union Home Minister visited J&K for 3-days earlier this week. He met top government officials, political leaders, and security brass during his visit.

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"Govt transforming the military into a technologically-advanced force": Rajnath

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: "Armed Forces must operate jointly and remain future-ready in today's ever-evolving multi-domain environment where cyber, space & information warfare etc. are as potent as conventional operations," said Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh while addressing the Armed Forces officers of India and friendly countries during the Convocation Ceremony of the 80th Staff Course of Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, Tamil Nadu on April 10, 2025.

Raksha Mantri pointed out that today's global geopolitics is being redefined by three key metrics: a major pivot towards prioritising national security, a technological tsunami sweeping the global landscape, and accelerating innovation. He urged the officers to study the nuances of these trends in-depth to stay ahead on strategic-military change curve, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government is leaving no stone unturned to transform the Armed Forces into a technologically-advanced combat-ready force capable of multi-domain integrated operations.

Highlighting that Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies are revolutionising deterrence and war-fighting in critical ways, Rajnath Singh termed the power of technological innovation in combat theatres as breathtaking. "In



the Ukraine-Russia conflict, drones have virtually emerged as a new arm, if not a transformative science. The majority of losses of soldiers and equipment have been attributed neither to traditional artillery nor to armour but to drones. Similarly, space capacities in the Low Earth Orbit are transforming military intelligence, persistent surveillance, positioning, targeting and communications, thus taking combat to a new high," he said. Raksha Mantri stressed that the world is in the age of Grey Zone and Hybrid warfare where cyber-attacks, disinformation campaigns, and economic

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Bandipora Police Arrests Eight Members of Banned Separatist Groups

KC News Network

BANDIPORA: In a major crackdown on separatist networks, Bandipora Police on Wednesday arrested eight members affiliated with various proscribed organisations for their alleged involvement in promoting terrorism and secessionist activities across the district.

According to a police statement, the arrests were made as part of ongoing investigations into multiple FIRs registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) at police stations Bandipora, Sumbal, and Hajin. The operation



unfolded across various locations in the district, targeting suspects linked to banned separatist outfits.

In connection with FIR No. 04/2024 registered at PS Bandipora, police apprehended the following three individuals associated with Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir:

Nazir Ahmad Ahangar, son of late Abdul Khaliq Ahangar, resident of Shahgund Hajin, Sheikh Danish Mushtaq, son of Mushtaq Ahmad Sheikh, resident of Aloosa Bandipora, Tahir Ahmad Mir, son of late Habibullah Mir, resident of Ward 2, Plan Bandipora

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Chief Secretary pushes for tourism promotion of Reasi's iconic rail bridges

KC News Network

REASI: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today conducted an exhaustive visit to two of the region's most iconic engineering landmarks; the Anji Khad Bridge and the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab River in Reasi district.

Recognizing the immense potential of these architectural marvels, the Chief Secretary called for their immediate promotion as key tourist destinations. He emphasized that both sites, due to their engineering brilliance and scenic location, deserve to be integrated into the broader tourism circuit of the region.

Highlighting the proximity of these sites to the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, the Chief Secretary advised that the pilgrims visiting the cave shrine should be encouraged to also visit Anji Khad and the Chenab Rail Bridge.

This, he observed, would not only diversify the tourism offerings of the region but also serve as a catalyst for local economic development, generating employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for the local youth.

In his interaction with the district administration, the Chief Secretary directed the officials to explore development of

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Tahawwur Hussain Rana successfully extradited: NIA

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation

Agency on Thursday said it has "successfully secured the extradition" of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a key accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

In a statement, the NIA said the extradition happened after years of sustained and concerted efforts to bring the key conspirator behind the 2008 mayhem to justice.



Rana was being held in judicial cus-

tody in the US pursuant to proceedings initiated under the India-US Extradition Treaty for his extradition. The extradition finally came through after Rana exhausted all legal avenues to stay the move, the statement said.

The District Court for the Central District of California had ordered his extradition on 16th May 2023. Rana then filed multiple

litigations in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, all of which were rejected. He subsequently filed a petition for a writ of certiorari, two habeas petitions, and an emergency application before the U.S. Supreme Court, which were also denied. The extradition proceedings were initiated between the two

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Jhelum level increases; rains, snow continue for 2nd day

● Weatherman predicts improvement from Saturday

Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: The ongoing fresh spell of rains and snow has led to increase in water level in Jhelum and other streams across Kashmir.

As per the details available

Nallah, Dachigam, Doodhganga, Aru Nallah and others were also flowing above the Reduced Level (RL) of zero of gauge.

The rise in the water level has been witnessed amidst the fresh spell of rains and snow that

remain unchanged till tomorrow as there is a forecast of a light spell of more rains and snow. There is a possibility of improvement in the weather conditions from Saturday onwards, said an Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng.

Sharing details of the forecast, Keng said there is a possibility of further fall in the day temperature in the next 24 hours.

He, however, said that a dry spell is expected from Saturday onwards till April 17 and another moderate Western Disturbance is expected to affect Jammu and Kashmir from April 18.

Notably, J&K has witnessed a deficit rainfall of 50 per cent from March 01, 2025 to April 09, 2025 with the majority of 11 stations of 20 including Srinagar, the summer capital of the region, recording a deficit precipitation between 20%-59% during the period.

Pulwama and Bandipora have, however, received the average rainfall during the last 40 days while the winter capital of the region and

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with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the water level in river Jhelum—the lifeline of Kashmir, has risen for the first time to a large extent during the past six months.

The water level at Ram Munshi Bagh was 8.82 ft at 6:00 PM while at Sangam and Asham it was flowing at 5.11 ft and 5.68 ft respectively.

The streams like Vishov

continued for the second straight day today.

Several upper reaches including Zojila Pass, Sadhna Top, Pir Ki Gali, Sinthan Top, higher parts of Gurez, Gulmarg and others experienced fresh snowfall today while the intermittent rains lashed the plains of Kashmir, bringing down the mercury across the Valley.

The weather is expected to

SC to hear on Apr 16 pleas challenging validity of Waqf Amendment Act

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: A Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna will hear on April 16 as many as 10 petitions, including the one filed by AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi, against



challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

According to the apex court website, besides the CJI, Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan are part of the three-judge bench for hearing the petitions.

In addition to Owaisi's plea, the court has listed for hearing the petitions filed by AAP leader Amanatullah Khan, Association for the Protection of Civil Rights, Arshad Madani, Samastha Kerala Jamiathul Ulema, Anjum Kadari, Taiyyab Khan Salmani, Mohammad Shafi, Mohammed Fazlurrahim and RJD leader Manoj Kumar Jha.

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Lord Mahavir's blessings and vision uplifted humanity: LG Sinha

KC News Network

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today addressed a special event organized by S.S Jain Sabha to celebrate Mahavir Jayanti, at Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations and best wishes to all on the auspicious occasion of Mahavir Jayanti.

"Lord Mahavir's teachings are not limited to one sect but transcend all boundaries. His blessings and vision uplifted the humanity and guided the world to ensure that non-violence and compassion builds the strong foundation of our society.

The concept of selfless service of Lord Mahavir is linked with the principles of non-violence and compassion towards all living beings. He says that the spirit of selfless service eliminates the ego which hinders spiritual liberation apart from welfare," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the followers of Lord Mahavir and millions of institutions associated with the Jain community have continuously



strived to follow his path and live his vision of selfless service, charity, caring for the sick, helping the devotees and contributing to the welfare of the community and the environment.

He urged the educational institutions to incorporate the core Jain values of non-violence and compassion into student learning, thereby fostering a spirit of selfless service.

"Selfless service should be propagated as a spiritual practice among youth. It should not be seen only as an act of empathy, but it should become a way of life. I assure you that such spirit will promote individual development, strengthen the social fabric and

enrich our culture," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the people need to understand that the principles of Lord Mahavir, his philosophy of life not only fulfils the practical needs of human society but also create a culture where values like service, non-violence, asceticism and compassion are seen as a way of life.

"Lord Mahavir inspired the society to be compassionate towards living beings and sensitive towards the environment. Rooted in his teachings, let us strive to build a unified society that emphasizes

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‘Ignored’ for entitlements, martyred IAF officer’s parents seek change in Govt policy

DEHRADUN: Aggrieved parents of Squadron Leader Abhimanyu Rai who died in a trainer jet crash feel they were “ignored” for entitlements and honours that went to their daughter-in-law, demanding a change in government policy.

A pilot in the IAF, 33-year-old Squadron Leader Rai died in a plane crash on December 4, 2023 near the Air Force Academy in Hyderabad while training a foreign cadet.

He was flying a Pilatus PC-7 Mark-II aircraft, a trainer jet, with a foreign cadet under his training when it crashed near the Academy killing both of them.

Group Captain Amitabh Rai (retd) and his wife Chitralekha said they lost their only son Abhimanyu in December, 2023 but they have not received even a word of condolence from the government so far.

They feel the policy for such cases needs to be tweaked to accommodate the parents of the martyred bravehearts apart from their wives.

“We know of at least a dozen parents of martyrs who have been ignored when it came to according entitlements, which went exclusively to their wives,” Chitralekha told PTI in an exclusive interview here on Wednesday.

“One year and three months have passed since we suffered the worst tragedy of our life, losing our only son in a trainer jet crash near the Air Force Academy in Hyderabad. But we did not receive even a word of condolence to date from either the prime minister or the defence minister,” Amitabh Rai said.

“Why should a word of condolence be the exclusive privilege of only the martyr’s wife,” he asked.

He said in many cases, the wives of



slain or martyred soldiers leave or ill-treat their in-laws after getting compensation and half the pension of their husbands. At times, they even drag them to court to claim their share in their late husband’s ancestral property, he claimed.

“The wife of a slain soldier is called a ‘veer nari’ (brave woman) but not his mother who gave birth to him, brought him up and inculcated in him a love for the country that was strong enough to make him lay down his life for it. Is it fair?” asks Group Captain Rai.

