

Kashmir Convener



Varanasi developed under PM Modi's leadership: Yogi Adityanath

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Army stands by its commitment to free J-K of terrorism: Army

KC News Network

JAMMU: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar on Friday complimented the troops for their swift action in neutralising a terrorist in Kishtwar, and reiterated the army's commitment to keeping the region free of terror.

One terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Friday, while a combing operation is underway in Udhampur district, army officials said.

"Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, Army Commander, Northern Command, commends the White Knight Corps for their swift action and precise execution in neutralising one terrorist in the ongoing operation in Kishtwar," the Northern Command said in a post on X.

"The Indian Army stands by its



commitment to keep Jammu and Kashmir terror-free," Lt Gen Kumar said.

According to the White Knight Corps, the encounter occurred during a search-

and-destroy operation jointly launched by the army and police in the Chatru forest area of Kishtwar district.

During the operation, the security forces made contact with the terrorists.

"The terrorists were effectively engaged, leading to a gunfight. One terrorist has been neutralised so far," the White Knight Corps, or 16 Corps, posted on X.

Search operations are also underway in the Jopher-Marta forest area in Udhampur district, officials said.

Equipped with sniffer dogs and aerial surveillance, multiple security teams are combing the entire forest area to track down three terrorists believed to be hiding there.

Police and security forces have been monitoring terrorist movements in these hilly areas for the past 19 days, during which five encounters

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One More Constituent Of Hurriyat Denounces Separatism: Amit Shah

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Another constituent of separatist amalgam Hurriyat Conference, Jammu and Kashmir Mass Movement, has rejected secessionism and declared complete commitment to the unity of the country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on Friday.

He said with this, as many as 12 Hurriyat-linked organisations in Jammu and Kashmir have broken off from separatism, resting trust in the Constitution.

"Under the Modi govt the spirit of unity rules J&K. Another Hurriyat affiliate organisation, Jammu and Kashmir Mass Movement, has rejected separatism, declaring complete commitment to the unity of Bharat. I sincerely welcome their move. Till now



as many as 12 Hurriyat-linked organisations have broken off from secessionism, resting trust in the Constitution of India. This is a victory of PM Shri @narendramodiji's vision for 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'," Shah wrote on X.

On April 8, Jammu Kashmir Islamic Political Party, Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Democratic League and Kashmir Freedom

Front had disassociated themselves from Hurriyat Conference.

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

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J&K will never become Pakistan's part, it should stop abetting terror: Dr Farooq

>>> Says KPs can't return home until they feel secure; NC to approach SC against Waqf Act <<<



KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Asking the neighboring country to stop abetting terror and maintain cordial relations with India, National Conference (NC) President, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Friday said that J&K would never become a part of Pakistan.

Talking to reporters, Dr Farooq, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that the government cannot bring Kashmir Pandits to their homes until they feel secure and safe here in

the Valley. "We have to prepare the conditions for it, which cannot be done through speeches as the ground work needs to be done in this regard," he said, adding, "If we want to bring them back, we need to tell the neighbouring country to stop the terrorism. Enough is enough, we cannot be part of Pakistan, but we can live like friends. The fear will prevail till terrorism continues."

"I remember Atal Bihari Vajpayee's saying that friends can be changed but not neighbours. If we have good relations with each other, both the countries will progress, but the hostilities will only hamper the pace of progress, which is being witnessed today," About the closure of Jamia Masjid, he said what message are they giving to the people. "Is it indicating the peace here? How can we ask the Pandit brethren to return home amidst the frequent closure of Jamia Masjid where the people used to pray," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Farooq also said that the National Conference (NC) is going to approach the Supreme Court (SC) to fight the Waqf Amendment Bill, passed in the Parliament recently.

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Saudi Govt's visa suspension won't impact Hajj pilgrims from J&K: Officials



Mubashir Alam Wani

SRINAGAR: The Saudi Arabia government's recently imposed temporary ban on the issuance of Umrah, tourist and visit visas ahead of the Hajj-2025 has sparked concerns among the aspiring pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, the officials, who spoke to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) clarified that this move was a routine pre-Hajj measure and will not affect the upcoming Hajj pilgrimage from India, including

Jammu & Kashmir.

Executive Officer of the J&K State Haj Committee, Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, clarified that the ban applies specifically to Umrah, tourist and visiting visas and has been enforced in coordination with multiple countries.

The senior officer said that this decision will prevent the misuse of Umrah or visit visas by individuals, attempting to perform Hajj illegally—a problem that affected accommodations and logistics in previous years. "Last year, those who went

on Umrah or other visas often stayed back and performed Hajj without authorisation, which led to overcrowding, particularly in Mina tents," the senior officer said. "This year, such practices will be curbed due to the ban and legitimate pilgrims will benefit with better access to facilities."

He added that this was done every year, typically a few days before Hajj, however, this time the visa suspension was imposed nearly 20 days in advance, stating that might have caused some confusion.

The Executive Officer of the J&K State Haj Committee said that the move is expected to streamline the Hajj process and reduce issues faced by officially registered pilgrims, especially those who often encountered logistical challenges due to overlapping stays by non-Hajj visa holders. "It helps avoid unnecessary crowding and mismanagement, especially in tents and

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JK likely to require additional 1862 MU power in 2026-27

Riyaz Bhat

SRINAGAR: Amid surge in power demand, Jammu and Kashmir is likely to require additional 1862.53 Million Units (MUs) of power from the year 2026-27.

The concerned authorities have projected that there will be a peak electrical requirement of 22,507 MU in the year 2026-27 with 3566 Megawatts peak electricity demand.

The documents further said that some intra-state transmission



schemes are being planned to be implemented through Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) route by Jammu and Kashmir, Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) and Rajasthan.

In the meantime, the recent economic survey of the Jammu and Kashmir government reveals that from the fiscal 2020-21 to the year 2023-24, the power usage in the region had increased from 17,721.76 MU to 20,644.47 MU.

Recently, the government had said that Jammu and Kashmir had generated over 16,300 MUs of electricity from different hydel power projects in the year 2023-24.

As already reported by KNO, Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness nearly 15 percent increase in peak power demand by the upcoming fiscal. An official had said that till the ongoing fiscal, Jammu and Kashmir has touched a peak power demand of nearly 3000-3100 Megawatts (MW) of power. The official documents in this regard states that the region was having actual peak power demand of 2675 MW till the year 2016-17.

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ACB registers case against former MD J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation Ltd, others

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday said to have registered a case against the then MD, J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation Ltd and others for financial irregularities.

A spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau regis-

tered a case FIR No. 02/2025 u/s 5(1)(d) r/w Section 5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Samvat 2006 and 120-B, RPC at Police Station ACB Jammu against Brij Bhushan Sharma, then MD, J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation Ltd, Sewa Ram, then I/C Accounts Section J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation Ltd, Bharat Bhushan, then MD, J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation Ltd, & others.

"The instant case was registered on the basis

of a verification. The verification conducted by this Bureau revealed that the then MD of J&K Housing Corporation namely Brij Bhushan Sharma, who was superannuated from services on 30.06.2006, obtained total loan of Rs. 23 lakhs from J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation, without following specified procedure/approval and without any further mortgage/any

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Three terrorists killed in Kishtwar encounter, operation continues

KC News Network

KISHTWAR: Two more terrorists have been killed in the ongoing operation in the Chhatru forest area of Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir taking the toll to three terrorists killed so far.

Earlier One terrorist body was recovered from the operation site by the security forces. The Exchange of fire had resumed between terrorists and security forces in the Chhatru forest area of Kishtwar district early Friday morning after three continuous days of massive search operations in the area.

According to top security officials, three dead bodies of the terrorists have been recovered along with arms and ammunition from the operation site. Security forces believe that all the killed terrorists are foreigners.

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Sharper probes, better prosecution to boost convictions in NDPS cases: Chief Secretary



KC News Network

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired the 13th UT Level NCORD (Narcotics Coordination) meeting to review progress on tackling drug trafficking and abuse across Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting highlighted key achievements, ongoing challenges and future strategies to curb the menace of narcotics in the region.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary gave a set of comprehensive directions aimed at tightening the enforcement and judicial mechanisms under the NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances)

Act. He underscored the urgent need to adopt a multi-pronged strategy combining strict law enforcement, judicial efficiency and community awareness to successfully deal with this menace.

In a significant decision, the Chief Secretary asked for constitution of District Monitoring Committees in each district of the UT. These committees, to be headed by the respective Deputy Commissioners, with SSPs and Public Prosecutors as members, will be responsible for regularly monitoring the status of NDPS cases. They will specifically focus on long-pending cases

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NIA court sends Mumbai attacks mastermind to 18-day custody

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: The NIA special court at Patiala House here sent Mumbai attacks mastermind Tahawwur Hussain Rana to 18-day NIA custody on Friday.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the court also directed the NIA to conduct a medical examination of Rana every 24 hours, and allow him to meet his lawyer every alternate day.

Pertinently, the National Investigation Agency "successfully secured the extradition" of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a key accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, from the United States and brought him to the national capital on Thursday.

Rana was arrested formally immediately after his arrival at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, following his successful extradition from



the United States.

The NIA on Friday began Rana's questioning to unravel the larger conspiracy behind the deadly terror strikes of 2008 in which 166 persons were killed and over 238 sustained injuries.

Rana was brought to the NIA headquarters early this morning and is being kept in a highly-secured cell, inside the anti-terror agency's head office at CGO complex here, being

guarded by security personnel round the clock.

The investigation is being led by NIA's Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Jaya Roy, who is also the Chief Investigating Officer.

The interrogation, sources said, is focused on getting more details on his possible connection with Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which had orchestrated the attacks.

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NIA Interrogates Tahawwur Rana To Unravel Larger Conspiracy Behind 26/11

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday began questioning of Mumbai attacks mastermind Tahawwur Hussain Rana here to unravel the larger conspiracy behind the deadly terror strikes of 2008, official sources said.

Rana was brought to the NIA headquarters early Friday morning after a Delhi court granted 18-day custody to the probe agency, following his extradition from the US.

