

Kashmir Convener



Pahalgam Terror
Act Is Attack On
Principles Of Humanity:
Salim Sherwani

P/02



Heat wave to severe heat
wave in Saurashtra, Kutch,
rain and thundershowers
in Northeast India

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Nepal To Restrict
Mt Everest To Only
Those Who Have
Done 7K Climbs

P/02

People Of J&K And Nation Resolute To Destroy Terror: Lg Manoj Sinha

➤➤➤ Reviews prevailing security scenario <<<



KC News Network

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj

Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting with senior officials to review the prevailing security scenario in Jammu Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home; Nitish Kumar, ADGP CID J&K; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu and Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range. The Lieutenant Governor directed for strong and coordinated measures to completely wipe out terrorism and its entire ecosystem from Jammu Kashmir.

"It is the collective resolve of the people of J&K and the nation to destroy the root of terror emanating from our neighbourhood. We must be resolute to fulfill this mission.

Take strong action against OGWs who are providing logistics to terrorists, identifying targets for them and helping them to escape. Infrastructure and support system of terrorism in every nook and corner of Union Territory has to be dismantled permanently. It should be our priority to

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CM Omar calls NH Projects Road Arteries Complete strategic NH projects timely: CM Omar

Reviews key NH
projects in J&K

KC News Network

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the progress of key national highway, expressway and tunnel projects across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Forest, Ecology & Environment Department Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary Mining Department, Vikramjit Singh, Secretary Revenue Department Kumar Rajeev Ranjan; Secretary Public Works (R&B) Department Bhupinder Kumar. Besides, senior officers from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and Public Works Department (R&B) also participated in the meeting. The meeting stressed on the need

to identify bottlenecks and enhance inter-agency coordination to ensure time-bound and efficient execution of vital infrastructure works.

over 1,800 kilometers, are currently in various stages of execution. These include strategically important routes such as National Highway 44 (Jammu-Srinagar),



The Chief Minister was briefed on the status of major infrastructure projects being executed by NHAI, NHIDCL, BRO and the PWD. Secretary, Public Works (R&B), Bhupinder Kumar gave a comprehensive presentation, informing that approximately a dozen major highway corridors and one expressway, spanning

NH-144A (Jammu-Rajouri-Poonch) and the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway (NE-5), among others. The meeting also reviewed 12 major tunnel projects, including the Zoji La Tunnel, Z-Morh Tunnel, Panthal-Magarkote Tunnel, and other projects

>>>SEE ON P-7

DGMO TALKS

India warns Pakistan over ceasefire violations

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan talked over the hotline on Tuesday to discuss the unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistan, defence sources said on Wednesday.

They said India warned Pakistan against the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Pakistan Army along the Line of Control (LOC) and the International Border.

The Indian Army has effectively responded to the



Pakistan Army's unprovoked small arms firing across the Line of Control (LOC).

The Army responded swiftly to the ceasefire violation on the night of April 27-28 in areas opposite Kupwara and Poonch districts in Jammu and Kashmir (J-K), officials said.

The Indian Army had also responded effectively to the Pakistan Army firing along the LoC on the night of April 26-27 in areas opposite the Tutmari Gali and Rampur sectors, as per officials.

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J&K Cop Among 9 Siblings Shifted To Punjab For Deportation

KC News Network

JAMMU: A police personnel and his eight siblings, including five sisters, were shifted from Jammu and Kashmir to Punjab for their deportation to Pakistan on Wednesday, despite the high court admitting their plea against the step and granting them temporary relief.

The nine members of the extended family were among the more than two dozen people, mostly from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), who were served deportation notices by authorities in Poonch, Rajouri and Jammu districts.

In the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead, the Centre announced a slew of measures, including



suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, downgrading diplomatic relations with Islamabad and ordering all Pakistanis on short-term visas to leave India by April 27 or face action.

The Pakistani nationals, many of whom were living in the Jammu region for decades, were taken in buses to Punjab, where they

will be handed over to Pakistani authorities on Wednesday.

The police personnel, Ifthkar Ali (45), and his eight siblings including five sisters aged between 42 and 56 years got a respite when the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh admitted their petition claiming that they are not Pakistani nationals and have been living in

Salwah village for generations.

"(The) petitioners be not asked or forced to leave the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This direction is, however, subject to objections from the other side," Justice Rahul Bharti said in an order after hearing the plea of Ali, who has served in the police department for the last 27 years and is currently posted at the Katra base camp of the Vaishno Devi shrine.

Admitting their petition, supported by revenue records to prima facie establish that they are bona fide residents of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, the judge asked government lawyers to submit a detailed report within two weeks and listed the case for the next hearing on May 20. The court also directed the Poonch deputy

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Lt Gen Pratik Sharma takes over as Northern Army Commander

Yogesh

JAMMU: Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma Wednesday took over as the new Commander-in-Chief of the Udhampur-based Northern Army Command. He replaced Lt Gen MV Suchendra Kumar after his 15-month tenure in the office.

With an illustrious career spanning across three decades, Lt General Sharma, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) is an infantry officer who has served in varied operational environments. He was a part of key operations such as operations Pawan, Meghdoot, Rakshak and Parakram.

Lt Gen Sharma has held key appointments, including Director General Military Operations,



Military Secretary branch. He was also the Director General of Information Warfare at the newly institutionalised Information

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J&K, Ladakh to achieve 62% non-fossil fuel capacity by 2034-35

Riyaz Bhat

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to witness around 62 per cent of share from non-fossil fuel-based capacity in mixed electricity generation by 2034-35.

The official documents available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveal that the share of non-fossil fuel-based capacity in the generation mix

is projected to be around 62% by 2034-35 with higher contribution from non-fossil fuel-based capacities in alignment with Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) trajectory.

"As per the studies, the total projected contracted Capacity for the year 2034-35 excluding Short Term Open Access (STOA) is 10,088 MW which consists of 3700 MW

from Coal, 129 MW from Gas, 3364 MW from Hydro, 68 MW from Nuclear, 1840 MW from Solar and 987 MW from DRE. This IC along with additional 700 MW of STOA shall be able to meet the projected demand with prescribed reliability criteria," the documents reveal.

In the electricity generation mix, non-fossil fuel-based capacity refers to the

share of power generation sources that do not rely on fossil fuels like coal, oil, or natural gas.

This includes sources like renewable energy, including hydro, solar, wind, biomass, nuclear power, and potentially other technologies like geothermal or advanced energy storage.

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75% Qualify 12Th Exams

Riyaz Bhat

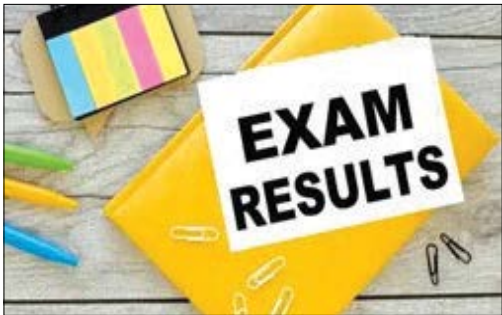
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education on Wednesday announced results of annual regular exams of 12th standard with an overall pass percentage of 75 percent.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) girl students have yet again outshined boys.

BOSE said that the total pass percentage includes 72 percent in boys and 78 percent among girl students.

It also said that a total of 1,033,08 candidates were enrolled for the exams in which 77,311 successfully qualified it.

Stating the overall performance of the candidates, BOSE said that a total of 51,717 male and 51,591 female



candidates appeared in the examination out of which 75 percent qualified it.

In the exams, a total of 30,622 students have registered distinctions,

36,311 secured first divisions, 10,304 bagged second division and 74 candidates registered third division.

BOSE further said that in the examination, 970 students

couldn't qualify the exams while 25,027 have been asked to reappear in the exams.

The official had said that nearly 3,55,963 students were registered for the annual regular examination of class 10th, 11th and 12th including 1,32,992 candidates of 10th standard, 1,20,673 in 11th standard and 1,02,298 students of 12th standard respectively.

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Sakeena Itoo grooms students

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo extended her heartfelt greetings to the students of 12th class who were declared successful in results declared today.

In her greetings, Sakeena applauded the dedication, hard work, and perseverance of students for achieving academic excellence. She added that our students have shown remarkable determination and achieved such brilliant results.

The Minister also extended her heartfelt greetings to girl students for outshining the boys both in overall pass percentage and top meritorious positions, adding that girls are excelling in every field.

The Minister also encouraged those who may

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Hajj 2025 First flight from Srinagar scheduled on May 4



Mubashir Alam Wani

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Haj Committee on Wednesday issued the flight schedule for the first batch of the intended pilgrims departing from Srinagar for the pilgrimage this year.

According to an official notification, a copy of which also lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO),

the first flight (SG-5304) is scheduled to take off on May 04, 2025.

As per the notification, pilgrims travelling on this flight have been instructed to report at Haj House, Bemina, Srinagar, between 5:00 AM and 5:30 AM on the day of departure. The J&K Haj Committee has urged pilgrims to strictly adhere to the reporting time

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MeT predicts brief spell of showers for next 5 days

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: While the heatwave conditions continued in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar for the second straight day on Wednesday recorded the second hottest April day at 30.9 degrees Celsius.

Kokernag in south Kashmir, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), recorded the all-time highest temperature in the month of April at 29.1 degrees Celsius, breaking an 18-year-old record of 28.3 degrees Celsius, recorded on April 30, 2007.

For the second straight day, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded the second highest maximum temperature in the month of April as the mercury settled at 30.9 degrees Celsius. The all-time hottest maximum temperature in April was recorded at 31.3 degrees Celsius on April 20, 1946.

While the heatwave prevailed at multiple places across J&K, Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad has advised people to stay hydrated. He has recommended drinking plenty of water, fluids and staying indoors and avoid working in the open during peak hours from 12-3 pm.

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Heat wave to severe heat wave in Saurashtra, Kutch, rain and thundershowers in Northeast India

PUNE: Heat wave to severe heat wave conditions are very likely in isolated pockets of Saurashtra and Kutch in Gujarat, while rain or thundershowers occurred at most places in Northeast India, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Day temperatures were markedly above normal (5.1 C or more) at a few places over Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh, Gilgit, Baltistan, Muzaffarabad; appreciably above normal (3.1 C to 5.0 C) at isolated places over west Rajasthan, Saurashtra and Kutch; above normal (1.6 C to 3.0 C) at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, east Rajasthan, Gujarat Region, west Madhya Pradesh, Konkan and Goa and Madhya Maharashtra, the IMD said.

The temperatures were markedly below normal (-5.1 or below) at many places over Bihar; at isolated places over east Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal and Sikkim; appreciably below normal (-3.1 C to -5.0 C) at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura; below normal (-1.6 C to -3.0 C)



at a few places over east Madhya Pradesh, west Uttar Pradesh; at isolated places over Telangana,

Royalaseema, interior Karnataka and normal over rest parts of the country, the IMD bulletin said.