“We know what it takes to groom your son like that and make him a soldier ready to die for his country. But, unfortunately, no one seems to take notice of the fact,” says he.

The awareness that their son is not treated as a “martyr” despite having died in the line of duty only deepens their sense of hurt.

“As his death was not a ‘battle casualty’, they don’t treat our son as a martyr. Our

question is didn’t he die for the nation?” asks Chitralekha.

“My son had even served for one-and-a-half years in the prime minister’s fleet,” Group Captain Rai, who retired from the Indian Air Force (IAF) in 2017 after 32 years of service, said.

The plane crashed during a low-level navigation sortie, says the braveheart’s father.

“My son was a dedicated soldier. The foreign cadet was admittedly weak in memory and slow in learning things. He also lacked confidence and was not keen on continuing with his training.

“He had written all this in a letter to Abhimanyu. But as the passing out parade was near after which he was to be commissioned into the air force of his country, Abhimanyu decided to help him complete his training by taking him on the training sortie during which the jet crashed,” his father said.

Asked why his son did not bring the

foreign cadet’s reluctance to complete his training to his superiors, Group Leader Rai said maybe he was under pressure.

“He might have been hesitant to take the matter to the higher-ups because diplomatic ties between the two countries are involved. The trainer pilots are under pressure to complete the training process successfully,” Rai said.

Training of cadets from friendly countries is done as part of a diplomatic exercise to strengthen ties with them and the resulting pressure comes on the soldiers, he said.

It is an inherent flaw in the system which needs to be addressed, he said.

“An inquiry is underway to ascertain what exactly led to the crash and until that happens, we are assailed by all sorts of doubts about the circumstances at the time of the crash such as whether our son was overworked or under pressure or some error was committed by the weak and ill-confident foreign cadet under training,” Rai said.

The Rais visited the crash site in Hyderabad and erected a memorial in the name of their martyred son at their own expense. The couple also visited the foreign cadet’s country, met his parents and extended financial assistance to them as a goodwill gesture. “We went to meet the parents of the deceased foreign cadet. Our pain was common. We had both lost our sons. My wife and the cadet’s mother cried on each other’s shoulders,” he said.

However, the loss of a son has not deterred Group Captain Amitabh Rai (retd) from training bright young boys free of cost to join the armed forces and serve their motherland with valour.

US suspends additional 26 pc tariff on India till July 9: White House

NEW DELHI: The US has announced the suspension of additional tariffs on India for 90 days until July 9 this year, according to the White House executive orders.

On April 2, US President Donald Trump slapped universal duties on about 60 countries exporting goods to America and additional steep levies on countries like India, potentially impacting sales of products from shrimp to steel in the world’s biggest economy. The move was aimed at cutting its trade deficit and boosting domestic manufacturing.

The US imposed an additional import duty of 26 per cent on India. The tariffs were high on its competitors like Thailand, Vietnam and China. This suspension of tariffs is not applicable to China, including Hong Kong and Macau.

“Effective with respect to goods entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on April 10, 2025, enforcement of the second paragraph of section 3(a) of Executive Order 14257 is suspended until 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on July 9, 2025,” the order said.

The second paragraph of Section 3 (a) of the executive order issued on April 2 mentions the implementation of reciprocal tariffs. It includes Annex 1 listing rate of tariffs for different countries.

However, the 10 per cent baseline tariff imposed on the countries will continue to remain in place.

“Since I (President) signed Executive Order 14257, in contrast to the PRC’s actions, more than 75 other foreign trading partners, including countries enumerated in Annex 1 to Executive Order 14257, have approached the United States to address the lack of trade reciprocity in our economic relationships and our resulting national and economic security concerns.

“This is a significant step by these countries toward remedying non-reciprocal trade

arrangements and aligning sufficiently with the United States on economic and national security matters,” the order dated April 9 said.

A trade expert said the 25 per cent duty on steel, aluminium (effective from March 12), auto and auto components (from April 3) also continues.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said that semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, and certain energy products are under the exemption category. Commenting on the 90-day deferral of reciprocal tariffs, Indian exporters said the US decision has come as a major relief as it provides a crucial window for pushing the talks on the proposed bilateral trade agreement between India and America.

They said that diplomatic engagement and fast-tracking negotiations for the trade pact will help India deal with these tariffs.

“It is a good decision by the Trump administration. We have been assured by the commerce ministry that the agreement will be finalised at the earliest,” FIEO President S C Ralhan said.

Amid a global market meltdown, Trump on Wednesday abruptly backed down on his tariffs on most nations for 90 days but raised the tax rate on Chinese imports to 125 per cent.

In a meeting with industry and exporters on April 9, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal asked exporters not to panic and assured them that India is working on the “right mix and right balance” in its proposed trade agreement with the US.

He said the Indian team is working with “speed” but not in “undue haste” to ensure the right outcome for the country.

The two countries are negotiating a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with an aim to more than double their trade to USD 500 billion by 2023 from about USD 191 billion at present. They are aiming to conclude the first phase by the fall (September-October) this year.

Not waiving loans of Wayanad landslides victims a betrayal: Priyanka Gandhi

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Congress general secretary

have lost everything — homes, land, livelihoods. Yet, the



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday said that the Union government decision not to waive loans of people affected by the landslides in Wayanad in July last year was a “betrayal”.

Priyanka, also the MP from Wayanad, was referring to the central government affidavit in the Kerala High Court stating that the loans can only be rescheduled or restructured in accordance with the RBI’s Master Directions on Natural Calamities.

“Wayanad landslide victims

government refuses to offer even a loan waiver. Instead, they get mere loan rescheduling and restructuring. This is not a relief. This is a betrayal,” she said in a Facebook post.

The Congress MP further said that she and her party “strongly condemn this apathy and stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters in Wayanad”.

“Their pain will not be ignored. We will raise their voices at every platform until justice is served,” she said.

The Centre’s affidavit had come in response to the High Court’s query on whether the loans availed by the affected individuals could be waived.

In the affidavit, the Union Finance Ministry had stated that a special meeting of the State Level Bankers’ Committee (SLBC) of Kerala was held on August 19 last year.

The meeting, which was also attended by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, decided to extend the applicable relief measures in line with the RBI’s Master Directions on Natural Calamities.

According to RBI’s master directions, in the event of a natural calamity, the financial relief measures to be adopted include the restructuring or rescheduling of existing loans which would entail a one-year moratorium and the provision of fresh loans.

This affidavit was filed in a PIL initiated by the court on its own in the wake of the Wayanad landslides, aimed at improving disaster prevention and management in Kerala.

A major landslide struck the Mundakkai and Chooralmala regions on July 30 last year, almost completely decimating both areas.

The disaster claimed over 200 lives, left hundreds injured and 32 persons remain missing.

May Nitish become Deputy PM, says Ashwini Choubey

PATNA: Senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey on Thursday voiced a “personal” opinion that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar should be made the Deputy Prime Minister. Talking to reporters here, the BJP

leader, who had served in Kumar’s Cabinet before moving to the Centre, said he wanted to see the JD(U) supremo as the second Deputy PM from Bihar, after the late Jagjivan Ram.

“Nitish Kumar’s contribution to the NDA is tremendous. He has been strengthening the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by playing the role of an anchor in the coalition. It is my personal wish that he be made the Deputy Prime Minister.

“If the wish is granted, Bihar will see the second son of its soil, after Babu Jagjivan

Ram, rising to the office”, said Choubey.

The remarks come in the backdrop of speculations in a section of the media that the 74-year-old JD(U) supremo, who wants to run for a fifth consecutive term in assembly polls due later this year, may be offered an “honourable exit” by the BJP, which was fed up with playing second fiddle to Kumar in Bihar.

BJP leaders like the late Sushil Kumar Modi have even claimed that Kumar had wanted to become the Vice President and quit the NDA, in 2022, in protest against

not being considered for the top Constitutional post.

However, remarks of Choubey who was denied a ticket in last year’s Lok Sabha polls, were made light of by the JD(U) as well as the opposition party RJD.

JD(U) MLC and spokesperson Neeraj Kumar cited Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s latest interview to a news channel to underscore that “all NDA partners acknowledge the chief minister as the coalition’s leader for the upcoming assembly polls”.

When 26/11 terror attacks happened, home secy Gupta was in Islamabad for talks

NEW DELHI: When 10 heavily-armed Pakistani terrorists carried out the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai, an Indian delegation headed by the then Union home secretary Madhukar Gupta was in Islamabad for bilateral talks to discuss various issues, including terrorism.



On Thursday, after years of efforts by Indian agencies, key accused in the attacks Tahawwur Hussain Rana is being brought to Delhi from the US to face justice in the case.

On November 26, 2008, when the terrorists reached Mumbai, sailing through the Arabian sea from Pakistan, Gupta was in Islamabad attending bilateral home secretary-level talks, what was then named as the ‘Composite Dialogue’, sources said.

BSF To Undertake Mega IED Detection Drive Along India-Pakistan Border In Punjab

NEW DELHI: The BSF will undertake an anti-IED sweep along hundreds of kilometres of the India-Pakistan border in Punjab following the first-time recovery of such bombs leading to one jawan being injured, official sources said on Thursday.

The force also recently shifted the jurisdiction of about 20.3 kilometres from the total 553 kilometres under its Punjab frontier, headquartered in Jalandhar, to the neighbouring Jammu frontier for “better security coordination” in the riverine areas that run along Pathankot in Punjab.

Pathankot abuts Jammu.

The 2,289-kilometre-long India-Pakistan international border runs from Jammu in the north to Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat in the west and the Border Security Force (BSF) is tasked with guarding it.

Its Jammu frontier guards 191.66 kilometres of the international border, apart from 40 kilometres of the Line of Control (LoC) along Jammu and Kashmir.

“A massive sanitation drive to find possible improvised explosive devices (IED) will be undertaken in the Punjab frontier following the incident on Wednesday where two such bombs were recovered from a farming field ahead of the fence in Gurdaspur district. Anti-sabotage checks are already being undertaken at the site where the IED was detected,” a senior officer said.