Rana is being kept in a highly-secured cell, inside the anti-terror agency's head office at CGO complex here, being guarded by security personnel round the clock, the sources said.

A 24x7 surveillance is being maintained and Rana has been provided with basic necessities like food and meals among others, they said.

The investigation is being led by NIA's Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Jaya Roy, who is also the Chief Investigating Officer, they said.

"Rana will remain in NIA custody for 18 days, during which time the agency will question him in detail in order to unravel the complete conspiracy behind the deadly 2008 attacks, in which a total of 166 persons were killed and over 238 injured," said a statement issued by the probe agency soon after the court's order.

It is learnt that the interrogation is focussed on getting more details on his possible connection with Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which had orchestrated the attacks.

The 64-year-old Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman — a close associate of key Mumbai terror attacks conspirator David Coleman Headley alias Daood Gilani (a US citizen) — would also be questioned



on his suspected links with the officials of Pakistan spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and his exact role behind the attack, the sources said.

The investigators also hope to find some important leads on his travels in parts of northern and southern India, days before the carnage in the country's financial capital on November 26, 2008, they said.

Rana visited Hapur and Agra in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Kochi, Ahmedabad, and Mumbai with his wife Samraz Rana Akhtar between November 13 and November 21, 2008, the sources said.

They said there could have been a larger conspiracy aimed at targeting other places across the country behind his visits to these places, and the exact details would be ascertained only after his interrogation.

Incidentally, Rana's custodial interrogation comes at a time when senior Maharashtra-cadre Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sadanand Vasant Date is at the helm of the NIA. Date, who was then posted as an Additional Commissioner

of Police in Mumbai when 10 terrorists struck the country's financial capital, had received serious injuries in the terror attack.

Date bravely fought Ajmal Kasab and other LeT terrorist Abu Ismail despite getting seriously injured.

He was appointed as Director General of the NIA, the specialised agency that came up in the aftermath of the three-day terror siege in Mumbai, in March last year.

The anti-terror agency had produced Rana before the NIA Special Court at Patiala House after formally placing him under arrest following his arrival at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport here Thursday evening, upon his extradition from the US.

The NIA claimed in the court that it suspects terror plots akin to 26/11 Mumbai attacks were devised by Rana to target multiple Indian cities.

The court remanded Rana in 18-day NIA custody. In its order, the court also directed the NIA to conduct a medical examination of Rana every 24 hours, and allow him to meet his lawyer every alternate day.

Meanwhile, security around the NIA office has been beefed up. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Delhi Police personnel are guarding the outer periphery of NIA headquarters.

The NIA had secured Rana's extradition from the US following years of sustained efforts, and after the terror mastermind's last-ditch efforts to get a stay on his extradition from the US failed.

With the coordinated efforts of India's Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs, along with the relevant authorities in the US, the surrender warrant for the wanted terrorist was eventually secured and the extradition was carried out, the NIA has said.

The anti-terror agency had registered a case on November 11, 2009 under sections 121 A of Indian Penal Code (IPC), Section 18 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Section 6(2) SAARC Convention (Suppression of Terrorism) Act against Headley, his childhood friend Rana and others.

Rana is charged with numerous offenses, including conspiracy, murder, commission of a terrorist act, and forgery in the country.

During the NIA investigation, the roles of senior functionaries of terror groups LeT and Harkat-ul-Jihadi Islami (HUJI) — Hafiz Muhammad Saeed alias Tayyaji, Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi,

Sajjid Majid alias Wasi, Ilyas Kashmiri, and Abdur Rehman Hashim Syed alias Major Abdurrehman alias Pasha — had emerged, the officials said. They worked in active connivance with officials from the ISI, namely Major Iqbal alias Major Ali and Major Sameer Ali alias Major Samir, according to the NIA probe.

SC reserves verdict on ex-CM Yediyurappa's plea against revival of corruption case

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has reserved its verdict on a plea of senior BJP leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa against an order reviving a corruption case against him.

The Karnataka High Court, on January 5, 2021, allowed a plea of complainant A Alam Pasha, who hails from Bengaluru, and revived his complaint.

Pasha alleged corruption and criminal conspiracy against Yediyurappa and former Industries minister Muruges R Nirani and Shivaswamy KS, former managing director of Karnataka Udyog Mitra.

The high court ruled the absence of prior sanction for prosecution — leading to the quashing of an earlier complaint — did not bar the filing of a fresh complaint once the accused had demitted office.

It, however, did not allow criminal prosecution of V P Baligar, a retired IAS officer and former Principal Secretary of the State Government, in the corruption case.

On April 4, a bench comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra concluded the hearings and framed several key legal questions for its adjudication including whether after a Judicial Magistrate has ordered probe under Section 156(3) of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), would a prior sanction of the appropriate Government authorities be still required under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act.

Section 156(3) of the CrPC permits a judicial magistrate to order a police investigation into a complaint and it may include order for a preliminary inquiry or registration of an FIR.

Section 17A of the PC Act says, "No police officer shall conduct any enquiry or inquiry or investigation into any offence alleged to have been committed by a public servant under this Act, where the alleged offence is relatable to any recommendation made or decision taken by such public servant in discharge of his official functions or duties, without the previous approval..."

The top court framed seven crucial legal questions, primarily focusing on the interplay between various provisions of the PC Act and the

CrPC on the issue of prior sanction to prosecute a public servant and power of the judicial magistrate to entertain a private complaint and order probe and an FIR.

"What are the relevant considerations as contemplated by Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 which the appropriate authority or Government is expected to look into before the grant of approval for initiation of any enquiry, inquiry, or investigation by the police?" read the first question the bench framed.



Whether the considerations which weigh with the appropriate authority or Government while granting approval under Section 17A of the PC Act are fundamentally so different from the one that a magistrate is ordinarily expected to apply while passing an order under Section 156(3) of the CrPC, read the second issue.

In other words, whether the considerations under Section 17A of the PC Act are of such a nature that they are necessarily beyond the ambit or scope of consideration by a Magistrate while directing an investigation under Section 156(3) of the CrPC, the bench said. The top court asked if it could be said that once a magistrate has applied his mind under Section 156(3) of the CrPC, the requirement of a prior approval under Section 17A of the PC Act is meaningless, redundant and no longer necessary.

Varanasi developed under PM Modi's leadership: Yogi Adityanath

VARANASI (UP): Devotees from all over the country are flocking to see the new Kashi which has developed under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last 11 years, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Friday.

His remarks came after the prime minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 44 projects worth Rs 3,880 crore in his parliamentary constituency.

"Everyone has seen Kashi changing in the last 11 years. This is the same Kashi, which was known for its narrow streets and traffic jams. Kashi has been an ancient centre of education, but along with the centres of education lying in disarray, projects worth more than Rs 50,000 crore have come here in the last 11 years for health, tourism, connectivity," he said. Adityanath noted that this was the first visit of the prime minister to Varanasi after the historic victory of the BJP in the Haryana, Maharashtra and Delhi assembly elections as well as the organisation of the Maha Kumbh.

Kashi also became a witness to this divine and grand Maha Kumbh, he said.

"Every devotee coming from the country and the world was eager to see this new Kashi and the holy land of Baba Vishwanath in a new form under the leadership and guidance of the prime minister in the last 11



years. On the occasion of this 45-day event, a grand gathering was also seen in Kashi and during this time more than 3 crore devotees came here and became a part of the virtue by visiting the holy abode of Baba Vishwanath," Adityanath said. He also said that after the Namami Gange project, every devotee who took a dip in the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati felt overwhelmed.

"Due to the success of the Namami Gange project, the Maha Kumbh has also been successful," Adityanath said.

The UP chief minister also said that efforts of the prime minister to provide national and international recognition to the products of Kashi and Uttar Pradesh have proved fruitful.

"Kashi and its neighbouring districts have

received the maximum number of GI tags so far and Uttar Pradesh is achieving the number one position in GI tags in the country. Certificates for 21 new GI tags are also being provided today by the prime minister. These efforts have been made to give a new identity to the products of local handicraftsmen and artisans at the national and international level," he said.

The Ayushman Bharat scheme has also proved to be a milestone in providing health facilities to the poor, he said.

More than 50 crore people in the country and more than 10 crore people in Uttar Pradesh have directly benefited from this scheme.

Not only in Uttar Pradesh but across the country, now every senior citizen above the age of 70 years is being provided health facilities worth Rs 5 lakh through the Vaya Vandana Yojana card and till now more than 50,000 senior citizens in Kashi have got their cards made, he said.

Adityanath also said that innovative work has been done to connect the farmers and cattle rearers here through Banas Dairy, an important project related to the development of Kashi. Under that programme, bonus is also being provided to those cattle rearers who have earned dividends through value addition by joining this unit of Banas Dairy in Kashi.

Rana's extradition a big breakthrough, will reveal real plot of 26/11 attacks: Ajit Pawar

PUNE: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday termed Tahawwur Hussain Rana's extradition a major breakthrough and said it would help unravel the crucial details of the conspiracy behind the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

The 64-year-old Canadian citizen of Pakistani origin, a key accused in the case, landed in Delhi in a special plane from Los Angeles Thursday evening. A special court subsequently remanded him in the custody of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for 18 days.

Rana is accused of conspiring with David Coleman Headley alias Daood Gilani, and terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Harkat-ul-Jihadi Islami (HUJI) along with other Pakistan-based co-conspirators, to carry out the three-day terror siege that killed 166 people.

Speaking to reporters in Pune, Pawar recalled being present in



Mumbai during the 2008 attacks along with the then chief minister Vilasrao Deshmukh and home minister R R Patil.

"After the operation, we visited all the attack sites. A probe was launched to identify the masterminds. Now that this man (Rana) has been extradited to India, it will come to light who were behind the attacks, on whose orders he acted and what their objective was," Pawar said.

Pawar was here to pay tribute to Mahatma Phule at Phule Wada on the birth anniversary of the iconic social reformer.

Asked about the discontent expressed by senior OBC (Other Backward Class) leader and his NCP colleague Chhagan Bhujbal over the slow pace of Phule Wada's expansion, Pawar said he has directed the Pune civic body to expedite the work and ensure land acquisition for the memorial.

"Bhujbal saheb won't have to go on a hunger strike. The work will be completed," he said.