On Sunday, the highest maximum temperature of 46.4 C was reported at Barmer (west Rajasthan) in the country. Hailstorm occurred at isolated places

over east Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha and coastal Andhra Pradesh.

Heat wave to severe heat wave conditions are very likely in isolated pockets of Saurashtra and Kutch on April 29 and isolated heat wave conditions on April 30.

Heat wave conditions are very likely in some parts of west Rajasthan on April 29 and 30; in isolated pockets on May 1;

in isolated pockets over Jammu-Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and east Rajasthan on April 29 and 30.

Rain or thundershowers have occurred at most places in Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura and at many places in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya and Gangetic West Bengal and at a few places in Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, Odisha and Kerala and at isolated places in Jharkhand, Bihar, east Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, coastal Karnataka, interior Karnataka and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Mainly dry weather has prevailed in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh, Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada and Lakshadweep, the IMD said.

The following observations for the past 24 hrs were recorded at 8-30 am on Tuesday.

Nepal To Restrict Mt Everest To Only Those Who Have Done 7K Climbs

KATHMANDU: Nepal is planning to restrict expeditions to Mt Everest only to those mountaineers who have climbed at least one peak above 7,000 metres aimed at reducing deaths in the high altitude zone, a media report said.

Ever since New Zealander Edmund Hillary and Nepal's Sherpa Tenzing Norgay summited the 8,849 metres (29,032 feet) high Mt Everest, popular as Sagarmatha in Nepali, on May 29, 1953, thousands of climbers from all over the world, including India and Nepal, have been attracted to the highest peak in the world.

Official data shows that since 1953's Hillary-Norgay summit, around 9,000 mountaineers have successfully scaled Mt Everest while over 300 have lost their lives. "The 8,848.86-metre Everest is about to get a stricter gatekeeper. No longer will just any climber with ambition and a permit be able to attempt the world's highest peak. A new draft law says: 'Prove yourself first'.



"According to the Integrated Tourism Bill registered in the upper house of Parliament on April 18, any climber wishing to set foot on Everest must first have conquered a mountain over 7,000 metres," The Kathmandu Post said.

Pointing out that this spring alone, more than 400 enthusiasts have been granted permission for the Everest climbing and the number will likely increase to at least 500, a leader in the Kathmandu Post on Tuesday said: Such high numbers, no matter how beneficial for Nepal's economy, have a darker side:

unusual traffic jams, an increase in the deaths of climbers (for instance, 17 deaths in 2023 and eight in 2024), rapid glacier melt and the spreading image of Everest as the "world's highest garbage dump". Among the many restrictions mentioned in the Bill, health checks will be mandatory; climbers will need a certificate from a government-approved medical institution, issued within the past month, to confirm their medical fitness for ascent, and individuals with health complications will be excluded from participating in an expedition.

Coromandel International Posts Q4 and Full Year with Solid Gains

JAMMU: Coromandel International Limited (BSE: 506395, NSE: COROMANDEL), one of India's leading Agri-solutions providers, today announced its financial results for the quarter and full year ended March 31, 2025. The Company operates across diverse segments including Fertilisers, Crop Protection Chemicals, Bio Products, Specialty Nutrients, and Organic Fertilisers. Coromandel has also strengthened its presence in the Agri-retail sector and made significant strides in the emerging Agri-drone spraying services.

The Board of Directors of Coromandel International Limited has approved the financial results of the company for the quarter and year ended 31st March 2025. Additionally, The Board has recommended final dividend of Rs. 9 per share (900% on face value of Rs. 1 per equity share) for the financial year 2024-25.

The Board has also approved the appointment of Natarajan Srinivasan as Executive Vice Chairman. He brings with him a wealth of experience and strategic acumen, further strengthening the leadership team as the company enters its next phase of growth and transformation.

The Revenue for the quarter ended 31st March 2025 was at Rs. 4,326 Cr as against Rs. 3,358 Cr during Q4 of Previous Year. Profit before interest and tax for the quarter was Rs. 312 Cr vs Rs. 248 Cr for



the quarter ended 31st March 2024.

The Revenue for FY24-25 was at Rs. 21,633 Cr compared with Rs. 19,749 Cr in the previous year. Profit before interest and tax for the year was Rs. 2,244 Cr vs Rs. 2,176 Cr in the previous year.

The Revenue for the quarter ended 31st March 2025 was at Rs. 698 Cr as against Rs. 564 Cr during Q4 of Previous Year. Profit before interest and tax for the quarter was Rs. 103 Cr vs Rs. 63 Cr for the quarter ended March 2024.

The Revenue for FY24-25 was at Rs. 2,635 Cr compared with Rs. 2,454 Cr in the previous year. Profit before interest and tax for the year was Rs. 366 Cr vs Rs. 288 Cr in the previous year.

Coromandel's total income for the quarter ended March 2025 was at Rs. 5,114 Cr vs. Rs. 3,996 Cr for the quarter ended March 2024. The profit after tax for the quarter was at Rs. 578 Cr as against Rs. 164 Cr for the quarter ended March 2024.

Coromandel's total income for FY24-25 was at Rs. 24,444 Cr vs. Rs. 22,290 Cr in the previous year. The profit after tax for the year was at Rs. 2,055 Cr as against Rs. 1,641 Cr in the previous year.

Commenting on the financial results, S Shankarabramanian, Managing Director & CEO, Coromandel International Limited:

We are pleased to report a strong performance for FY24-25, driven by sustained momentum across our businesses. Our growth was supported by higher sales volumes, improved operational efficiency, and disciplined execution of strategic initiatives.

Our Nutrient and Crop Protection segments witnessed robust growth, complemented by encouraging farmer response to our new initiatives like Gromor Drive - Agri drone spraying and Nano fertilisers. The Retail business expanded its footprint with 100 new stores and entry into Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, crossing the 900-store mark.

Pahalgam Terror Act Is Attack On Principles Of Humanity: Salim Sherwani

PRAYAGRAJ: Senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader and former Union Minister Saleem Shervani on Tuesday condemned the Pahalgam incident and said where the country's unity and integrity is concerned, all parties should unite and face the opposition.

While talking to reporters, the former minister said that the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, is a brutal and inhuman act. "It is an attack on the principles of humanity. No kind of compromise can be made with the country's unity and integrity. No political party should do politics on this tragic incident. There are many issues to do politics on. We should unite and face the opposition. Whatever steps the government takes, we are with them," he said.



He said that there is also a lapse in security behind the incident that happened in Pahalgam. "From where did these terrorists enter and carry out such a big incident. We do not need to get entangled in this issue but need to give them a befitting reply," he said.

Shervani appealed to Prime

Minister Narendra Modi to take concrete steps against this inhuman act so that such an incident does not recur. He said that whatever action the central government is going to take regarding this inhuman act, there should be no leniency in it.

He said that he has come to know, how much of it is true, I

do not know, but the steps that the central government is going to take, many other countries, whether it is America, European Union, Iran, China or some other countries, are pressuring our government to take mild action against Pakistan because it is a big debtor of those countries.

He said that the Indian Government should not come under anyone's pressure and should not hesitate in taking strict action.

In response to a question, the SP leader said that people who come with a visa do not commit such heinous acts.

"Infiltrators commit such inhuman acts. There is better facility of medical treatment here, due to which many Pakistanis come with visa for treatment," he said.

China Reiterates Call For India, Pakistan To Exercise Restraint

BEIJING: China on Tuesday reiterated its call for India and Pakistan to exercise restraint, saying their harmonious coexistence is vital to the peace, stability and development of the region.

Both India and Pakistan are important countries in South Asia, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing here.

Guo made the remarks in response to a question on the exchange of gunfire by the troops of the two countries following the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people dead.

"Their harmonious coexistence is vital to the peace, stability and development of the region," Guo said.

As the neighbour of the two countries, China calls on the two sides to exercise restraint, properly handle dif-

ferences through dialogue and consultation, and jointly keep the region peaceful and stable, he said.

Guo on Monday made a similar remark on the tensions between India and Pakistan and said it welcomed all measures to "cool down" the current situation between the two neighbours.

"As a common neighbour of India and Pakistan, China hopes that both sides will exercise restraint, meet each other halfway, properly handle relevant differences through dialogue and consultation, and jointly maintain regional peace and stability," he said.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY DIVISION Ramban.

Fresh Short Tender NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

e-NIT No- EE/PMGSY/DR/43 of 2025-26 Dated: 29/04/2025

Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Ramban on behalf of The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders for Stage Contracts on %age Above/Excess (+) OR %age Below/ Less (-) basis (i.e. on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt, CPWD, Railways or equivalent and other State Govts up to 5.00 PM on 05-05-2025 for each of the following works.

S.No	Name of Work/ Package No.	Name of the PIU	Cost of Doc (Rs.)	E/Money (Rs.)	Validity Period of Contract	Call of tender	Time and date of opening of tenders	Class of contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Temporary Restoration of roads on emergency basis i.e. (motor paths only) by way of clearance of slips/snow likely to occur during the financial year 2025-2026. 1. Mavalkot Surundla to Thatharka, Package No. JK14-367, Stage-II, Phase-VIII, Block-Sangaldan, District-Ramban, Length = 6.30Kms. 2. Kanthamohr to Mahakund, Package No. JK14-370, Stage-II, Phase-VIII, Block-Sangaldan, District-Ramban, Length = 4.50Kms. 3. Kanthamohr to Mahakund, Package No. JK19-3005, Up-gradation, PMGSY-III, Block-Sangaldan, District-Ramban, Length = 8.0Kms. Total Length:- 18.80Kms	Ramban	1000.00	10000.00	31-03-2026	3rd	11.00 AM 06-05-2025	Any registered contractor with State PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as per Nit.
2	Temporary Restoration of roads on emergency basis i.e. (motor paths only) by way of clearance of slips/snow likely to occur during the financial year 2025-2026. 1. Harog to Halla, Package No. JK14-594, Stage-II, Phase-XII, Block-Gundi Dharams, District-Ramban, Length = 8.30Kms. 2. Sangaldan Tata Pani road, Package No. JK14-592, Up-gradation, Phase-XII, Block-Sangaldan, District-Ramban, Length = 5.40Kms. 3. Manglogi to Gujjar Gali, Package No. JK14-438, Stage-II, Phase-X, Block-Sangaldan, District-Ramban, Length = 3.00Kms. Total Length:- 16.70Kms	Ramban	1000.00	10000.00	31-03-2026	3rd	11.00 AM 05-2025	Any registered contractor with State PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as per Nit.
3.	Temporary Restoration of roads on emergency basis i.e. (motor paths only) by way of clearance of slips/snow likely to occur during the financial year 2025-2026. 1. Gool to Dheedha, Package No. JK14-366, Stage-II, Phase-VIII, Block-Gool, District-Ramban, Length = 9.30Kms. 2. Perthmulla Tungali to Jabbar, Package No. JK14-368, Stage-II, Phase-VIII, Block-Gool, District-Ramban, Length = 4.50Kms. 3. Perthmulla Wanding, Package No. JK14-421, Stage-II, Phase-X, Block-Gool, District-Ramban, Length = 2.0Kms. Total Length:- 15.80Kms	Ramban	1000.00	10000.00	31-03-2026	3rd	11.00 AM 05-2025	Any registered contractor with State PWD/CPWD/ Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as per Nit.