Officials had said this was the first time that an IED

was recovered at this strategic and sensitive border, prone to drugs- and weapons-carrying Pakistani drones and infiltration by terrorists. About 70 per cent of the 532 kilometres of the international border in Punjab is cultivable and visited by farmers for tilling of the land, according to the officials. A major portion of this fertile land is ahead of the fence and, hence, the BSF will have to ensure that there are no IEDs hidden there that may hurt troops or farmers or local civilians who frequent these areas, they said. There is a strong suspicion the IED was placed by elements from across the border as the area where it was found was ahead of the fence and that its assembly was of a “military precision”, according to the officials.

Unregulated Pilgrim Influx During Char Dham Yatra Dangerous, Warns NGO

Dehradun: A local NGO on Thursday emphasised the need to regulate the number of pilgrims visiting the Char Dham temples daily, warning that uncontrolled influx of devotees could be dangerous.

Citing media reports about the Uttarakhand government’s decision not to impose any limits on the number of pilgrims visiting the Himalayan temples, Social Development for Communities (SDC) Foundation founder Anoop Nautiyal said it posed a serious risk.

Nautiyal said, “This effectively means that every registered pilgrim would be permitted to visit the shrines. Considering the rising rush of pilgrims with each passing year, regulating the number of pilgrims becomes more important.” “Without regulating the number of pilgrims based on the carrying capacity of the holy shrines, a situation of overcrowding and mismanagement could easily arise, posing significant risks to both the pilgrims and the region’s fragile environment,” he added.

The annual Char Dham Yatra is scheduled to begin on April 30, with the opening of the Gangotri and the Yamunotri temples. Last year, about 50 lakh devotees reached the Char Dham — Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath — located in the Upper Garhwal Himalayan region.

SDC Foundation is a Dehradun-based NGO working in areas such as climate change, environment, urbanisation and waste management.

Nautiyal said SDC Foundation had consistently urged the government to consider the carrying capacity of the Char Dham sites.

Referring to a detailed report released by SDC Foundation on the Char Dham Yatra in 2024 that lasted for 192 days, he said it documented the number of daily visitors to each shrine over a 28-week period. It included 14 data-driven graphs highlighting 10 key issues, alongside a special feature analysing media coverage and recommendations to



simplify the registration process.

While the government has said all pilgrims would be allowed entry into the shrines, many have found that online registration slots are already full for specific days.

As of now, slots for Yamunotri are already

full until May 18 and slots for only seven days for Kedarnath remain open.

“If there are no restrictions on the number of pilgrims, then why are slots getting booked and why is registration being denied?” Nautiyal asked.

If registration is being restricted despite claims of unrestricted access, it could result in not only disappointment and inconvenience for pilgrims but also create operational difficulties for the government staff and departments involved, he added.

Nautiyal noted that the government had previously indicated a 60:40 ratio for online and offline registrations.

If pilgrims arrive in Uttarakhand under the assumption that everyone would be allowed, only to be turned away due to the slots being full, it could damage the state’s reputation and create a chaotic situation, he said.

“The focus must now shift from celebrating record-breaking numbers to ensuring that the yatra is managed with consideration for the health and safety of pilgrims, preservation of local ecosystems and the welfare of communities that depend on these sacred sites,” Nautiyal said.

“We urge the government and stakeholders

to adopt a more regulated, capacity-based approach to the pilgrim influx. The increased footfall is straining local infrastructure, degrading fragile ecosystems and disrupting the sanctity of the holy places,” he added.

The tendency of the state government to widely promote the Char Dham pilgrim numbers as a record is not right. Focusing solely on pilgrim numbers as some sort of a new record undermines the yatra’s spiritual and cultural significance, he claimed.

The essence of the Char Dham Yatra lies in its religious and emotional value, connecting devotees to the divine and offering spiritual renewal. When the emphasis shifts to counting pilgrims, it risks reducing this profound experience to a mere statistical achievement, the SDC Foundation founder said.

The increased footfall is straining local infrastructure, degrading fragile ecosystems and disrupting the sanctity of the holy places, he added.

Editorial

Strengthening Democracy

In a democracy as vast and diverse as India, the integrity and effectiveness of elections depend heavily on the people who make the process run—particularly those at the grassroots. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has rightly recognized this and has taken a proactive step by launching an extensive training initiative to build the capacity of BLOs, DEOs, EROs and media personnel.

Booth Level Officers are the foot soldiers of India's electoral process. They are the face of the Commission in the remotest corners of the country and are instrumental in maintaining an accurate voter list, facilitating voter registration, and building public trust in the electoral machinery. Empowering them with rigorous training is not just a technical exercise—it is a democratic imperative. The fact that the ECI has institutionalized this process and rolled it out systematically reflects its commitment to free, fair, and transparent elections.

Equally important is the Commission's outreach to Media and Social Media Nodal Officers. In an age where information spreads faster than facts can catch up, training these officers to responsibly disseminate accurate information and counter misinformation is essential.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's emphasis on "factual, timely and transparent communication" could not be more timely. As we move deeper into a digitally mediated public sphere, misinformation—often designed to confuse, polarize, or discourage voters—poses a growing threat to electoral integrity. Moreover, the participation of media officers from 28 states and 8 Union Territories in the orientation programme highlights ECI's determination to implement a pan-India strategy of informed engagement. This focus on uniformity, legal compliance, and institutional coordination ensures that voters across the nation receive the same quality of information and access, regardless of geography.

As India prepares for upcoming electoral exercises, these training efforts reinforce the Commission's role not just as an administrator of elections, but as a guardian of democratic values. In a time when trust in public institutions is under constant scrutiny, the ECI's investment in human resources, transparency, and digital literacy is both strategic and necessary.

The message is clear: for democracy to thrive, it must be nurtured at the grassroots, communicated honestly, and protected through vigilance. The ECI's ongoing training and media sensitization initiatives are a step in the right direction—and one that deserves both recognition and continued public support.

PART I



SHABEER AHMAD LONE

"So truly where there is hardship, there is also ease." - Quran, (94:6)
"The wound is the place where the Light enters you." - Rumi
"Out of difficulties grow miracles." - Jean de La Bruyère
The deeper sorrow carves into you being the more joy you can contain- Khalil Gibran

To redefine the alchemy of failure and adversity is to embark on a profound journey of transformation that alters not only the way we perceive personal setbacks but also how we understand the very essence of human potential, resilience, and progress. These experiences, often feared or avoided, are in fact the crucibles where the most significant growth occurs, offering lessons far beyond personal growth. They possess the rare ability to reveal the untapped resources within individuals, communities, and societies, urging us to innovate, adapt, and transcend our limitations. Failure and adversity, far from being mere obstacles, are the inevitable and essential dimensions of the human condition, holding keys to unlocking deeper truths about our collective purpose. By embracing them, we open ourselves to the extraordinary potential for transformation that exists beyond the apparent chaos of life's challenges.

Failure, in its truest sense, is not merely the inability to achieve a desired outcome but an invitation to question, reimagine, and reconstruct. One of the rarest insights about failure is its capacity to act as a mirror, reflecting deeper truths about our values, assumptions, and methodologies. When an artist fails to capture their vision on canvas or when a scientific experiment does not yield expected results, the failure is not meaningless—it highlights the gap between aspiration and execution, urging us to refine our skills, rethink our strategies, or reassess our goals. Failure, then, is not the end of the road but a call to recalibrate and pursue excellence with renewed clarity.

Adversity, on the other hand, introduces an element of unpredictability and challenge that tests the limits of human endurance and creativity. It is often

through the lens of adversity that we discover the profound interplay between fragility and strength. Consider the phenomenon of post-traumatic growth, where individuals who experience significant hardships emerge with greater resilience, purpose, and empathy. This is not to romanticize suffering but to recognize that adversity can serve as a crucible for the transformation of character and the deepening of understanding. It reveals hidden reserves of strength and exposes the interconnectedness of the human spirit, fostering solidarity and compassion.



A particularly rare and overlooked aspect of failure is its role in breaking the illusion of control and certainty. Human beings are conditioned to seek predictability and mastery over their environment, yet failure dismantles this façade, reminding us of the inherent uncertainties of life. In this state of vulnerability, there is an unparalleled opportunity to embrace humility and openness. It is often in moments of failure that we are forced to listen, to collaborate, and to seek wisdom from others. This shift from ego-driven pursuits to collective problem-solving is a profound and necessary recalibration, both for individuals and societies.

Adversity, similarly, has a way of revealing the limitations of existing systems and ideologies. For example, natural disasters often expose infrastructural weaknesses, prompting innovations in urban planning and resource management. Pandemics highlight inequities in healthcare and the need for global

cooperation. These moments of crisis, though painful, act as wake-up calls that challenge complacency and inspire systemic transformation. Adversity, when viewed through this lens, is not merely an obstacle but a diagnostic tool that identifies areas of neglect and opens avenues for progress.

The stories of Prophets such Ibrahim (A.S) and Azer, Musa (A.S) and Phiroun, Prophets Muhammad (pbuh) during early years of Islam, Noah's resilience against adversity in the form of social rejection, Krishna's guidance to Arjuna about duty,

from the so-called "Dark Ages," a period marked by societal upheaval and adversity. Similarly, the Great Depression in the United States gave rise to transformative social and economic policies that reshaped the nation. These examples illustrate that failure and adversity, while painful and disruptive, are often precursors to reinvention and progress. They challenge existing paradigms and compel humanity to envision new possibilities.

Ibn Sina (Avicenna), Al-Ghazali, Al-Hasan Ibn al-Haytham (Alhazen), Salahuddin Al-Ayyubi (Saladin), Malik Ambar, Muhammad Iqbal (R.A) etc. uncover a legacy of resilience that continues to inspire. These examples remind us that setbacks, whether personal or collective, are not the end but the beginning of new possibilities—an eternal testament to the transformative power of perseverance, faith, and vision.