Bhujbal, who has been vocal about not being nominated for the Rajya Sabha or given a ministerial berth in the state, had said on

Thursday that since he holds no position in the government, he could sit on a fast to push for the expansion of the Phule memorial.

Referring to the death of a pregnant woman after she was allegedly denied admission at Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital in Pune, Pawar said action will be taken once the third report on the matter is received by the state government.

Asked whether he had forgotten the protests he had led against rising fuel and LPG prices while in the opposition, Pawar said, "I haven't forgotten. But global fuel price fluctuations are real. After Donald Trump came to power in the US, his tariff policies have affected the global economy." Though there has been a hike of Rs 50 (per LPG cylinder), Prime Minister Narendra Modi has told oil companies not to increase prices and bear the difference themselves, he claimed. "Since Home Minister Amit Shah is in the state, we will discuss the issue with him," he added.

Another Jumla Rahul Slams PM Modi Over Employment Linked Incentive Scheme

NEW DELHI: Attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the government's 'Employment Linked Incentive'

"It's been nearly a year since announcing the scheme, the government hasn't even defined it, and has returned

India's indigenous skills.

"The way to create cores of jobs is through large-scale investment in MSMEs, fair markets where competition can thrive, support for local production networks and youth equipped with the right skills," he said.

"The PM won't agree with these ideas. But I must ask him directly: Prime Minister ji, you announced ELI with great showmanship — but where has this Rs 10,000 crore scheme disappeared?"

Have you abandoned our unemployed youth along with your promises?" "While you create new slogans every day, our youth are still waiting for real opportunities. What is your concrete plan to generate the cores of jobs India desperately needs, or is this just another jumla?" he said.

Gandhi further asked when will the PM shift his focus from enriching Adani and his "billionaire friends" to ensuring that young people from marginalised communities have equal access to employment.



scheme, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said while he creates new slogans everyday, the youth are still waiting for real opportunities, and asked if it was "just another jumla".

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said that after the 2024 election, PM Modi announced the "Employment Linked Incentive" scheme with much fanfare, promising to provide employment to our youth.

the Rs 10,000 crores allotted to it. This shows how serious the PM is about unemployment," he alleged without elaborating the claim.

There was no immediate response from the government on it.

Gandhi said jobs can't be created by focusing only on large corporates, promoting cronies over fair-play businesses, prioritising assembly over production, and disregarding

If ED Has Fundamental Rights, It Should Think Of People's Rights Too: SC

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has said ED should also think of the fundamental rights of the people and frowned upon the agency's plea seeking the transfer of the Nagrik Apurti Nigam (NAN) scam case from Chhattisgarh to New Delhi.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan questioned the agency on how it had filed a writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution meant for individuals.

Article 32 of Constitution guarantees the "Right to Constitutional



Remedies," empowering individuals to seek redressal from the Supreme Court for violations of their fundamental rights, allowing them to directly approach the court for enforcement of these rights.

Following the bench's remarks, additional solicitor general SV Raju sought its permission to withdraw the plea and said, "ED also has fundamental rights." "In a lighter vein, if ED has fundamental rights, it should think about fundamental rights of people too," the bench said. The court then allowed Raju to withdraw the plea.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) last year claimed former IAS officer Anil Tuteja misused the anticipatory bail granted to him in the case in Chhattisgarh.

The probe agency recently made a startling claim about some constitutional functionaries of Chhattisgarh being in touch with a high court judge to ensure judicial reliefs to some accused in the money laundering case stemming from the alleged multi-crore rupees NAN scam.

Govts that didn't implement Ayushman Bharat scheme in states voted out of power, Bengal's turn next: Nadda

NEW DELHI: Union Health Minister and BJP chief JP Nadda took a dig at political opponents on Thursday, saying the state governments that did not implement the Ayushman Bharat scheme were voted out of power and asserting that it is West Bengal's turn next. After signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on April 5 to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), the Delhi government on Thursday signed another MoU with the Centre for the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), which was launched in October 2021 to ensure that the public health infrastructure effectively manages future pandemics and outbreaks of diseases. Addressing a gathering after the signing of the MoU, Nadda said the AB-PMJAY is the world's largest health-coverage programme under which 62 crore people are currently being benefitted. "It is a moment of pride that 36 lakh people in Delhi will be benefitted by the AB-PMJAY now," he added.

Nadda also informed that with the implementation of the AB-PMJAY in Delhi, all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status, will be covered under the Ayushman Vay Vandana Yojana.

He highlighted that 8.19 crore people have already availed treatment under the scheme and the government has spent a total amount of Rs 1.26 lakh crore for the same. Of the beneficiaries, 19 lakh were downtrodden people who could not have afforded these treatment without the Ayushman Bharat health coverage, he said. "As a result of the Ayushman Bharat scheme, out-of-pocket expenditure has declined from 62 per cent to 38 per cent today," Nadda said.

He reiterated that the AB-PMJAY is an "assurance" and not an "insurance" scheme, whereby the government assures the beneficiaries of a Rs 5-lakh health coverage and on top of that, the Delhi government has added another Rs 5 lakh, amounting to a total coverage of Rs 10 lakh.

Nadda said Delhi faced a black chapter for seven years as even though the scheme was launched in 2018, 36 lakh people, including six lakh elderly



people, remained deprived of its benefits.

"There is a need for you to ponder on how your rights are curtailed when a wrong government comes to power. And when the right government comes, you get what is rightfully yours within 50 days," he said. Three states had refused to implement the Ayushman Bharat scheme, Nadda said.

"One was Odisha, where the previous government fell and the lotus (the BJP's poll symbol) bloomed. The second one was Delhi, where the government was voted out of power and the lotus bloomed. Now, only one state — West Bengal — remains. There too the lotus will bloom and the government would be ousted," the Bharatiya Janata Party chief said.

Editorial

Reviving the Loom

Silk, in India, is more than just a fabric—it's a thread that weaves through the country's history, culture, economy, and art. From the regal elegance of Kanchipuram and Banarasi sarees to the rustic charm of Tussar from Bhagalpur, silk is not just worn, it is celebrated. With India being the second-largest producer and the largest consumer of silk globally, the industry stands as a symbol of pride as well as potential.

However, this heritage industry—deeply rooted in rural economies—needs sustained policy support and modernization to meet global standards. The growth in raw silk production from 31,906 MT in 2017-18 to 38,913 MT in 2023-24 and the rise in mulberry plantation coverage is noteworthy. But what remains equally important is ensuring that this growth is sustainable, inclusive, and future-ready.

Schemes like Silk Samagra and its second phase, Silk Samagra-2, have played a pivotal role in bolstering the sericulture ecosystem. By focusing on research, technology transfer, seed development, market coordination, and export promotion, the government has rightly targeted both the supply and value chains. The financial assistance under these schemes has directly benefited over 78,000 individuals, many of them from backward and rural communities—underscoring the sector's role in employment and empowerment, especially among women.

Yet, challenges persist. The global silk market is fiercely competitive, and Indian silk faces stiff competition from countries like China. Additionally, traditional weavers often lack access to modern technology, global markets, or even fair prices for their products. To address this, complementary schemes like the Raw Material Supply Scheme, NHDP, and SAMARTH have rightly focused on making raw materials affordable, upgrading design and marketing skills, and building capacity through training. But going forward, more needs to be done. First, there is a pressing need to integrate sericulture more deeply with sustainable practices and organic farming, as global consumers grow increasingly conscious of ethical sourcing. Second, innovation in design and international branding of Indian silk must be pursued with vigor, especially through platforms like GI tagging and export consortia. Finally, the youth must be re-engaged with the sector through education, design-tech incubators, and direct-to-consumer digital platforms.

Silk is not just an economic commodity—it is a cultural asset. To preserve and promote India's silk legacy, we must strike a balance between tradition and technology, between production and design, and between local pride and global reach. The loom of progress is ready—it's time we weave a new future with our silken threads.

PART II



SHABEER AHMAD LONE

Indian philosophy and spirituality teach that adversity and failure are catalysts for transformation, as seen in the Bhagavad Gita's guidance during Arjuna's crisis and the meditative resilience of the Buddha. In Kashmir, a land of unparalleled beauty and profound trials, adversity has inspired timeless wisdom, creativity, and endurance. The poetry of Lal Ded and Nund Rishi reveals spiritual insights born from personal and collective struggles, emphasizing inner divinity and resilience. The Sufi tradition, led by figures like Sheikh-ul-Alam, fosters love, tolerance, and transcendence amidst challenges. Kashmir's history of invasions, natural disasters, and sociopolitical upheavals has shaped a culture of profound creativity, as seen in its art, literature, and mysticism. Together, these insights highlight that failure and adversity are not merely obstacles but pathways to personal and collective growth, urging us to embrace challenges with humility, resilience, and purpose.

To redefine failure and adversity is also to recognize their relational and collective dimensions. In many cultures, failure is perceived as an individual shortcoming, while adversity is seen as a personal burden. Yet, these experiences are often deeply interconnected with societal structures and communal dynamics. A student who fails academically may be grappling with systemic issues such as inadequate resources or biased curricula. A community facing economic adversity may be constrained by historical injustices or global inequities. By shifting the focus from individual blame to collective responsibility, we create an environment where failure is not stigmatized but understood, and adversity is not endured in isolation but addressed through solidarity and systemic reform.

At a deeper level, failure and adversity challenge our fundamental notions of identity and worth. In a world that prizes achievement and perfection, they confront us with the reality of imperfection and vulnerability. This confrontation, though uncomfortable, is essential for growth. It strips away superficial markers of success and compels us to ask profound questions: Who are we when we fail?

Re-Defining The Alchemy Of Failure And Adversity

What remains when everything falls apart? These questions, far from being theoretical, touch the very core of existence. They remind us that our value is not tied to our accomplishments but to our capacity to learn, to grow, and to connect with others.

Another rare insight is the role of imagination in navigating failure and adversity. These experiences, while grounded in reality, require a leap of imagination to transcend. To reframe failure as a stepping stone or to see adversity as an opportunity demands creative thinking and a willingness

failure and adversity become integral to the journey. This broader and more inclusive definition of success fosters a culture of experimentation, resilience, and collaboration. It encourages individuals to take risks, to embrace challenges, and to see setbacks not as failures but as invaluable experiences.