- (a) The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from 5.00 PM on 29-04-2025 to 05-05-2025 (5.00PM)
 - (b) The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from 05.00 PM 30-04-2025 to 05-05-2025 05.00 PM
 - (c) A Pre bid meeting will be held on 30-04-2025 12.00 Noon. in the Office of The Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Ramban to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 9 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents.
 - The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in>.
 - For further details kindly visit our website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in>
- No:- EE/PMGSY/DR/601-70
Dated:- 29-04-2025

DIPK-962/25

Sd/-Executive Engineer
PMGSY Division Ramban

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir,

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B Division Kralpora

E tendering NIT No 05/RnB/Kralpora of 2025-26 Dated:- 30-04-2025

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor Jammu & Kashmir (UT), e-tenders are being invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K UT Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs)	E/ Money	Time of completion	D&T of opening	Class of Contractor	Major Head
1.	Construction of Elementary Boundary wall at PS Gaider Mohalla Dardpora	7.10	300/-	14150	20 days	15-05-2025 (Noon)	Cee/Dee	Samagra Shiksha (PAB 2021-22)
2.	Construction of Elementary Boundary wall at 1010302604 UPS Dhamard	7.56	300/-	15120	20 days		Cee/Dee	Samagra Shiksha (PAB 2023-24)
3.	Balance work for Construction of Building for Sub Treasury Kralpora	3.87	200/-	7740	30 days		Dee	4059 Finance

Position of AAA/ TS : Accorded

Position of funds:- Available

No: Div-KRLP/330-44

Date: 30-04-2025

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/ drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates tabulated below:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30.04.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30.04.2025 (1:00 PM) to 14.05.2025 (4:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	30.04.2025 (1:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	14.05.2025 (4:00PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15.05.2025 (12:00 Noon) In the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora.

2. Bids must be accompanied with Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora (tender inviting authority). Treasury Challan must be written boldly and clearly with Name of Work, Name of the Contractor along with Contact No, NIT No and Serial No of Work on NIT (if any).

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% of the allotted Cost in the form of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/ Maintenance Period.

11 The key construction material shall have to be arranged by the contractor of his own as per the quality/ specifications.

a. Cement = JKOPC Brand
b. Steel of all sorts = SAIL certified (The SAIL certificate shall be produced /deposited in the division by the AEE concerned at the time of submission of the work done bills). No excess in quantities/Cost is allowed in any case without prior information.

12 All other Conditions shall remain same as per the DETAILED TENDER NOTICE No 01/RnB/Kralpora of 2025-26E-tendering Dated:- 16-04-2025 Issued under No. Div-KRLP/123-37 dated 16-04-2025 and PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

13 Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/ bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.

DIPK-952/25

Sd/-Executive Engineer
R&B Division Kralpora

96 Panchayats in Bandipora achieve TB-Mukt status under NTEP

BANDIPORA: Under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), 96 panchayats of Bandipora district have been declared TB-Mukt (Tuberculosis-Free).

To recognize this achievement, the District Tuberculosis Control Society Bandipora on Wednesday organized a Tuberculosis-Free Panchayat Award Ceremony at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, and was attended by Chief Planning Of-



ficer Mohammad Maqbool, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rafi Ahmad, District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Hafeezullah, MS DH Bandipora, BMOs, Medical Officers, paramedical staff, panchayat secretaries and other concerned.

While presenting the progress of NTEP in the district, the District Tuberculosis Officer informed that out of 151 panchayats in Bandipora, 96 panchayats have achieved TB-Free status.

He apprised that 25 panchayats have been awarded Silver status and 71 have achieved Bronze

status based on their performance in TB control initiatives.

DC commended the efforts of the health department, frontline workers, and panchayat secretaries for their active participation in achieving this public health goal.

He emphasized the need for continued vigilance and community engagement to make Bandipora completely TB-free.

The event concluded with the distribution of certificates among the health workers and panchayat secretaries of TB-Free panchayats.

Edu Dept Bids Emotional Farewell to Veteran PEM Mohammad Rafiq Mir

BANDIPORA: The Education Department in Bandipora on Wednesday bids affectionate farewell to veteran Physical Education master Mohammad Rafiq Mir on reaching superannuation.

In an emotional farewell ceremony held at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Bandipora, his students, colleagues,

The Principal of GGHSS Bandipora, in his address, praised Mr. Mir's unwavering commitment and called him a role model for both students and staff. A citation highlighting his achievements and service history was presented to him as a token of respect and admiration.

"We wish our beloved colleague, Mohammad Rafiq Mir Sahib, a healthy, peaceful, and fulfilling retired life," the staff said collectively, as the gathering gave him a standing ovation.

Born on April 2, 1965, in Bandipora – the famed land of Alim, Adab and Aab – Mir pursued his early education locally and later earned his B.P.Ed degree from the College of Physical Education, Ganderbal in 1995.

Known for his enthusiasm, discipline, and deep commitment to promoting physical education and sports, Mir joined the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) as a Physical Education Teacher on November 9, 1997.

Over the years, he served at several institutions across Bandipora and Baramulla districts, including GHS Safapora, DYSS Baramulla, GHS Mantrigam, and HSS Aloosa, before concluding his service at GGHSS Bandipora.

Throughout his career, Mir was widely recognized for his dedication and contributions to school sports, earning accolades from both the DYSS and the School Education Department.

At today's event, colleagues, students, and officials showered heartfelt tributes and shared memories of his invaluable mentorship and contribution to school life. The farewell concluded with emotional speeches where speakers recalled the illustrious career of Mir and also presented gifts of appreciation besides a collective prayer for his future endeavors.



former students and colleagues organised a function to felicitate the retiring master and bid an affectionate farewell who is retiring from active service after an illustrious career spanning over 27 years.

Principal GGHSS Bandipora Javid Ahmad Magrey was the chief guest on the occasion while Imam-e-Hai Bandipora Moulana Khurshed Anwar Naqashbandi, former Deputy Chief Education Officer Rafiq Ahmad Parry, Ex principal Mohammad Ramzan Bhat along with other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the officers recalled the contribution of PEM Mohammad Rafiq Mir and wished him all luck for the post retirement life.

JKTF Bandipora Seeks Probe Into Alleged Irregularities in Quil Muqam Zone

BANDIPORA: The Jammu and Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF), Bandipora, has urged the Directorate of School Education and the Joint Director (North) to intervene in what it describes as serious administrative lapses and discriminatory practices in Zone Quil Muqam.



According a statement issued by JKTF headed by Showkat Ali Baig, the forum's Bandipora unit has received multiple complaints from teachers alleging "mismanagement, selective treatment, and an overall stressful working atmosphere" under the current Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) in disbursement of Travel Allowances to teachers.

"There is growing discontent among the teaching staff. Many feel demoralized and unheard. Several teachers have raised concerns

about undue pressure and lack of support," said Nisar.

A major point of contention is the alleged irregular disbursement of Travel Allowance (TA) under the government's "Yuwa Mission" programme. While all eligible teachers re-

portedly performed their duties under the initiative, only a select few have received the allowance, with many others left out without explanation.

Further, JKTF has flagged the reported transfer of a teacher serving as a Booth Level Officer (BLO), allegedly in violation of the Election Commission of India's guidelines. "The teacher's posting was reversed quietly after the matter drew attention, raising questions about administrative transparency," the spokesperson said.

Despite these concerns, JKTF appreciated the efforts of Chief Education Officer (CEO) Bandipora, acknowledging his "sincere attempts to streamline the education system in the district." However, it noted that lapses at the zonal level undermine broader reforms.

"We are not making allegations, but we appeal for a fair and transparent inquiry," said Nisar, urging higher authorities to uphold the principles of equity and accountability.

The forum has expressed confidence in the Directorate's ability to address the matter and restore trust among the teaching community.

Sopore's Hafiza-e-Quran tops Science stream of Class 12 with 494 Marks

YASIR NAJAR

SRINAGAR: In a shining example of the intersection of religion, discipline, and academic excellence, 17-year-old Hafiza-e-Quran Jannat Shabir Rawa of Sir Syed Colony, Sopore, has been one of the top scorers in the Class 12



Science stream of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) with a whopping 494 marks.

A student of SRMLK Higher Secondary School, Jannat's own life is contradictory. She had memorized the entire Quran in her childhood—a feat that requires an unimaginable amount of concentration and dedication. She is now a perfect example of how religious grounding can lead to studies.

"Success demands discipline, not books", Jannat told Kashmir Bulletin (KB).

"Being a Hafiza taught me about discipline, time management, and staying away from distractions such as social media. These traits carried over into studying and made sure that there was focus."

The tone of Jannat is gentle as she talks about the students who flunked this year. "They should not lose hope. The world is big, and life offers many opportunities. Inshallah, success will be theirs with determination and

faith in Allah."

With her serenity and maturity that did not betray her age, Jannat also spoke to fellow achievers. "This result is not the end—it's a step. We must keep on trying, be humble, and use our success for something good."

She credited her parents, teachers, and her

religious upbringing for guiding her. "My parents' duas and my teachers' encouragement gave me strength. I thank Allah for providing me with the strength to balance Quran and studies," she added.

Jannat's achievement follows on the heels of JKBOSE attaining an overall pass rate of 75% in the Higher Secondary Part Two (Class 12) Annual Examination 2025. 77,311 out of 1,03,308 students passed. Girls performed much better than boys with a pass rate of 80% compared to 69% boys.

Out of the 30,622 students in the distinction class, Jannat is an exception—not least, numerically, but also in what she symbolizes: a quiet triumph of discipline over distraction and of religion allied with one-pointed will.

In an age increasingly defined by cyber noise and fleeting focus, Jannat Shabir Rawa's story reminds us of the strength of integrity, denial, and holy soil most of us carry on the way to greatness.— (KB)

Army Provides School Desks to Border Schools in Rajouri's Beripattan



RAJOURI: In a move aimed at improving educational infrastructure in remote border villages, the Indian Army has provided 61 school desks to five government schools in Tehsil Beripattan, Rajouri district. The initiative comes in response to observations made during earlier visits, where it was found that students were forced to sit on bare floors due to the lack of basic classroom furniture. The absence of desks was not only affecting the learning experience but also impacting the health and morale of the children.

