

# Kashmir Convener



Pahalgam attack  
India reaches out  
to non-permanent  
members of UNSC

P/02



Govt should allocate  
funds to initiate caste  
census with complete  
transparency: Cong

P/02



supreme court  
upholds HC order  
over 2019 election  
of Nitin Gadkari

P/02

**Punish Pahalgam terrorists, but don't target any community: Navy officer's wife**

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Himanshi Narwal, wife of Indian Navy officer Vinay Narwal - who was killed in the Pahalgam



terror attack - Thursday said that those responsible for the incident must be punished, but don't people of any community.

Speaking at a donation camp in Haryana, Himanshi, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that they don't want people going against

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## We Will Hunt Down Every Terrorist Involved In Pahalgam Attack: Amit Shah

>>> "This Is PM Modi's India and no one will be spared" <<<

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday vowed to hunt down each and every terrorist involved in the Pahalgam attack and said all of them will be made answerable for the heinous act.

Shah asserted that the Narendra Modi government will not spare any terrorist.

"Whoever has carried out the dastardly attack in Pahalgam, we will not spare anyone. We will hunt down each and every perpetrator," he said at an event here to unveil a statue of Upendra Nath Brahma, the patriarch of Assam's Bodo community, and name a



road after him.

The home minister said the Modi

government has been pursuing a zero-tolerance policy against terrorists.

"If someone thinks they will escape by carrying out such a cowardly attack, they are wrong. This is Narendra Modi's government. We will not spare anyone," he said.

Shah said the government's fight against terrorism will continue till the menace is completely wiped out.

"Do not think that you have won by killing 26 people. Everyone of you will be made answerable," he said.

The event was attended by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Chief Executive Member of the Bodoland Territorial Council Promod Boro, among others.

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## Army Chief calls on PM Modi



KC News Network

SRINAGAR: In the latest development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday held a meeting with Army Chief General Upendra Diwedi.

India today reported that Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval also attended that high-level meeting.

India Today reported that the meeting was part of a series of meetings being taken by the Prime Minister with security chiefs after the Pahalgam terror attack last week.

It reported that India had also warned Pakistan against continued ceasefire violations during the Indian and Pakistani Director Generals

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## US Urges India, Pak To De-Escalate Tensions

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: The US has urged India and Pakistan to work together to de-escalate tensions over the Pahalgam terror attack as US Secretary of State Marco Rubio held separate talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to emphasise on maintaining "peace and security" in South Asia.

In his phone conversation with Sharif, the US Secretary of State called for Islamabad's cooperation in investigating the "unconscionable attack" that killed 26 people.

The "perpetrators, backers and planners" of the April 22



Pahalgam terror attack must be brought to justice, Jaishankar said on X, hours after speaking to Rubio who reaffirmed Washington's support to India's fight against terrorism.

The US Secretary of State spoke to Sharif and Jaishankar on Wednesday amid speculation about India's possible military strikes against Pakistan in view of the cross border linkages to the dastardly terror attack.

A day after the Jaishankar-Rubio talks, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth dialled Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and conveyed that Washington supports

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## US Defence Secy dials Rajanth, "assures full support"

KC News Network

SRINAGAR : In the aftermath of April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead America has reiterated its resolve to support India in its fight against terrorism.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth spoke to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and assured him that the United States stands in solidarity with India and supports it's right to defend itself.

"Pakistan has been exposed as a rogue state, fuelling global terrorism, and destabilising the region. The world can no longer turn a blind eye to terrorism," Singh told Hegseth.

The Defence Ministry on its official X handle wrote: "The US Secretary of Defence @PeteHegseth spoke to Raksha Mantri Shri @RajnathSingh earlier today and expressed his deepest sympathies for the tragic loss of innocent civilians in the dastardly terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir."

"Secretary Hegseth said that the U.S. stands



in solidarity with India and supports India's right to defend itself. He reiterated the strong support of the U.S. government in India's fight against terrorism," the post read.