Across cultures and periods, mystics have demonstrated that failure and adversity are not ends but beginnings—pathways to transcendence, innovation, and insight. Their lives encourage us to see setbacks not as obstacles but as invitations to reimagine our relationship with ourselves, others, and the divine. These figures embody the timeless truth that through the crucible of adversity, the human spirit can achieve its most profound expressions of love, wisdom, and creativity. Figures like Mansur al-Hallaj, St. John of the Cross, Jalal ad-Din Rumi, Rabia al-Adawiyya, Black Elk, Simone Weil, Shankaracharya, Hakuin Ekaku, Al-Ghazali, Milarepa etc. spanning centuries and disciplines exemplify how adversity and failure are not merely obstacles but opportunities for profound transformation.

Another profound insight lies in the temporal nature of failure and adversity. These experiences, while intense in the moment, often take on new meanings over time. A failure that feels catastrophic today may be seen, years later, as a pivotal turning point or a necessary detour. This temporal shift in perspective underscores the importance of patience and reflection. It also highlights the fallibility of immediate judgments about success and failure. History is replete with examples of individuals whose work was dismissed or ridiculed during their lifetimes only to be celebrated posthumously. Vincent van Gogh, for instance, sold only one painting during his life but is now regarded as one of the greatest artists of all time. Such examples remind us that the true impact of our efforts may not be immediately apparent, and what appears as failure in one era may be redefined as genius in another.

TO BE CONTINUED...

WAVES 2025: Showcasing India's Vision to Be the Global Content Hub



Dharmendra Tewari

Creativity has no boundaries. From time immemorial, the creators have been shaping this world. The great Creative ideas, which shaped us as "modern human beings", across all civilizations, in our long evolutionary journey from the dark ages, pushed creative vision of earlier generations with an aim to improve their future i.e. "Our Present Life".

As we, Baby boomers to GenZ, enjoy the benefits of progress in the 21st century, it is the creativity of our ancestors that made human life better for us in the modern times. Thus, identifying the creators, giving them mentorship, sharing state of the art knowhow, best global practices and by providing access to market for their creative work, becomes crucial for the policy makers in all generations.

In modern internet era, by unleashing the creative potential of the world, India is precisely riding on WAVES of creativity. New Delhi aims to unite the world politically as a "Creative Soft Power" promoting the global harmony among comity of nations. At the same time at working level of Media & entertainment industry our policy makers are "Connecting the Creators" through WAVES 2025 by "Connecting Countries. Be it Indian brand of Yoga & Ayurveda from ancient times or "Entertaining" music of Bollywood in the last 100 years since talkies came into being, our creators have been shaping the world democratising the knowledge for creators of all generations. Thus WAVES, the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit, happening in Mumbai from 1st to 4th May is a great opportunity for creators from across the globe to showcase their talent and truly be a part of creative journey, earn name & fame for their creativity.

Be it films, music, games, comics or some tech innovation in making the education & healthcare more affordable, WAVES offers to the creators a "Wholesome Opportunity" to remain ahead by developing tools having potential to shape the media and entertainment industry.

Efforts of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in identifying creative talent pool is bringing results. More than "750 Shortlisted Creators"

from across the world filtered through 32 'Create in India, Create for the World' Challenges, will now showcase their work in Mumbai's Jio Convention Centre.

They are not only creators but inventors in true sense. Some of the creators identified by

Create for the World' through WAVES.

Coders from the remote corners of India are also benefiting from CIC challenges under WAVES. A young 16-year-old boy from Kashmir has started giving shape to his dreams of making his own startup, thanks to the acknowledgement

Further, if our modern GenZ creators play piano or any other musical instrument on their mobile app, Electronic Dance and Music & Djing Competition (EDM) is also tapping the new era talented creators. India has already reached out to about 160 nations across the world to join and



government of India through a holistic approach of jury-based selection by industry experts & the market professionals have already come up with a great work that has a scalable potential to change our life by innovative means.

Next time when you go to cellular Jail in Port Blair as a tourist you will have a better experience to interact with freedom fighter Veer Savarkar. Simply because a creative firm used their Xtended Reality (XR) talent to make it possible. Under the aegis of WAVES challenge, Creators want to use the platform of WAVES to reach out to the other historical sites in India or abroad displaying their XR & Virtual Reality, VR skills while narrating historical stories & the folklores.

Another team of creators have used VR to give a real-world commerce feeling in their online purchase. Another tech-driven creative work, PosePerfect is an effort to correct the yogic postures of fitness freaks by using the XR as an Artificially Intelligent solution to imperfect poses of Yoga practitioners, a real time problem. With the right support and mentorship, youth creativity can position India as a global content hub, enhance governance, and create jobs, realising the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Create in India,

of his coding skills on the platform of WAVES.

It is not just one story of a youth from Kashmir but there are many youths across the world who are trying their fate by showcasing their skills on the talent hunt forum, the CreateSphere of WAVES. As the confluence of technology with artistic creation is at its peak, media & entertainment sector through its soft power has an immense potential to lead the way making India as a top global content creation hub in the times to come.

Given rich heritage of storytelling and prowess in coding, we are well positioned to use our skills in making creation not only traditionally ethnic but also ethical at a time, when telling the truth is so important to democratise traditional knowledge. The WAVES is all set to project before the world how creators sharpened the human understanding in all generations.

It is therefore imperative to judge the creative talent in all the formats of creativity, be it reel making or tell the truth hackathon. Top Comic makers & their creative comic animation is already making creatives WAVES in the media. In the world of classical Music, Dilli Gharana's talent hunt show on Doordarshan Wah Ustad is also reviving the traditional formats of creativity.

see for themselves global creative talent identified by top creators of the world during the Grand Finale of season 1 of Create in India Challenges next month.

The first WAVES Summit is a milestone event for the Media & Entertainment (M&E) sector. This historic summit will bring together global leaders, media professionals, artists, policymakers, and industry stakeholders. Summit seeks to help India become the content hub of the world.

With the advent of technology in creative space, some of the key challenges that have arisen are misuse of Artificial intelligence, Deepfakes in images, audio & unregulated streaming revolutions, intellectual property right violations, misinformation menace and concerns on legacy media sustainability. As the first-ever event of its kind, WAVES 2025 will deliberate these issues & come up with solutions that promote cultural diversity, innovation, and equitable access to media platforms. WAVES 2025 is not just a summit; it is a vision for a more connected, creative, and collaborative world.

(The author is ADG, PIB, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting-PIB)

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DC Srinagar reviews progress on implementation of PMAY-U

Over 3000 housing units sanctioned in District under the scheme with expenditure of Rs. 38.03 cr

SRINAGAR: In order to review the progress in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-U 2.0) and saturate the process in District, a meeting of the Officers of line departments was today held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at DC Office Complex.

At the outset, DC took a detailed appraisal about the implementation of the PMAY-Urban scheme in the District. He also assessed the status of registration made under the PMAY-U scheme.

DC directed the concerned authorities to organize special awareness camps across the district so that all eligible beneficiaries are covered under the scheme.

He asked the concerned Officers to undertake a proper demand survey and ensure that not a single genuine beneficiary is left out from the scheme.

He also stressed on maintaining

utmost transparency and accountability ensuring timely approval of cases.

Dr. Bilal further impressed upon the Officers to follow the robust mechanism



already put in place to ensure immediate verification of the application as per scheme guidelines.

DC asked the SMC and other Departments to maximize the reach of the scheme through mass awareness campaign so that eligible beneficiaries are informed about the scheme and the

eligibility criteria to get registered under PMAY-Urban scheme.

The meeting was informed that as many as 325 verified cases stands already

as on March 2025, the meeting was informed that over 3000 houses sanctioned in the District so far under the scheme have been Geo tagged. The construction of as many as 2008 houses stands completed, while 1017 are in the under construction phase.

DC was also apprised that an expenditure of Rs 38.03 crores has been disbursed till date under the scheme in the district after following due procedure and multilevel verification.

Besides Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Joint Commissioner SMC, Syed Abul Qasim; the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, SDM East, Chief Planning Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, all Tehsildars, Lead District Bank Manager, Officers from JK Housing Board and other concerned Departments.

DC Ganderbal inspects key development projects

Inaugurates Village level Soil Testing Laboratory at Zazna

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore conducted an extensive tour of the district to inspect the progress of various developmental projects under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) as well as works of Rural Development Department (RDD).

During the day-long visit, DC reviewed ongoing works at several sites including the Model Floriculture Farm at Nuner, Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) at Wayil, Soil Testing Laboratory at Manigam, under-construction Children Park Haripora and Library at Manigam and Chinar Bagh Dub.

At the Model Floriculture Farm Nuner, DC assessed operations involving lavender and rose cultivation, distillation plant, seedling production of aromatic plants like rosemary, and the packaging unit.

He directed the management to explore the extension of the farm and enhance the marketing strategies for the organic products being manufactured.

While inspecting the Kisan Khidmat Ghar at Wayil, DC evaluated the services being offered to farmers and emphasized doorstep delivery of agricultural support facilities.

At the Soil Testing Laboratory in Manigam, he underscored the importance of modern testing techniques, and urged farmers

to make full use of the facility for improving crop yield and soil health. Earlier, the DC inspected

analysis to farmers. During his visit, the DC also reviewed the functioning of the



the under-construction Children's Park and Library at Manigam, being developed under the Aspirational Block Development Programme. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the work for early completion.

During his visit to Chinar Bagh Dub, DC instructed the Block Development Officer to prepare a comprehensive development plan for the park to enhance recreational spaces in the area.

Later, DC inaugurated a Village level Soil Testing Laboratory at Zazna, established under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) by the Farmer Producer Organization (FPO).

The lab is expected to significantly contribute to scientific farming practices by offering localized soil health

Farm Machinery Bank at Zazna Wakura. He emphasized the importance of transparency in service delivery and instructed officials to display the rate lists for farm machinery and services prominently.

While interacting with the farmers and beneficiaries, DC reiterated the transformative objectives of HADP, aimed at revolutionizing the agricultural sector in Jammu & Kashmir and creating new avenues of growth and prosperity for the farming community.

The DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Horticulture Officer, and other concerned officials during the visit.

DIPR Pulwama hosts Mahjoor Day

PULWAMA: A mega function was held today at Mahjoor Memorial Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Pulwama to pay tribute to the legendary poet of Kashmir, Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad Mehjoor—widely revered as 'Shair-e-Kashmir'.

The event was organised on the occasion of Mahjoor Day to honour his timeless legacy, celebrate his profound contribution to Kashmiri language and literature and reflect upon the social, cultural and philosophical messages embedded in his poetry.

The programme was organised by Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Pulwama in joint collaboration with the JK Mahjoor Foundation and District Cultural Society Pulwama along with special invitation to A. R. Azad Memorial Foundation.

Peerzada Abdaal Mahjoor, grandson of Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad Mehjoor and President of J&K Mahjoor Foundation, graced the occasion as the chief guest while Dr. Peerzada Farhat Ahmad, ACD Pulwama, also presided over the event as the chief guest, which was also attended by CMO Pulwama, BDO Pulwama.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from renowned poets, literary figures and cultural enthusiasts from across the valley, besides students in large numbers also attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Peerzada Abdaal Mahjoor introduced the audience to lesser-known aspects of Mahjoor's life and informed that work on various projects of Mahjoor is currently underway, with "Kulliyat-e-Mahjoor" expected to be published soon in response to the pressing demand of Public.

He commended the DIPR, Pulwama, along with various literary associations, for their efforts in organising events of cultural and literary importance. During his speech, he highlighted the message of universal brotherhood and peace conveyed by Mahjoor through his poetry.

In his address, Dr. Peerzada Farhat Ahmad highlighted the significance of Pulwama's intellectual and cultural heritage, emphasizing the need to preserve and promote these traditions for future generations.

Earlier in her welcome address, District Information Officer, Wajeeza expressed her gratitude to the participating poets and literary organisations for their presence. She reiterated DIPR Pulwama's commitment to preserving the district's cultural identity by providing platforms that uphold and sustain the district's rich cultural heritage.

This was followed by a vibrant Mushaira, where noted poets from various parts of the valley presented soulful recitations in Kashmiri, paying rich tributes to Mahjoor and his unmatched contribution to Kashmiri language, culture and identity. Besides, essays and literary lectures focusing on the life and works of Mahjoor were also presented by the eminent literary figures of the district.

A major highlight of the event was the colourful cultural performances where artists melodiously recited Mahjoor's poetry, which mesmerized and captivated the audience adding vibrant hues to the gathering.

The event culminated with a felicitation ceremony during which participating poets were honoured and mementos along with certificates of appreciation were distributed in recognition of their literary contributions. Besides, as a gesture of respect and appreciation, mementos were also presented to the distinguished guests who graced the occasion with their presence.

DC Shopian visits Mughal Road; reviews traffic worthiness post snow clearance

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today visited historical Mughal Road up to Pir Ki Gali to take stock of the traffic worthiness of the road, post completion of snow clearance from Shopian side.

DC took stock of snow/ rock debris removal at vulnerable spots that remain affected due to continuous slide.

DC also met DC Poonch, Vikas Kundal at Pir Ki Gali and discussed its re-opening. The Mughal Road, a strategic link between the Pir Panjal area and Shopian district in South Kashmir is a critical route for transport and public movement and the administration is eager to throw it open for traffic subject to the good weather conditions and traffic worthiness.

The decision to re-open the road shall be taken in consultation with district administration Poonch.

DC directed the concerned departments to expedite the clearance work of slide and rockfall completely so that safety protocols are in place for smooth and safe travel.

The administration shall be closely monitoring the situation of Mughal Road on a daily basis, said DC on the occasion and assured that the road will be opened for traffic soon.

DC Baramulla reviews progress of RIDF projects under NABARD

BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) projects being executed under NABARD assistance in the district.

A total of 82 projects, including roads, bridges, water supply schemes, lift irrigation and micro irrigation schemes, are currently underway with a total estimated cost of Rs. 437 crore, out of which 90% funding has been sanctioned by NABARD. So far, Rs. 237 crore has been disbursed.

During the meeting, District Development Manager (DDM) NABARD presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the status of ongoing projects and financial progress.

DC emphasized the completion of RIDF-25 projects on priority by June 2025, while setting September 2025 as the deadline for RIDF-26 projects. He also directed concerned departments to submit

Project Completion Reports (PCRs) and Project Completion Certificates (PCCs) to NABARD for



already completed works to ensure timely closure.

Moreover, the Allied Agriculture Departments were instructed to formulate and submit new DPRs under RIDF-31, focusing on micro irrigation, land development, seed farms, and animal husbandry infrastructure to further strengthen the rural development framework.

Meeting was attended Joint Director Planning Baramulla, Javed Ahmad; Superintending Engineer R&B, Sanjeev Gupta; DDM NABARD, Mohammad Zubair Wasil, besides other concerned officers.

J&K Startup Policy 2024-27: Renowned experts from TISS mentor J&K startups at JKEDI

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) organized an exclusive mentorship programme for the startups of Jammu and Kashmir here.

The mentorship cum interaction session involving renowned experts from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Prof. Satyajit Majumdar, Managing Director TISS Incube Foundation and Sujay Dixit, CEO TISS Incube Foundation, was aimed to provide guidance and insight to the J&K startups, thereby handhold them to navigate the challenge of building and sustaining their ventures.

The session offered a unique opportunity for startups of Jammu and Kashmir to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of these distinguished professionals, who have made a mark in academia, social entrepreneurship and startup

incubation.

The mentoring session provided the participating startups valuable insights into business growth, scalability, innovation, and entrepreneurial



best practices guiding them through the challenges and opportunities in their journey.

The session brought together a diverse group of participants including budding entrepreneurs, startup founders and innovators from across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and facilitated a direct interaction between the startups and seasoned professionals in

social entrepreneurship and incubation, thus inspiring and equipping them to address challenges and seize opportunities in their ventures.

Interacting with the

participants, Prof. Majumdar, MD TISS Incube Foundation highlighted the importance of such collaborative initiatives in fostering a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sujay Dixit, CEO TISS Incube Foundation stressed that mentorship session in collaboration with JKEDI is a part of ongoing efforts of TISS

to empower local startups with knowledge, skills and network for their growth.

The session also featured one on one mentoring opportunities where participants submitted their problem statement and experts provided customized solutions to their business needs. The participants expressed enthusiasm about the insights gained in the mentoring session and appreciated the opportunity to engage with the experts from one of the country's premier institutes.

The mentoring session was coordinated by Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Business Modeling (CIIBM), a program vertical of JKEDI, under the overall supervision of Director JKEDI, Khalid Jahangir.

The mentoring session was part of JKEDI's continued approach towards building the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the U.T. of Jammu and Kashmir, under the auspices of J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

DC Srinagar reviews status of public grievances on JK-Samadhan Portal

Stresses on maximizing citizens registrations on the platform, ensuring wider participation and efficient grievance redressal

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat chaired a meeting to review the status of public grievances on JK-Samadhan Portal and progress of the registrations on the platform.

At the outset, DC took a detailed assessment of the JK-Samadhan Portal and resolution mechanism put in place by each line department in the district. He also reviewed the status of all pending grievances and analyzed the resolution of already addressed citizen complaints.

DC directed all departments to expedite the resolution process of each grievance with quality disposal to the best satisfaction of the citizens.

He stressed the importance of citizen engagement and awareness regarding the JK-Samadhan Portal.

He instructed officers to actively assist citizens in registering on the platform, ensuring wider participation and better grievance redressal. While highlighting

the significance of citizens registrations on the JK Samadhan Portal, the DC said the Government has launched the initiative



to streamline and simplify the grievance redressal mechanism and ensure transparent, efficient and quality redressal of public complaints.

On the occasion, Dr Bilal stressed the

Officers to sensitize the masses about the JK Samadhan Portal and prioritize registering citizens on the platform.

He emphasized the importance of timely and efficient registration of grievances, which can be accessed and resolved through the portal.

He underscored the importance of the portal in facilitating citizen's access to Government services and resolving grievances.

DC directed all the line departments to ensure maximum outreach and participation in the portal's registration process and enjoined upon them to achieve set targets at the earliest. He asked the departments to share progress of grievances disposed-off and citizens registration on the portal on a daily basis so that progress is monitored and supervised in an efficient manner.

During the meeting, DC was informed that out of total 7232 grievances registered on JK Samadhan Portal as many 5078 public grievances have been resolved till date.

DC Kupwara reviews progress under PM Surya Ghar- Muft Bijli Yojana

Gives deadline of 10 days for disposal of pending cases

KUPWARA: In order to review the latest progress achieved under PM Surya Ghar - Muft Bijli Yojana in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers and other stakeholders at D.C Office, here.

Addressing the meeting, the DC stressed upon all stakeholders to work with added zeal and close coordination to ensure timely disposal of the applications received under the Muft Bijli Yojana so that the people are benefitted under the scheme.

She directed the concerned officers to hold joint camps consisting of KPDC, Vendors, Bankers & other stakeholders to facilitate and guide the consumers about the scheme so that they do not face any inconvenience.

It was informed that 787 applications have been received for installation of the solar systems; of which 312 are under process and 18 solar roof top systems stand installed.

Ayushi stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure disposal of all 312 pending cases within the period of 10 days positively.

She impressed upon the KPDC officers to intensify the efforts to ensure the scheme reaches maximum number of households so that they are benefitted with the renewable energy solutions which will both reduce their electricity bills and ease power woes.