Taking note of the urgent need, the Army stepped in to address the issue and handed over the desks during a function at-

tended by teachers, students, and local residents. The intervention has been widely appreciated by the community, bringing a sense of pride and joy among the beneficiaries. Located in the Sunderbani sector, the schools have long struggled with inadequate infrastructure due to their remote and difficult terrain. The newly provided desks are expected to significantly improve classroom conditions, promote academic engagement, and boost the overall morale of both students and teaching staff. The gesture is part of the Army's broader efforts to support education and community development in border areas under its civic action programme.

KVK Bandipora organised awareness cum seed distribution programme for Tribal farmers

BANDIPORA: The Krishi Vigyan Kendra Bandipora, on Wednesday organizes an awareness cum seed distribution programme for tribal farmers of Bandipora.

Around 300 farmers of different tribal areas of Bandipora participated in the programme and who were also given different kinds of seeds for the upcoming farming season in hilly areas.

The event was attended by Dr Rehaana Habib Kanth Director extensions SKUAST Kashmir along with other senior officials and KVK Bandipora incharge Dr Tariq Sultan.

Speaking with the media Director SKUAST Rehaana Habib said that the programme aims to uplift the Tribal community.

She also said that the department will continue to organise these awareness programmes for the benefit of the Tribal community.

Dr Taqriq Sultan while sharing the details said that the KVK is actively engaging with farmers continuously and will continue it in future also.

He also said that around 300 farmers benefited in this programme.



Bandipora Admin Bids Farewell to GM DIC Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat on Superannuation

BANDIPORA: Industries Department Bandipora today organized a farewell function in honor of Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC) Bandipora, on the occasion of his superannuation.

The farewell function at Conference Hall mini secretariat Bandipora was held to recognize decades of dedicated service and outstanding contributions of superannuating officer to the public sector, particularly in promoting industrial development in the district.

The farewell function was graced by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, who lauded the retiring officer's role in strengthening the industrial ecosystem in the district besides highlighting his role in implementing government schemes.

He termed Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat as an officer who always carried out his responsibilities with sincerity, vision, and integrity.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Shabir Ahmad Wani, commended professionalism, people-centric approach of Mushtaq Ahmad in delivering public service.

The officers also extended their best wishes for his post-retirement life.

In his farewell address, Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat expressed his gratitude to the District Administration, his colleagues, and the Industries Department staff for their cooperation and support throughout his service in District Bandipora.

Among others, Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Maqbool Lone, officers and officials of Industries Department and other concerned were present on the occasion.



CISC Lt Gen JP Mathew Retires, Leaves Legacy of Strategic Reforms

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant General JP Mathew on Tuesday relinquished the appointment of Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC) to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee, marking the culmination of nearly four decades of distinguished military service. On the day of his superannuation, Lt Gen Mathew paid homage to the nation's fallen heroes by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi and was later accorded a ceremonial Tri-Service Guard of Honour at the South Block lawns. Lt Gen Mathew had assumed the charge of CISC in April 2023 and played a pivotal role in fostering jointness and synergy among the three Services. Under his leadership, significant strides were made in strengthening the Defence Cyber Agency and Defence Space Agency, thereby advancing India's strategic capabilities in critical domains. A firm proponent of the Government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision, he actively promoted collaboration with the Indian defence industry and academic institutions.

During his tenure, the General Officer spearheaded reforms across military education institutions such as the Defence Services Staff College, College of Defence Management, Military Institute of Technology, and the National Defence Academy. His focus on diversity and inclusion also led to increased participation of women in the Armed Forces. On the international front, Lt Gen Mathew represented the Indian Armed Forces at various multilateral forums and played an instrumental role in strengthening defence cooperation with neighbouring countries while enhancing capabilities in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. Commissioned into the Punjab Regiment in December 1985, Lt Gen Mathew went on to become the Colonel of the Regiment on January 9, 2022. For his exemplary service to the nation, he has been decorated with several prestigious honours including the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, and Vishisht Seva Medal.

Empowering Rural India

Launched on National Panchayati Raj Day in April 2020 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the SVAMITVA Scheme has emerged as a landmark initiative aimed at transforming the rural landscape of India. By providing property owners in village Abadi areas with a formal “Record of Rights,” the scheme addresses a critical gap that has existed for decades—lack of legal documentation for rural properties. The upcoming e-distribution of 57 lakh property cards across 46,351 villages in 10 states and 2 Union Territories on December 27, 2024, will mark another milestone in the scheme's journey. This initiative, which will connect beneficiaries virtually to the Prime Minister, reflects the government's commitment to ensuring that even the remotest corners of the country benefit from technological advancements and equitable governance. For over seven decades, incomplete surveys and the absence of formal records left rural property owners unable to leverage their assets for loans or other financial benefits. SVAMITVA has addressed this challenge head-on by using drone and GIS technology to demarcate land and issue formal property cards. With 3.17 lakh villages already surveyed and 2.19 crore property cards prepared for 1.49 lakh villages, the scheme has made remarkable strides in a short period. Moreover, all inhabited villages in states like Haryana, Uttarakhand, Goa, and others now have generated property cards, symbolizing the scheme's nationwide reach. The impact of SVAMITVA goes beyond just property validation. It resolves disputes, encourages financial inclusion, and facilitates smarter village-level planning. The use of survey-grade drones and a centralized dashboard for real-time monitoring has set new benchmarks in governance and efficiency. Additionally, property cards are accessible through the DigiLocker app, ensuring transparency and convenience for beneficiaries. SVAMITVA is more than a technical initiative; it is a movement towards inclusive and transformative governance. The success of SVAMITVA lies in its ability to marry technology with governance, creating a framework that is not only efficient but also transformative. As the scheme continues to expand its reach, it promises to build a stronger, more unified rural India, one property card at a time. This is not just a testament to innovative governance but a beacon of hope for millions aspiring for a brighter, more secure future.

The Transformative Power of Grief: Insights Across Cultures



SHABEER AHMAD LONE

The deeper sorrow carves into your being the more joy you can contain- Khalil Gibran

از دل خود گریه کن، تا گلی ز خنجر تر شود
تا نی، دلسوختگی با روح تو بگیرد- رومی

"Cry from your heart, so that the wound becomes a garden,
So that the soul's anguish may find its release."

در دل شمع سوزان، در دل دریا پر از گلاب
تا که ارمغان خون خود بر خاک تو بنشانم- حافظ

"In the heart, a burning candle, in the ocean, a field of roses,
Until I place the gift of my blood upon your sacred earth."

Grief, a deeply human experience, transcends cultural, temporal, and geographical boundaries, weaving through the fabric of human existence as both a shared burden and a profound teacher. Its universality makes it one of the most compelling subjects of intellectual inquiry, as

Hazaaron khwahishen aisi ke har khwahish pe dam nikle
Bohat nikle mere arman lekin phir bhi kam nikle
Thousands of desires, each so intense that it takes a lifetime to fulfill,
Many of my wishes were fulfilled, but still, they were too few.

What is life without sorrow? Nothing but a dream / A momentary illusion." It appears to be a paraphrased or interpretative rendering of Ghalib's thought, capturing his reflections on life's impermanence and the role of sorrow in giving life depth and meaning. For Ghalib, grief is both a reflection of the human condition and a path to spiritual enlightenment, as it pushes the soul toward introspection and transformation.

Iqbal views grief as an essential catalyst for inner growth and the awakening of the "khudi" (self), which is central to his philosophy. He portrays grief as a necessary trial that purifies the soul, enabling one to transcend worldly limitations and attain higher spiritual consciousness. In his famous poem "Shikwa", Iqbal addresses humanity's grievances and questions with God, expressing a deep sense of existential pain. Yet, in "Jawab-e-Shikwa", he transforms that grief into a call for action, suggesting that pain, when embraced with courage, leads to empowerment and change. Tu shaheen hai, parwaz hai kaam tera, Tere samne asman aur bhi hain. ("You are an eagle, soaring is your task, There are more skies ahead of you.") This highlights Iqbal's belief that grief, when accepted and processed, can elevate the individual to greater heights.

In Kashmiri Sufi poetry, grief is closely linked to the idea of separation from the Divine. Poets like Lal Ded, Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani, Shams Faqir, Ghani Kashmiri, Wahab khar, Ahad zarger, Soach kraal, Rehman Dar, Samad Mir, Asad mir etc etc viewed the pain of separation as a necessary condition for spiritual awakening. This form of grief is not seen as an end but as a process that purifies the soul, bringing

sociated with memory, emotional regulation, and decision-making. Prolonged grief can lead to chronic stress and health complications, yet it can also catalyze post-traumatic growth, fostering resilience, empathy, and a redefined sense of purpose. These findings align with cultural frameworks like Japan's mono no aware, which embraces the poignancy of impermanence, teaching individuals to find beauty and meaning even in transience. Grief, then, is not merely a response to loss but a force that reshapes the self, transforming pain into a deeper appreciation for life's fleeting nature.

The communal and societal dimensions of grief are equally profound. Catastrophic events, such as wars, pandemics, or natural disasters, often evoke collective grief, which can become a catalyst for social and political change. The global COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, highlighted shared vulnerabilities, fostering empathy across borders and inspiring systemic shifts in healthcare and social policy. However, the commodification of grief in contemporary contexts, particularly through social media, raises critical questions about authenticity and the implications of public mourning in a digital age. While such platforms have democratized expressions of grief, they also risk trivializing profound experiences, turning sorrow into spectacle.

Grief's transformative potential is inherently tied to the frameworks within which it is processed. Supportive communities, cultural validation, and spiritual traditions can amplify grief's ability to heal and inspire growth. Conversely, societies that stigmatize grief or fail to provide adequate resources risk compounding its destructive aspects. Herein lies the challenge and opportunity of grief: to create spaces where sorrow is acknowledged and embraced, where its lessons are integrated into the collective narrative, and where its capacity for renewal is realized.

In the final analysis, grief is more than an emotion—it is a pro-



it reflects the interplay between individual vulnerability and collective resilience. Across traditions and periods, anatomy of grief has been understood not merely as a reaction to loss but as a transformative force, capable of reshaping identities, fostering empathy, and redefining societal values. From ancient mourning rituals in Egypt to the communal grief expressed in modern pandemics, the multifaceted nature of grief demonstrates its power to bridge the temporal divide, uniting humanity in its struggles and aspirations. As both a personal journey and a societal phenomenon, grief invites critical analysis and deeper understanding of its expressions, its psychological impacts, and its potential to inspire growth. This exploration, enriched by insights from traditions, cultures, and disciplines, seeks to illuminate grief's profound capacity to teach, heal, and transform, even amidst the shadows of loss.

