

# Kashmir Convener



Congress aims to regain its political relevance and visibility In Odisha

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Murshidabad riots pre-planned; BJP, BSF, section of central agencies involved: Mamata

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## Weather Delays Historic Katra-Kashmir Train Launch by PM Modi

KC News Network

**JAMMU:** The much-anticipated inauguration of the train service from Katra—the base camp of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji shrine—to Kashmir has been postponed due to an adverse weather forecast. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was scheduled to launch the service on April 19, but the event has now been deferred following predictions of heavy rainfall in Jammu and Kashmir on April 18 and 19.

Reports quoted Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Dr. Jitendra Singh, as saying that the



decision to postpone the inauguration was taken in view of the unfavorable

weather conditions predicted during the Prime Minister's visit.

As per the original itinerary, PM Modi was to land at the Udhampur defence airport, fly by helicopter to the Chenab Rail Bridge—the highest railway bridge in the world—then travel by train to Katra. He was to inaugurate both the Chenab Bridge and India's first cable-stayed railway bridge over the Anji Khad, flag off the Vande Bharat Express between Katra and Baramulla, and address a massive rally at Katra Stadium.

Sources said the Prime Minister's visit is likely to be rescheduled after the India tour of U.S. Vice President JD Vance

and National Security Advisor Michael Waltz, which begins on April 21 and is expected to last four days. The new date for the inauguration is expected to fall in late April or early May.

Meanwhile, the Railways conducted a successful trial run of a special Vande Bharat train today on the Katra-Sangaldan stretch of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Line (USBRL). Over the past three months, eight trial runs have been completed across various key sections of the route, including over the iconic Chenab Arch Bridge and the Anji Khad Bridge.

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## Sanjay Parihar, Shahzad Azeem approved as J&K HC Judges

KC News Network

**NEWDELHI:** The Supreme Court collegium on Wednesday approved the proposal for appointment of two judicial officers as judges of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The decision was taken by the collegium headed by Chief



Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna in a meeting held on Wednesday.

"The Supreme Court collegium in its meeting held on April 16, 2025 has approved the proposal for appointment of the following judicial officers as judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh: (i) Sanjay Parihar, and (ii) Shahzad Azeem," said a statement uploaded on the apex court website.

## Justice Arun Palli sworn in as CJ of J&KL HC

Kc News Network

**JAMMU:** In a formal ceremony held at the Convention Centre today, Justice Arun Palli was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

He took the oath of office in the presence of the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha.

Justice Palli was born on September 18, 1964. His father, Prem Kishan Palli, was a Senior Advocate and also served as judge at the Himachal

Pradesh High Court from where he retired in 1998. Justice Palli graduated in commerce and completed his law degree from Panjab University in 1988.

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## Chief of Defence Staff confers MacGregor Memorial Medal Award to four Armed Forces personnel

KC News Network

**NEW DELHI:** Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan felicitated four individuals from the Armed Forces for their outstanding contributions in the fields of military reconnaissance, exploration and adventure activities during the MacGregor Memorial Medal Award Ceremony held at the United Service Institution of



India in New Delhi on April 16, 2025.

The awardees for 2023 included Wing Commander D Panda, Indian Air Force and EA (R) Rahul Kumar Pandey, Indian Navy. For 2024, CHEAA(R) Ram Ratan Jat, Indian Navy and Sergeant Jhumar Ram Poonia, Indian Air Force were honoured with the MacGregor Memorial Medal. Instituted on July 03, 1888, the MacGregor Memorial Medal commemorates Maj Gen Sir Charles Metcalfe MacGregor, KCB, CSI, CIE - founder of the United Service Institution of India established in 1870. Originally intended to recognise the acts of military reconnaissance and exploratory journeys, the medal's scope was expanded in 1986, post-independence, to include military expeditions

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## CM Omar inaugurates e-SEHAT App

KC News Network

**JAMMU:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today launched the e-SEHAT App—a comprehensive, one-stop digital solution designed to cater to the healthcare needs of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, including citizens, doctors and medical professionals.

The Chief Minister congratulated the team for developing such an elaborate and wide-ranging application that addresses the health needs of J&K's citizens.

He suggested making the app more user-friendly and incorporating additional features, including the integration of the appointment system of empanelled private health institutions.

The Chief Minister also directed the concerned authorities to conduct hands-on training through scheduled workshops for the staff to familiarize them with the application. "Once the staff is trained, awareness campaigns can be launched to educate the public about the app and its benefits," he said.

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring, he called for regular reviews—weekly by the Secretary, Health & Medical Education;



monthly by the Chief Secretary; and quarterly by the Minister In-charge—to assess the app's performance and progress.

The launch event was attended by Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakeena Itoo, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Secretary Health & Medical Education Syed Abid Rashid, DG BISAG-N, Principals of various Government Medical Colleges, Medical Superintendents, HoDs and other concerned officials. Earlier, Secretary H&ME Syed Abid Rashid gave

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## Waqf case: Would Muslims be part of Hindu trusts? SC asks Centre

KC NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre whether Muslims would be allowed

to be part of Hindu religious trusts during the hearing of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

A bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan asked solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, on how "waqf by user" can be disallowed as many will not have requisite documents to get such waqfs registered.

"Waqf by user" refers to a practice where a property is recognised as a religious or charitable endowment

(waqf) based on its long-term, uninterrupted use for such purposes, even if there isn't a formal, written declaration of waqf by the owner.

"How will you register such waqfs by user? What documents will they have? It will lead to undoing something. Yes, there is some misuse. But there are genuine ones also. I have gone through privy council judgments also. Waqf by user is recognised. If you undo it then it will be a problem. Legislature cannot declare a judgment, order or decree as void. You can only take the basis," the bench said.

Mehta submitted there was a large section of Muslims who did not want to be governed by Waqf act.

The bench then asked Mehta, "Are you saying that from now on you will allow Muslims to be part of the Hindu endowment boards. Say it openly."

The apex court said when a public trust was declared to be a waqf 100 or 200 years ago, it couldn't suddenly be taken over by the waqf board and declared otherwise. "You cannot rewrite the past," the bench said.

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## Farooq Abdullah Considered BJP Alliance Post-Article 370 Revocation: A.S. Dulat

>>> "I was asked by someone in Delhi to reach out to Farooq" <<<



KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Former Intelligence Bureau (IB) Director A.S. Dulat has made a startling revelation, claiming that National Conference (NC) president Dr. Farooq Abdullah seriously

contemplated an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370, particularly during 2022-2023.

In a recent interview, Dulat disclosed that he was informally tasked by the Modi-led central government to establish contact with Abdullah while the veteran Kashmiri leader was under house arrest in 2019. "Shortly after Article 370 was scrapped, someone from the Government of India requested me to reach out to Farooq," Dulat stated. He further revealed that Abdullah's release was tied to two unspoken conditions: refraining from criticizing the revocation of J&K's special status and avoiding any reference to Pakistan. "I don't recall if I spelled it out clearly, but Farooq was wise enough to grasp the message," Dulat added.

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## "Read the Whole Book, Dont Fall for Bakwas": Dulat

"I don't think statehood will be given, not at least anytime soon,"

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Reacting to the controversy surrounding Farooq Abdullah's role in Article 370 abrogation, Former RAW and IB chief A.S. Dulat said it is all speculation. "Whatever is being said about Farooq Abdullah is not true. People should read the whole book. Someone has picked something

and blown it. Sab bakwas hai. You should read the book," Dulat told KNS in an exclusive interview.

Reports has earlier revealed that shortly after the constitutional move in August 2019, the Government of India informally requested him to reach out to Farooq Abdullah, who was under house arrest at the time. "Someone

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## Progressive Farmers Are Shaping Future Of J&K's Agriculture: CM

Reviews implementation of HADP, launches multiple digital initiatives



KC News Network

**JAMMU:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a review meeting on the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) here at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Agriculture Production Department Javed Ahmed Dar, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department (APD) Shailendra Kumar, Mission Director HADP Rahul Yadav, and other senior officials.

All Deputy Commissioners of Jammu & Kashmir, along with progressive farmers, participated in the meeting via video conferencing from their respective district headquarters.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, while sharing

the vision of HADP, remarked that the programme is not just a policy intervention but a movement to empower farmers, modernize the agri-sector, and build a sustainable Rs 100,000 crore agri-economy for Jammu & Kashmir by 2030.

On the role of digital innovation in agriculture, he stated that by integrating cutting-edge technologies such as AI-based advisory tools and real-time monitoring applications, governance is being redefined at the grassroots. "We are redefining how governance reaches the grassroots. HADP is making agriculture smart, data-driven, and future-ready," the Chief Minister said.

Terming progressive farmers as the backbone of agricultural transformation, the Chief Minister said, "Their stories of success inspire confidence in our mission and reaffirm

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## 'Cheap stunts': Farooq Abdullah

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdul-

lah Wednesday reacted angrily to claims of former R&AW chief A S Dulat that he had "privately backed" the Article 370 abrogation, and accused him of "cheap stunts" to boost the sales of his forthcoming book.

Dismissing Dulat's claims that the National Conference (NC) would have "helped" pass the proposal to abrogate the

special status of the erstwhile state had it been taken into confidence, Abdullah, the 87-year-old president of the party, said this was a "figment of imagination" of the author.

Dulat's book 'The Chief Minister and the Spy' is slated for release on April 18. Abdullah pointed out that both he and his son, Omar Abdullah, had been

put under arrest for several months at the time of the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019. "We were detained because our stand against the abrogation of special status was well-known," he told PTI. He said that he had taken the initiative to bring together all major political forces in

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# SC Fixes May 14 For Hearing Pleas Against Appointment Of CEC, ECs Under 2023 Law

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday fixed May 14 for hearing a batch of pleas challenging the appointment of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners (EC) under the 2023 law.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and Ujjal Bhuyan fixed the date after advocate Prashant Bhushan urged the bench to accord urgent hearing in the matter.

Bhushan, appearing for a petitioner NGO challenging the appointment process, said the issue was covered by the Constitution bench verdict of 2023.