"During the conversation, RM told the @SecDef that Pakistan has a history of supporting, training and funding terrorist organisations. He further said that it is important

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## NIA DG Inspects Pahalgam Terror Attack Site

KC News Network

PAHALGAM,: After taking over the investigation related to the Pahalgam terror attack case, National Investigation Agency (NIA) Director General Sadanand Date on Thursday arrived at Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam as the agency began its probe into the matter.

Earlier on Sunday, the NIA took over the Pahalgam terror attack case from Jammu and Kashmir Police and began its investigation into the deadly attack that resulted in the killing of 26 tourists, sources told ANI.

The Central anti-terror agency formally registered a fresh FIR on late Saturday following an order issued from the Counter Terrorism and Counter Radicalisation (CTCR)



division of the Ministry of Home Affairs considering the gravity of the case, as Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba's proxy, the Resistance Front (TRF), has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The NIA took over the case five days after the incident and four days after its team visited the

attack site and started supporting the Jammu and Kashmir Police in probing what is considered the deadliest assault on civilians in the region in almost twenty years.

Official sources privy to the development told that "the NIA has formally taken over the case from the

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## Brother of Adil gets appointment letter by Waqf Chairperson

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR: Chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi Thursday

handed over an appointment letter to Nazakat Ahmad Shah, brother of Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who was killed while confronting terrorists during the recent attack on tourists in Pahalgam's Baisaran Valley.

Alongside the appointment letter, a Bravery Award was presented to Syed Adil Hussain, who gave his life during the April 22 terrorist attack that claimed 26 lives.

As per the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the function was

attended by senior BJP leaders. In the presence of top leadership, the sacrifice made by Adil was honoured, and solidarity was shown to his family.

Speaking to reporters, Dr. Andrabi said, "Our fight against terrorism must be backed by meaningful action. As a people's board, we decided to offer employment to the martyr's brother to provide financial support to the family and honour the ultimate sacrifice made by Syed Adil Hussain."

She also described Adil as a symbol of Kashmir's bravery and resilience, adding that his legacy would

continue to inspire generations.

Meanwhile, BJP leaders present at the occasion praised the Waqf Board's decision, calling it a compassionate and commendable step.

"The Waqf Board has shown the way with this gesture, which reflects genuine respect for the martyr's sacrifice," said BJP President Sat Sharma.

Nazakat Ahmad Shah also spoke about the gesture and expressed his gratitude to the Waqf Board and its chairperson.

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## 'We Sleep To The Sound Of Gunfire Now': Border Residents



Sajid Raina / Waris Fayaz

SRINAGAR: Fear and uncertainty loom over border villages in Jammu and Kashmir as the Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked shelling on the seventh consecutive night, targeting forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC). The Indian Army swiftly responded to the shelling.

"During the night of 30 April-01 May 2025, Pakistan Army posts initiated unprovoked small-arms fire across the Line of Control opposite Kupwara, Uri and Akhnoor in the Union

Territory of Jammu & Kashmir," the Indian Army said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), adding that these were responded proportionately by the Indian Army.

The Pakistan Army has carried out 17 ceasefire violations over the past week, including in the Kupwara, Uri, and Akhnoor sectors.

"On the seventh consecutive day, the shelling along the LoC continues, heightening fear among the locals," said Mohammad Suleiman, a resident of Rajouri. "After years of peace, we're now seeking shelter in

underground bunkers, fearing we might be caught in the crossfire again."

Kashim Khan, a farmer from Poonch said the ceasefire had given their children hope for a better future. Now, with the shelling restarting, we're worried their education will be disrupted, and we may be forced to flee again, he said.

Mushtaq Ahmad from Karnah said, "After four years of peace, the renewed tension over cross-border firing has left us in constant fear. Our lives are uncertain once again. We pray the ceasefire holds. It has brought stability, improved infrastructure, and boosted border tourism. We don't want to go back to the instability of the past." Shahbaz Ahmad, a resident of Karnah said, "It was the peak tourism season for Gurez and other border areas, but due to the recent tensions, no one is visiting now. Last year, these areas were bustling with tourists, but today they wear a deserted look."