In ancient traditions, grief often bore a sacred dimension. Egyptian mourning rituals, for instance, celebrated the transition from life to eternity, embedding grief within a cosmological framework that gave meaning to the loss. Similarly, Indigenous communities around the world have long viewed grief as a communal responsibility, where mourning rituals serve not only to honor the departed but to heal the collective psyche. This contrasts with modern, individualistic societies where grief is often privatized, with public expressions frequently constrained by cultural norms or stigmatized as weakness. Yet, the transformative potential of grief lies in its capacity to move beyond isolation, fostering connections that transcend the boundaries of the personal and the communal.

Grief, as explored through the lens of literature, philosophy, mysticism and sufism, emerges as a transformative force capable of reshaping the individual and collective spirit. Figures like Shakespeare and Emily Dickinson portray grief as a powerful emotional current that, while often leading to existential questioning, also catalyzes deeper reflections on the human condition. Shakespeare's Hamlet grapples with the paralyzing effects of grief, whereas Dickinson and Rilke express how sorrow can unlock profound insights into life's fragility. Several key Hindu and Punjabi poets have explored the theme of grief and its transformative power in their works, often portraying it as a means of spiritual awakening, devotion, and liberation. These poets used grief as a metaphor for longing and separation from the Divine, highlighting its role in the spiritual journey. One could mention Poets like Kabir, Guru Nanak, Mirabai, Surdas, Bhai Gurdas, Tulidas, Sant Tukaram, Bulleh Shah, Sant Eknath and scores of others. Ghalib's poetry reflects the pain of separation and loss, portraying grief as a form of spiritual yearning. In his famous couplets, Ghalib speaks to the agony of unfulfilled love and the existential suffering that arises from the human search for meaning. He writes:

"Ghalibe-Khasta ke begair kaun se kaam band hain
rojiye zaar-zaar kya kijiye haye-haye kyon"
What business of life, without Ghalib the miserable, has shut its door
Why should anybody cry his heart out if he's no more.

one closer to the Divine. Their verses often depict grief as a yearning that leads to spiritual liberation.

Grief in Kashmiri poetry is often layered with a deep sense of melancholy, not just for what has been lost, but for what could have been. This duality gives the poetry an added complexity, where grief serves as both a remembrance of past beauty and a longing for future healing. It is this intricate balance that defines Kashmiri poetry, where sorrow does not merely dwell in the past but is seen as an ongoing process that informs the present and shapes the future. Ultimately, grief in Kashmiri poetry is not just about sorrow but the eternal pursuit of redemption and transformation.

Philosophers like Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Confucius, Laozi, Zhuangzi, Buddha, Maimonides, Sankara, Shankara, Ibn Arabi, Rumi, Friedrich Nietzsche, Arthur Schopenhauer, Søren Kierkegaard, Martin Heidegger, Simone de Beauvoir, Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, Michel Foucault, Sri Aurobindo, Rabindranath Tagore etc. from various cultural and philosophical traditions, have approached the subject of grief, suffering, and its potential for transformation in different ways, often seeing grief not as a mere negative experience but as a catalyst for personal and spiritual growth. They view grief as an inherent aspect of human existence, one that exposes the individual's confrontation with mortality, yet also serves as a pathway to authenticity. In this realm, grief is not merely loss but a portal to greater self-awareness and existential freedom.

Across cultures, thinkers like Simone Weil, Elvyn Underhill, and Islamic philosophers like Ibn Arabi offer further perspectives, emphasizing that grief can lead to empathy, resilience, and inner growth. Weil's notion of "affliction" as a means to transcend the self aligns with Underhill's spiritual understanding of suffering, where grief serves as a catalyst for spiritual maturity. For Sufi mystics, the pain of grief is often linked to the soul's longing for union with the Divine, a longing that can only be fulfilled through the surrender of the ego. Collectively, these thinkers and mystics reveal that grief, when understood and integrated into life's journey, holds the potential to transcend sorrow and lead to profound healing, empathy, and spiritual renewal. Their insights underline that grief, rather than being a solely negative experience, is a universal process that connects humanity across time and space, offering a path for personal and collective transformation.

Mystics such as Meister Eckhart, Rumi, and the Sufis interpret grief as an essential part of the soul's purification, a necessary step toward divine union. Eckhart's teachings suggest that grief, when embraced with detachment, enables the soul to experience a deeper connection to God, turning sorrow into a spiritual crucible for transformation. Such expressions of grief resonate deeply, affirming its universality while celebrating its particularities. Their works underscore the paradox of grief: it can both shatter and rebuild, isolate and unite, paralyze and inspire.

Modern psychology and neuroscience provide further insights into the anatomy of grief. Research has shown that grief impacts the brain's structure and functioning, altering neural pathways as-

cess, a journey, and a reflection of the interconnectedness of human experience. It holds within it the potential for profound transformation, turning pain into resilience, sorrow into empathy, and loss into renewal. The lessons of grief, whether derived from ancient traditions, modern psychology, or personal introspection, resonate with a timeless truth: in embracing sorrow, humanity finds the seeds of growth and the strength to rebuild. Across periods and contexts, grief has

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Grief in Kashmiri poetry is often layered with a deep sense of melancholy, not just for what has been lost, but for what could have been. This duality gives the poetry an added complexity, where grief serves as both a remembrance of past beauty and a longing for future healing. It is this intricate balance that defines Kashmiri poetry, where sorrow does not merely dwell in the past but is seen as an ongoing process that informs the present and shapes the future. Ultimately, grief in Kashmiri poetry is not just about sorrow but the eternal pursuit of redemption and transformation.

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catalyzed social change, redefined cultural values, and inspired artistic and philosophical expressions that endure across generations. By integrating insights from diverse traditions, cultures, and disciplines, this exploration underscores the enduring significance of grief—not as an endpoint but as a catalyst for understanding, connection, and renewal. Grief reminds us that even in the face of profound loss, there exists the possibility of transformation, reaffirming the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring beauty of life.

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Dy CM holds public outreach camp at Panchayat Bhawani-A, Nowshera

RAJOURI: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted a public outreach camp at Panchayat Bhawani-A in Nowshera, listening to the grievances of local residents with assurance of timely redressal of the same.

During the camp, the locals raised several demands including construction of additional border bunkers, installation of hand pumps, establishment of eco-parks and setting up of a JK Bank branch with ATM facilities.

They also highlighted the acute staff shortage at the Naib Tehsil office in Bhawani and sought compensation for land acquisition along the Bhawani to Qila Darhal road under the Border Roads Organization (BRO). Besides, completion of the Bhawani to Shalaakh road and inclusion of all eligible beneficiaries under the Pradhan

Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) were also among the major concerns raised.

Other issues brought to the Dy CM's notice included water scarcity, inflated electricity bills and establishment of a receiving station in Bhawani. The community also urged for prompt resolution of staff shortage at Higher Secondary School (HSS) Bhawani.

Responding to the demands, the Dy CM issued on the spot

directions to the concerned departments.

He instructed the Executive Engineer to expedite work on the Bhawani to Shalaakh road. He also

awareness about welfare schemes of the Labour Department.

Taking serious note of the complaints regarding exaggerated electricity bills, the Dy CM asked the Power Development Department (PDD) officials to initiate immediate corrective measures.

The Chief Education Officer (CEO) was instructed to rationalize staff postings to address the shortage at HSS Bhawani.

On the occasion, the Deputy CM also laid the foundation stone for construction of Panchayat Ghar at Bhawani-A under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) with an estimated cost of Rs. 30 lakh.

Extending his condolences, the Dy CM also expressed deep sympathies with the bereaved families affected by the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

directed the Block Development Officer (BDO) to ensure that all eligible families are covered under PMAY-G.

The Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) was directed to organize a special camp at Panchayat Bhawani-A for issuing labour cards and creating

ECI strengthens field readiness with 2 day training for electoral officers at IIIDEM

JAMMU: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, Gyanesh Kumar, today inaugurated a two day capacity building training programme for Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) from Bihar and EROs and BLO Supervisors from Haryana, NCT of Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), New Delhi.

The training programme is part of the Election Commission of India's ongoing preparations for the upcoming General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies.

A total of 369 grassroots election officers are taking part in this mixed-batch training programme.

In his inaugural address, the CEC said that the BLOs and EROs along with the Booth Level

Agents (BLAs) are responsible for ensuring correct and updated electoral rolls and they are to function strictly as per the Representation of People Act 1950, Registration of Electors

registration, form handling and field level implementation of electoral procedures.

The officials will be provided technical demonstrations and training of EVMs and VVPATs.

They will also be familiarised with the provisions of first and second appeals against the final electoral rolls as published with the DM/District Collector/ Executive Magistrate under section 24(a) of RP Act 1950 and Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of the State/UT under section 24(b) respectively. It may be recalled

that no appeals were filed from Bihar, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi after completion of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) exercise as of 6th-10th of January 2025.

The curriculum included interactive sessions, role plays simulating house-to-house surveys, case studies and hands-on exercises for filling Forms 6, 6A, 7 and 8.

Additionally, the participants will receive practical training on the Voter Helpline App (VHA) and the BLO App.

Likewise, the sessions are being conducted by the experienced National Level Master Trainers (NLMTs) and expert Resource Persons from the IT and EVM Divisions of the Commission.

The sessions are interactive and will address common field-level errors besides explaining how to avoid them

Kailash Satyarthi Delivers Keynote Address on Compassionate Governance

New Delhi: Nobel Peace Laureate Shri Kailash Satyarthi delivered an insightful keynote address at the Re-imagining Governance: Discourse for Excellence (RGDE) series,

(December 25, 2023), has since become a unique platform for fostering deep discussions aimed at improving public governance.

This session marked the seventeenth consecutive edition of the RGDE series, which has continued to promote trust and excellence in public administration.

Speaking from the Bal Ashram in Jaipur, Shri Satyarthi emphasized the importance of compassion in governance. He stated, "Governance rooted in empathy, deep listening, and moral accountability is crucial for building responsible and effective institutions." He voiced concerns about modern society's loss of its moral compass and called for a revival of gratitude and human connection within the governance system.

The session was attended by

prominent figures including Shri Ajeet Kumar, Additional Central PF Commissioner (Rajasthan), who felicitated Shri Satyarthi at the Jaipur venue. The program was chaired by Shri Ramesh Krishnamoorthy, Central PF Commissioner, and presided over by PDUNASS Director Shri Kumar Rohit. Shri Uttam Prakash, RPFC-I, moderated the session.

In his closing remarks, Ramesh Krishnamoorthy urged all EPFO officials to implement at least one decision in their work that embodies the values of compassion, stressing that the session's teachings should translate into actionable steps for improved governance.

The RGDE series continues to foster thought leadership, value-based administration, and capacity building within EPFO, furthering its commitment to excellence in public governance.

organized by PDUNASS, the premier training academy of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

An official spokesperson said the session, attended virtually by EPFO officers and officials from across the country, focused on the theme of compassionate governance.