Justice Kant told Bhushan that the court will take up the matter on May 14 by cancelling a special bench matter on the said date.

Bhushan said though the matter is listed in the business of the day of the bench, they are urging the court to take it on top of the board.

Justice Kant said the bench will be taking several part-heard matters involving land acquisition on Wednesday.

On March 19, the top court had fixed April 16 for hearing a batch of pleas challenging the appointment of the CEC and election commissioners under the 2023 law.

Bhushan, appearing for petitioner



NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, had earlier told the court that the matter involved a short legal question – whether the 2023 Constitution bench verdict should be followed for the appointment of the CEC and ECs through a panel involving the prime minister,

Leader of Opposition and the Chief Justice of India or the 2023 law, which excludes the CJI from the panel.

He had argued that the government, by appointing the new CEC and EC under the 2023 law, was making a “mockery of democracy”.

On February 17, the government appointed EC Gyanesh Kumar as the

next CEC.

Kumar is the first CEC to be appointed under the new law and his term would run till January 26, 2029, days before the EC is expected to announce the schedule of the next Lok Sabha election.

Vivek Joshi, a 1989-batch Haryana-cadre IAS officer, was appointed as an election commissioner. Joshi (58) would serve in the poll panel till 2031.

According to the law, a CEC or an EC retires at 65 or could have a tenure in the poll panel for six years.

On March 15, 2024, the top court refused to stay the appointments of the new ECs under the 2023 law which excluded the

CJI from the selection panel and deferred the hearing on a batch of pleas against the appointments.

The apex court told the petitioners that the March 2, 2023 verdict directed for the three-member panel comprising the prime minister, Leader of Opposition and the CJI to operate till Parliament enacted a law.

The apex court’s verdict held that leaving the appointment of the ECs and CEC in the hands of the executive would be detrimental to the health of the country’s democracy and the holding of free and fair elections.

The NGO challenged the CJI’s exclusion and said the election commission should be insulated from “political” and “executive interference” for maintaining a healthy democracy.

The ADR’s plea alleged the verdict was overruled by the Centre without removing its basis and the composition of the selection committee under the new law which amounted to excessive interference of the executive in the appointments and was detrimental to the independence of the poll panel.

Former IAS officers Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Sandhu were recommended to be appointed as ECs in 2024 by a selection panel chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the new law.

## National Herald case: BJP rejects Cong’s charge of vendetta

**NEW DELHI:** Asserting that no one has a “license to loot”, the ruling BJP on Wednesday dismissed the Congress’ charge of vendetta after the ED chargesheeted Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case.

Former law minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad asked the Congress to reply to the substance of allegations against the Gandhis instead of merely offering a political reaction, noting that the opposition party found no relief from the judiciary in its pleas against the probe.

Speaking to reporters, Prasad outlined the main charge against the Gandhis that as the 76 per cent share-holder of the Young India company they “misappropriated” thousands of crores of real estate owned by the Associated Journals Limited (AJL), which owned the National Herald newspaper. He said the Congress has the right to hold ‘dharnas’ (to protest ED chargesheet against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul) but that right does not extend to misappropriating public properties given by the government to the National Herald. He accused the Congress of issuing threats to the probe agency and asked if the party and Gandhi’s believe in the due process of law or not. “We condemn the threats from the Congress. There is Modi government in place. It will allow the law to take its own course,” he said.

The Young India, he said, wrote off the Rs 90 cr loan that the Congress had given to the AJL and got the ownership of the company with a paltry investment of Rs 50 lakhs.

The land was given to the AJL by the government, he said, adding that the National Herald was allegedly used by the Congress establishment

to collect advertisement and properties. He alleged, “A newspaper that was established in the freedom struggle to espouse the voice of those fighting the British imperialism degenerated into a money-minting exercise for the Congress party establishment.” Taking a swipe, he said this is



the “Gandhi model of development” as he noted the allegation against Sonia Gandhi’s son-in-law Robert Vadra of pocketing a huge profit in land deal in Haryana with the collusion of the then Congress government in the state. The National Herald was started in the 1930s as a voice of the freedom struggle with 5,000 shareholders but was reduced to a fief of the Nehru-Gandhi family, he alleged.

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a chargesheet against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and others before a special court here in the National Herald case, accusing them of allegedly laundering Rs 988 crore. The Congress described the ED’s chargesheet as vendetta politics and claimed seizing of assets in the case was a “state-sponsored crime masquerading as the rule of law”.

## Congress aims to regain its political relevance and visibility In Odisha

In Odisha, the Congress party is working to revive its organisation and reclaim the position of being the principal opposition force against the BJP government. Even though it is third in terms of seats after BJP and BJD, it wants to fill the political vacuum in the opposition space as both BJP and BJD are often perceived to be close. The grand old party has



constituted a new 25-member political affairs committee to be headed by former UP state chief Ajay Kumar Lalu to guide the Odisha Congress.

The BJD having lost power in the 2024 elections after more than two decades of rule became the official opposition party following the Bharatiya Janata Party’s (BJP) electoral victory. The BJD has 51 seats in the state assembly.

With only 14 seats in the 147-member Odisha Legislative Assembly, Congress has adopted bold tactics to regain political relevance and visibility. The party is focusing on alleged governance failures under the BJP-led government, particularly highlighting emotive issues such as women’s safety.

A central part of Congress’s critique has been Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi’s own admission that over 36,000 women and 8,400 children have gone missing. The party has seized on this to challenge the BJP’s law-and-order credentials, aiming to mobilise public sentiment, especially in tribal-dominated regions like Koraput and Nabarangpur.

Meanwhile, the BJD, despite being the official opposition, has taken a notably subdued approach since its 2024 defeat. Its response has been limited to sporadic statements and symbolic actions, such as lodging complaints with the Election Commission. Congress is now stepping into this vacuum, presenting itself as a more vocal and active opposition to the BJP government. Following its poor performance in the 2024 elections, Congress dissolved the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) in July 2024 to address internal factionalism and leadership challenges.

## Murshidabad riots pre-planned; BJP, BSF, section of central agencies involved: Mamata

**KOLKATA:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday termed the recent communal violence in Murshidabad as “pre-planned” and accused a section of the BSF, central agencies, and the BJP of fanning tension by allegedly facilitating cross-border influx from Bangladesh.

Speaking at a meeting with Imams, Banerjee alleged that despite the volatile situation in neighbouring Bangladesh, the central government allowed illegal entry from across the border, and claimed that the BSF and certain agencies played a role in triggering unrest in Bengal.

Banerjee urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to implement the “atrocious” Waqf Amendment Act and requested him to keep the Union Home



Ministry, headed by Amit Shah, under control.

“I would request the Prime Minister to keep a check on Amit Shah, he is doing harm to the nation to serve his own political agenda,” she said.

“I came across news claiming the role of elements from across

the border in Murshidabad unrest. Is it not the role of the BSF to guard the border? The state government does not guard the international border. The Central government must take responsibility,” Banerjee said.

The CM announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh each

for the families of three people killed during the violence and directed the state chief secretary to initiate a probe into the role of the BSF, alleging that the force opened fire which led to the death of one of them.

“I will find out whom the BSF had financed in the bordering areas by giving money to youths to pelt throw during the violence,” she said.

Alleging that outsiders linked to the BJP entered the state and incited violence, Banerjee said, “Why did they allow BJP thugs from outside to come and create chaos before fleeing? Accountability must be fixed. They want to polarise and divide Hindus and Muslims. They want their Jumla government. Don’t divide the country; unite all instead.”

## Hemant Soren elected as JMM central president, Shibu Soren made ‘founding patron’

**RANCHI:** Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren was on Tuesday elected as the central president of the ruling JMM, while his father Shibu Soren was made the “founding patron” of the party, a JMM leader said.

Shibu Soren had been the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha’s chief for the past 38 years, while his son Hemant served the party as its executive president since 2015, he said.

Senior party leader and Dumka MP Nalin Soren proposed the name of Shibu Soren as the founding patron during the JMM’s 13th Central Convention and it was seconded by the Maheshpur MLA Stephen Marandi.

Thereafter, Shibu Soren proposed the name of Hemant Soren as the central president of JMM, which was passed unanimously.

“The responsibility that respected Baba Dishom Guruji (Shibu Soren) has given me,



the faith that lakhs of party colleagues have shown in me, I will work hard day and night to fulfill it. This support of all of you is my strength,” Hemant Soren later posted on X. He said that he would serve the people of the state with double strength.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of two-day convention, the JMM central president said, “The party would decide

its future journey from this point. We will move towards a long road after the end of this convention.”

The CM said that Shibu Soren devoted his life to the uplift of the poor and marginalised people of Jharkhand.

“Despite limited resources, he took the pledge to protect the people and ‘Jal Jungle, Jamin’ (water, forest and land) of Jharkhand, which is not an ordinary feat. The entire country knows him as Guruji,” he said. On being elected as the central president of the JMM, Hemant Soren said he has been given a great responsibility. “I am preparing a roadmap so that we can take the ideals of the party to greater heights. JMM is not a party but a reflection of the thoughts of the people of Jharkhand,” he said. The CM said India is the biggest democracy in the world but it is still reeling under discrimination on the basis of caste, creed and economic condition.

## Govt Bans Manufacture, Sale Of 35 Fixed-Dose Combination Drugs

**NEW DELHI:** Apex drugs regulatory body CDSCO has directed drug controllers of all states and Union territories to stop manufacture, sale and distribution of unapproved 35 fixed-dose combination drugs that include painkillers, nutrition supplements and anti-diabetics.

They have also been asked to review their approval process for such fixed dose combination drugs (FDC) and ensure strict compliance of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and rules.

FDC drugs are those which contain a combination of two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in a fixed ratio.

The regulator issued the directions after it found that certain FDC drugs have been licensed for manufacture, sale, and distribution without prior evaluation of safety and efficacy,



posing a serious risk to public health and safety.

In a communication sent on April 11, Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr Rajeev Raghuvanshi referred to the letter issued by his office on January 2013 where concerns were raised regarding the grant of manufacturing licenses for sale of FDC drugs that fall under the definition of a “New Drug” in the

country without due approval from DCGI.