In redefining failure and adversity, we move beyond the binary constructs of success and failure, weakness and strength, to enter a space rich with complexity, possibility, and depth. Each experience, no matter how daunting, holds the latent power



to envision alternative possibilities. This interplay between reality and imagination is at the heart of human innovation. It is what enables a scientist to persist after countless failed experiments, a writer to continue despite rejections, or a community to rebuild after devastation. Imagination transforms the narrative of failure and adversity from one of despair to one of hope and potential.

Essentially, redefining failure and adversity calls for a reevaluation of success itself. If success is understood narrowly as the attainment of specific goals, then failure and adversity are inevitable opposites. However, if success is redefined as the pursuit of growth, understanding, and contribution, then

to reshape our understanding of what it means to live meaningfully and authentically. This redefinition is not simply a shift in perspective—it is an act of liberation that frees us from the constraints of conventional thinking and the fear of imperfection. It teaches us that the path to enlightenment, creativity, and profound human connection is often woven through the very challenges we seek to avoid. In this timeless truth, we find the promise that failure and adversity, when approached with wisdom and courage, are not endings but gateways to something infinitely greater.

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RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

For the past few weeks, tourists and visitors from all parts of the country and abroad are massively thronging to the land of beauty and charm. They don't come to mesmerize themselves in the vast meadows and upper reaches of world famous hill station of Gulmarg, the pristine climate and high altitude snow caps of Sonamarg or the historical Mughal gardens. Instead their main choice to visit these days is Tulip Garden.

Nestled in the lap of majestic Zabarwan Hills and close to famous Cheshmashahi and Botanical Garden, The Tulip Garden is presently housing millions of vibrant and multiple coloured tulip bulbs. Developed during the reign of former chief minister of erstwhile state of Jammu Kashmir Ghulam Nabi Azad and officially recognized as Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, the garden is spread over thirty hectares of fertile land on the banks of world famous Dal Lake.

Though the shelf life of Tulip flowers is very short and soon the bulbs wither away, the rush of the visitors both local and non locals is surging with each passing day. To accommodate the heavy rush of people intending to visit and ensuring their seamless tour, civil and police administration of city is finding it challenging to control the vehicular and other traffic on the boulevard road and other roads leading to the garden, at times one way traffic is only allowed during peak hours to minimize the traffic jam. As per some media reports, 81452 visitors toured this garden in a single day, marking it as the preferred choice among the visitors during the ongoing spring season of valley. This has boosted our tourism sector besides raising the economy of the region. According to some online news portal, in just fifteen days, Asia's largest tulip garden has surpassed the previous record of footfall.

Featured in the World book of records, the garden is showcasing 1.7 tulips of 74 varieties, drawing massive crowds from across the globe. This achievement reaffirms the garden's global appeal and its significant role in promoting the valley's growing tourism potential.

Soon after the culmination of February each year, people of the valley long for the opening of

Spring Symphony: Tulips Bring Tourists and Smiles to Kashmir

Tulip garden, as it offers the recreational avenues with spring season knocking the doors of the valley. It marks the end of the extremely shivering winter season. This year after being thrown open by the honorable chief minister, a record number of visitors have paid a visit.



Enthusiasm and eagerness among the visitors is evident from their passion to take photographs and selfies in the garden, uploading them on social media and attending the festivities there. Valley's famous hot traditional green tea Kehwa is served there to attract huge crowds besides popularizing the centuries old staple beverage.

The enchanting scenes and charm of the Tulip garden, has encouraged administration and locals to go for more such gardens. As a result many gardens were developed which too attract

both local and non-locals tourists. At Pulwama, Kokernag Anantnag and Udhampur, the newly developed Tulip gardens spread over several kanals of land house many varieties of tulips. People of the area are expressing their utmost desire to develop these gardens at par with the

too eagerly await the arrival of local and foreign visitors during the summer season.

Although the least snowfall during this winter couldn't attract a pleasing number of tourists and skiers, the winter festival and winter Games at Gulmarg were delayed, yet we expect a great

Soon after the culmination of February each year, people of the valley long for the opening of Tulip garden, as it offers the recreational avenues with spring season knocking the doors of the valley. It marks the end of the extremely shivering winter season. This year after being thrown open by the honorable chief minister, a record number of visitors have paid a visit.

number of tourists to visit here during summer. It will help in strengthening our economy as well as exchange of ideas and cultural traditions. As hosts, we appeal to the people of the globe not to restrict yourself to Tulip garden only, Kashmir has a lot to offer, and our world famous health resorts and hill stations always welcome you.

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Div Com Kashmir reviews action plan of works for SANJY-2025

SRINAGAR: In order to ensure top notch facilities for Yatris during the forthcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Friday convened a meeting to review the action plan of works of line departments and concerned district administrations.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Bandipora & Ganderbal besides Director Tourism, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director ULB, Director CAPD, Labour Commissioner, Chief Engineers of R&B, KPDCI; officers of SMC, Information, PHE, I&FC, Ayush, Pahalgam Development Authority, Sonmarg Development Authority, etc.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed Departments to submit action plans for SANJY-25

urgently, and initiate the process of floating of tenders so



that the works shall be completed within the stipulated

time. Keeping in view the railway connectivity, Div Com directed Deputy Commissioners for creating temporary additional facilities at Railway Station Anantnag and Budgam to accommodate and ferry pilgrims.

He urged departments including Health, KPDCI and PHE to frame work plans for these stations also to ensure smooth delivery of respective services.

He instructed the Director Tourism to make the accommodation of the department at Budgam Railway station available to district administration for utilization during yatra.

Div Com enjoined DC Anantnag for creating the facilities of appropriate number of RFID registration counters in the district.

He also urged DCs for keeping funds for unforeseen exigencies to address issues urgently and efficiently.

Govt focuses on boosting entrepreneurship, employment: Deputy Chief Minister

Reviews functioning of Labour and Employment department

Jammu: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, convened a comprehensive meeting to review the functioning of Labour and Employment department, here today.

Secretary Labour and Employment, Rajiv Ranjan, Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh, Deputy Labour Commissioner, Assistant Labour Commissioners of Jammu division and other officers were present during the meeting.

The Department gave a power point presentation highlighting its progress and achievements under various schemes. He apprised that the department intends to establish 1.5 lakh nano entrepreneurship which are under Rs 10 lakh and need no collateral from the applicant as overall budget for Mission YUVA is Rs 1830 crore.

The Dy CM had district wise review of all the schemes besides assessing the hindrances in desirable outcomes of the initiatives. The Dy CM, while highlighting the need for creating awareness about various labour welfare schemes being implemented by the Government, said that the same will help in

ensuring the benefit percolates to the targeted population.

He asked the officers to regularly hold awareness camps so that the information about the

and employment," he added.

He also directed for undertaking regular inspection of various business establishments so that the welfare of workers



benefits of different schemes is properly disseminated. "The officers should ensure that these camps are holistic, so that massive participation of stakeholders is ensured", he maintained.

He asked the concerned officials to motivate the individuals and create supportive environment for all businesses to thrive besides focusing on capacity building.

Surinder Choudhary reiterated government's commitment to establish J&K as a thriving hub of enterprises and holistic employment by fostering entrepreneurship culture. "Government's prime focus is on boosting entrepreneurship

is ensured. He said that there should be no laxity whenever a violation is observed.

He asked the officers to conduct regular inspections of Industrial Estates, Hotels, Factories and other business establishments to gather feedback on production units besides the facilities and working conditions of human resource engaged there.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister met several deputations who projected their issues and sought redressal of the same

Surinder Choudhary assured them that the Government would ensure time bound redressal of their issues.

Tourism Deptt to host Baisakhi festival at Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Department of Tourism is hosting Baisakhi festival with prominent singers and a confluence of cultural displays at Zabarwan Park Srinagar.

The celebration will kick-start on April 13 at 5 PM with throwback bhangra and cultural dance while the crowd will witness live performances of Shafi Sopor, Qazi Touqeer, Owais Pandit and others.

The participants will also relish local cuisine and Punjabi foods to enjoy the vibrant festival of Baisakhi with ecstasy.

The event aims to boost tourism and promote cultural diversity of different communities and unite people through mutual celebration of festivals.

SKUAST-K, AICRP on Seed (NSP) distribute Quality Seed among Tribal Farmers at KVK Budgam

BUDGAM: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam in collaboration with AICRP on Seed (Crops) NSP, Shalimar SKUAST Kashmir today organized an input distribution programme under Tribal Sub-Plan at KVK Budgam.

About 50 tribal farmers of village Lobran, Khag Block received 10q of high yielding SKUAST-K released variety of paddy seed (SR4) and Seed bins (50).

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension SKUAST-K, chief guest on the occasion, stressed the need for adoption and dissemination of the high yielding university-released variety of Paddy.

Explaining about the benefits of the SR4 paddy variety, Director Extension, SKUAST-K said that the variety is climate resilient, less susceptible to diseases and has the potential to tolerate adverse weather conditions.

She also briefed the farmers about the role of SKUAST-K in augmenting research in agriculture to facilitate the farming community in the valley.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone (Prof. & Head KVK Budgam) briefed the tribal farmers about the role of KVK Budgam in facilitating agriculture and allied activities in the district through on farm trials, front line demonstrations and skill-based training/awareness programmes.

He encouraged the farmers to avail the services of the Kendra for more profitable farming.

Dr. Gowhar Ali (Assoc. Prof. NSP) and Dr. Aflak Hamid (Assoc. Prof. NSP) deliberated upon the Package of Practices to be adopted for the SR4 variety.

Scientists and technical staff of KVK Budgam and NSP also attended the programme.

Forest Department organizes workshop for Forest Services aspirants in North Kashmir

SRINAGAR: In continuation to its efforts aimed at capacity building of Forest Services aspirants, a one day workshop titled 'Strategies and Approaches for Qualifying Indian Forest Examination' was today held at the North Forest Headquarters at Mazbugh Sopore.