The RGDE initiative, launched on Good Governance Day



R&B, PMGSY Department Bids Farewell to Executive Engineer Mohammad Hussain

Bandipora: The R&B and PMGSY Department Bandipora today organized a heartfelt farewell ceremony in honor of Executive Engineer Mohammad Hussain, who retired from active service upon attaining superannuation.

With a distinguished career spanning several decades, Mohammad Hussain was widely respected for his dedication, integrity, and tireless efforts in the service of the department.

His remarkable contributions, particularly towards the development and upliftment of infrastructure in Gurez and Bandipora, have left a lasting impact.

Colleagues and staff

members gathered to express their gratitude and appreciation for his unwavering commitment and professional excellence.

The event was marked by warm tributes and emotional recollections of his service.

The department acknowledged Mohammad Hussain's invaluable role and wished him a healthy, peaceful, and fulfilling post-retirement life.



Two-Day Assessment Camp for Senior Citizens and PwDs Concludes in Pampore

Bilal Habib

Pampore: A two-day assessment camp for senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PwDs) concluded on Wednesday at the Palash Child Care Institute, Patalbagh, in the Pampore area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

The camp was part of an ongoing initiative by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department of Pulwama.

The camp aimed to assess the needs of the elderly and PwDs for assistive devices. A team of medical professionals from ALIMCO, alongside officials from the Social Welfare Department, conducted evaluations for nearly 100 beneficiaries. The camp

received a warm response, with a total of 114 individuals enrolled to receive free assistive devices.

Muzamil Shafi, an official from ALIMCO, told Kashmir Convener that the two-day camp helped assess the specific needs of the participants. "We identified the required aids and appliances for each beneficiary, which will be provided to them in an upcoming distribution camp," he said. The camp saw the assessment of 61 beneficiaries on the first day and 54 on the second day.

The primary aim of the initiative is to improve the quality of life and mobility of senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. The participants will receive essential items like

wheelchairs, tricycles, crutches, hearing aids, knee braces, walking sticks, cervical collars, back belts, and calipers. The camp was held under the theme "Samajik

Adhikarita Shivir – Assessment Camp for Free Distribution of Aids and Appliances to Divyangjan under the ADIP Scheme, Government of India." The event was organized by ALIMCO with support from the Social Welfare Department, Pulwama, and attracted beneficiaries from all tehsils of the district.



JK Govt Promotes 368 JEs as Assistant Engineers



Jammu: The J&K Government on Tuesday elevated 368 Junior Engineers (JEs) to the post of Assistant Engineers (AEs).

An official spokesperson of the minister of Jal Shakti said the move aimed to strengthen the human resource management in the Jal Shakti Department. The promotions were formalised through Government Order No. 103-JK(JSD) of 2025 and Government Order No. 104-JK(JSD) of 2025, both dated April 30, 2025.

Spokesperson said Jal Shakti Minister Javed Ahmed Rana, who has been proactively addressing the department's acute human resource gaps, had earlier issued firm directions for regular reviews of the HR status and timely convening of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) to tackle the chronic shortage of officers.

The latest round of

promotions is seen as a major boost to administrative efficiency within the department. In recent weeks, the department also placed 25 Executive Engineers as Superintending Engineers to offset a staggering 90 percent shortfall at that level. Furthermore, over 300 vacancies were referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for recruitment.

Following the elevation of the 368 JEs, Minister Rana has directed departmental officials to immediately refer the resulting vacancies to recruitment agencies.

He has also stressed the need for conducting special recruitment drives to fill these posts on a fast-track basis, in order to ensure seamless project implementation and service delivery under the Jal Shakti Mission.

DC Kulgam reviews status of Jal Shakti Abhiyan- Catch the Rain-2025 Initiative

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Wednesday reviewed the progress of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain (JSA-CTR) 2025 campaign in the district, in a meeting held at the Mini Secretariat, here.

The meeting held a detailed discussion on ongoing initiatives, existing challenges, and future strategies for effective water conservation and management.

Emphasizing the importance of rainwater harvesting in ensuring sustainable water resources, DC urged all departments to accelerate efforts under the campaign. He highlighted the need for inter-

departmental coordination to fast-track the implementation of JSA-CTR projects. Officers from the Rural Development, Forest,

To strengthen community participation, DC directed officials to involve NGOs, Pani Samitis, and other local stakeholders.



Agriculture, Irrigation, Jal Shakti and other departments apprised the chair of the status of various water conservation initiatives.

He also issued instructions for the construction of at least five rainwater harvesting structures in every Panchayat

to enhance rainwater storage and groundwater recharge.

Additionally, DC stressed the importance of regular cleaning and maintenance of water bodies to ensure their long-term sustainability.

The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Executive Engineers, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Chief Agriculture Officer, Executive Officer Municipal Committee, and other concerned officers.

DC Samba flags off 29 Hajj Pilgrims for holy pilgrimage

SAMBA: Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma today flagged off a group of 29 Hajj pilgrims on their sacred journey to the holy land of Mecca. The flag-off ceremony took place at the DC Office Complex, Samba, in a spiritually uplifting atmosphere filled with prayers and well-wishes.

The event was organized by the District Social Welfare Office, which has been actively facilitating the arrangements and guidance for the pilgrims. The pilgrims will depart from Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi, on May 4, 2025, bound for Jeddah.

Interacting with the pilgrims, DC Rajesh Sharma extended his heartfelt wishes for a safe, smooth, and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage. He emphasized the significance of Hajj as a journey of faith, devotion, and unity, and lauded the efforts of the Social Welfare Department for ensuring seamless coordination.

The Deputy Commissioner urged the pilgrims to pray for peace, prosperity, and communal harmony in the region and across the nation. He also assured that all necessary administrative support has been provided to ensure a hassle-free journey for the pilgrims.

The event was attended by officials from the District Administration, Social Welfare Department and family members of the pilgrims.

LSUC Ganderbal empowers children through Legal Awareness

GANDERBAL: Under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal, the Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC) Ganderbal today organized a legal awareness program for children at PALAASH Child Care Institution (Boys), Kangan.

The program aimed to educate children about their rights and responsibilities, promoting legal literacy and empowering them for their rights.

Assistant LADC, Ganderbal, Shaheena highlighted the importance of educational opportunities for children, particularly

those rescued from trafficking, abuse, and other challenging circumstances. She emphasized that education is key to breaking the cycle of vulnerability and empowering them to rebuild their lives with dignity in society.

Assistant LADC, Ganderbal, Romani Syed threw light on specific legal provisions which protect vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, transgender children, and children at risk of trafficking or abuse. She underscored the importance of awareness and implementation of these provisions

to ensure the safety and well-being of children. By highlighting these crucial legal safeguards, her insights empowered

the children and caregivers at PALAASH, Child Care Institution to better understand their rights and navigate the legal system effectively.

Assistant LADC, Ganderbal, Aqib Ul Ahad provided clarity on legal provisions,

children's rights, and remedies available through legal services for children in need and care. He elaborated on the various legal mechanisms in place to protect children's rights and interests, ensuring that children and caregivers are aware of the support systems available to them.

By demystifying complex legal concepts, his presentation enabled the children to better understand their rights and the resources accessible to them, empowering them to seek help when needed. He also took the opportunity to publicize vital helplines, including NALSA

Helpline (15100), Child Helpline (1098), Divyangjan Helpline (14456) and Tele-Manas (14416), among others.

In his address, Secretary DLSA Ganderbal, Sheikh Babar Hussain highlighted that this program provided a vital platform for children to learn about their rights, access to justice, and the role of legal services in protecting their interests. He emphasized that the initiative is expected to have a positive impact on the lives of these children, enabling them to assert their rights and make informed decisions about their future.



DC Pulwama visits NEET Exam Centres, reviews arrangements

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today undertook a comprehensive inspection of all designated centres in the district for the forthcoming NEET (UG) 2025 examination scheduled to be held on May 04.

During the visit, DC sought detailed inputs from the concerned officers regarding the preparedness and infrastructural arrangements made at each centre. He thoroughly inspected strong rooms, CCTV cameras and surveillance setup and reviewed seating plans to ensure compliance with NTA standards.

He issued clear directives to the Centre Superintendents to strictly adhere to the

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the National Testing Agency (NTA),

of OMR sheets.

Dr. Qayoom emphasised the importance of coordination among all functionaries to ensure seamless conduct of the examination in a fair, secure and candidate-friendly environment.

DC further focused upon the significance of maintaining the sanctity of the examination process, directing that all procedures pre-exam, during exam, and post-exam be implemented meticulously as per the NTA's guidelines.

He enjoined upon the Centre Superintendents, district officers and NTA representatives to work in close synergy to facilitate a smooth and safe environment for all candidates appearing in the exam.



particularly regarding the receipt, storage, and dispatch of examination material, videography protocols, CCTV coverage, timely opening and sealing of exam packets, and secure handling

District Road Safety Committee reviews enforcement measures in Samba

SAMBA: In a determined move to enhance road safety and minimise road mishaps, District Magistrate Samba Rajesh Sharma today chaired a crucial meeting of the District Road Safety Committee here at the DC Office Complex.

The meeting opened with a comprehensive presentation on the Integrated Road Accident Database (i-RAD) and Electronic Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) platforms by the concerned officials. The presentation highlighted critical data on traffic rule violations, accident trends, and challans issued, forming the basis for informed decision-making.

Key areas of focus included launching

impactful public awareness campaigns on road safety, identification and rectification of accident-prone black spots and installation of crash barriers and other safety infrastructure at vulnerable locations.

Addressing the committee, DM Rajesh Sharma underlined the vital role of public awareness and responsible driving in reducing road accidents, injuries, and fatalities. He called for inter-departmental coordination and a unified approach to foster a culture of safety and mutual respect on roads.

To strengthen enforcement, the District Magistrate directed the Traffic Police and

Motor Vehicle Department to intensify naka checking and launch special drives targeting traffic violations. He emphasized the need for strict penalties against offenders to ensure deterrence and accountability.

The meeting concluded with a resolute commitment from all departments to implement the discussed strategies promptly and reinforce road safety mechanisms across the district.

The meeting was attended by the SDMs of Chagwal and Vijaypur, XENS, CEO, and officials from the Motor Vehicle Department, Traffic Police, and other concerned departments.

Are Experts A Better Alternative Than Democratic Representatives?



HANEEN FARID

A common solution explored whilst citing the flaws of the democratic system is to replace it with 'rule by experts'- also known as epistocracy. The motivation behind this is that experts, being equipped with the ability to form policies and directives, are at least objectively better at governance as compared to any other segment or entity.

Furthermore, it is argued that it is unfair for citizens who are

sion on rumors or deeply ingrained biases, such as believing a candidate is "better" simply because of their affiliation with a powerful family or local political dynasty, without considering their actual abilities or agenda.