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



DR MAROOF SHAH

It seems in any case God can't be interested in contingent cultural issues that get framed differently with religion. What is non-negotiable for a truly serious sincere piety is effort to be loyal to what it is convinced is God's will or stand at ease in the court of conscience. Guilt is something that has disastrous psychological and spiritual costs and should not be allowed until clear evidence. Mere doubt about certain things isn't enough to count as evidence of guilt. Let us note, with Shakespeare's hero, maturity is all. In his book, al-Radd al-Mufhim, Albani who is no feminist, refers to active women at the time of the Prophet and then comments:

These are authentic incidents that firmly prove the state of the women of Salaf (i.e. era of the companions and their followers) in terms of their perfection and magnanimity and good upbringing to the extent that they were capable of doing what they had to do in contribution to good causes. (al-Radd al-Mufhim, 1:155).

It appears that there is evolving a consensus on questioning limiting women to domestic chores and debunking various accusations regarding their capabilities in various domains and higher intellectual and spiritual pursuits. It was Ibn Arabi who recognized and extolled women's spiritual capabilities like none other. Women can't be objectified or reduced to this or that role.

One may here refer to other considerations that further question strong judgmental attitudes of certain fuqaha that however continue to be dominant in public imagination. These considerations include

- Theorizing the link between sin and salvation or otherworldly consequences, if any, of choosing different opinions. The concept of sin that may affect salvation involves intentionality and knowledge that it is forbidden and if we dispute the second condition by offering another possible interpretation that disputed claim of knowledge while recognizing/respecting the horizons or coordinates of Tradition within which interpretation is offered, salvation can't be affected on the analogy of error in ijtiḥad.

- All the five main schools of thought in Islamic jurisprudence (Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i, Hanbali, and Ja'fari), "agree on four basic principles of Islamic law; it changes with time and place, must serve the public interest, should not cause harm, and may be discarded if its cause has faded" (Kharroub, 2015).

- A fundamental rule in Islamic law that "A need that is widespread should be treated as a necessity" and Ghazzali's rule that the higher order necessity should have priority over a lower-order necessity if they generate opposite implications in practical cases.

- Differentiation between means and ends and, as Muhammad Ghazzali, that ends or principles don't expire but means may.

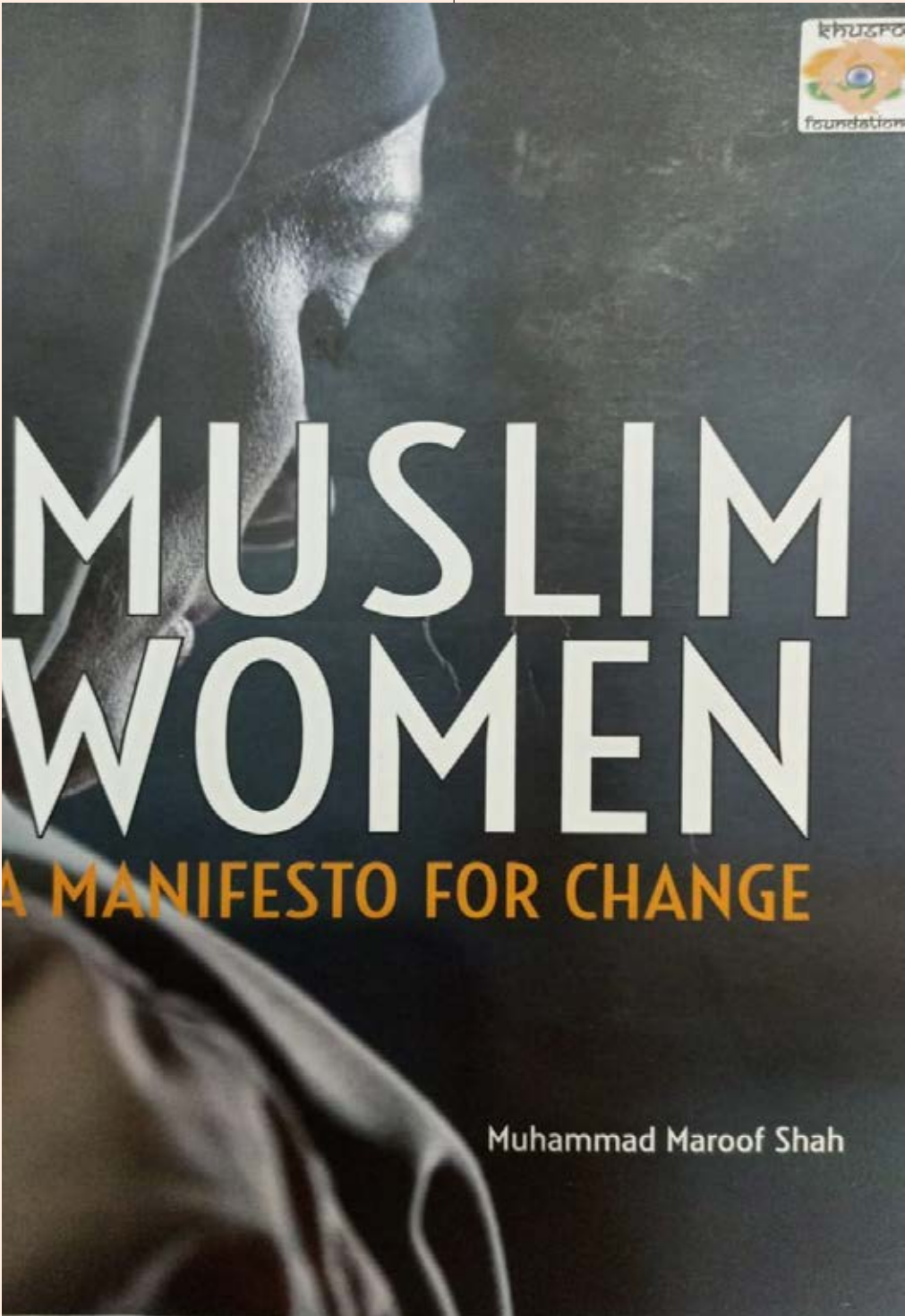
- Shatibi's distinction: "Literal compliance is the default methodology in the area of acts of worship (ibadat), while the consideration of purposes is the default methodology in the area of worldly dealings."

- Mujahidul Islam Qasmi's emphasis on the need for more open view with regard to talfeeq (picking and choosing, when need is felt, legal opinions from various schools/mujtahids) and Ibn Arabi's explanation for the same that it is grounded in Islamic ontology of mercy and should not be construed as conceding ground to nafs parasti.

- What is considered good by Muslims is good in the eyes of God as well as Ibn Masud. Stating that Isthisan is adopting "what is more conforming to common people after abandoning usual way of qiyas."

- And that "it is the very example of the Prophet and his Companions not to imitate them, literally, in the various areas of 'transactions' (muamalat) and rather, to go by the principles and 'maqasid'."

- Ayatullah Shamsuddin's suggestion that Muslims need



to "open their minds to the possibility of 'relative' legislation for specific circumstances, and not to judge narrations with missing contexts as absolute in the dimensions of time, space, situations, and people."

- The point noted in his "Maqasidi al-Shariah: A Beginner's Guide" by Jasser Auda that in certain/many cases at least

Current applications (or rather, misapplications) of Islamic law are reductionist rather than holistic, literal rather than moral, one-dimensional rather than multidimensional, binary rather than multi-valued, deconstructionist rather than deconstructionist, and causal rather than teleological. There is lack of consideration and functionality of the overall purposes and underlying principles of the Islamic law as a whole. Moreover, exaggerated claims of 'rational certainty' (or else, 'irrationality') and 'consensus of the infallible' (or else, 'historicity of the scriptures') add to lack of spirituality, intolerance, violent ideologies, suppressed freedoms, and authoritarian regimes (Auda, 2008:53-54).

Now all these points haven't been pressed into the service of securing gender justice and dialogue with Muslim feminists or their Islamist and secular feminist critics. We need trilateral dialogue between Ulama/Islamist women, Muslim feminists and secularists on key questions in order to evolve consensus on what

to do or how to secure the rights of the vulnerable women. Point scoring against one another wouldn't do. Women are suffering on various accounts and they need help for which concrete action and joint work is needed. We can't avoid engaging with religion and religion eschewing secularism and impose certain theological or ideological paradigm. For resolving multiple problems and disempowerment faced by women, all need to come forward and take membership of special groups or communities. These communities would debate and discuss everything that is imposed in the name of certain ideology or theology and evolve common strategies including financial support systems. If all employed or highly educated women contribute daily sadaqah of Rs 10 or 10 percent zakat or 10k soft loan for mobilizing and financing such community strengthening initiatives that take care of women – their debt, their need for seed capital, their food needs, their healthcare exigencies, their legal aid, their counseling for rights and duties especially marriage associated issues – we would soon find new India, new Muslim women whose head is held high and who don't have to suffer from abuses in home and public spaces.

This article is an excerpt from a chapter in the book "Muslim Women: A Manifesto for Change". The author can be reached at Maroof123@gmail.com

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- Mujahidul Islam Qasmi's emphasis on the need for more open view with regard to talfeeq (picking and choosing, when need is felt, legal opinions from various schools/mujtahids) and Ibn Arabi's explanation for the same that it is grounded in Islamic ontology of mercy and should not be construed as conceding ground to nafs parasti.

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Continued From P1...

No one

He assessed the current security situation in the Union Territory and devised the future course of action.

“Govt transforming

warfare have become tools that can achieve politico-military aims without a single shot being fired. He added that India faces persistent threats along its borders, which are further compounded by the challenge of proxy war and terrorism emanating from its neighbourhood.

Rajnath Singh also spoke of the impact of the conflict in West Asia and the geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific on the overall security calculus, in addition to non-traditional security threats such as natural disasters and climate change. He stressed on the need to vigorously pursue the transformation of the Armed Forces to remain capable and relevant for future wars, stating that PM Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 rests firmly on two foundational pillars – Surakshit Bharat and Sashakt Bharat.

Raksha Mantri pitched for the development and modernisation of the Armed Forces through self-reliance. “Lessons of the ongoing conflicts teach us that building a resilient, indigenous, and future-ready defence technological & manufacturing ecosystem is not an option, but a strategic necessity. There is a need to develop low-cost high-tech solutions and enhance the fighting capability of the Armed Forces. Our forces must not only keep pace with technological changes, but also lead it,” he said.