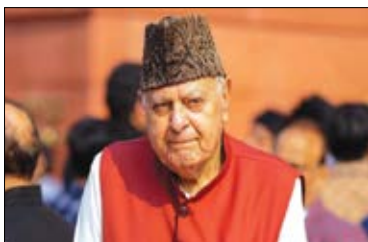
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## Pak a failed state: Dr.Farooq Abdullah

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Thursday termed Pakistan as a failed state and said that the country wanted to divert attention from its failure through the Pahalgam terror attack.

Talking to the reporters here, Dr Farooq, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that both the countries (India and Pakistan) are preparing the ground for war. However, he said that the efforts are being made to de-escalate the tensions by the world and nab the attackers involved in the attack.



"God knows how much the world will succeed in it," he added.

The NC patron also said that Pakistan is a failed state and instead of improving the situation within the country, it has been trying to divert the attention

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## Attari-Wagah border between India and Pakistan completely shut



KC News Network

NEW DELHI: The Attari-Wagah border crossing point between India and Pakistan was shut completely on Thursday following a week-long heavy rush of people from either side to cross over after the Union government ordered all Pakistani citizens with short-term visa to leave India in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, sources said.

The Attari-Wagah border crossing point is completely closed now and no one from either country crossed over to the other side on Thursday, two sources confirmed.

A total of 125 Pakistani nationals left India on Wednesday through the Attari-Wagah border, taking the total number of Pakistanis leaving the country to 911 in the last seven days.

Fifteen Indian citizens with Pakistani visa also crossed over to Pakistan on Wednesday, taking the total number of such people exiting India to 23.

Similarly, 152 Indian nationals and 73 Pakistani nationals with long-term Indian visa have entered India through the international border crossing point in Punjab's Amritsar district, taking the total number

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## India extends date of departure

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of India has extended date of departure of Pakistani nationals stranded in India, through Attari check post till further orders.

The fresh order issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, Foreigners Division (Immigration Section) reviewed the previous office memorandum issued on April 24, 2025 in which it was ordered to close all types of incoming and outgoing passengers and movement of goods through the Integrated Check Post Attari with immediate effect, and permitting those who have crossed the border with valid endorsement to return through the route before May 01, 2025.

The decision was taken after tensions between India and Pakistan rose post Pahalgam attack in which 26 civilians mostly tourists were killed by terrorists.

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on April 23 in a media briefing said that the

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# Govt should allocate funds to initiate caste census with complete transparency: Cong

**NEW DELHI:** The Congress today demanded that the Narendra Modi government make provisions for funds to initiate a caste census with "complete transparency" at the earliest.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's comments came within hours of the government announcing that caste enumeration would be included in the forthcoming census exercise in a "transparent" manner.

In a post on X, Kharge hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that he had been "avoiding" the implementation of this policy of social justice while accusing the opposition of "dividing the society" of the lines of caste.

"The Congress Party demands that the Modi government make provisions for funds as soon as possible and start the work of census and caste census with complete transparency," he said while asserting that caste enumeration is necessary since in the absence of participatory justice everyone's progress remains incomplete.



Opposition parties, including the Congress, have been demanding a nationwide caste census, making it a major election issue. Some states like Bihar, Telangana and Karnataka have conducted such surveys.

Kharge said that the Congress had continuously raised the demand for caste census with the Leader of Opposition in

the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi being its most vocal supporter.

"Today, the Modi government has announced to conduct a caste census along with the census. This is the right step which we have been demanding from day one. I raised it multiple times in Parliament and also wrote a letter to the prime minister.