The training cum workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from forest services aspirants from Baramulla, Kupwara, Ganderbal and Budgam districts.

Conservator of Forests (CoF), Kashmir North Circle, Irfan Ali Shah in his address spoke at length about the immense potential of local youth and the significance of increasing awareness about the Indian Forest Service.

CoF encouraged aspirants to pursue careers in the green sector with passion, commitment, and integrity. He underscored the department's need for young, dynamic officers for ensuring good governance and a sustainable future.

Civil society and local residents expressed optimism that the Department would continue organizing such initiatives in the future as well.

Traffic enforcement drive conducted at Gujjar Nagar

JAMMU: A joint enforcement drive was carried out today at Gujjar Nagar by officers from the District Administration, Motor Vehicle Department, Police and Traffic Police to check traffic violations, particularly the issue of wrong parking which often causes congestion in the area.

During the drive, around 100 vehicles were checked, resulting in 26 challans issued for various offences. A total of 11 vehicles were also seized on the spot. The expected fine collection from the challans stands at 60,000.

The enforcement team included Tehsildar Jammu Khas Paramdeep Singh, ARTO Jammu Mohd Saleem Manhas, DTI Arjun, SHO Peer Mitha Raza Ali, MVI Azad Hussain, along with supporting staff from the concerned departments.

It is informed that such drives will continue in the coming days to ensure smoother traffic movement and enhanced road safety.

Commissioner SMC reviews progress under PMAY-U 2.0

SRINAGAR: Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0).

The meeting focused on intensifying efforts to provide 'Housing for All' and ensuring that the benefits of the scheme reach the intended urban poor and homeless populations.

A key outcome of the discussion was the directive to conduct ward-wise intensive beneficiary identification camps across the city.

Commissioner emphasized the importance of transparency and inclusivity in the implementation process and instructed the teams to ensure proper field verification and documentation for each identified beneficiary.

He also called for enhanced inter-departmental coordination and public outreach to raise

awareness about the scheme. on ground. Special attention was



"Every eligible person must be given the opportunity to live in a dignified and secure home. The goal of 'Housing for All' is inclusive urban development, and we must act swiftly and efficiently to achieve this target," said Dr. Owais.

Commissioner directed the teams to expedite pending approvals, fast-track the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), and closely monitor the progress

given in ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable groups such as women-led households, SC/ST families, and persons with disabilities.

The meeting concluded with a strong call to action to intensify implementation efforts under PMAY-U 2.0 and to make Srinagar a model city for inclusive housing.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the senior officials of the Corporation.

Market inspections conducted in Srinagar to check quality of food items

SRINAGAR: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, a Food Safety Team today conducted intensive inspections of various food outlets in Hazratbal area of the District.

During the inspection, some street vendors in Hazratbal market were found violating provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act.

These violations included Temperature Control; High-risk food was exposed to temperature danger zones. Environmental Protection: High-risk food was not protected from environmental hazards.

At Hazratbal market about 7 FBOs were found operating in insanitary/ unhygienic conditions and improper handling of High Risk foods. Accordingly challan was submitted before Adjudicating Officer (ADC) Srinagar for violating various provisions of the Food Safety Act.

The Srinagar Food Safety Team led by Assistant Commissioner, Yameen ul Nabi has been working to strengthen its



intelligence network to gather information about unhygienic or misbranded food items. This initiative aims to enhance food safety enforcement in District Srinagar.

Those Food Business Operators especially dealing with High Risk food are directed to maintain high standards of sanitary and Hygiene conditions of their establishments failing which strict action under FSS Act will be initiated against defaulters.

The Food Safety Team actively made food business operators aware of food safety laws. They were cautioned that strict action will be taken against violators.

Meanwhile, taking cognizance of the viral video that surfaced on social media yesterday, the Food Safety team inspected a meat shop in Hazratbal.

The shop was found to be non-operational for over 10 years, as confirmed by locals and the shopkeeper. However, the owner was discovered to be running a street vending business selling chicken, potentially storing equipment like wooden logs and knives within the shop premises.

SMC conducts demolition drive in Shalteng, Maloora areas

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation today launched a demolition drive in Ward 25 and Ward 26, targeting unauthorized and illegal constructions in the Shalteng and Maloora areas.

This initiative carried out on the directions of Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed and supervised by the Enforcement Officer for Zone West, aims to reinforce municipal regulations and curb illegal building activities.

During the demolition drive, several unauthorized structures were dismantled, highlighting the SMC's commitment to maintaining urban order.

The corporation strongly urges residents to obtain the necessary building permissions before undertaking any construction work.

Commissioner Dr. Owais Ahmed said, "We reiterate our appeal to the general public to adhere to legal processes and secure prior approvals from the competent authority to avoid punitive measures."

SMC has increased its vigilance across Srinagar city and warns that violations of building norms will result in strict action.

Progress of JJM, HADP schemes reviewed at Handwara

KUPWARA: In order to ensure timely completion of works under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and saturation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in sub district Handwara, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi Friday chaired a series of meetings with concerned officers, here.

While chairing the meeting of PHE officers, the ADC impressed upon the concerned engineers to speed up the pace of work and ensure completion of all ongoing JJM schemes in the sub district to mitigate the water supply issues of people of various areas.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion regarding the status of various ongoing water supply schemes coming up in different areas of PHE division Handwara.

It was informed that 10 schemes have been completed under JJM in the sub district besides, out of the total 122 allotted works pertaining to construction of Bore wells/Tube wells/Dug wells, OHTs, RSFPs, GSRs/Pipe Network, 59 works stands completed and work is in progress on the rest of the projects.

The ADC chaired a separate meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other schemes of the Agriculture department.

He enjoined upon the officers to ensure awareness of the HADP scheme at grassroots level so that maximum beneficiaries are covered and benefitted under the ambitious scheme targeted for upliftment and welfare of the farmer community.



ACS Education reviews upcoming college admissions, NEP 2020

JAMMU: The Higher Education Department today convened a high level meeting in the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, under the chairmanship of Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Education.

The meeting was attended by Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, Deans of Academic Affairs and Registrars from the University of Kashmir, University of Jammu, Cluster University Jammu and Cluster University Srinagar besides Principals of autonomous colleges, Government College for Women, Parade Jammu, GDC Baramulla and Islamia College of Science and Commerce, Srinagar.

The deliberations centered on critical issues pertaining to undergraduate admissions for the upcoming 2025-26 academic year and crucial progression of students to the 4th year under the transformative National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 besides other NEP related initiatives.

The meeting took several decisions aimed to smoothen the admission process for upcoming UG 2025-26 admissions. It was decided that the Universities across the Union Territory will formulate and implement statutory provisions by the end of this month, facilitating lateral entry for eligible polytechnic students into the 2nd year (3rd semester) of Four Year Undergraduate Program of Degree Colleges.

It was decided that admissions would continue to be granted through both CUET and non-CUET modes, aligning with established practices. However, timelines will be thoroughly reviewed and optimized to ensure greater student convenience and accessibility. In order to optimize the process, Director Colleges will

coordinate and oversee the admission process, working in close liaison with the universities to ensure strict adherence to stipulated timelines.

All the universities are mandated to establish statutory mechanisms and guidelines as provisioned under NEP 2020 for multiple exit options at the end of the 1st and 2nd year, providing students with greater portability. Besides, the Universities shall come up with an implementation plan in terms of requirement of additional credits for award of Certificate or Diploma.



It was further decided that the Director Colleges, Higher Education Department, will undertake a reclassification of colleges based on admission grant criteria on CUET or NON-CUET, pre informing students and institutions, so that aspirants seek admissions without any ambiguity.

The ACS asked for ensuring that the admission process is completed well within the time to ensure adherence to the academic calendar. He said that the admissions should be centralized at the directorate level, instructing the Director Colleges to start the process of developing a robust centralized admission system. The meeting also took decisions regarding progression of students to 4th Year of NEP in Honours and Research Mode and finalisation of the statutory provisions by the Universities for admission to 4th year

under the Honours and Honours with Research programs. The exercise is to be completed by the month end to ensure smooth transition to 4th Year for enrolled students.

It was decided that the transition to the 4th year will be implemented in a phased and calibrated manner. The students will be duly informed about the modalities of transfer from various degree colleges to facilitate their pursuit of quality research and Honors programs. It was clarified that 4th Year programs will be offered at selected institutions, necessitating the student mobility across institutions.

The ACS instructed the Universities to finalise statutory provisions without delay to facilitate the identification and offering of courses through the SWAYAM platform, thereby enhancing credit transferability and providing students with greater academic flexibility. An Action Taken Report, in this regard, will be submitted by the HEIs to the Higher Education Department by the month end, he added.

He affirmed the department's commitment towards coordinating with the National Testing Agency (NTA) at the highest level, to ensure that CUET examination is conducted with an increased number of centers within the UT with enhanced facilities.

Shantmanu reiterated that the Higher Education Department is committed towards taking all necessary steps to facilitate the smooth and effective implementation of NEP 2020 and to continuously improve the quality of higher education in Jammu and Kashmir. He appreciated the role of Universities in implementation of NEP for the undergraduate students.

PART I

The Jewish Dimension of Jerusalem in the Hellenistic-Hasmonean Period



YAMIN MOHAMMAD MUNSHI

The Second Temple period witnessed a series of efforts aimed at defining Jerusalem as the quintessential Jewish city by emphasizing its uniqueness and particularity. Ezra and Nehemiah's attempts to separate the city and its population from the surrounding regions and peoples was a religious policy which reflected Judaea's geographical and political isolation; this policy would be advocated by other authors and

Hasmonean hegemony were, in fact, reclaiming their ancestral homeland and, in fact, were obliged to eliminate all pagan worship. This led to the destruction of pagan shrines and, at times, to the death or exile of native populations. Ironically, it was precisely at this time that the institution of conversion first made its appearance in a Jewish context, as the Hasmoneans forced conversion upon the idumeans in the south and the Itureans in the north

3. The Hasmonean era witnessed an enhanced prominence of the Temple in Jewish life. The Hasmoneans rose to power as defenders of the Temple and its purity from foreign cults, and this achievement played a central role in their court propaganda, as indicated by II Maccabees and the letters prefacing that book. Brief references in I Maccabees and Josephus indicate that each and every Hasmonean ruler devoted energy and funds to improving and strengthening the Temple and its surroundings.

world was radically different from the Jerusalem of Ezra and Nehemiah. Alexander had married a Persian princess and compelled his officers and soldiers to wed Persian women. The message here was loud and clear: isolation, insulation, and estrangement were to be rejected; a meeting of cultures-symbiosis, synthesis, and even syncretism-were the order of the day. This, of course, is a far cry from the mass-divorce from non-Jewish spouses by members of the Jerusalem aristocracy that was advocated by Ezra and Nehemiah. Moreover, what had been of marginal significance before Alexander became much more central after his conquest.