Rajnath Singh also batted for enhanced synergy among all components to ensure national security. Fostering a ‘Whole of Nation’ approach while undertaking actions in the entire spectrum of diplomatic, informational, military, economic and technological domains is key to ensuring success in this endeavour, he said.

Referring to the Prime Minister's vision of ‘MAHASAGAR’ (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) for the Global South, Raksha Mantri stated that achieving a better future and prosperity for the nations will always remain a collective pursuit. “Increasing connectivities and dependencies among countries and people implies that the multitude of challenges are better faced together than individually. Mutual interests and synergies will help us achieve our goal at sub regional, regional and even global levels,” he said.

Rajnath Singh exhorted the officers to focus on five ‘A’s - Awareness, Ability, Adaptability, Agility and Ambassadors - to tackle future challenges. “As warfighters and protectors of national security, you need to remain aware of the environment and its implications. You must acquire the ability and skill set required by future leaders. You must imbibe adaptability and agility as key virtues. The battlefield of tomorrow will require leaders who can adapt to unforeseen circumstances, leverage technology to their advantage and come out with innovative solutions. You must become Ambassadors of your respective Armed Forces. Be an ambassador of change and the perfect role model amongst the society at large,” he added.

Raksha Mantri began his address by expressing solidarity and support of the people of India to Myanmar and Thailand in the wake of the recent massive earthquake. “India has always stood by its friends as a first responder in times of crisis and we consider it as our duty to be able to deliver timely relief to the people of Myanmar,” he said.

The 80th Staff Course comprises 479 student officers, including 38 personnel from 26 friendly countries. Three women officers are also participating in the course.

Ahead of the ceremony, Rajnath Singh laid a wreath at the Madras Regiment War Memorial and paid homage to the brave hearts. He also interacted with the veterans, acknowledging their invaluable contributions to the nation. Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan was among the dignitaries

present on the occasion.

Established in 1948, DSSC is a premier Tri-service training institution that imparts professional education to select middle-level officers of the Indian Armed Forces and friendly countries. It aims to enhance their professional competencies for assuming higher responsibilities. Over the years, more than 19,000 Indian officers and 2,000 international officers have graduated from DSSC, many of whom have risen to become heads of states and military forces worldwide.

Two government

to the adversary about security installations and deployment with the enemies. He, being a trained police official, posted at a sensitive place, had access to the vital information concerning national security but instead of choosing to shoulder the responsibility of a responsible police official, chose otherwise to be an active conduit playing in the hands of the adversary. His actions posed a significant threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India having potential to comprise broader national security interest of India.

Ishtiyak Ahmed Malik, Senior Assistant in Public Works (R&B) Department, S/o Late Ghulam Rasool Malik Ahmad, R/o Shitroo Larnoo, District Anantnag, is listed as an active member of the proscribed unlawful association (Jamaat-e-Islami J&K) and terror associate of proscribed terrorist organization Hizbul-Mujahideen. He, as a key functionary of Jel, played a crucial role in strengthening the organization within his sphere of influence. He also facilitated creation of network of sympathizers who later became over-ground workers and foot soldiers of Hizbul Mujahideen terror outfit, which has been involved in series of terrorist attacks on Indian security forces, politicians, government functionaries, civilians, military establishments and critical infrastructure. He covertly facilitated terrorist activities of Hizbul Muzahideen by providing food, shelter and other logistics to the terrorists and played a significant role in aiding, facilitating, guiding and abetting terrorist activities especially in south Kashmir. He used to provide crucial intelligence to the terrorists regarding movement of security forces, helping them to evade capture and launch counter attacks often resulting in casualties among security forces.

A zero tolerance policy has been adopted towards the anti-national elements who have been taking advantage of being in the Government service.

In February this year, LG Sinha had ordered the sacking of three J&K govt employees – a police constable, a teacher and an orderly in the forest department – for their alleged terror links. These three government employees – police constable Firdous Ahmad Bhat, teacher Mohammad Ashraf Bhat and orderly in the forest department Nisar Ahmad Khan – were dismissed from services under Article 311 2(c) of the Constitution of India.

Their termination orders were signed by the LG a day after he chaired a security review in Jammu and directed the police and security agencies to step up anti-terror operations by focusing on not just neutralising terrorists but also dismantling the terror eco-system that includes terror sympathisers, moles and violence mongers embedded within the J&K administration.

Pertinently the services of almost half-dozen employees have been terminated since popular government came into being in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, while over 70 government employees have been fired by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha-led administration in the Union Territory for their terror links in the past few years.

Chief Secretary

supporting infrastructure and visitor amenities around both the locations. This included provision for rest areas, guided tours, food stalls and other facilities aimed at enhancing the overall experience for the tourists and pilgrims alike. He also stressed the need for installing informative signage and display

boards at the sites. These boards, he said, should highlight the unique technological and structural features of these bridges. By doing so, visitors would not only gain insights into the engineering prowess behind these projects but would also develop a sense of national pride and appreciation for the infrastructural advancements being made across the country, he added.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; DC, Reasi; SSP, Reasi; senior officers from the Northern Railways and other local officers from civil administration and police department.

Bandipora Police

Police station Sumbal also under FIR Nos. 07 & 62/2024 arrested three more suspects- Ghulam Din War, son of Habib Ullah War, resident of Naidkhai, affiliated with Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP), Khurshheed Ahmad Lone, son of Mohammad Jamal Lone, resident of Naidkhai and Mohammad Shafi Dar, son of Sonaulah Dar, resident of Karnai Mohalla Shahgund – both members of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples League (JKPL).

Additionally, under FIR No. 06/2024 registered at Police station Hajin, police arrested two individuals from Vigpara Hajin: Abdul Majeed Gojri, son of Ghulam Mohammad Gojri, Abdul Majeed Lone, son of Mohammad Maqbool Lone – both linked to Tehreek-e-Hurriyat JK

Police have also seized objectionable materials, pamphlets, and electronic devices including mobile phones from the arrested individuals. Preliminary investigations suggest these individuals were actively engaged in recruiting youth and spreading separatist propaganda despite their parent organisations being banned under the UAPA.

“These individuals were not only promoting extremist ideologies but were also attempting to revive separatist movements by motivating impressionable youth and recruiting new members (Rukuns) into banned outfits,” the police stated.

The arrests underline the commitment of Bandipora Police to dismantling terror-support networks and ensuring peace and stability in the region. Authorities reiterated that anyone found furthering separatist or extremist agendas will face strict legal consequences.

“Persons promoting secessionist and separatist ideology will face firm action under the law. Bandipora Police remains committed to ensuring peace and security across the district,” the statement added.

Tahawwur Hussain

countries after India eventually secured a surrender warrant for the wanted terrorist from the US government, it said.

With the active assistance of USDoJ, the US Sky Marshal, NIA worked closely with other Indian intelligence agencies, NSG through the entire extradition process, which also saw India's Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs coordinating with the other relevant authorities in the United States to take the matter to its successful conclusion.

Rana is accused of conspiring with David Coleman Headley @ Daood Gilani, and operatives of designated terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Harkat-ul-Jihadi Islami (HUJI) along with other Pakistan-based co-conspirators, to carry out the devastating terror attacks in Mumbai in 2008. A total of 166 persons were killed and over 238 injured in the deadly attacks, NIA in a statement said.

It added that both LeT and HUJI have been declared as terrorist organisations by the Government of India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Lord Mahavir’s

“We” over “I”, the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the Youth from Jain community for their outstanding achievements in diverse fields.

Anand Jain, ADGP Armed Police; Pankaj Jain, President S.S Jain Sabha; Rajeev Jain, Vice President, S.S Jain Sabha; Sandeep Jain, General Secretary and other members of the Sabha, senior officials, people from all walks of life and youth in large were present.

Jhelum level

six other stations of Jammu division saw a large

deficient rainfall between 60% to 99% during the period.

SC to hear

A few other petitions are yet to be listed before the bench by the apex court registry.

The Centre, on April 8, filed a caveat in the apex court and sought a hearing before any order was passed in the matter.

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

The central government on Tuesday notified the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, which got the assent of President Droupadi Murmu on April 5 after its passage from Parliament following 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 All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Congress MPs Imran Pratapgarhi and Mohammad Jawed are other key petitioners.

On April 7, a bench headed by the CJI assured senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, to consider listing the petitions.

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 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 MR 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 Tanvir, 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 it 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 Khan sought the law declared as unconstitutional, being violative of “Articles 14, 15, 21, 25, 26, 29, 30 and 300-A of the Constitution”.

انا لله وانا اليه راجعون

نہایت ہی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ یہ اطلاع سامعہ کی جاتی ہے کہ امتیاز احمد خان، ولد مرحوم غلام رسول خان مل پورہ جسکدلسر سبکداری 08 اپریل 2025 بروز منگل اس دار فانی سے انتقال کر گئیں۔

مرحوم ایک نہایت نیک، مہم و مصلحت کی پابند اور اخلاقی خوبیوں سے سبزین شخصیت تھے۔ ان کی زندگی دوسروں کے لیے ایک مثال تھی، اور ان کی ہر چیز محسوس کی جاتی ہے۔ ہم دعا گو ہیں کہ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحوم کو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا فرمائے، ان کی نیکیاں قبول کرے، اور اہل غایہ کو ناقابل حسانی صدمے کو برداشت کرنے کا حوصلہ دے۔

نوٹ: فاتحہ خوانی ان کے قبرستان راد پورہ ہوٹ میں 11 اپریل 2025 صبح 09 بجے ہوگی۔

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Bank account No: 0061040100009586, my name and Address has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Sheikh Ab Rashid, R/O Ashtangoo, while as my Actual and correct name and address as per my Aadhaar Card is Abdul Rashid Sheikh, R/O Ward NO: 17, Kharpora Bandipora. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/ she may file the Objections in office of the Manager jammu and kashmir Bank branch office Main Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Abdul Rashid Sheikh.
S/O Gh Nabi Sheikh.
R/O Ward NO: 17, Kharpora Bandipora. Dated -11-04-2025.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216010001941, which is Registered in the name of my Father Namely Sonaulah Mir, S/O Gh Ahmad Mir, Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Shafqat Hussain Mir, S/O Sonaulah Mir, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Shafqat Hussain Mir.
S/O Sonaulah Mir. R/O Nowpora Bandipora Ward NO : 01. Dated -11-04-2025.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No: JK15 20140008097, my Date of birth has been Mistakenly Mentioned as 01-11-1981, while as my Actual and correct Date of birth as per my Aadhaar Card and School Record is 15-03-1988. 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.