"The leaders of the INDIA bloc have

also demanded caste census many times and this became an important issue in the Lok Sabha elections. Time and again, Modi ji kept avoiding implementing this policy of social justice and kept falsely accusing the opposition of dividing the society," the Congress president said.

Stressing the need for a caste census for all sections of society, Kharge said that in the absence of such data, ensuring meaningful social justice and implementing empowerment programmes remains incomplete.

"There is an allocation of only Rs 575 crore for the census in this year's budget. So it is appropriate to ask how and when the government will complete it."

Announcing the decision taken by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said the census comes under the purview of the Centre, but some states have done caste enumeration in the name of surveys "non-transparently" which has created doubts in the society.

## SC upholds HC order over 2019 election of Nitin Gadkari



**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the decisions of the Bombay High Court striking off certain allegations made against union minister Nitin Gadkari in petitions challenging his 2019 election from Nagpur.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh dismissed the plea of Congress candidate Nana Falgunrao Patole and one Nafis Khan, a voter from Nagpur constituency, challenging the February 26, 2021 order of the Nagpur bench of the high court.

The top court said Gadkari again won the seat in 2024 general elections and said the reasoning adopted by the high court was correct.

"We see no reason to interfere with the high court order," the bench said.

The high court in its order refused to dismiss the election petitions but struck off certain averments made in them with regard to the income of family members and land owned by them.

Aggrieved by the high court order, both Khan and Patole moved the top court.

### Pahalgam attack

## India reaches out to non-permanent members of UNSC

**NEW DELHI:** India today reached out to Denmark in line with its diplomatic overdrive to apprise the non-permanent members of the UN Security Council about the brutal Pahalgam terror attack with cross-border linkages.

On Tuesday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to his counterparts from seven non-permanent member nations of the UN Security Council.

Jaishankar held a phone conversation with

conversations with his counterparts from Algeria, Greece, Guyana, Panama, Slovenia, Sierra Leone and Somalia on Tuesday.

Citing "cross-border linkages" to the horrific attack, India has promised severe punishment to those involved in the strike.

In its April 25 statement on the attack, the UNSC condemned the terror attack in the "strongest terms" and reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the "most serious" threats to international peace and security.

However the statement was seen as "inadequate".

The non-permanent members are elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms, and their membership rotates.

In the last few days, India reached out to various world capitals apprising the nations about the "cross border" links to the terror attack.

Several world leaders including US President Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni also dialled Prime Minister Narendra Modi to condemn the attack.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, UAE President Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof, US Vice President JD Vance, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli also spoke to Modi.

## Rahul welcomes caste census decision; demands clear implementation timeline

**NEW DELHI:** Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi today welcomed

the Central Government's decision to include caste enumeration in the forthcoming national census and called for a clear implementation timeline.

Addressing a press conference at the party office here, Gandhi reiterated the party's longstanding demand for a caste census and emphasised the need to break the 50 percent cap on reservation.

"We also advocate eliminating the 50 percent cap on reservations as it is increas-

ingly becoming an impediment to development, progress and the advancement of the backward castes, Dalits, and Adivasis," Gandhi said.

Highlighting "Telangana as a model state that successfully conducted a comprehensive caste census", Gandhi urged the Central Government to "incorporate some of its effective approaches in the national census".

The former Congress president also

demanding the swift implementation of Article 15(5), which pertains to reservations in private educational institutions - a law that already exists.

"We urge the government to implement it without any delay," he added.

The Raebareilly MP also praised all the Congress members, workers, and every single person, activists from the backward communities, Dalits, and Adivasis who fought for the caste census.



his Danish counterpart Lars Lokke Rasmussen on Wednesday and is understood to have conveyed to him India's resolve to bring the perpetrators of the April 22 attack to justice.

"Spoke with FM @larsloekke of Denmark. Appreciate his support and solidarity over the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. Also exchanged views about our bilateral cooperation," he wrote on X.

Jaishankar's phone conversations with foreign ministers of the non-permanent member nations of the UN Security Council assumes significance as Pakistan is also a member of the influential UN body for the 2025-26 period.