The same concern has been raised from time to time and multiple letters have been issued to the respective state licensing authorities that granted permission for manufacturing and marketing of unapproved FDCs. The most recent such letter was issued in February this year.

“It has come to the notice

of this directorate that certain FDC drugs have been licensed for manufacture, sale, and distribution without prior evaluation of safety and efficacy as per the provision of NDCT Rules 2019 under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940. This poses a serious risk to public health and safety,” the letter stated.

The approval of such unapproved FDCs compromises patient safety and may lead to adverse drug reactions, drug interactions, and other health hazards due to the absence of scientific validation, the letter underlined.

Upon issuance of show cause notices to the manufacturers, they have stated that these licenses were granted by the respective drug licensing authorities and have not violated any rules, it said.

This has resulted in a lack of uniform enforcement of the

provision of NDCT Rules 2019 under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 across the country, the letter pointed out.

“In view of the above, all state and union territory drug controllers are requested to review their approval process for such FDCs and ensure strict compliance of the provisions of the act and rules,” the letter said.

The letter also listed out 35 unapproved FDCs which were earlier licensed by state/UT drug controllers for manufacture, sale, and distribution without evaluation of safety and efficacy by Central Drugs Standard Organisation (CDSCO) and later on cancelled by

Drug Licensing Authorities (SLAs) or voluntarily surrendered by manufacturers following the issuance of show cause notices for reference.

## OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.

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15/04/2025

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of all that, the college intends to start Cutting & Tailoring Course for its registered students, as such applications are invited from eligible and interested candidates (female only) for the position of Trainer (purely on need basis) to conduct a Three-Month Cutting and Tailoring Course at Government Degree College for Women, Sopore.

Essential Qualifications & Experience/Eligibility.

1. Diploma/Certificate course in Cutting & Tailoring from a recognized institute.
2. Minimum 2 years of teaching/training experience in the relevant field.
3. Proficiency in handling tailoring equipment and modern fashion trends.
4. Strong communication and instructional skills.

AS such Interested candidates are required to submit an application within Seven Days from the date of its publication along with the following documents:

1. Updated Curriculum Vitae (CV).
2. Self-attested copies of qualification certificates.
3. Experience certificates

Candidates can also send their applications along with all requires documents through email on principal@gdcwsopore.edu.in, with the subject: “Application for Cutting & Tailoring Trainer”\*. For further information candidates can login to college website www.gdcwsopore.edu.in.

**Principal**  
**Govt. Degree College for Women,**  
**Sopore**



# Usman Majid accuses NHPC of Betraying Bandipora Landowners

Syed Tajamul expressed deep sorrow over the tragic incident and extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. He prayed for peace to the departed soul and strength to the family in this difficult time.(KB)



Editorial

Farmers' Income

Agriculture has always been the backbone of India's economy, sustaining nearly half of the population and contributing significantly to the nation's GDP. However, for decades, the agricultural sector has grappled with low productivity, rising input costs, and limited avenues for farmers to secure fair returns. Recognizing the need to reverse this trend and uplift the livelihoods of millions of farmers, the Government of India has undertaken a comprehensive set of reforms and initiatives aimed at doubling farmers' income. The task of doubling farmers' income is by no means straightforward. Agriculture remains a State Subject, requiring a collaborative effort between the Centre and State governments. One of the key initiatives driving this vision is the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), which provides direct income support to small and marginal farmers. At the heart of this transformation is the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)—a visionary initiative designed to bridge India's agricultural infrastructure deficit. Water scarcity, a persistent concern for Indian agriculture, has been addressed through initiatives like Per Drop More Crop, which promotes micro-irrigation to optimize water usage. Similarly, schemes like the National Bamboo Mission and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana are encouraging farmers to diversify towards bamboo cultivation and organic farming, ensuring sustainable agricultural practices that yield higher incomes. In essence, the pursuit of doubling farmers' income is not just about economic growth; it is about empowering those who feed the nation. It is about creating an ecosystem where farmers are no longer burdened by debt, where their efforts yield just rewards, and where agriculture emerges as a sector of opportunity and pride. While much has been achieved, the journey continues. Through sustained commitment and innovation, the vision of a prosperous agricultural sector is gradually becoming a reality, ushering in a brighter future for India's farmers and the nation as a whole.

Waves Bazaar: India's Lagaan Moment On The Global Stage Of Media And Entertainment



AAMIR KHAN

India is a key player in the entertainment and media industry, which is growing at a rapid pace and is thriving in the constantly evolving landscape. We are witnessing a boom in content creation across diverse platforms fueled by the rise of digital streaming services, regional language productions, and a tech-savvy audience that demands fresh, engaging, and inclusive narratives.

It is important to realize the immense potential that this sector holds for India, not just as a source of entertainment but as a powerful medium for cultural expression, economic growth, and global influence.

World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit, known by the acronym WAVES, hosted by the Government of India in Mumbai, Maharashtra, from May 1 to 4, 2025, promises to be a testimony to India's growing stature, and WAVES Bazaar is a key component of the event. As someone who has spent decades in the industry, I believe that storytelling has the power to unite, inspire, and transform. With WAVES and WAVES Bazaar, we are taking a bold step towards creating a more collaborative and inclusive future for the global entertainment community.

WAVES Bazaar attempts to be a revolutionary online marketplace designed to connect professionals, businesses, and creators across the global entertainment ecosystem. With its mission to foster seamless collaboration, WAVES Bazaar attempts to serve as the ultimate business hub for the Media & Entertainment industry, enabling professionals to expand their reach, discover new opportunities, and engage in high-value partnerships. Officially launched on January 27, 2025, by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Railways, and Electronics & Information Technology, WAVES Bazaar is a key instrument in realizing the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of transforming the WAVES Summit into a flagship event in the Media & Entertainment sector, akin to the Davos Summit for the finance and economy sectors.

Since the launch, I believe 5500 buyers, more than 2000 sellers and approximately 1000 projects have

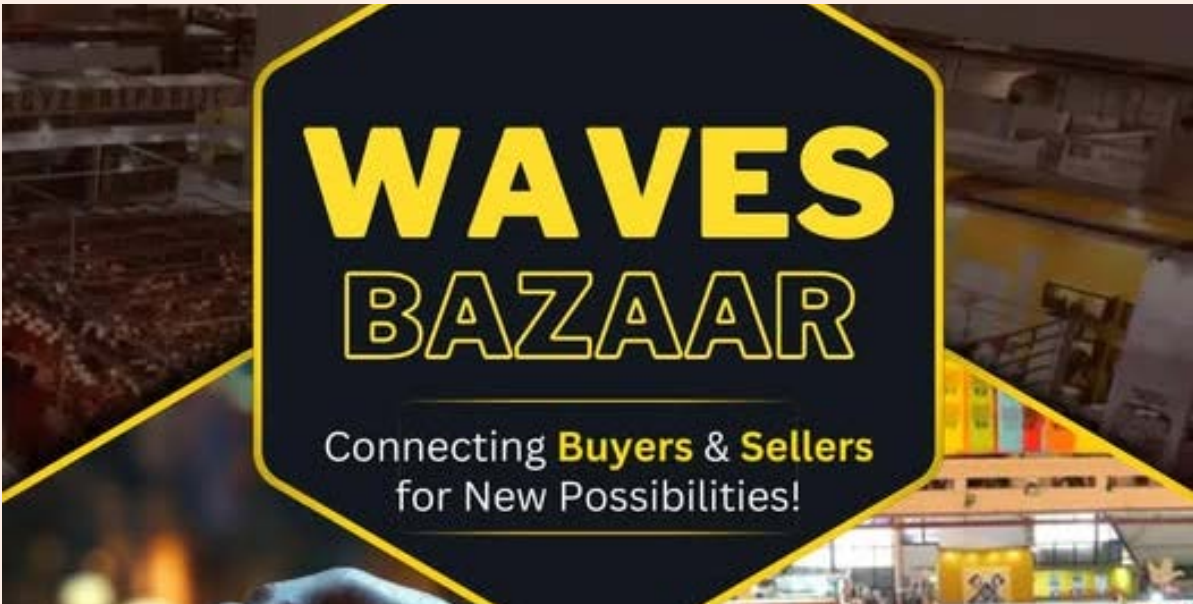
been registered on the portal from different verticals of M&E sector. In the long term, the portal hopes to evolve into a comprehensive content marketplace and networking hub for the M&E industry, featuring AI-powered profiling and matchmaking tools. It will also host online pitching sessions, virtual B2B meetings, webinars, and more, all within the platform. WAVES Bazaar is a one-of-a-kind e-marketplace

animation, advertising, and immersive tech like XR, AR, and VR, the platform provides a comprehensive space for listing, discovering, and transacting across diverse creative sectors.

Whether you're a producer seeking distribution, a game developer pitching new IPs, or a sound designer looking for licensing opportunities, WAVES Bazaar streamlines the entire process with category-

tion Centre, BKC, Mumbai from 1st to 4th May 2025. Selected participants from the digital marketplace will gain the opportunity to pitch, network, and close deals in person with top-tier stakeholders.

From curated screenings to live discussions and collaboration forums, this summit merges the digital and physical to shape the future of entertainment networking. With its innovative approach, WAVES



that brings together stakeholders from across the Media & Entertainment spectrum—including film, television, animation, gaming, advertising, XR, music, sound design, radio, and more. The platform will act as a bridge between buyers and sellers, ensuring that industry professionals can easily showcase their expertise, connect with potential clients, and secure meaningful collaborations.

Whether you're a filmmaker searching for a production partner, an advertiser seeking the right platform, a game developer looking for investors, or an artist wanting to showcase your work to global audiences, WAVES Bazaar hopes to provide a dynamic space for industry professionals to network, collaborate, and grow their businesses.

WAVES Bazaar is an integrated B2B marketplace revolutionizing how the global entertainment industry connects, collaborates, and grows. Bringing together professionals from film, television, music, gaming,

specific listings, secure viewing rooms, and curated networking features.