The impact of Hellenism on the ~r East in general, and on Judaea and Jerusalem in particular, was considerable. From the very beginning of this era, there are indications of Jerusalem's .. participation in the life of the wider Hellenistic world, such as its diplomatic relations with Sparta, which developed

der, Diodorus, Apollonius, Eupolemus, Antiochus, Numenius, Antiochus, Jason, Antipater, and Aeneas.

Under Hasmonean rule (141-63 B.C.E.), instances of Hellenization within Jerusalem became more commonplace. The document in I Mace. 14, recording the public appointment of Simon as leader, high priest, and strategos, is written in a style strikingly reminiscent of documents from the Hellenistic world. The structure of this declaration, the claims put forward to justify and explain this appointment, the use of purple robes and gold ornaments by the Hasmoneans, the dating of an era commencing with Simon's appointment, and, finally, recording the text of this document on bronze tablets and placing them in a prominent place in the Temple area and in the (Temple?) treasury are well-known Hellenistic practices.

Beginning with the second generation, the Hasmoneans began adopting Greek names in addition to



sects down to the end of the Second Temple era. We have the testimonies of a number of Greek writers from the early Hellenistic period indicating the relative success of this policy.

Hecataeus of Abdera, for instance, describes the uniqueness of Jerusalem, its Temple, and people, as well as the success of Jewish society in preserving its ancestral traditions. Ben Sira advocates a similar posture, and the agenda of the second century Hasidim seems to have had an intensive Jewish focus.

Moreover, during these three centuries, between Ezra and Nehemiah on the one hand and the Hasmoneans on the other, a number of practices and literary works evolved which clearly expressed a particularistic social and religious thrust. This proclivity was expressed early on in a variety of ways, from banning foreign merchants on the Sabbath, emphasizing the use of Hebrew, to driving out foreign wives. The division of the Jewish population into priestly mishmarot and lay ma'amadot, each with semi-annual obligations in the Temple, also seems to have evolved at this time, as did a series of haidimic requirements, such as spending the "second tithe" in the city four times every seven years.

The emergence of apocalyptic literature in the third and second centuries is a further expression of Jewish particularism, as was the newly established centrality of the Torah in Jewish religious life, a centrality which found expression in Sabbath and festival communal-reading frameworks that crystallized during this period. This introversive focus on the Jewish body polity was given a dramatic boost in the mid-second century B.C.E., with the ascendance of the Hasmoneans and the establishment of a sovereign state boasting ambitious territorial designs.

Among the most prominent changes effected, the following may be noted:

1. The Hasmoneans radically altered the geographical concept of Eretz Israel to include almost all of the territory west of the Jordan River and .. large tracts to its east; for the 400-or-so years beforehand, Jewish Judaea included only the region around Jerusalem, which .. was more or less contiguous with the Persian administrative region, Yehud.
2. Concomitant with the successful conquests, there crystallized an ideology that the Jews under

4. Together with the above campaigns to ban idolatry and reemphasize the Temple's prominence came a greater emphasis on matters of ritual purity within Jewish society. This new focus found expression in many of the halakhic decisions ascribed in our sources to the early Pharisees and the Qumran community. In the material culture, this emphasis is evident in the appearance of ritual baths (miqva'ot), and this tendency is further underscored by the almost exclusive use of local (as against imported) ware and by the more frequent recourse to using the ashes of a red heifer, intended for purification from corpse impurity. This rare sacrifice was reportedly offered seven times (five, according to another tradition) from the Hasmonean period onward, i.e., in the last two hundred years of the Second Temple period. Only two cases are noted for the previous millennium.

5. Jewish art underwent a radical change at this time, and was now characterized by the studious avoidance of any figural representation, either human or animal. Up to this point, such depictions were not uncommon in Jewish circles, from the cherubs over the holy ark and the lions of Solomon's throne, to the figurines found in Israelite settlements and the human and animal images on Yehud coins from Persian and Hellenistic Jerusalem. The magnificent Tobiad palace in Iraq el-Amir (between Jericho and Amman), dating from the early second century B.C.E., is adorned with majestic figures of eagles and lions carved in stone. However, commencing under the Hasmoneans and continuing for some three centuries, human and animal representations were not to be found in Judaea. Exceptions to this rule exist, but they are few and far between.

6. Finally, the emergence of Jewish sects-e.g., Pharisees, Sadducees, and Essenes (including the Qumran community as well), each with its own particular religious agenda-is a further indication of a more concerted Jewish emphasis at this time, at least within certain circles.

Understanding the Jewish component of Second Temple Jerusalem is necessary for an understanding of the city and its workings-necessary but not sufficient in and of itself. Another force at work in the wake of, and even before, Alexander's conquests of the East was Hellenistic culture, and this dimension was to shape the city profoundly.

The social and cultural message of the Hellenistic

in the third and second centuries (B.C.E. or its use of imported Rhodian wine, as attested by the discovery of hundreds of stamped amphora handles dating from the mid-third to the late second centuries B.C.E. Several books written or edited in the third century B.C.E., e.g., Ecclesiastes (Qohelet) and the Song of Songs, appear to reflect either Hellenistic genres (in the case of the latter) or the questioning of traditional Jewish values resulting, inter alia, from the impact of Hellenistic culture (in the case of the former). Contrastingly, a number of other books written at about this time express opposition to certain hellenizing tendencies, as, for example, Ben Sira and jubilees, although even these exhibit a certain measure of outside influence. The piece de resistance of Hellenization in Judaea, occurred in 175 B.C.E., when the high priest Jason con-erted Jerusalem into a Gr-ek polis replete with gymnasium and ephebeum (II Mace. 4). Whether this step represents the culmination of a 150-year process of Hellenization in Jerusalem, or whether it was the initiative of only a small coterie of Jerusalem priests with no wider cultural or social ramifications, has been debated for decades.

The answer may well lie somewhere between these two polar positions. In any event, Jason's move constituted a bold step in the city's adaptation to the wider world, a process which would be interrupted-albeit only temporarily-by the persecutions of Antiochus IV and the resultant Maccabean revolt. A further stage in the Hellenization process took place under Hasmonean rule. The motivation of the Hasmonean revolt has often been misunderstood. It has been contended that this revolt came in protest to the process and progress of Hellenization in Judaea, but this is patently not the case. The Maccabees revolted in response to the persecutions imposed by the king-a most exceptional policy for an enlightened Hellenistic king. It was an extreme measure and was undoubtedly motivated by the most unusual of circumstances, although there is little scholarly agreement as to precisely what these were.

Following their victory, the Hasmoneans themselves quickly adopted Hellenistic mores; they instituted holidays celebrating military victories (Nicanor Day on the 13th of Adar), as did the Greeks; they signed treaties with Rome and forged close alliances with the upper strata of Jerusalem society, whose hellenized proclivities are attested by names such as Alexan-

The emergence of apocalyptic literature in the third and second centuries is a further expression of Jewish particularism, as was the newly established centrality of the Torah in Jewish religious life, a centrality which found expression in Sabbath and festival communal-reading frameworks that crystallized during this period. This introversive focus on the Jewish body polity was given a dramatic boost in the mid-second century B.C.E., with the ascendance of the Hasmoneans and the establishment of a sovereign state boasting ambitious territorial designs.

their Hebrew ones: John Hyrcanus I (134-104 B.C.E.), Aristobulus I (104-103 B.C.E.), Alexander Jannaeus (103-76 B.C.E.), Salome Alexandra (76-67 B.C.E.), Aristobulus II (67-63 B.C.E.), Hyrcanus II (63-40 B.C.E.), and, finally, Antigonus (40-37 B.C.E.). Hellenization in the Hasmonean court is likewise reflected by the hiring of foreign mercenaries and, more poignantly, by the assumption of royalty by Aristobulus I, Alexander Jannaeus, and Aristobulus II. No less telling in this regard is the sole rule of a queen, Salome Alexandra. Her smooth and unchallenged succession may well have been facilitated by contemporary Ptolemaic practice. Several burial monuments and graves discovered in Hasmonean Jerusalem similarly reflect a significant appropriation of Hellenistic forms.

The two principal remains of such funerary monuments, the priestly Bnei JIezir tomb from the Qidron Valley to the east of the city and Jason's tomb (also probably belonging to a priestly family) to the west (in today's Re)avia neighborhood), were both built in typical Hellenistic fashion - the former with its facade in classic Doric style (columns, pilasters, and frieze), the latter with its single Doric column and pyramid-like monument. Both tombs feature kukhim (or loculi, rectangular niches cut perpendicularly into the tomb's wall for primary burials), a burial arrangement which reached Judaea from Alexandria and Palestine's southern coastal region (e.g., Marisa).

The tomb of Jason features scenes of merchant and warships, a gazelle, as well as a series of menorah graffiti. Both of these tombs feature a variety of inscriptions, one in Hebrew in the Bnei Hezir tomb, and Greek and Aramaic ones in Jason's tomb. The tiny bronze coins minted by the Hasmoneans are a fascinating example of the cultural synthesis of Hellenistic and Jewish traditions. The very issuance of coins for economic and political purposes clearly reflects contemporary practice of both established kingdoms and newly-founded political entities seeking recognition and legitimacy.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Continued From P1...

Army stands

have taken place — three in Kathua, one in Udhampur, and one in Kishtwar district. Two terrorists and four policemen were killed, while three cops including a DSP were injured, in an encounter on March 27.