The external affairs minister held

## Sports Secretary Sujata Chaturvedi to be new UPSC member

**NEW DELHI:** Sports Secretary Sujata Chaturvedi has been appointed member, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), officials said on Wednesday.

A 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Bihar cadre, Chaturvedi will be sworn in as the UPSC member on Thursday, they said.

She was due to superannuate on June 30.

A UPSC member is appointed for a term of six years or until attaining 65 years of age.

Chaturvedi has served in various posts at the Centre and in her state cadre Bihar.

The UPSC, which conducts civil services examination to select officers of IAS, Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) among others, is headed by a chairman and can have a maximum of 10 members.

With Chaturvedi's appointment, there exists a vacancy of three more members, the officials said.

Meanwhile, UPSC chairperson Preeti Sudan's term ended on Tuesday.

## OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT ROHAMA ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications on prescribed proforma (Annexure-1) are hereby invited from the eligible female candidates of the panch wards shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqas, for the engagement of (Sanginis Anganwadi Workers) for the below mentioned Anganwadi Centres of the Poshan Project Rohama on "Honorarium basis". The applications form along with required enclosures shall be deposited in the office of Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Rohama, located at Tragpora Rohama within 14 days from the date of publication against proper receipt.

| S.No | Name of District | Name of Poshan Project | Name of Panchayat | VACANCY OF SANGINIS ANGANWADI WORKERS) |                    |
|------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------|
|      |                  |                        |                   | No. of panch ward                      | Name of AWC        |
| 1    | Baramulla        | Rohama                 | Khahmoh           | 06                                     | Lone Mohala Mohala |

Criteria for selection of (Sanginis Anganwadi Workers):-

Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be considered for the post. The candidate should be a domicile of the UT of J&K. The candidate should be a resident of the Electoral Ward where AW Centre is located. Minimum Education Qualification should be 10+2 pass and maximum graduation. Weight age shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on academic merit basis and there shall not be any interview.

In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retired AWW, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points. Candidates with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.

In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.

Self attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form.

- Panch ward certificate issued by BDO concerned.
- Unmarried certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned
- Domicile certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned, if name of candidate appears with parents in voter list.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Academic Qualification Certificate with Marks card of class 10+2.
- If candidate belong to family of retired Anganwadi Worker than copy of the document proof.
- Non employment certificate issued by gazetted officer.
- Present/continues resident certificate from Sarpanch/Numberdar concerned.
- Self-addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs.5/-.

All documents submitted along with the application form for engagement of Sangini (AWW) are correct, without any mismatch, duplicity or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable action under law. Maximum qualification is graduation for vacancy of Sanginis (AWWs) and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lied with the deponent. The deponent has read the HR Policy No.222-JK (SWD) of 2022 dated:-30/11/2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Sangini (AWWs).

Note: Prescribed application proforma can also be had from the undersigned office "free of cost" (ANNEXURE-I)

APPLICATION FORM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SANGINI (ANGANWADI WORKER)

- Name of the District: - Baramulla
- Name of the ICDS Project: -
- Name of the Anganwadi Centre for which engagement sought.....
- Panch Ward/MC Ward..... Panchayat Halqa/MC Ward.....
- Name of the Candidate (In Block Letters) .....
- Fathers Name (In Block Letters) .....
- Marital Status: - Married /Un Married
- Husbands Name (if married) .....
- Place of Permanent Residence .....

Mohalla.....Village.....  
Panch Ward Constituency.....  
Name of the Panchayat Halqa.....  
House No... (As per latest Panchayat Ward Electoral) Block:.....

- Address for Correspondence.....Mobile No.....
- Date of Birth.....