Designed for seamless business interactions, WAVES Bazaar empowers both sellers and buyers to find the right partners and opportunities without geographical limitations. Sellers—from film studios and animation houses to podcast creators and marketing agencies—can showcase their services and content to a global audience of investors, distributors, and collaborators.

At the same time, buyers gain access to high-quality, cutting-edge projects, while investors discover co-production deals and scalable ventures. The platform also integrates exclusive access to industry events, viewing rooms, investor meet-ups, and live screenings, ensuring that meaningful deals go beyond virtual interactions.

The highlight of WAVES Bazaar will be its physical presence at the WAVES Summit at the Jio Conven-

Bazaar is not just a platform—it's a movement towards a smarter, more connected, and globally inclusive entertainment industry.

As artists, we constantly seek spaces that challenge us, inspire us, and push us to think beyond the conventional. WAVES attempts to be such a space—a movement that encourages collaboration across languages, cultures, and mediums. I'm proud to be a part of this visionary journey, and I look forward to seeing how WAVES will redefine the way we connect, create, and celebrate stories—not just in India, but around the world.

I believe we are witnessing India's Lagaan moment in the media and entertainment world—a moment of unity, courage, and vision that will echo far beyond our borders. Let us come together to imagine, to share, and to build a future where every voice has a chance to be heard.

(The author is an Actor and Producer-PIB)

Singhpora-Vailoo and Sudhmahadev Tunnels Caught in Policy Quagmire



PEERZADA MOHSIN SHAFI

"Unless the Central Government and the administration of the Union Territory act swiftly to revive and revalidate these projects under the current policy framework, the window of opportunity may soon close for good.

Nearly nine years after they were first sanctioned, two of Jammu and Kashmir's most critical infrastructure projects—the Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel and the Sudhmahadev-Dranga Tunnel—continue to remain entangled in a web of delays, policy shifts, and bureaucratic hurdles, dashing public hopes once again. Sanctioned in 2017 under the Bharatmala Pariyojana, these tunnels were envisioned as lifelines that would establish all-weather connectivity between South Kashmir and the Chenab region by bypassing the dangerous Sinthan Top Road, a mountainous route notorious for its accident-prone curves and months-long closures due to heavy snowfall.

Despite being tendered first in 2023, both projects suffered an unexpected blow when the tenders were cancelled in 2024. Initial explanations cited administrative issues, but recent revelations confirm that the Union Home Ministry refused to grant clearance to the lowest bidder, an Azerbaijani construction firm. At that time the decision met with disappointment and frustration among the people of both Kashmir and Chenab, who have long viewed these projects as transformative not just for connectivity but for regional economic upliftment.

After passing of almost one-year, political leaders, including the Member of Parliament from the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, raised the issue with the concerned ministries and executing agencies, receiving assurances that the tenders would be reissued and the projects awarded by mid-2025. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, also addressed the matter during the recent inauguration of the Z-Morh now Sonamarg Tunnel, stating that the Singhpora-Vailoo and Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnels would be retendered soon. In the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Deputy Minister Surinder Choudhary confirmed that while the projects were originally approved under the Bharatmala

scheme, which has now been discontinued, they are currently under consideration for approval through the NH(O) scheme.

Progress on the ground seemed promising. Land acquisition for both projects had already been completed, and forest clearances are in their final stages. The public, buoyed by repeated government assurances and extensive media cov-



erage, remained hopeful. However, in a stunning development as per the news by TOI on March 22, 2025, the Public Investment Board (PIB), chaired by the Expenditure Secretary, rejected the proposal for funding the twin tunnels. The PIB cited high costs, questionable techno-feasibility, and the existence of an "adequate" alternate road as reasons for their decision, asserting that there was no direct, demonstrable benefit from the construction of the tunnels. However as per the reliable sources the news has been misquoted and only some objections have been raised and projects have not been dropped down.

This rejection/objection has triggered widespread disbelief and raised uncomfortable questions. Experts argue that the detailed project reports (DPRs), prepared after thorough technical and traffic feasibility studies, already addressed these concerns. Leave NH-244's DPR aside, even in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) which had been approved by the NHAI for the five tunnels currently under construction on NH-44 (Srinagar-Jammu National Highway), between Ramban and Banihal, has been prepared by ICT and Altinok in 2018-19. The DPR clearly states that NH-44 shall be planned to be upgraded from four lanes to six lanes by 2026 to accommodate the anticipated rise in traffic. However, due to the challenging geological terrain in this stretch, such an expansion is technically unfeasible. In fact, even the existing

four-laning work is still incomplete. Given these constraints, NH-244, which originates from Chenani and ends at Anantnag, offers a strategically viable and sustainable alternative. By diverting traffic from Chenani through the proposed tunnels and reconnecting at Alstap Wanpoh, this corridor can act as a reliable alternate route between Jammu and Kashmir, significantly reducing congestion

on NH-44 and ensuring all-weather connectivity.

In fact, significant investments have already been made in the NH-244 corridor, including the construction of a 10-kilometre greenfield road from Alstap on NH-44 and the deployment of multiple work packages to upgrade the NH-244 alignment. This network was designed with the tunnel projects in mind. Similarly, the Anantnag-Vailoo road, once a district road under the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), was upgraded to national highway status in 2017 for the express purpose of linking Kashmir with the Chenab Valley through these tunnels. With their cancellation, the entire purpose of these upgrades now stands in jeopardy.

The present impasse draws eerie parallels with the Mughal Road Tunnel project, another long-promised development that remains stuck in limbo. A tender for preparing the DPR for the Mughal Road Tunnel was floated in 2017, yet no action has been taken since. The project remains shelved, its details still available on the NHIDCL's Infracon portal—an unsettling reminder of how easily strategic infrastructure in J&K can fall prey to shifting priorities and administrative inertia.

The Singhpora-Vailoo and Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnels were more than just construction projects; they symbolized hope for reliable connectivity, economic integration, and a safer, more prosperous future for two historically underserved regions. Their abrupt sidelining by the PIB has left

communities feeling betrayed and isolated. The government has already invested time, public funds, and institutional bandwidth into groundwork, feasibility studies, and land acquisition. To claim now, almost a decade later, that these projects offer no tangible benefit undermines the very process of long-term planning and development.

Despite the rejection of the Vailoo-Singhpora Tunnel Project and the Sudhmahadev-Dranga Tunnel by the Public Investment Board (PIB) on 22 March 2025, optimism remains for their eventual approval. Historical precedents demonstrate that projects initially declined can later receive approval after addressing concerns and securing necessary revisions. For instance, the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) faced multiple hurdles, including environmental clearances and funding challenges. Initially proposed under a public-private partnership (PPP) model, the project struggled to attract bids. Subsequently, it was restructured as an engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) project, with the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) committing a significant loan of 8,600 crore to facilitate its completion. In Maharashtra, the Upper Tapi Dam and Shelgaon Barrage projects were rejected in 2019, only to be revised and cleared in 2021. Similarly, the Baglihar Dam project in Jammu and Kashmir encountered delays due to environmental concerns and political disputes. After addressing these issues and obtaining necessary approvals, the project was completed in two stages, contributing significantly to the region's power supply.

Financial implications are often pivotal in securing project approvals. In cases where domestic funding is insufficient, international agencies like JICA can play a crucial role. For example, JICA extended a loan of 18,750 crore for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project, marking one of its largest single-project commitments globally. Such collaborations can provide the necessary financial backing to overcome initial rejections and ensure project realization.

These examples underscore the potential for projects like the Vailoo-Singhpora and Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnels to be reconsidered and approved, provided that concerns are adequately addressed and appropriate financial mechanisms are secured. Unless the Central Government and the administration of the Union Territory act swiftly to revive and revalidate these projects under the current policy framework, the window

of opportunity may soon close for good. What remains now is a fragile sense of hope—hope

The present impasse draws eerie parallels with the Mughal Road Tunnel project, another long-promised development that remains stuck in limbo. A tender for preparing the DPR for the Mughal Road Tunnel was floated in 2017, yet no action has been taken since. The project remains shelved, its details still available on the NHIDCL's Infracon portal—an unsettling reminder of how easily strategic infrastructure in J&K can fall prey to shifting priorities and administrative inertia.

that some political will or public pressure might reignite momentum. Until then, the promise of these tunnels remains stuck beneath layers of paperwork, policy shifts, and broken expectations.

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# Mission YUVA to Unlock Entrepreneurial Potential in J&K, Says CM Omar Abdullah

**JAMMU:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a meeting to review the pre-launch preparations of Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan)—a transformative initiative aimed at empowering youth through entrepreneurship, skill development and inclusive economic participation.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah lauded the “pathbreaking” work undertaken by the Labour & Employment Department during the baseline household survey conducted across Jammu and Kashmir.

He noted with satisfaction that much of the data aligns with existing government records.

He suggested that this data be shared across departments to ensure easy access and usability for formulating

new schemes or refining those already in place.

Secretary Labour & Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, presented a



detailed overview of the survey findings, highlighting its focus on four foundational pillars—Culture, Capital, Capacity, and Connectivity.

He explained that the survey is

designed to foster an entrepreneurial culture and build a supportive ecosystem aimed at enabling individuals aged 18–49 to establish at least 1.37 lakh new

enterprises, thereby generating around 4.25 lakh job opportunities over the next five years.

The presentation also provided insights into the programme’s design,

key innovations, implementation strategy, and budget as outlined in the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Secretary Ranjan emphasized that the core objective of Mission YUVA is to identify youth inclined toward self-employment and entrepreneurship, and to provide them with robust support through structured mentorship, training, and access to capital.

Mission YUVA envisions transforming Jammu & Kashmir into a vibrant entrepreneurial hub by unlocking the potential of its youth.

With a focus on strategic interventions and comprehensive support systems, the mission seeks to spur economic growth, reduce unemployment and cultivate a spirit of self-reliance across J&K.

## DSEK conducts extensive tour of Kupwara, visits many schools

**SRINAGAR:** Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G. N. Itto today conducted an extensive tour of District Kupwara, visiting many schools and taking stock of the facilities available in these institutions.