Security has been beefed up along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, with increased frisking of people and vehicle checks, officials said. (Agencies)

One More

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

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

Two other constituents of Hurriyat — Jammu and Kashmir Tahreeqi Isteqlal and Jammu and Kashmir Tahreek-I-Istiqamat — had also announced their disassociation from the amalgam.

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

J&K will

About the protest held by Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) against the Waqf Act, Abdullah said, “It is a good thing. This is a free country.”

He also congratulated the Government of India for bringing back the mastermind of 26/11 Mumbai attack accused, Tahawwur Rana. However, he questioned the centre on its promises of bringing back the black money and providing Rs 15 to every citizen.

“At least they have brought someone back,” he said while congratulating the Centre for extraditing Rana to India from the United States. He asked what happened to the promises of bringing back the black money and providing Rs 15 lakh to every citizen—(KNO)

Saudi Govt’s visa

accommodation areas,” the official noted. As for the current status of Hajj preparations from Jammu & Kashmir, over 3,600 pilgrims are scheduled to perform Hajj this year under the government quota. Their orientation and training programmes are currently underway, and vaccination drives will be completed in the coming days.

As per the tour operators, the temporary suspension of visas by Saudi Arabia does not impact Hajj pilgrims, who are travelling to Saudi Arabia strictly for Hajj and have secured Hajj visas.

As per the officials, the early travel restrictions comes after the tragedy during the 2024 Hajj pilgrimage, where over 1,000 people were killed—(KNO)

JK likely to

However, after six years, the peak power demand in the year 2021-22 had increased by 401 MW. In this fiscal, Jammu and Kashmir was having an actual power demand of 3076 MW.

Earlier this news agency had reported that in the past nine years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed an average annual increase of 3.60 percent in electric power purchases while the growth stands at only 2.45 percent.

An official had said, “Over the past years from 2016-17 to 2024-25, Jammu and Kashmir has experienced an average annual increase of 3.60 percent in electric power purchases, as per extrapolated data.”

“When considered on a per capita basis, the growth rate stands at 2.45 percent per year, reflecting the region’s increasing energy demand. This growth is also in line with the region’s population increase, which has been growing at an annual rate of 2.14 percent during the same period,” the official had said—(KNO)

ACB register

supplementary deeds thereby abused their official positions,” reads the statement.

Verification further revealed that as per Board of Directors decision dated 01.03.2006 for extending pension benefit to said Brij Bhushan Sharma Ex. MD, it was decided that Rs. 15 lakhs will be deposited with the post office as pension fund out of which 50% contribution will be made by J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation and 50% contribution by him, it reads.

“The 50% share (i.e., Rs. 7.50 lakhs) to be paid

by him was to be released in his favour by the Corporation which was to be refunded by him from his retirement dues. Only Rs. 1.50 lakhs stands recovered/deposited by him during the year 2022-23. Apart from, no effective steps have been taken by present Managing Director of Corporation to recover the balance amount from his monthly pension dues.”

“As per housing loan of Rs 23 lakhs drawn from time to time and repayment made by Brij Bhushan Sharma, Ex. MD, an amount of Rs 36,40,375.50 alongwith interest as on 31.03.2023 is still outstanding against him. Further, regarding the Advance of Rs 7.50 lakhs drawn by him against pension scheme, an amount of Rs 18,99,266 alongwith interest as on 31.03.2023 is still outstanding against him,” the statement added.

“The probe conducted further revealed that Bharat Bhushan, present Managing Director of J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation Ltd. who took charge after retirement of Brij Bhushan, Ex. Managing Director in the year 2006 did not take any effective steps/legal action to recover the amount drawn by Brij Bhushan, thereby shown criminal silence on his part. The concerned officers/officials in league with beneficiary facilitated the drawl of housing loan without following specified procedure as well as maintained criminal silence by violating corporation rules and did not take necessary steps as envisaged to recover the long pending dues including housing loan and pension advance from the defaulter, as a result of which a loss to the tune of Rs. 55,39,641.50 (including interest) has been caused to Government exchequer,” it said, adding that further investigation of the instant case is going on—(KNO)

NIA court

The 64-year-old Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman — a close associate of key Mumbai terror attacks conspirator David Coleman Headley alias Daood Gilani (a US citizen) — would also be questioned on his suspected links with the officials of Pakistan spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and his exact role behind the attack, the sources said.

Notably, Rana’s custodial interrogation, as per KNO, comes at a time when senior Maharashtra-cadre Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sadanand Vasant Date is at the helm of the NIA. Date, who was then posted as an Additional Commissioner of Police in Mumbai when 10 terrorists struck the country’s financial capital, had received serious injuries in the terror attack.

Rana is charged with numerous offenses, including conspiracy, murder, commission of a terrorist act, and forgery in the country.

It may be recalled soon after taking over as the President of United States for second time, Donald Trump in February this year had confirmed 26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana’s extradition to India and said that he was pleased to announce that Rana is “going back to India to face justice.

During the joint press meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi after their bilateral meeting, Trump had said. “I am pleased to announce that my administration has approved the extradition of one of the plotters (Tahawwur Rana) and one of the very evil people of the world, having to do with the horrific 2008 Mumbai terrorist attack to face justice in India.”

“He is going back to India to face justice,” he had said—(KNO)

Three terrorists

Earlier Indian Army had said that one terrorist was killed during the fresh gunfight at the operation site.

“Op Chhatru, Based on specific #intelligence, a joint search and destroy #operation along with @jpkp was launched on 09 Apr in #Chhatru forest #Kishtwar. Contact was established late evening on the same day. The #terrorists were effectively engaged, and a firefight ensued.

One #terrorist has thus far been neutralised. Despite hostile terrain & adverse weather, relentless operations by our #brave #Soldiers continues,” said the Indian Army.

The twin encounters between security forces and terrorists started on April 9 at Kishtwar and Udhampur districts. Both operations have been on since. More deployment was brought in at the Kishtwar encounter site to make sure the terrorists didn’t flee from the spot. Security forces believe there could be few more terrorists holed up at

the operation site.

One More operation is being carried out by security forces in the Udhampur district. A brief gunfight between security forces and terrorists took place on April 9 and since then security forces have been carrying out the search operation in the area.

Security forces have also pushed in drones and choppers to look for the hiding terrorists in the forest area. Security forces not only have been dealing with the dense forest ranges but also the bad weather conditions. It’s been raining across various parts of the Union Territory for the last few days.

Sharper probes

and facilitate their speedy trial and disposal, he added. He also directed that a police station-wise review of all NDPS cases be carried out regularly to strengthen the quality of prosecution and enhance conviction rates.

The Chief Secretary also took stock of various FIRs registered years ago in different police stations that remain pending for final disposal. He asked the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to personally monitor the progress on such cases and ensure investigations are concluded without any further delay.

The Chief Secretary raised concerns over underutilization of court time in handling NDPS cases, often due to gaps in the investigation process. He emphasized the need to identify these lacunae and hold officials accountable, particularly in instances where defective charge sheets (challans) delay or derail the judicial process. He asked the Police Department to closely examine whether procedural delays or poor-quality investigations were causing bail or acquittals, especially in serious cases involving commercial quantities of narcotics.

Recognizing the evolving nature of drug trafficking networks, Dulloo called for strengthening the intelligence-gathering mechanism to identify and apprehend key players involved in the drug trade. He advised the Police Department to utilize its intelligence network effectively to detect patterns, identify repeat offenders, and track supply chains.

In cases involving habitual or organized drug traffickers, he suggested invoking the provisions related to organized crime or Sec 346 of BNSS to effectively dismantle syndicates and create a strong deterrent in the society against drug trade.

The Chief Secretary expressed concern over the vulnerability of border districts to cross-border drug smuggling, particularly from neighbouring regions. He directed the concerned authorities to maintain heightened vigil in these areas and increase surveillance activities with several other measures to detect the involvement of locals in this illicit trade.

Dulloo also instructed that unauthorized drug de-addiction centres be identified and penalized heavily for violating norms. Additionally, he emphasized strict monitoring of chemist shops to ensure that no contraband substances are sold without valid prescription or authorization.

Highlighting the delays in trial due to pending forensic reports, Dulloo instructed the Forensic Science Laboratory to expedite the analysis and reporting of samples collected under NDPS cases. He asserted that early submission of forensic evidence plays a pivotal role in the timely conclusion of trials.

Reiterating the importance of community engagement, Dulloo called for continuous IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) campaigns to raise awareness among the masses, particularly the youth, about the harmful effects of drug abuse. He said such campaigns must reach even the remotest corners of the UT to prevent young people from falling prey to this life-destroying menace. While speaking in the meeting, Director General of Police, Nalin Prabhat, emphasized upon adopting if ‘whole if government approach’ to successfully nip this evil from the society. He made out that the law enforcement agencies can not be successful without the active support of other government departments and responsible citizens.

In his remarks, Principal Secretary Home, Chandraker Bharti, made out that the quality of investigation can further be improved to further increase conviction rates. He also favours making of appeals in genuine cases and handing over of big value cases to NCB/ED for more professional investigation and better outcomes.

The DG, Prosecution and ADGP, CID along with other senior officers including Divisional Commissioners, IGP, Kashmir/Jammu also gave their viewpoints to curb this menace in a more efficient manner. Some of the Deputy Commissioners/District SSPs also made their presentations highlighting the action taken by them to get rid off this drug abuse in their districts.

The meeting noted that enforcement agencies have registered significant cases and arrests over the

past two years with some 1,514 cases registered in 2024 and 2,260 arrests made and 274 detentions under the NDPS Act.

For the first Quarter of 2025 (Jan-Mar), it was added that 464 cases had been registered till date with 637 arrests and 76 detentions, with 31 cases involving commercial quantities the properties of drug dealers worth Rs 12 Cr stands attached by the authorities.

Regarding the destruction of illicit crops and conduct of awareness programs, the meeting was informed that in 2023-2024, poppy cultivation on 273 acres of poppy and cannabis on 1,642 acres was destroyed. In addition, over 1,903 programmes on public awareness conducted across the districts, with Kupwara/Handwara leading at 347 events.