- |     |                              |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D   | D                            | M | M | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| 12. | Age as on 01-01-2023.....    |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13. | Academic Qualification ..... |   |   |   |   |   |   |

| S.No | Examination passed | Board/School | Year of passing | Marks Obtained | Max. Marks | %age |
|------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|------|
| 1    | 10+2               |              |                 |                |            |      |
| 2    | Graduation         |              |                 |                |            |      |

- Do candidate belong to family of retired AWW (Yes/No).
- Documents attached.  
Panch Ward Certificate /present /continuous, ward residence certificate issued by BDO duly countersigned by ACR/SDM.  
Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.  
Date of Birth Certificate.  
Academic Qualification Certificates with Marks card of 10+2.  
If candidate belong to family of retired AWW/AWH, then copy of the e-ration card.  
Non employment Certificate from a Gazetted Officer.  
Self-Addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs 5/-.

Signature of Candidate

**UNDERTAKING**  
I.....D/o,W/o.....R/o.....  
do hereby certify that the contents of the application given above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge. In case any of the above contents is found incorrect, the selection committee shall have the right to reject my application and similarly revoke my engagement order.

No.-CDPO/Poshan/Roh/2025/71-78  
Dated:- 22 /04/2025

**DIPK-980/25**

**Sd**Child Dev. Project Officer,  
Poshan Project Rohama

## Ukraine and US have finally signed minerals deal. What does it include

**KYIV:** After months of tense negotiations, the US and Ukraine signed a deal that is expected to give Washington access to the country's critical minerals and other natural resources, an agreement Kyiv hopes will secure long-term support for its defense against Russia.

According to Ukrainian officials, the version of the deal signed Wednesday is far more beneficial to Ukraine than previous versions, which they said reduced Kyiv to a junior partner and gave Washington unprecedented rights to the country's resources.

The deal itself has not yet been made public, but the Economy Ministry and the prime minister's office have offered some details.

The agreement - which the Ukrainian parliament must ratify - would establish a reconstruction fund for Ukraine that Ukrainian officials hope will be a vehicle to ensure future American military assistance.

A previous agreement was nearly signed before being derailed in a tense Oval Office meeting involving US President Donald Trump, US Vice President JD Vance and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. "We have formed a version of the agreement that provides mutually beneficial conditions for both countries. This is an agreement in which the United States notes its commitment to promoting long-term peace in Ukraine and recognizes the contribution that Ukraine has made to global security by giving up its nuclear arsenal," Ukrainian Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said in a post on Facebook. The signing comes during what US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said would be a "very critical" week for US-led efforts to end the war that appear to have stalled.

## Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION BARAMULLA

Email: midbaramulla@gmail.com

Corrigendum No 1 for this office E NIT No: 03 of 2025-26 Dated: 24-04-2025

Tender ID No. 2025\_IFC\_276178

Sub: - Extension of dates

In view of inadequate response, to this Office e-NIT No.03 of 2025-26 work no. 03 (Repairing of 10 cusec M&P make pumping unit at Lift Irrigation Scheme KP Bala New of MISD Pattan.) Tender ID No. 2025\_IFC\_276178\_3 work no. 07 (Electrical/mechanical works at Lift Irrigation scheme Trikolbal New of MISD Pattan.) Tender ID No. 2025\_IFC\_276178\_7 and work no. 09 (Rewinding of 60HP, 980rpm, 3 phase induction motor at Lift and other electrical work at lift Irrigation scheme Burn gate of MISD Pattan.) Tender ID No. 2025\_IFC\_276178\_9 the time extension is being given to ensure healthy competition competitive bidding as under: -

|    |                             |   |  |
|----|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 1. | Tender Submission date Ends | = | 05/05/2025 upto 06.55 pm   |
| 2. | Date of Opening             | = | 06/05/2025 at 01:00 pm, in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla |

All other terms/conditions and stipulation as contained in the eNIT shall remain unaltered/unmodified.