Third, the morally unreasonable electorate: This group allows prejudice to guide their decision, for instance, voting only for a candidate from their village or community while disregarding more capable candidates from other regions of Kashmir, purely because of regional loyalties or biases.

Because in all these cases, decision-making amounts to imposing a rule on innocent individuals without possessing adequate grounds for such selection, this casts doubt on the legitimacy of the outcome. When high-stake decisions are imposed upon innocent persons, all individual decisions need to be made in a competent manner and by reasonable persons, which can be argued to be unlikely in a democracy.

Even if citizens might voluntarily trust experts to manage public affairs, the trust demanded under such a system is coercive. Rule by experts risks domination, where dissent is dismissed as irrational, further entrenching inequality and limiting genuine public participation. Ultimately, such a system risks undermining the very principles of fairness and inclusion it seeks to improve.

Is there an ideal solution?

To enable meaningful participation that upholds the value of political inclusion, it is essential for people to be free to hold their own beliefs, express their views, reflect on issues, and develop reasons to challenge state policies. This is important because the exchange of beliefs is a way of treating others with dignity and recognizing them as autonomous individuals.

At the same time, it is also important to recognize that promoting mutual respect does not require every aspect of a



'incompetent', 'ignorant', 'irrational' or 'morally unreasonable' to command political power over others by deciding the regime that rules over them. It also holds that an innocent individual should not have to suffer in this type of system.

Historically, people have been unjustly barred from voting based on factors like race or gender. Hence, epistocrats assert that if voting restrictions can exist for the wrong reasons, it is not unreasonable to consider that there might be valid reasons—such as intellectual ability or expertise—to limit voting rights. For instance, modern democracies already prevent children, felons, and those deemed mentally unfit from voting or holding power due to their perceived lack of competence. In this sense, democracies are already somewhat epistocratic, which opens the door to arguments in favour of governance by experts, as I will explore further.

Is Democracy Always Just?

A system is democratic to the extent that the key political power rests equally in the hands of the people- at least at large; it is a method of decision-making that determines how a regime may use its authority, including the threat of force, to ensure compliance with its laws and regulations. The competence principle, to put it simply, holds that it is not just to deprive people of life, liberty or property or change their life prospects substantially using coercion as well as threats of coercion as a consequence of decisions that an incompetent decision-making body makes.

Thus, this suggests that:

- i) People with poor judgement or bad moral character must not serve on a decision-making body.
- ii) When it is known that certain decisions were made incompetently, they must not be enforced and people should have no obligation to submit to these.

For these reasons, it can be argued that since democracies can, in principle, allow 'ignorant', 'misinformed', 'morally unreasonable' or 'irrational individuals' to wield their political power over others, it dispenses political power in an irresponsible manner.

Can an Uninformed Electorate Harm Democracy?

Let us further delve into this concept by exploring three types of electorates to make this idea clearer;

First, the uninformed electorate: These voters are indifferent to the policies or the candidates' qualifications and make their choice based on arbitrary factors, such as the candidate's popularity in their constituency or simply voting because of a familiar last name such as Bhatt or Lone.

Second, the irrational electorate: These voters pay some attention to the election and key issues but base their deci-

Is 'rule by experts' a better alternative?

While the idea of 'rule by experts' may seem appealing, especially when ordinary citizens are perceived to lack the wisdom of experts, it faces significant challenges. To begin with, access to education is often a privilege reserved for certain races, classes, and even genders; giving special consideration to these groups would only amplify existing biases. This would lead to a systematic overrepresentation of some groups and the underrepresentation of others in the electorate, likely resulting in unjust outcomes that benefit privileged groups while disadvantaging others. For example, if only individuals from affluent families in Kashmir—such as those with access to private schools or resources to study abroad—are eligible to govern, they are likely to share similar priorities and interests, meaning that rule by experts would primarily serve those interests.

Critics of this system argue that such disparities in political inclusion, whether based on class, race, or gender, are inherently unjust. In Kashmir, for instance, consider how individuals from urban areas like Srinagar often have easier access to higher education and resources compared to those in remote regions such as Kupwara or Kulgam. If policies were designed to give more electoral power to the educated, it would likely result in an overrepresentation of urban elites while marginalizing rural populations.

Beyond issues of representation, another objection to epistocracy is that while experts may make reasonable decisions on behalf of the public, these decisions may not always be meaningful or acceptable to the people. This is because understanding or appreciating such decisions often requires training and intellect that non-experts may lack. Furthermore, when experts dictate what people should believe, it raises concerns about domination, undermining a key moral and political value: political inclusion. In such a system, experts impose not only an obligation to believe them but also a duty to obey, restricting individuals' ability to form their own opinions, reflect on what the state should do, or develop arguments to challenge authority.

system to operate in the same way or to the same degree. For example, consider a public debate where certain participants resort to inflammatory or divisive language—it could silence voices offering practical, well-informed, and inclusive perspectives. In such cases, restricting such uncivil or partisan speech can be potentially justified to ensure that the focus remains on constructive dialogue and genuine problem-solving.

In the context of a pure epistocracy, where experts possess specialised knowledge in both politics and morality, political inclusion may indeed be limited. However, proponents of epistocracy argue that this system has the potential to deliver better outcomes compared to traditional democracy. Moreover, they point out that democracies already impose certain exclusions, such as for children, felons, and those deemed mentally unfit, based on their suitability for political decision-making. In this sense, democracies and epistocracies are not entirely different.

Overall, an epistocracy could consider reasonable limitations while ensuring that these exclusions are grounded in fairness and necessity. While political inclusion is a key value, it may sometimes need to be balanced with the need for effective governance and informed decision-making, provided that such restrictions are implemented thoughtfully and justly. But regardless of which system of governance is in place, any restrictions must be implemented thoughtfully and justly, with clear safeguards to prevent misuse, perpetuation of systemic inequalities, or the marginalization of vulnerable groups.

Disclaimer: This commentary is inspired by a debate in political philosophy, and references Kashmir to make arguments more contextually relevant. It is not intended to advocate for replacing democracy-in whatever capacity – in the valley.

The paper was published by JK Policy Institute. Author Haneen Farid is a third-year Politics student at King's College London and a freelance journalist



Continued From P1...

People Of J&K

ensure a sense of security to the common man,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also directed to further strengthen the security grid and stressed upon the need for better coordination and synergy among the security agencies.

CM Omar calls

, many of which are in the advanced stages of construction.

Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Vikramjit Singh briefed the meeting on the availability of construction material and mining permissions, highlighting recent improvements and unresolved issues requiring attention at the appropriate forums.

Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani flagged key traffic congestion points and suggested practical mitigation measures. He emphasised incorporating long-term traffic management features into the ongoing highway designs.

Omar Abdullah took detailed stock of project-specific challenges and enquired about persistent bottlenecks, particularly those falling within Jammu and Kashmir’s territorial jurisdiction. He emphasized the need to resolve procedural hurdles and recurring loopholes, calling for time-bound clearances and proactive administrative facilitation.

“These projects hold not just developmental but strategic importance. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that there are no unwarranted delays or procedural gaps. The Centre is also closely monitoring these corridors, and our progress must reflect seriousness and coordination,” the Chief Minister observed.

Expressing concern over delays caused by land acquisition, forest clearances and shifting of Utilities, the Chief Minister directed the concerned departments to streamline these processes. He called for enhanced inter-departmental synergy, particularly between the executing agencies and the district administrations.

On the issue of public displacement and property acquisition, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of fair and well-planned rehabilitation and resettlement.

“Those affected must be given substantial reassurance through timely and fair rehabilitation measures,” he said.

He also reviewed security-related constraints in certain stretches and instructed the concerned departments to ensure that project activities remain on schedule with adequate coordination with security agencies.

“These projects are the main road arteries for Jammu and Kashmir’s future economic development. The timely and quality execution of these projects must remain a top priority,” the Chief Minister added.

Lt Gen Pratik

Directorate at the Army Headquarters in New Delhi.

The Udhampur-based Northern Army Command looks after the entire gamut of operations against Pakistan and China in the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh sectors.

Even prior to his appointment, which was approved by the government on April 28, Lt Gen Kumar had travelled with Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi to Srinagar after the Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 people on April 22.

It may be recalled that in February last year, the outgoing General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Northern Command, Lt Gen MV Suchendra Kumar, took over from then Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, who is now the Army Chief

J&K Cop Among

commissioner to furnish an affidavit with respect to the status of property holding, if any, by the petitioners.

However, the nine siblings were taken from Jammu and Kashmir’s Kathua district to Punjab, where they stayed overnight for their subsequent deportation to Pakistan through the Attari border.

“We received the copy of the court order on Wednesday morning and immediately took up the matter with the Poonch district administration.... To our surprise, neither civil nor police officers are taking the responsibility to implement the court order,” socio-political activist Safer Choudhary said.

Choudhary, who along with the relatives including the wife and two minor children of Ali, staged a protest outside the Press Club here, appealed for the intervention of the home minister and lieutenant governor to provide “justice to the family”.

“They are residents of Poonch, with Ali serving the police department for nearly three decades. Ali’s father went to PoK in 1965 but returned in 1983 and is buried in his ancestral graveyard. They have more than 175 kanals of land according to revenue records and also possess all the documents,” he said.

Emotional scenes were witnessed at their house in Mendhar, with their spouses and children making

passionate appeals to the government to stop their deportation.

“We have no relatives in Pakistan. Where will they stay there?” Mohammad Farooq asked.

Ali’s wife said her husband was born in Mendhar and it is grave injustice to him and his children if their father is deported to a country that he does not belong to.

“What will my children do without their father?” she asked, adding, “We regret the loss of innocent lives in terror attacks but do not take revenge on us as we have done no wrong. In fact, my husband is part of the police force that is fighting against terrorism.”

Similar heart-wrenching scenes unfolded in Rajouri district, where two aged sisters – Zameer Fatima and Sageer Fatima – were among the four people taken to Punjab for deportation.

The sisters, who were hardly able to walk on their own, have been living with their families in the Sharda Sharief area for 43 years. They raised their families after getting married to two cousin brothers.

“This is nothing short of mourning in our family. They are frail and afflicted with various ailments and who is there to take care of them?” Fareed Hussain asked, requesting the government with “folded hands” to spare them from deportation.

Sageer Fatima said, “I returned to Rajouri in 1983 along with my mother and sister. My mother died here. My children and grandchildren are all here and it is grave injustice to separate me from them.”

India warns Pakistan

There has been a rise in ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the LoC. Security forces have intensified anti-terror operations in the Kashmir valley in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people on April 22.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) met a day after the Pahalgam terror attack. In the briefing to the CCS, the cross-border linkages of the terrorist attack were brought out. It was noted that this attack came in the wake of the successful holding of elections in Jammu and Kashmir and its steady progress towards economic growth and development.