During the tour, the Director also participated in a comprehensive district-level Guidance and Counselling session held at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Sogam, witnessing the active participation of various stakeholders from the education sector of district Kupwara.

Director spent the day interacting with Public Representatives, Principals, Zonal Education Officers, Teachers, Zonal Coordinators, and most importantly, the students of the district. He lauded the efforts of Chief Education Officer Kupwara and his dedicated team for organizing such vibrant and impactful counseling sessions in the district.

Dr. Itto emphasized the pivotal role of teachers in shaping the future of students and guiding them towards meaningful career paths. Joint Director North Kashmir, Hakeem Tanveer also

addressed the gathering.

Deputy Chairman DDC Council, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir, and DDC Sogam, Nasir Lone, highlighted the consistent efforts of the education

department at the district level.

Prior to the main event, the Director visited BHSS Unisoor during the morning assembly and stressed the principal and staff for ensuring excellent enrolment



department under the present leadership. They emphasized the significance of such sessions in guiding students and building a progressive academic atmosphere in future.

Mohammad Iqbal Shah, DEPO Kupwara conducted a detailed session on Emotional Intelligence and Career Exploration.

The second session was conducted by Mohammad Abbas Gojri, Teacher at UPS Machipora, who enlightened the students about various Career Options and Pathways to Possibilities.

Earlier, CEO Kupwara, Mehraj ud din Shah presented a comprehensive overview of the ongoing initiatives and progress made by the education

and attendance besides the moral education.

On the sidelines of the event, the Academic Calendar of GHSS Sogam was unveiled in the presence of Director School Education Kashmir.

The event also included a session for officers of the department, staff members of GHSS and BHSS Sogam, as well as zonal coordinators, focusing on strengthening the academic framework and enhancing collaborative efforts.

Apart from this, DSEK also participated in a plantation drive held at HSS Behnipora which falls in Zone Rajwar. The event was attended by officers, teachers and students in large numbers.

## DC Srinagar reviews progress on Major Drainage Projects

Emphasizes urgent need for solution-oriented strategies to protect City from water logging, potential flood-like situation



**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat Wednesday chaired a meeting of Officers at DC Office Complex here to review the progress of ongoing major drainage projects under execution in the district.

The major drainage projects are aimed to strengthen the existing drainage network system and upgrade the system to protect the City from water logging and potential flood-like situations.

At the outset, DC took a comprehensive review of ongoing major drainage projects across the district, emphasizing the urgent need for solution-oriented strategies to protect City from water logging and potential flood-like situation during any inclement weather conditions.

During the review meeting, DC directed the concerned to expedite works on the drainage projects and ensure timely completion of critical drainage infrastructure.

He highlighted the importance of sustainable and long-term planning to enhance the City’s flood resilience, especially in light of past weather-related challenges.

Dr Bilal urged the Officers to prioritize innovation and efficiency in project execution, while also coordinating closely to address bottlenecks and streamline processes.

DC reiterated the Administration’s commitment to improving urban infrastructure and protecting Srinagar residents from environmental vulnerabilities.

He said that all works taken up must be in accordance with need-assessment.

On the occasion, DC was given a detailed appraisal of major vital projects including new projects and ongoing works for upgradation and augmentation of drainage networks system in the district.

## Distt admin Ganderbal conducts IEC campaign against drug abuse in educational institutions

**GANDERBAL:** ‘Nasha Mukht J&K’ campaign continues to gather pace in district Ganderbal, with a special focus today laid on educational institutions.

In a determined effort to curb substance abuse and raise awareness among the youth, several educational institutions were actively engaged today, under the campaign’s banner, aiming to maximize outreach to the most vulnerable age group to create a drug-free district by fostering awareness, community participation, and support for rehabilitation.

From interactive awareness sessions to student-led rallies, the day was marked with a variety of impactful activities designed to educate and empower young minds about the harmful consequences of drug abuse.

Teachers, volunteers, and local officials joined hands to ensure that the message of a drug-free society reached every corner of the district.

In these institutions, students enthusiastically participated in debates, poster-making competitions, and awareness talks, voicing their commitment towards building a healthier and drug-free future.

The resource persons from various departments emphasized the importance of the campaign against drug abuse. Parents and guardians were also urged to engage in open conversations with their children about the dangers of substance abuse and to remain vigilant for early warning signs.



## Ist Coordination meeting held at District Court Complex Pulwama

**PULWAMA:** High Court of J&K & Ladakh Coordination Committee held its first meeting of the year 2025 at District Court Complex Pulwama.

The meeting was presided over by Principal District and Sessions Judge Pulwama, Malik Shabeer Ahmad.

Among the attendees were Shabaz Ahmad, ACR/ Pulwama; Shafat Ahmad, Additional Superintendent of Police Pulwama; Shabir Ahmad Superintendent District Jail Pulwama; Rajesh Kumar, Deputy Superintendent/SDPO Tral/Awantipora; Ex. Engineers of R&B Pulwama and PDD Pulwama; District Tuberculosis Officer Pulwama, District Planning Officer Pulwama & Budgam; CEO/MC Pulwama, EO Tral and M.C Awantipora; AFO Pulwama, President Bar Association Pulwama and Secretary Bar Association Pulwama.

Addressing the participants, Principal District and Sessions Judge highlighted various bottle necks/deficiencies in the existing infrastructure so that they are addressed as soon as possible, to



ensure that justice delivery system is made more robust and efficient in District Pulwama.

Earlier, Chief Judicial Magistrate Pulwama, Muzamil Ahmad Wani introduced the points of agenda to the meeting and the purpose and object of meeting in light of the order of High Court of J&K & Ladakh.

# CS Atal Dulloo pushes for achieving green goals under CAMPA

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday emphasized on the department to work dedicatedly towards achieving the set targets in a given timeframe.

He was addressing the 25th Steering Committee Meeting of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took stock of the afforestation efforts made during the past year and the targets achieved during this time. He asked the officers to complete installation of Boundary Pillars (BPs) around the forests across J&K to ensure their protection.

He also enjoined upon the concerned to digitise these BPs in order to create digitized maps of all the forest areas. He urged them to give details of the areas treated in lieu of the forest areas that came under Hydro Electric Projects of Kwar, Kiru and Ratlehere.

Dulloo further remarked that forests are lungs of the earth guaranteeing its sustainability. He advised for adopting modern technology to map the highly degraded areas for its treatment on priority basis.

On the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, FE&E, Sheetal Nanda, informed the meeting about the role and responsibilities of the Steering Committee in deciding the future course of action to take up the CAMPA works during the year ahead.

She also made out that the Committee had an overarching role of monitoring the department’s activities besides giving necessary directions for utilization of resources to achieve the desired goals.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh

Kumar Gupta, gave out that the scheme is being implemented smoothly in the UT, obtaining tangible results over the years.

CEO CAMPA, T. Rabi Kumar, revealed that the



third-party evaluations show improved survival rates. The third party evaluation (2012–2019) reported a 50% survival rate and in the next phase (2019–2022), conducted by AFC India Limited, survival rates improved significantly to 62.70%, with Kashmir at 65.40% and Jammu at 60%.

Giving the financial overview of this scheme as on March 2024, it was divulged that a total of Rs 851.65 crore were available with an approved outlay of Rs 276.27 crore for FY 2024–25. It was further added that an expenditure of Rs 153.67 was booked during this year leaving a balance of Rs 727.66 crore available with the department.

As far as the outcomes over the past 15 years are concerned, the meeting was apprised that during 2010–11 to 2024–25, a substantial amount of forest land has been treated under CAMPA initiatives, with the total area afforested reaching thousands

of hectares. A significant financial commitment of Rs 1369.76 crore has been made during this period.

In addition, it was given out that the CAMPA budget has seen consistent increase over the years,

peaking at Rs 153.67 crore in FY 2024–25 with corresponding increase in year-wise plantation efforts. These efforts are aimed at enhancing green cover, improving biodiversity, and mitigating the impact of climate change.

The Annual Plan Outlay (APO) for the fiscal year 2025–26 was presented and approved, with a total proposed outlay of Rs 193.72 crore, of which, Rs 170.47 crore have been proposed under the forest sector activities and Rs 23.25 crore under wildlife conservation.

Regarding different components of APO, the Compensatory Afforestation has an outlay of Rs 12.71 crore, Additional Compensatory Afforestation Rs 7.27 crore, NPV (Forest) Rs 117.96 crore and NPV (Protected Areas) Rs 23.25 for the ensuing year.

The Committee also reviewed and approved several key targets for the upcoming fiscal year.

## “Govt announces free entry to SPS Museum, Srinagar, Dogra Art Museum, Jammu”

**JAMMU:** The Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, in collaboration with the district administration, Tourism and Education departments, is going to celebrate World Heritage Day on 18th of April, 2025 in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

In Kashmir division, an early morning cleanliness drive will be held at Hari Parbat Fort, Srinagar followed by Pledge and Heritage Walk. Similarly, in Jammu Division, an early morning cleanliness drive will be held at Samba Fort in Samba District, followed by Pledge for Preserving Cultural Heritage and Heritage Walk.

On the eve of World Heritage Day, the Department has announced Free entry for all to SPS Museum, Srinagar and Dogra Art Museum, Jammu with an aim to facilitate all

sections of society to have glimpse of the Rich Cultural Heritage and symbols of Historical Importance.

Further, the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums



is organizing day long Archival exhibition at Archival Repository in Jammu and at Art Gallery/Museum, Old Assembly Complex, Srinagar, in order to have glimpse of historical monuments of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Department has urged all to participate in the World Heritage Day Celebration, visit the Exhibitions being organized and avail the incentive of free entry to Museums.

## DIG Maqsood-ul-Zaman Inaugurates UAPA Workshop Aiming for 90% Conviction Rate

**Baramulla:** In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening the legal and operational understanding of anti-terror laws, a one-day workshop on the “Investigation and Prosecution of Cases under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)” was conducted at District Police Lines (DPL) Baramulla by the Range Police Headquarters (RPHQ), North Kashmir Range (NKR).

The workshop was inaugurated by Deputy Inspector General of Police, North Kashmir Range, Maqsood-ul-Zaman, in the presence of Senior Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, Shri Gurinderpal Singh.