As far as the training and fixing of accountability is concerned, it was revealed that 195 training sessions were conducted since 2022, training 4,267 officers. It was further divulged that 27 departmental inquiries were initiated in 2024 against the IOs, with 16 punishments awarded including censures and withheld increments.

About the treatment facilities, the meeting was apprised that around 20 Addiction Treatment Facilities are functional across the UT (11 in Kashmir, 9 in Jammu). It was given out that 2,332 new patients were registered, with 77,382 follow-up visits recorded for the first quarter of 2025 in these treatment centres.

Besides, the Police and Social Welfare Departments run facilities reported 1,762 fresh OPD cases and 450 IPD admissions in 2024.

Moreover, the IPD services will be expanded

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Bank account No: 0976040210000603, my name has been mentioned as Ulfat Bano, W/O Mudasir Aziz, R/O Garoora, Dar Mohalla, Bandipora, while as my Actual and correct name as per my Aadhaar Card is Ulfat Begum, W/O Mudasir Aziz Dar, R/O Garoora 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 Garoora Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Ulfat Begum.
W/O Mudasir Aziz Dar.
R/O Garoora Bandipora.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216020001090, which is Registered in the name of Sonaulah Bhat, S/O Ab Rehman Bhat. Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Qamar Uddin Bhat, S/O Abdul Rasheed Bhat, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Kaloosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Qamar Uddin Bhat.
S/O Abdul Rasheed Bhat.
R/O Watapora Bandipora. Dated- 12-04-2025.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the parantege of my Son has been Mistakenly Mentioned in his school records as Mohammad Rafeeq Awan Gojer, while as his Actual and correct parantege is Mohammad Rafiq Awan Gojar. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Headmaster GOVT Boys Middle school Chattibani Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mohammad Rafiq Awan Gojar.
F/O Owais Ahmad Awan Gojar.
R/O Chattibandi, Tehsil Bandipora District Bandipora. Dated: 12-04-2025

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216020009617, which is Registered in the name of Mohd Akber Khan, S/O Hamidullah Khan. Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Burhan Ahmad Sofi, S/O Mohd Ashraf Sofi, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Kaloosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Burhan Ahmad Sofi.
S/O Mohd Ashraf Sofi.
R/O Gundbal kaloosa, Bandipora. Dated- 12-04-2025.

RECRUITMENT RALLY

- A recruitment rally will be organised to raise PORTER COMPANY OF 600 Barber, Washerman, Cook Safaiwala PORTERS to include Porters, Mates, Carpenter, Tailor & Equipment Repairer from 24 Apr 2025 to 26 Apr 2025 at Dawar, Kanzalwan, Niru & Baraub, Tehsil - Gurez, Distt-Bandipora . Employment will be for 179 days.
- Age Criteria for Selection Medically** fit Male candidates between 18 to 40 years of age (Born between 24 Apr 1985 to 24 Apr 2007) will be physically tested.
- Documents Required**
 - Original and five photocopies of Aadhar Card, Election Commission Voter ID and Ration Card duly attested
 - Character and Police Verification Certificate (five copies) with photograph duly attested.
 - Next of Kin (NOK) certificate (five copies) along with three photographs duly attested.
 - Certificate from Vilage Sarpanch stating that the indl belongs to the particular vill and bears a good moral character (Five copies).
 - Birth Certificate
 - Five passport size photographs of the candidate and three passport size photographs of his NOK,
 - Original and three photocopies Of Personal Bank Account Pass Book Nationalised Bank/ J&K Bank) alongwith NEFT Mandate Form duly signed by Bank Authority
 - Medical certificate from Civil Government Hospital.
 - Acknowledgement Certificate of Insurance 'Pradhan Mantri Jeewan

Jyoti Beema Vojna

DRDO Successfully Conducts Release Trials of Indigenous Long-Range Glide Bomb ‘Gaurav’ from Su-30 MKI

NEW DELHI: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted release trials of the indigenously developed Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) ‘Gaurav’ from the Indian Air Force’s Su-30 MKI aircraft.

The trials, carried out between April 8 and 10, mark a significant milestone in enhancing India’s precision strike capabilities.

According to officials, the bomb was tested in various warhead configurations and integrated across multiple stations on the Su-30 MKI platform. The weapon demonstrated its ability to strike land targets with pinpoint accuracy at a range of close to 100 kilometres.

‘Gaurav’ is a 1,000 kg-class glide bomb designed and developed by DRDO’s Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Armament Research and



Development Establishment (ARDE), and the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur. The successful trials were observed by senior officials of DRDO and the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The development of ‘Gaurav’

has involved collaboration with key industry players including Adani Defence Systems & Technologies, Bharat Forge, and several Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Certification and quality assurance

were provided by the Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification and the Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, the IAF, and industry partners on the successful trials. “The development of this glide bomb will greatly enhance the capabilities of our Armed Forces,” he said in a statement. Chairman DRDO and Secretary, Department of Defence R&D, Dr. Samir V. Kamat also lauded the DRDO teams involved in the project, highlighting the indigenous innovation behind the strategic weapon system.

An official spokesperson said the successful completion of these trials paves the way for the induction of ‘Gaurav’ into the Indian Air Force, further strengthening India’s deterrence and offensive capabilities in modern aerial warfare.

We asked for good pitches but got challenging ones; need to talk to curator: Dinesh Karthik

Royal Challengers Bengaluru mentor Dinesh Karthik conceded that his side has received a "challenging" pitch at the Chinnaswamy Stadium this season despite asking for a batting friendly surface, adding that the management will have a chat with the curator soon.

RCB's power-packed batting line-up was rendered ineffective on a sluggish deck in their two home games while getting restricted to 169/8 and 163/7 against Gujarat Titans and Delhi Capitals respectively, losing both the fixtures.

Karthik thinks the 22-yard strip has deprived RCB of the home advantage at a venue where matches have traditionally been high-scoring.

"In the first two games, we have asked for good pitches. But it's turned out in this way where it's been challenging to bat on. So, we try to do the best with whatever we get. But we will obviously have a chat with him (curator). We trust him to do his job," said Karthik in the post-match press conference.

"So, definitely, this is not a pitch that's helping the batters too much. It's a challenging pitch. So, that has been the case so far in both the games that we have played," he added.

Karthik said big hits and boundaries are an essential part of T20s, palatable to all stakeholders.

"I think the way T20 cricket is, the more runs there are, the better it is for the broadcaster, the better it is for the fans. They all like to see boundaries. And we will try and do the best of what we can," he said.

The former India wicketkeeper batter said while they try not to follow any particular template in a match, pitches such as the one at the Chinnaswamy made it tough for batters to even rotate the strike.

"It was a bit sticky, the pitch. After the first four overs, and up until the 13th over, we were very much in the game. With the bat, we did have a wobble, but we found a way to get to a very decent score. They were

their home stadiums.

After LSG's defeat to Punjab Kings, Zaheer had said the curator could have been from Punjab, while Fleming said CSK have not been able to read the pitch correctly for



I think with every pitch, we'll try and understand what's the best way to play. I don't think we have one set template that is how we want to go out there and play. It's important to adapt and understand what the pitch is.

"I think with every pitch, we'll try and understand what's the best way to play. I don't think we have one set template that is how we want to go out there and play. It's important to adapt and understand what the pitch is.

"But it's been hard to, at times, rotate strike. And the big shot has been really hard as well. But in the end, it's a T20. You have to play some shots and that has gotten the wicket of a few batters," he detailed.

Karthik said the slight drizzle mid-way during DC's innings helped the pitch settle down, which made the visitors' job that much easier.

struggling at 50 for 4.

"In the first game (vs GT), there was dew. So, it got a lot better to bat in the second innings. Today, there was not as much dew. Then, unfortunately for us, a little bit of rain came.

"And then you could see the difference in the pitch. The shots that they played definitely weren't possible in the first innings," he explained.

Thus Karthik joins the likes of Lucknow Super Giants and Chennai Super Kings coaches Zaheer Khan and Stephen Fleming in expressing displeasure over the nature of pitches at

the last two seasons and his side has lost the home advantage.

Young leg-spinner Suyash Sharma had a good 4-0-25-1 spell, and Karthik saw a bright future for him.

"Suyash, obviously, his average speed is probably slightly higher. But it has helped the wrist spinners in both the innings today.

"Suyash is one that is bound to play some higher cricket very soon with the skill sets that he possesses. I also feel the more revolutions you've given on this pitch, the better it has been for the bowlers," he said.

The former India wicketkeeper batter said while they try not to follow any particular template in a match, pitches such as the one at the Chinnaswamy made it tough for batters to even rotate the strike.

Desperate SRH aim to press reset button against Punjab Kings

Desperate to arrest a worrying slide, Sunrisers Hyderabad will be eager to effect a turnaround when they host a power-packed Punjab Kings in their next IPL engagement on Saturday.

Last season's finalists, SRH began their 2025 campaign on a thunderous note, racking up a mammoth 286 to dismantle Rajasthan Royals by 44 runs.

With an explosive batting line-up at their disposal, the 'Orange Army' seemed poised to become the first team to breach the 300-run mark but their ultra-aggressive approach has since backfired spectacularly.

In their last three matches, their attack-at-all-costs strategy with the bat yielded underwhelming totals of 163, 120, and 152 resulting in crushing defeats, and leaving them languishing at the bottom of the points table. They have worst Net-Run-Rate of -1.629 as of today.

With the bat, Sunrisers Hyderabad need far more from their big names like Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, and Heinrich Klaasen.

Head and Sharma, who played a crucial role in delivering explosive starts last season, have failed to find their rhythm this year. In fact, SRH's best opening stand so far is a paltry 15.

Head's performance has tailed off dramatically, returning scores of 67, 47, 22, 4, and 8. Abhishek, too, has struggled for consistency, with a top score of just 24 across five innings.

Kishan, after his unbeaten ton in the opener, has looked a shadow of himself, while SRH's middle-order mainstay Klaasen is yet to set the stage on fire.

Yet, the team appears committed to sticking with their aggressive blueprint. Head coach Daniel Vettori stressed on the need for better game awareness rather than a shift in philosophy after their last defeat.

"I think we know the style is going to work, but we have to respect conditions, and we have to assess really well and that's probably something we haven't done," Vettori said.



Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