India has taken a raft of measures against Pakistan for its support to cross-border terrorism, including holding the Indus Water Treaty in abeyance and closing the Integrated Check Post at Attari. India has also decided to curtail strength of High Commissions.

The government has given armed forces complete operational freedom to decide on the response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

J&K, Ladakh to

The official documents further reveal that the reliability studies have been carried out to adhere to the reliability criteria of Loss of Load Probability (LoLP) and Normalized Energy Not Served (NENS) as provided in NEP (0.2% and 0.05% respectively).

According to the documents, the Performance Rating Method (PRM) for the state of J&K and Ladakh has been assessed as 5.10%. They mention that the projected and contracted capacity fulfills the stipulated Renewable Purchase Obligation,” it reads.

75% Qualify

Pertinently, Education Minister Sakina Itoo had directed the BOSE and the concerned authorities to announce the results by April-30

Earlier the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) had said that the board was mulling to announce the results of 10th and 12th standard on the same date.

Sakeena Itoo

not have achieved their desired results to stay motivated and focus on future opportunities. “Exams are just one step in the journey as there are many paths to success and each student has their own unique potential”, Sakeena stated.

The Minister also appreciated the JKBOSE administration for compiling the results in a short span of 36 days.

First flight

and ensure that only standard baggage, free of banned items, is carried as check-in luggage.

The committee stated that the flight schedule for the remaining pilgrims will be notified separately. According to the officials, over 3,600 pilgrims from J&K are scheduled to perform Hajj this year under the government quota.

Earlier, the Saudi government this year imposed a temporary ban on the issuance of Umrah, tourist, and visit visas ahead of the Hajj season, which sparked concerns among aspiring pilgrims.

However, officials clarified that this move was a routine pre-Hajj measure and would not affect the upcoming Hajj pilgrimage from India, including Jammu & Kashmir.

The officials said the move aimed to streamline the Hajj process and reduce issues faced by officially registered pilgrims.

As per the officials, the early travel restrictions comes after the tragedy during the 2024 Hajj pilgrimage, where over 1,000 people died

Lt Gen Pratik

Meanwhile, the MeT here has predicted the possibility of brief spell showers at isolated to scattered places with thunder and gusty winds from tomorrow (May 01) to May 05.

The weather is expected to remain dry from May 06 to 07, while there is a possibility of light rain and thunder on May 09 and May 10, Dr Ahmad added.

Senior officers to resume Secretariat functioning in Srinagar from May 5

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday issued an order directing Administrative Secretaries and UT-level Heads of Departments to ensure their presence at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar starting May 5, 2025 (Monday).

As per Government Order issued following the meeting of Council of Ministers Decision reads, “For effective and efficient conduct of official business at Civil Secretariat, it is hereby ordered that, Administrative Secretaries and Union Territory Level Heads of Departments shall ensure their availability at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar w.e.f 05th May (Monday), 2025.

However, they will attend the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, as per functional requirement, it reads.

Arrangements with regard to availability of staff of Administrative Departments of Civil Secretariat shall be determined by the respective Departments.

Estates Department, upon requisition by the concerned Administrative Departments, shall provide accommodation to the officers/officials, as per requirement.”

The development reaffirms the government’s shift away from the traditional Darbar Move practice.

National Security Advisory Board Revamped

SRINAGAR: The Government has revamped the National Security Advisory Board. Former R&AW chief Alok Joshi has been appointed as its Chairman. Former Western Air Commander Air Marshal PM Sinha, former Southern Army Commander Lt Gen AK Singh and Rear Admiral Monty Khanna are the retired officers from the military services. Rajiv Ranjan Verma and Manmohan Singh are the two retired members from the Indian Police Service. B Venkatesh Varma is a retired IFS in the seven-member board.

Centre decides to include caste enumeration in next census exercise

NEW DELHI: In a major decision, the central government on Wednesday decided to include caste enumeration in the forthcoming census exercise in a “transparent” manner.

Announcing the decisions taken by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the census comes under the purview of the Centre but some states have done caste enumeration in the name of surveys.

Alleging that the states ruled by opposition parties have done caste surveys for political reasons, the minister said it is Modi government’s resolve to transparently include caste enumeration in the forthcoming pan-India census exercise.

The census exercise was to commence in April 2020 but got delayed due to the Covid pandemic.

Srinagar Police urge public to disassociate from IuM, AAC

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Police on Wednesday led a public awareness campaign across the City, urging citizens to disassociate themselves from the Itihad-ul-Muslimeen and the Awami Action Committee (AAC). The loudspeaker announcements and poster campaigns were carried out at multiple locations in the city.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), police vehicles equipped with loudspeakers was seen traversing various localities, including key areas like Lal Chowk and Karan Nagar.

Through these public address systems, authorities called on the general public to stay away from the two organisations.

Additionally, posters carrying the same message were pasted on walls, poles, and other public spots in several neighborhoods.

The posters reportedly warn citizens against associating with the Itihad-ul-Muslimeen and AAC, reiterating the police’s advisory.

Officials also stated the move is part of a broader awareness campaign aimed at educating the public about certain groups and their affiliations.

Meanwhile, the campaign is said to be continuous for the past few days across multiple zones of Srinagar city and may expand in the coming days.

Eyewitnesses said that police personnel not only made announcements via mobile units but also took steps to physically post warning notices in marketplaces and residential areas.

The campaign has also drawn attention from passersby and locals, with many seen gathering around the posters to read their content.

Delhi Cabinet approves bill to regulate fee in private schools; heavy penalty for violators

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Cabinet on Tuesday approved a bill to regulate fee in all private schools in the national capital, which will provide a huge relief to parents who raised issue of arbitrary hike every year.

Addressing a press conference, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that schools will face strict penalties from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 10 lakh for non-compliance of the government’s directives.

Gupta, who termed the move “bold and historic”, said that the BJP government will call an urgent session of the Delhi Assembly to pass the Delhi School Education Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees Bill, 2025.

The chief minister, flanked by Education Minister Ashish Sood, said that the issue was discussed widely in

recent days and there was “panic” among the parents due to activities of some schools and complaints regarding “harassment” of students in the name of fee hike.

“The previous governments in Delhi made no provision to prevent fee hike. There was no guideline to help government prevent fee hike by private schools,” she said.

Sood said that the Bill proposes formation of a three-tier committees at school, district and state levels. This will bring much-needed transparency and structure to the process of determining school fees and protect parents from unregulated hikes.

The entire process will be time-bound, ensuring that parents are not left in limbo, he said.

According to the education minister, at the first



level, every school will constitute a school-level fee regulation committee. This committee will include the chairperson of the school management, the principal as member secretary, three teachers, and five parents, including members from SC/ST communities and at least two women. “A nominee from the Directorate of Education will serve as an observer. Schools will no longer be able to increase fees arbitrarily. Any hike will be allowed only once every three years and only after approval from this committee.” The decision to increase fees will be based on 18 critical parameters, including the condition of classrooms and buildings, the school’s financial reserves, and the quality of science laboratories, libraries, and playgrounds,” he said.

These standards aim to ensure that fee hikes, if approved, are justified by real infrastructure or service improvements. Sood further announced that these school-level committees will be formed by July 31 and will be required to submit their reports within 30 days. “If the school-level committee fails to submit its recommendation on time, the matter will be escalated to the District Level Committee. If resolution is still not achieved, a State Level Committee comprising seven members will be empowered to take a final decision,” he said.

NOTICE

Whereas the above named Plaintiff filed the above titled suit in representative capacity on behalf of the villagers of Phyang village against the named above Defendants seeking relief of permanent injunction in regard of the subject matter of the suit i.e., construction of football ground on the community land/shelter situated at Changmachan Mohallah Phyang, Leh. Now, through the medium of this notice objection, if any, is invited from all concerned in the case to be filed before this Court within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Issued under my hand and seal of the Court today on 28/04/2025.

Sd/-
Tsewang Phuntsog
Sub Judge/Chief Judicial Magistrate
Leh

NOTICE

I Paldan Zangmo, hereby inform general public that my father has changed his name from (old name) Tashi Tsering to (New name) Tashi Chhering. In future he will be known as by his new Name Tashi Chhering (New name). Now I have applied for necessary correction in my passport (W9126388). Anybody having any objection in this regard He/She may contact Regional Passport Office, Srinagar within a period of 7 days. No objection will be acceptable thereafter.

Paldan Zangmo,
D/o Tashi Chhering,
R/o Parchkhar, Mulbekh, Kargil.

NOTICE

I, Fasil Maqbool, intend to correct my name in my Driving Licence from Faisal Maqbool to Fasil Maqbool. If anyone has any objection in this regard, they may approach the office of the RTO Srinagar within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after the stipulated period.

Fasil Maqbool
S/O Mohammad Maqbool Wani
R/o: Allouchi Bagh, Srinagar
DL no: JK0120160107133

PMAY-G Awaas+ Survey gets another extension till May 15

SRINAGAR: The Union Ministry for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj has further extended the deadline for the Awaas+ 2024 survey under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) by 15 days, shifting the closing date from April 30 to May 15, 2025.

This is the second extension granted by the Centre, as the earlier deadline of March 31, 2025, was first pushed to April 30, and now to May 15.

The move aims to ensure comprehensive coverage, particularly in remote and snowbound regions where survey completion has been challenging.

An official communiqué from the Union

Ministry stated that the decision was taken after multiple states and Union Territories sought additional time to identify all eligible rural households.

The extension will allow better verification of self-reported cases and ensure no deserving beneficiary is left out.

As of April 30, 2025, a total of 4,74,076 potential beneficiaries have been surveyed across the Jammu and Kashmir. Rajouri district leads with 55,489 surveys followed by Poonch (52,568) and Kupwara (41,629), reflecting significant progress in identifying eligible households under the PMAY-G scheme.

IN THE COURT OF SUB-JUDGE/ CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE, LEH

Civil Misc. Apl. No. 7 of 2025
CNR No. LDH020000852025
Case No. Civil Misc/30/2025

In the case:

Residents of Phyang village through Tashi Chotak S/O Phunstog Namgial R/O Phyang, Union Territory of Ladakh Applicant

Versus

- Secretary of Public Works Department Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh
 - Deputy Commissioner/ CEO LAHDC Leh., UT Ladakh
 - Superintending Engineer, PWD Circle, Leh, UT Ladakh
 - Executive Engineer R&B Division Leh, UT Ladakh
 - Gurmet Tundup S/O Jamyang Tundup R/O Phyang, Contractor Card No. A447.
 - Tundup Nurboo S/O Tsering Dorjay R/O Phyang, Leh, UT Ladakh
- Non-Applicants
Suit for permanent injunction
In the matter Application under Order IR8CPC, 1908