In his keynote address, DIG Zaman emphasized the critical role of UAPA as a vital legal tool in the hands of law enforcement for maintaining national security.

He underlined the challenges faced by investigating officers while dealing with UAPA cases and stressed the need for adopting remedial strategies for effective and timely prosecution.

Highlighting the broader vision, DIG Zaman reiterated the central government’s

goal to achieve a 90% conviction rate in UAPA cases within the next five years, as envisioned by the Hon’ble Union Home Minister. He noted that this target aligns



with nationwide efforts to modernize criminal justice mechanisms and ensure that anti-terror laws are implemented both rigorously and fairly.

The workshop focused on key themes including recent amendments to the UAPA, best practices in investigation and evidence collection, the role of intelligence inputs, and judicial interpretations of relevant case law. The sessions were

enriched by insights from legal and law enforcement experts such as Mohammad Ashraf (District Deputy Prosecutor, Baramulla), Hilal Ahmad (Chief Prosecution Officer, SIA Kashmir), Mohsin Hassan Khan (Public Prosecutor, NIA Court Kupwara), and Akhter Rasool (Public Prosecutor, NIA Court Baramulla).

Participants engaged in practical discussions around real-life case studies and judicial pronouncements, equipping them with the tools to ensure constitutional compliance and procedural fairness while handling sensitive cases.

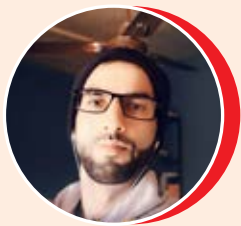
More than 40 police officers and public prosecutors from various districts of the North Kashmir Range participated in the workshop, which also served as a platform for inter-agency collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks from DIG Maqsood-ul-Zaman, who reaffirmed the department’s commitment to continued professional training, inter-departmental synergy, and a legally robust approach to counter-terrorism operations.



PART II

# The Future of Israel and Palestine: Navigating Uncertainty in a Changing World



Malik Firdous

Palestinian society, meanwhile, is marked by deep frustration and disillusionment, particularly among younger generations who have grown up knowing only occupation, blockade, and economic hardship. Many Palestinians have lost faith in their leadership's ability to achieve statehood through negotiations, viewing both the Palestinian Authority and Hamas as ineffective, corrupt, or disconnected from the realities on the ground. The failure of past

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

markets, and create new refugee crises, adding to the complexity of an already volatile region. Each of these scenarios presents distinct challenges and risks, underscoring the complexity of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the high stakes involved in determining its future trajectory. While a two-state solution remains the most widely accepted framework for a peaceful resolution, the political realities on the ground suggest that alternative scenarios, including prolonged stalemate, one-state outcomes, or regional escalation, are increasingly plausible. The choices made by leaders, civil society, and the international community in the coming years will determine whether the region moves toward peace, perpetuates the status quo, or descends into further violence and chaos. The future remains uncertain, but the consequences of inaction could be devastating for generations to come. Any future peace effort between Israelis and Palestinians must prioritize rebuilding trust, a task that has become increasingly difficult after decades of violence, failed negotiations, and mutual suspicion. Trust cannot be restored overnight, and it

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

Ultimately, the path to peace and reconciliation requires a long-term commitment to addressing the root causes of the conflict and creating a framework for coexistence based on mutual respect, dignity, and equality. Rebuilding trust, fostering economic cooperation, and empowering future generations



peace processes, combined with ongoing settlement expansion and military incursions, has led to widespread cynicism about the possibility of a diplomatic solution. For many, the idea of a two-state solution feels increasingly out of reach, and alternative approaches, including calls for a single democratic state or continued resistance, have gained traction. This disillusionment has also fueled support for grassroots resistance movements, as Palestinians seek to challenge the status quo through protests, civil disobedience, and international advocacy. However, the absence of a unified national strategy has limited the effectiveness of these efforts. The division between the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza has created political fragmentation that weakens the overall Palestinian struggle. Without a clear vision for the future and a leadership that can rally broad support, the Palestinian national movement remains in a state of paralysis, with no clear path forward.

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

The societal perspectives on both sides of the conflict reveal a deep-seated distrust and a growing sense of hopelessness about the future. While some Israelis and Palestinians continue to work toward peace at the grassroots level, the overall trajectory of public sentiment points toward further entrenchment of existing divisions. In both societies, young people are growing up in environments that reinforce narratives of conflict rather than cooperation. Israeli youth are raised with a strong emphasis on national security and military service, while Palestinian youth experience the daily realities of occupation, restrictions on movement, and economic deprivation. These lived experiences shape attitudes toward the other side, making reconciliation more difficult with each passing generation. Without significant political leadership that can offer a vision for the future, the cycle of mistrust and hostility is likely to persist. However, the resilience of grassroots initiatives suggests that there is still a foundation upon which a future peace could be built. The challenge lies in expanding these efforts beyond the margins and integrating them into a broader political framework that can

leadership capable of mobilizing public support and making difficult concessions, the prospect of a two-state solution will remain an elusive ideal.

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

As settlement expansion continues and the possibility of a two-state solution diminishes, the prospect of a one-state reality becomes more likely. In this scenario, Israel would maintain control over the West Bank and Gaza without granting Palestinians equal rights, leading to accusations of apartheid and growing international condemnation. The continued denial of political rights to millions of Palestinians under Israeli control would raise profound ethical and legal questions, intensifying pressure from the international community to address the inherent inequalities of such an arrangement. Alternatively, a one-state framework based on equal rights for all residents, regardless of ethnicity or religion, could emerge as a potential solution. However, this approach would fundamentally challenge the notion of Israel as a Jewish state, as granting equal political rights to Palestinians would alter the demographic balance and potentially undermine Israel's identity as a Jewish and democratic state. This scenario would face significant political opposition within Israel, where concerns about maintaining a Jewish majority and preserving national security remain paramount. The prospect of a single democratic state where Jews and Palestinians coexist as equals is appealing to some activists and intellectuals, but it remains politically untenable in the current environment.

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

requires a multifaceted approach that addresses past grievances, acknowledges the legitimacy of each side's aspirations, and promotes dialogue at both the political and societal levels. Political leaders on both sides must demonstrate a genuine commitment to dialogue and compromise, but grassroots initiatives that foster understanding and cooperation are equally essential. Civil society organizations that bring Israelis and Palestinians together to engage in meaningful dialogue can play a critical role in challenging narratives of hatred and dehumanization. Through initiatives that focus on joint projects, cultural exchanges, and community engagement, these efforts create opportunities for ordinary people to see each other as partners rather than enemies. While these grassroots movements may not generate immediate political change, they lay the foundation for a future where mutual respect and understanding can replace animosity and fear.

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

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

In addition to fostering dialogue, promoting economic cooperation, and empowering future generations through education,

Education plays a critical role in shaping attitudes toward the conflict and building a foundation for long-term peace. Efforts to promote coexistence, tolerance, and mutual understanding in schools can help break the cycle of hatred and mistrust that has persisted for generations. Educational programs that encourage critical thinking, empathy, and an understanding of multiple narratives can challenge deeply ingrained stereotypes and foster a culture of peace. Schools that expose young Israelis and Palestinians to each other's histories, cultures, and perspectives can help cultivate a sense of shared humanity and reduce the appeal of extremist ideologies...

through education are all essential components of this process. While the challenges are immense and the road ahead is fraught with obstacles, the pursuit of peace is not a hopeless endeavor. By investing in initiatives that promote understanding, dialogue, and cooperation, Israelis and Palestinians can take meaningful steps toward breaking the cycle of violence and laying the groundwork for a future where both peoples can thrive side by side.

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

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

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



# Continued From P1...

## Weather Delays

The Chenab Bridge, which spans 1,315 meters with a 467-meter main arch, stands taller than the Eiffel Tower and is designed to withstand wind speeds of up to 266 kmph. Of the total USBRL stretch, 209 km has already been commissioned in phases, with the final 17-km section between Reasi and Katra completed in December 2024—paving the way for Kashmir's full rail connectivity with the rest of the country.

## Chief of Defence

and adventure activities While military reconnaissance and exploration remain the foremost criteria, the medal is open to all ranks (serving and retired) of the Armed Forces, Territorial Army, Reserve Forces, Rashtriya Rifles and Assam Rifles.

## Justice Arun

He began his legal practice at the Punjab and Haryana High Court and in 2004, he was appointed Additional Advocate General for Punjab. He held the position for three years until March 2007.

He was designated as a Senior Advocate later the same year.

He was elevated as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on December 28, 2013.

He served as Executive Chairman of Haryana State Legal Service Authority since May 31, 2023. He was also nominated as a Member of the Governing Body of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) on October 31, 2023, for a tenure of two years.

## CM Omar

home, offices, or hospitals, the app is especially beneficial in remote areas and serves a broad range of users including the general public, patients, healthcare professionals, medical students, and aspirants of medical and paramedical courses.

The SEHAT App offers a wide array of features aimed at improving healthcare access and delivery across Jammu & Kashmir. It provides detailed information related to healthcare institutions, including doctors' availability, options for appointment bookings, diagnostic and surgical services, as well as tele-consultation, telemedicine, and emergency care. For the general public, the app includes tools for health promotion and disease prevention, an AI-powered symptoms checker, health tracking capabilities, medication reminders, integration with wearable devices, and multilingual support.

Healthcare professionals can benefit from secure messaging, access to Electronic Health Records (EHR), prescription and billing management, lab result integration, academic resources, and opportunities for research. The app also supports medical students by offering information on academic courses, hostel accommodations, library facilities, and student exchange programs.

Additionally, SEHAT includes helpline services for hospital assistance, ambulance information, and feedback mechanisms.

It facilitates a coordinated referral mechanism through hospital networking for efficient patient transfers and emergency support. The app also provides comprehensive details on health insurance schemes such as PMJAY, CGHS, and ECHS.

Furthermore, it promotes skill development through CPR and Basic Life Support (BLS) training, workshops, and various continuing education programs.