Bilal Ahmad Sheikh.
S/O Nazir Ahmad Sheikh.
R/O Onagam Bandipora, jammu and kashmir, pin code: 193502. Dated -11-04-2025.

Coromandel International & Saudi Mining Company Ma'aden Sign MoU to Partner for Phosphatic Fertilisers



JAMMU: Coromandel International Limited, India's leading agri-solutions provider, and Ma'aden, one of the world's largest producers of phosphate fertilisers, have further strengthened their longstanding partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the long-term supply of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and NP/NPK fertilisers.

The MoU was signed on April 9, 2025, by Narayanan Vellayan, Director – Strategic Sourcing, Coromandel International Limited, and Saud Al Tamimi, Director – Fertiliser Sales Commercial, Phosphate Business Unit, Ma'aden.

Over the years Coromandel and Ma'aden have fostered a long-standing partnership, with Ma'aden playing a vital role as a trusted supplier of ammonia to Coromandel. The new agreement marks a significant milestone in expanding this collaboration, ensuring a reliable and sustainable supply of essential fertilisers to support Indian agriculture. Speaking on the occasion, Narayanan Vellayan, Director – Strategic Sourcing, Coromandel International Limited, highlighted the importance of this agreement, stating, "In recent times, DAP

availability in India has been impacted due to global supply disruptions. This strategic partnership with Ma'aden is a natural extension of our longstanding relationship and will help Coromandel ensure timely availability of DAP and complex fertilisers to the Indian farming community. Coromandel, with its close connect to over 4.5 million farmers, remains steadfast in its commitment to Indian agriculture, working alongside Ma'aden as a trusted and sustainable partner." Echoing similar sentiments, Saud Al Tamimi, Director – Fertiliser Sales Commercial, Phosphate Business Unit, Ma'aden, reaffirmed Ma'aden's commitment to India, saying, "Ma'aden has been the largest supplier of phosphate fertilisers to India for over a decade. We are expanding our production capacity from 6 million tonnes to 9 million tonnes in the near term, reinforcing our commitment to serve the growing needs of India's agriculture sector."

The signing ceremony was presided over by S. Sankarasubramanian, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Coromandel International Limited, and Mr. Anas Al Bassam, Senior Vice President – Commercial, Phosphate Business Unit, Ma'aden.

Both leaders underscored the need to expand the partnership beyond phosphates and raw materials, focusing on collaborative efforts in R&D, innovation, and speciality products to advance sustainable farming practices. Senior officials from both Coromandel International and Ma'aden participated in the ceremony, reinforcing the strong commitment of both companies to strengthen their strategic partnership and contribute to the food security of India.

Dhanuka Agritech Hosts HMP in Srinagar to Empower Apple Growers

SRINAGAR – In a major boost to scientific horticulture and apple cultivation in Jammu & Kashmir, Dhanuka Agritech Limited—one of India's leading agrochemical companies—hosted a landmark program on “Scientific Management of Apple” in Srinagar Thursday. The event was graced by Dr. M.K. Verma, Director of Agriculture, ICAR-CITH, who served as the chief guest.

Spearheaded by Dr. R.G. Agarwal, Chairman Emeritus of Dhanuka Agritech, the event underscored the company's mission to empower Indian farmers with advanced technologies, sustainable practices, and scientific knowledge. The program brought together top scientists, policymakers, agribusiness leaders, and progressive apple growers for an intensive knowledge-sharing session focused on transforming apple farming through innovation.

As part of the initiative, Dhanuka Agritech launched a specialized Product Portfolio for Apple Orchards, offering tailor-made solutions for common issues such as Apple Scab, red mite infestations, and premature leaf fall. A highlight of the launch was “MIYAKO,” a revolutionary miticide from Nissan Chemicals, Japan, designed to control spider mite infestations. Other key products



introduced included “DELIGHT” (Dodine 65% WP) and “CURSOR” (Flusilazole), which together offer a robust, integrated approach to orchard management—enhancing both crop health and farmer profitability.

“India's food security must go hand-in-hand with nutritional security—and horticulture, especially in regions like Kashmir, holds the key. At Dhanuka, we've always championed farmer-first innovations. Indian agriculture has a bright future, and our youth are its greatest asset. It's time to erase the word 'poor' from 'poor farmer' through the power of science, technology, and strong public-private partnerships,” said Dr. R.G. Agarwal, Chairman Emeritus, Dhanuka Agritech.

Echoing this vision, Dr. M.K. Verma, Director of ICAR-CITH, emphasized the importance of technology and

research in modern horticulture: “With high-density planting transforming traditional orchards, productivity can rise from 11 to over 60 tons per hectare. But intensification also brings new challenges. Research, training, and responsible pesticide use are more critical than ever.”

Dr. Manzoor A. Parray, Head of Entomology at SKUAST-K, highlighted the impact of climate change on pest dynamics:

“Spider mite infestations are on the rise. Integrated Pest Management, including tools like pheromone traps and drone spraying, must be adopted to tackle these evolving threats safely and effectively.” Appreciation for Dhanuka's contributions was also voiced by senior officials and experts:

“We sincerely thank Dhanuka for its excellent products and continued efforts to educate our growers.

Bowlers executed their plans to perfection, says GT assistant coach Parthiv Patel

Gujarat Titans assistant coach Parthiv Patel complemented the team's bowling unit for its spectacular show against Rajasthan Royals in an Indian Premier League match here, saying the bowlers executed their plans to perfection while defending 217 on a placid wicket.

Sai Sudharsan (82 off 53 balls) struck a classy fifty and after that, a collective bowling effort powered GT to a commanding 58-run win on Wednesday. The GT bowlers rose to the occasion with Prasidh Krishna (3/24), Rashid Khan (2/37) and Sai Kishore (2/20) helping the team bowl out RR for 159 in 19.1 overs.

"When you win by 50 odd runs on a wicket like this, every bowler came in and executed their plans well. Siraj is really bowling really well, Prasidh Krishna has been phenomenal throughout the tournament. Sai Kishore is probably the best spinner in the tournament so far, they way he has bowled, how brave he is and bowling in difficult conditions.

"It's good to see after every game a new bowler stepping up. Bowlers actually win you games, obviously batters sets it up," Patel said at the post-match press conference.

"Nobody has specific role, we are very flexible as a team. We go by conditions and situations," he added.

Patel was full of praise for Sudharsan and his work ethic.

"He (Sudharsan) works really hard, not surprised at all that he is getting best results. At times actually we have to drag him out of the nets. He keeps it simple. He understands his game and backs that and that is the rea-

son you can see consistent performance from him," he said.

GT left out Washington Sundar against

early, then it would have been a different story but we had enough batters who could do the job for us," he said.

ally feel we could have got closer to that only if we had some partnerships going," he said.

"T20 is a format sometimes the execution



RR on Wednesday and Patel explained the logic behind the decision.

"He (Sundar) was part of our playing eleven, we wanted to see the situation and we always have done that, even in the last game when two wickets fell early he came in and batted. For our team it is about understanding the situation and the conditions and we felt that we might need fourth seamer in the second innings.

"If we would have lost a couple of wickets

RR spin bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule felt the target was chaseable but they didn't have enough partnerships to go for it.

"I think it was chaseable, I think it was very good track to bat on. To be honest 200 was a par score. Maybe we could have given 20 runs less but I think they batted well. Sai Sudharshan batted well, came out of the powerplay really strongly.

"They had better partnerships than we did, that's why they got a total so big but I person-

doesn't goes they way you wanted to. Overall, I think the bowlers did their best on a track that was full of runs."

Bahutule also lauded Sudharsan for his brilliant knock and expects the left-handed opener to break into the national team in future.

"He (Sudharsan) is a very conventional player. He has improved his game over a period of time and GT has always been a top heavy batting order. So obviously getting those early wickets is very important.

"I think it was chaseable, I think it was very good track to bat on. To be honest 200 was a par score. Maybe we could have given 20 runs less but I think they batted well. Sai Sudharshan batted well, came out of the powerplay really strongly.

Indian women's hockey team to tour Australia for five-match series

NEW DELHI: The Indian women's hockey team will tour Australia for a five-match series scheduled from April 26 to May 4, Hockey India said on Thursday.

India will open the series with two matches against Australia A, followed by three games against the senior Australian team.

The tour will begin with back-to-back matches against Australia A on April 26 and 27, followed by three high-intensity games against the world No.5 ranked Hockeyroos on May 1, 3 and 4.

All fixtures will be held at the Perth Hockey Stadium.

The tour will serve as vital preparation ahead of their European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, which kicks off in June.

Ninth ranked India enter the series on a high after a spirited performance against world No.1 Netherlands, securing a 2-2 draw and clinching the bonus point in a thrilling shootout in Bhubaneswar.

India also have recent success against Australia to draw confidence from. In their last encounter during the FIH Pro League 2023-24, India emerged winners 1-0.

Historically, however, Australia hold the upper hand, having won 10 out of the 16 matches played between the two sides since 2013. India have registered three wins while three matches have ended in draws.

Speaking on the tour, India head coach Harendra Singh said, "This tour is an important step in our preparations for the European leg of the FIH Pro League. Playing against a strong side like Australia will test our players and give us valuable insights into where we stand.

"Our matches against Australia have always been competitive, and while they've had the edge historically, we've shown in recent years that we can go toe-to-toe with them."



Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