The Secretary emphasized that the SEHAT App is aimed at strengthening collaboration between healthcare providers, patients and insurers by improving communication and facilitating access to healthcare resources.

## Waqf case:Would

Mehta submitted that a joint parliamentary committee had 38 sittings and examined 98.2 lakh memorandums before Parliament's both houses passed it.

CJI Khanna also said one high court could be asked to deal with the pleas.

"There are two aspects we want to ask both the sides to address. Firstly, whether we should entertain or relegate it to the high court? Secondly, point out in brief what you are really urging and wanting to argue?" We are not saying there is any bar on SC in hearing, deciding pleas against the law," the CJI said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioners referred to Waqf Amendment Act and said was challenging the provision that says only Muslims could create waqf.

"How can state decide whether, and how I am a Muslim or not and hence, eligible to create waqf?" Sibal asked.

He added, "How can government say only those

who are practising Islam for last five years can create waqf?"

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, who represented some of the petitioners, submitted that Waqf Act would have all India ramifications and pleas should not be referred to the high court.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, opposing Waqf Act, said Waqf by user was an established practice of Islam and couldn't be taken away.

The Centre recently notified the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, which got the assent of President Droupadi Murmu on April 5 after its passage from Parliament following heated debates in both houses.

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

About 72 petitions, including those by AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi, All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Congress MPs Imran Pratapgarhi and Mohammad Jawed, have been filed challenging the validity of the Act.

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

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

## Farooq Abdullah

The former spymaster's remarks echo themes from his latest book, where he explores Abdullah's political maneuvers, often marked by pragmatism and controversy. The National Conference, a party that has vocally opposed the 2019 constitutional changes, has yet to issue a response to these claims. As one of the Valley's most seasoned politicians, Abdullah's political journey continues to generate debate. Dulat's revelations now add a fresh and complex dimension to his already eventful legacy.

## Read the Whole

from Delhi asked me to get in touch with Farooq Sahib," Dulat has said in his book according to reports."And while there were no formal conditions, it was understood that he would not publicly oppose the move or speak on Pakistan. Farooq was sharp enough to understand," reports has said.

On the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, Dulat was candid and skeptical:

> "Statehood won't be given. I don't think so, at least not for a long time," he said.

Asked about the assurances given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, he responded:

"So far, it has not been given. May not get it for some time. You should also ask CM Omar Abdullah—he met the Home Minister and said he was assured it will be given soon."

Reacting to the political storm, Peoples Conference chairman Sajad Lone posted on X:

"If Dulat says Farooq supported the abrogation, it's credible—he's virtually Farooq's alter ego. NC will deny it as usual and play the victim card."

The controversy erupted following leaked excerpts from Dulat's upcoming book in which he suggests that Dr. Farooq Abdullah privately supported the revocation of Article 370. The claim triggered strong political reactions, especially from Sajad Lone, who alleged that NC leaders maintain a public posture of resistance while keeping cozy ties with BJP in private.

With Dulat's credibility and insider role, the revelations add another twist to the post-370 political narrative in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Cheap stunts':

Jammu and Kashmir and formed the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), a coalition of political parties to defend the special status of the state.

Abdullah ridiculed Dulat's claim that the NC would have got a resolution passed in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly for the abrogation of Article 370.

"The claim in the book that the National Conference was planning to pass a resolution on the abrogation of the special status is merely a figment of the imagination of the author who claims to be my friend," Abdullah said.

Highlighting gaps in Dulat's reasoning, he said, "A benchmark of common sense should have been adopted by the author while penning the so-called memoirs. He should have remembered that there was no assembly in 2018 which could have been dissolved."

Abdullah insisted that even if the assembly had been in session, he would have never considered

passing such a resolution.

Asked whether he had the opportunity to review the book, the NC president remarked, "It is full of inaccuracies that, after a while, I thought I was reading a fiction and left it."

The former chief minister also referenced a specific error where Dulat claimed to have advised him against having a large Cabinet in 1996, to say that he was "sworn in with 25 ministers", not a small number as suggested.

Abdullah dismissed Dulat's portrayal of their relationship, particularly the claim that he frequently heeded the author's advice.

"The author claims that Abdullah would always listen to his advice, which is yet another example of underestimating me. I am a man of my own mind, and I only decide. I am not anyone's puppet," he asserted.

Regarding Dulat's claim that the NC wanted closer relations with the BJP, Abdullah strongly denied it.

"Dulat's claim that the National Conference wanted to get close to the BJP is an absolute lie as I am not the one who will patch up with a party that is out and out to destroy my party."

Abdullah expressed disappointment with Dulat's actions. "The worst is that he claims to be my friend, and as has been said, 'Stab the body and it heals, but injure the heart, and the wound lasts a lifetime,' and I guess his inaccuracies just for cheap publicity would last a lifetime now," he added.

## Progressive Farmers

our belief that change is happening, village by village, farm by farm."

Reiterating his government's unwavering support, he affirmed that every scheme, every platform, and every rupee invested under HADP is aimed at directly benefiting the farmer. "Our government will continue to walk alongside our cultivators in this journey of growth and innovation," he added.

Earlier, Mission Director Rahul Yadav presented a comprehensive overview of HADP's evolution, highlighting the preparation of 29 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) within a record four-month period. He noted that the programme aims to transition agriculture in J&K from a low-growth, subsistence-based model to a vibrant, commercially-driven agri-economy.

The meeting also deliberated on strategies to address structural challenges in the sector, particularly the long-standing cycle of low productivity and income. The programme is anchored around key strategic levers of change, with 29 distinct, future-ready projects forming its foundation.

It was informed that an investment of Rs 1000 crore has already been made in research and innovation across these projects. The roadmap for implementation was also shared, comprising three phases: Phase-I – Outreach and Awareness, Phase-II – Onboarding and Seeding, and Phase-III – Grounding, Monitoring, and Evaluation.

Officials presented updates on major ongoing initiatives, including the Daksh Kisan programme, monthly district performance rankings, Knowledge Systems (KS) documentation, and the KS Output Tracking App.

The meeting spotlighted a range of innovative digital interventions, including the HADP Kisan Saathi Portal, AI-based Credit Scheme Advisor, and the Online DPR Generator Tool.

Further, the meeting discussed the Jammu & Kashmir Climate Innovation Platform (JKCIP), outlining its financing models, targeted beneficiaries, and geographical areas of intervention.

Since its rollout in April 2023, HADP has achieved notable milestones such as the development and multiplication of high-quality seeds, promotion of oilseeds and cash crops, technological advancements in sericulture, formation of 300 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and the launch of the JK Soil & Land Resource Information System.

These initiatives, supported by research-backed strategies, have yielded tangible outcomes and are propelling the Union Territory toward the goal of a sustainable Rs 100,000 crore agri-economy by the year 2030.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister launched several digital platforms to enhance transparency, efficiency, and farmer engagement. These included the Credit Scheme Advisor App, Online DPR Generator App, KS Saathi Output Tracking App, and the Online JKCIP Dashboard.

He also released the inaugural edition of "HADP Insights", a monthly newsletter, and launched the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan—JKCIP. Additionally, he e-inaugurated 1,842 Kisan Saathi Applications and conferred 10,765 Daksh Kisan Skilling Certificates.

During an interactive session, the Chief Minister engaged with progressive farmers from various districts who shared their success stories.

He enquired about different aspects of their businesses and appreciated their crucial role in driving agricultural transformation on the ground.

## Kathua Encounters Exposed Infiltration Route of Terrorists: Police

JAMMU: The four recent encounters in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district "exposed" the route used by terrorists to infiltrate into India from across the International Border (IB), a senior police officer said on Wednesday.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua, Shobhit Saxena also said the successful recovery of huge quantities of arms and ammunition including explosives from the terrorists after the gun fights scuttled a major plan of the terror groups to carry out a major strike in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kathua district witnessed four encounters between a group of recently infiltrated terrorists and security



forces in the past one month.

Two heavily-armed terrorists were eliminated in Safiyan forest on March 27. Four police personnel were killed in the encounter which took place four days after police intercepted the infiltrating terrorists in Saniyal forest of Hiranagar sector.

"We are chasing the remaining three to four terrorists who escaped the encounters and are on the run. We are confident of tracking and neutralizing them soon," the SSP told reporters at Rajbagh police station, where all the seized material including sophisticated weapons, explosives and daily-use items was on display.

He said a tight security grid is in place in the district, from the border villages to hinterland, leading to the successful operations against the terrorists.

"The encounters exposed their traditional (infiltration) route... We will not allow them to use this route again," Saxena said.

He said the recoveries showed that they had come with ill intention and were prepared for a long stay.

He said the seizure of a huge quantity of explosive material thwarted their plan to carry out Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) blasts, while some quantity of heroin suggested that they were also consuming drugs.

He praised the cooperation of the people in the anti-terrorist operations and said the "civil population helped us a lot and are providing immediate information which helped us to make an assessment about the terrorists on the run and are accordingly planning our operations to neutralize them".

According to evidence, Saxena said terrorists had recently sneaked into this side from across the border but police "did not allow them to succeed in their nefarious designs".

On local support to terrorists, he said 30 people have been identified and booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) in the district so far.

Among the material seized from the terrorists include two AK assault rifles, one M4 carbine, grenades, and sophisticated gadgets for navigation, clothes, sleeping bags, Pakistan-make medicines, beverages and food items. (Agencies)

## Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani Dismisses Rumors of MLA Defection

SRINAGAR : Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, on Wednesday rejected widespread rumors suggesting that an MLA from the National



Conference was preparing to leave the party. Speaking to KNS, Wani said, "There is no truth to the talk of any MLA quitting. Such rumors are completely baseless and aimed at creating confusion

among the people."

He also urged media organizations to act responsibly and verify news before publication. "The journalists who broke this news must have verified the facts. Reporting without confirmation only misleads the public," he added.

The Advisor also highlighted the ongoing case in the Supreme Court concerning the Waqf Bill, saying the party has full faith in the judicial system. "The Supreme Court is going to present the case today. We have sent our entire team, including MLA Muzaffar Iqbal, other MLAs, and a strong legal team. We will fight our case there, and we hope that the biggest court in the country will give us justice," Wani stated.

Calling the Waqf Bill "against our rights," Wani stressed that the party would continue to oppose the bill and seek amendments to protect the community's interests.

Regarding the political situation, Wani dismissed talks of any MLA switch and clarified that two seats in Nagrota had fallen vacant, and by-elections were expected. "There are always by-elections. Two seats have been vacated in Nagrota, and they should definitely have a by-election here," he said.

Wani concluded by saying the party remains strong and united and that no such developments, as suggested by the rumors, have taken place.

## Rains lash Kashmir; MeT predicts 3-day wet spell from Friday

SRINAGAR: A day after the Valley recorded the hottest day of the season, fresh rainfall in Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir on Wednesday led to mercury plummeting across the region.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the weather conditions remained mostly cloudy today across the Valley while the rainfall in the evening led to the decline in temperature.



Amidst the gusty winds, the rains lashed multiple areas of the Valley including Srinagar, especially north and central Kashmir. However, the weatherman has predicted generally dry weather tomorrow.

Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather is expected to remain wet from April 18 as light to moderate rain and snow (higher reaches) at most places and moderate to heavy rain at isolated to scattered places during 18th & 19th April accompanied with thunder and gusty winds from April 18th evening onwards is expected in the region.

The major activity is expected on April 19 as the local MeT department here has issued yellow and orange alerts for the day.

On April 21, he predicted cloudy weather with possibility of light rain and thunder at scattered places. "From April 22 to 25, the weather conditions would remain generally dry," he added.

In between April 26 & 27, the weather would again turn cloudy in the region, he said.

Moreover, the MeT in its advisory has stated that all concerned are advised to plan accordingly and follow administration and traffic advisory, according to the advisory, there is a possibility of landslides, mudslides and shooting stones at vulnerable places.

Meanwhile, the farmers have been advised to suspend the farm operations during April 18 and April 19.

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the DOB of my Son has been Mistakenly Mentioned in his school records as: 05-01-2015. While as his Actual and correct DOB is: 28-10-2014. Now I want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the principal Army Good will School Aragam Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Shabir Ahmad Khan Gojar.**  
**F/O Mohd Hafeez khan Gojar.**  
**R/O Kudara Bandipora.**

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that my Daughter has lost her 10th class pass Discharg Certificate during crossing the Nallah of Sumlar. Now I want to apply for its duplicate in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Headmaster GOVT High School Sumlar Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Saleema Begum.**  
**Mother of : Shabnum Bano.**  
**R/O Sumlar Shok baba , Bandipora .**

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the Name and parantege of my Son has been Mistakenly Mentioned in his school records as Mohammad Imran Bani Gojar, S/O Mohammad Khushal Bani Gojar, while as his Actual and correct name and parantege is Mohammad Imran Gojar Baniya, S/O Mohd Khushal Gojar Baniya. 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 principal Al Falah Educational Institute Aragam Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Mohd Khushal Gojar Baniya.**  
**F/O Mohammad Imran Gojar Baniya.**  
**R/O Chettibandi Bandipora.**



# We lacked game awareness, as it was all about rotating strike as a batting unit: Rahane

Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Ajinkya Rahane admitted that his batters lacked "game awareness" in their defeat to Punjab Kings and reminded them that strike rotation is as important as hitting sixes in the T20 format. The 16-run defeat in a low-scoring thriller here on Tuesday night kept the Knight Riders at sixth spot on the table with as many points after seven matches.

The Kings were all out for 111 but they came back strongly to roll over KKR for 95 to celebrate a fine victory.

"See, it was not a flat wicket. It had something for the bowlers. We had to grind it out. Even though sometimes you will have to play a maiden over in T20s, that's alright or play at a strike rate of 70 or 80, that's fine," Rahane said in the post-match press conference.

"It's all about rotating the strike as a batting unit. T20, I believe, it's not only about hitting sixes. Now, we are seeing most of the batters are going for big shots and they want to look good on the field.

"But it's all about reading the situation well, having that game awareness as a batter, and then taking the game forward. That's what I thought we lacked," he added.

Rahane was gracious enough to take the blame for the defeat on his shoulders but hoped that his colleagues would up their game in the next match itself.

"I take the responsibility (for the defeat) as a captain. But individually, I'm sure all the players, especially the batters, will think about their own game and improve in the upcoming matches.

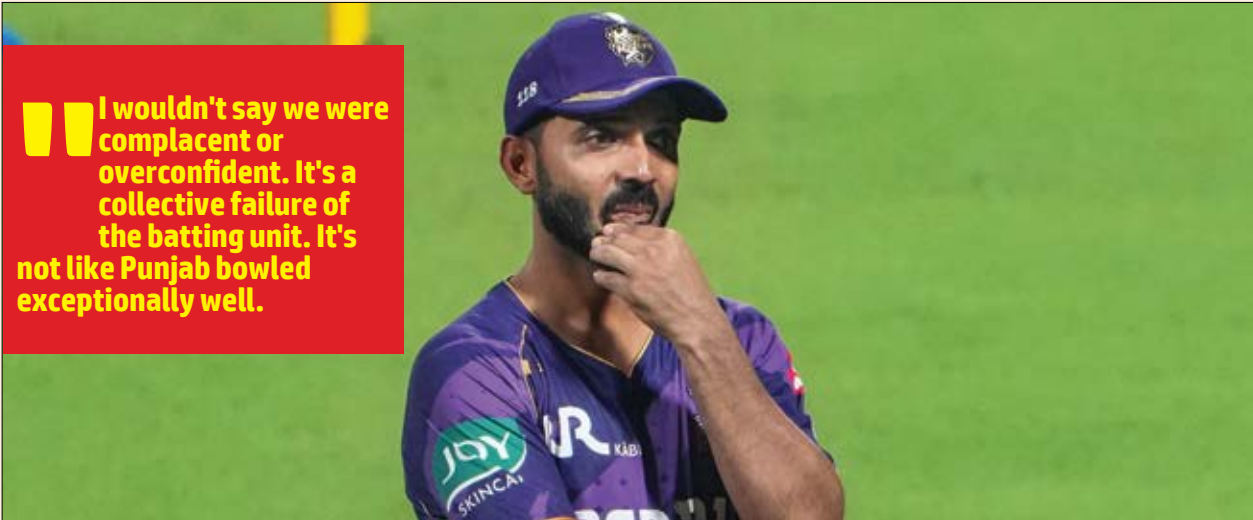
"Half of the tournament is over, and seven matches have been played, and only half are left. It's always about coming back with good intent," he said.

The 36-year-old conceded that KKR had

On benching England all-rounder Moeen Ali, who had a good game against CSK, Rahane said: "Moeen has been fantastic for us so far. It's very hard for me to tell Moeen that you are not playing today.

his first game, the way they performed was really commendable.

"So I think all credit goes to the bowlers today. Even if the batters didn't have a great day with the bat, I think they really compen-



a collective failure as a batting unit and said they were not complacent after a smooth eight-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings in their previous match.

"I wouldn't say we were complacent or overconfident. It's a collective failure of the batting unit. It's not like Punjab bowled exceptionally well.

"I think we played bad cricket as a batting unit. When we lost those 3-4 wickets, it was only about taking your time and those even singles. That was important," he noted.

"Though he did really well in the last game, he has been understanding. He understands the situation. He understands the team dynamics as well. He has always been a team man."

We were confident: Wadhera

Punjab Kings batter Nehal Wadhera said the team was confident of pulling off a win despite getting bundled out for 111.

"We never were short of confidence. We knew that our bowlers were very capable of doing well here and the way Chahal, Arshdeep, Marco Jansen and (Xavier) Bartlett, playing

sated for it."

Wadhera lauded leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal for producing a game-changing 4/28 spell.

"You could just see from his stats today, picking up the four crucial wickets and despite the left handers being there, he got Rinku out there which was a really crucial wicket for us. I think the way he used his pace while bowling wide, slower balls and also mixing his pace. So

I think this is what experience does to a bowler and he showed us all today and I think he won us the game," he added.

**"It's all about rotating the strike as a batting unit. T20, I believe, it's not only about hitting sixes.** Now, we are seeing most of the batters are going for big shots and they want to look good on the field.

## Ponting: That might be the best win I've ever had as coach in IPL

Punjab Kings (PBKS) head coach Ricky Ponting has been coaching in the IPL since 2014 but he called Tuesday's low-scoring thriller against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) "just about the best win that I've ever had" as a coach in the tournament. Ponting watched from the sidelines as PBKS defended 111, the lowest total that has been defended in IPL history, for a 16-run win. Ponting said pulling off a win like this could be a "season-defining moment".



"The heart rate still up a bit for me - it's probably up over 200," Ponting told the broadcaster soon after the game. "I don't need many of those games like that at my age of over 50 now.

"It just goes to show how funny a game it is. Only three days ago we couldn't defend 246 [245] and here we are, defending 112 [111] with 16 runs up our sleeves. We actually said to the guys at the halfway mark that really small chases like this are sometimes the hardest. The wicket wasn't easy. You can see right through the game it was holding up.

"But what about [Yuzvendra] Chahal tonight! How good a spell of bowling was that! We've actually put it on him a bit during the week. He had a fitness test before the game today with his shoulder injury that he picked up in the last game and I grabbed him at the warm-up, looked him in the eye and said, 'Mate, are you OK?' He said, 'Coach, I'm 100% alright, let me out there', and what a spell of bowling."

When asked what was the talk in the dressing room at the innings break, Ponting said: "Well, you can probably see the way we changed things up with the ball as well, with Marco [Jansen] taking the first over and [Xavier] Bartlett the second. Normally, it's been a role for Arshdeep [Singh] with the brand new ball, but the match-ups tonight suggested that Jansen and Bartlett were better suited.

"But we just said that wins like this are always the sweetest ones. If we can pull this off, then this would be as good as a win most guys have probably been involved in. I've coached a lot of games in the IPL and that might just be about the best win that I've ever had."



# Khyber Cement Ka Zarra Zarra Dil Se Bana Hai