No. MIDB/CC-02/359-62  
DATED : 01/05/2025

**DIPK-1015/25**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**  
**Mechanical Irrigation Division**  
**Baramulla**

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM KASHMIR

TRC, Srinagar, Kashmir. 190001 Tel/Fax 0194-2502279, 81.

e-mail- directortourismkmr@gmail.com, adventurejktourism@gmail.com  
Sub: - Commercial White-Water Rafting in River Sindh (Ganderbal) from Mammer to Wusan Stretch.

### Notice

All the Eligible Adventure Tour Operates having valid registration certificate in Rafting Activity intending to operate commercial White-Water Rafting in River Sindh (Mammer to Wusan stretch) at Ganderbal for summer Season 2025 are intimated through this notice to apply on company letter Head to undersigned via email- adventurejktourism@gmail.com or offline to this office within 05 days of publication of this notice.

The application should be accompanied with the copy of valid Registration Certificate.

The application (s) received after the cut-off date shall not be considered.

No. DTK/Rec/91/5089  
Dated. 29.04.2025.

**DIPK-1029/25**

**Sd/-**  
**Dy. Director Tourism,**  
**Recreation.**

## HKM College Organises “Anti-Ragging Rally” to Promote Campus Safety

**PATUSHAI:** The Anti-Ragging Committee of Hassan Khoyihami Memorial (HKM) Degree College Bandipora on Thursday organised a placard rally within college campus with an aim to show solidarity against ragging and promote campus safety.

An official spokesperson of the campus said the College Anti-Ragging Committee, under the guidance of its Convener Dr. Wasia Hamid, organised a placard rally within the college campus to raise awareness about the harmful effects of ragging and reinforce the institution's firm stance on maintaining a ragging-free environment.

The rally began from the college main gate



and moved through various departments before culminating at the central courtyard. Students, alongside faculty members, actively participated by carrying impactful placards bearing messages like “Say No to Ragging,” “Ragging is a Crime,” and “Let Freshers Feel at Home.”

Spokesperson said these slogans were designed to sensitize the college community about the physical, emotional, and psychological consequences of ragging, while promoting values of empathy, inclusivity, and mutual respect.

Beyond being a visual statement, the rally

marked a proactive initiative by the college to cultivate a culture of accountability and support. It also served as a curtain-raiser for a series of upcoming events such as workshops and interactive sessions focused on educating students about the legal provisions and institutional mechanisms to prevent ragging.

The event concluded with a solemn pledge-taking ceremony, where students vowed to uphold the dignity of their peers, reject all forms of ragging, and stand by anyone affected by such acts. The rally reflected the college's commitment to ensuring a safe, respectful, and welcoming academic environment for all.

## JKGLTF Bids Farewell to ZEO Devsar

**DEV SAR, KULGAM:** Mr. Maqbool Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Devsar, Kulgam, retired from service after a distinguished career marked by integrity, intelligence, and compassion. Known for his humility and employee-friendly approach, Mr. Maqbool's tenure—especially the last three years in Zone Devsar—has been described as an era in itself by his colleagues and the teaching fraternity.

On behalf of the Jammu and Kashmir General Line Teachers' Forum (JKGLTF), founding member Tasneem Beig extended heartfelt wishes for his post-retirement life, praying for good health, prosperity, and steadfast faith. She recalled how Maqbool Sahib always remained on his toes, responding to challenges with resilience and ensuring that his subordinates felt supported and valued.

“Those who worked with him know how he would go out of his way to comfort anyone in distress, ensuring they could serve with dignity and psychological peace,” said Tasneem Beig. “May Allah (SWT) bless him with happiness, well-being, and fulfillment. May he continue to inspire others with his remarkable qualities.”

The forum hailed Maqbool Sahib as a man of great stature and unwavering dedication, whose departure marks the end of a significant chapter in the educational landscape of the region.



## TFSA Bandipora Bids Farewell to Nazir Ahmad Kar on Superannuation

**BANDIPORA:** The Technical Field Staff Association (TFSA) of Block Bandipora on Wednesday organized a farewell ceremony for Nazir Ahmad Kar, Artificial Veterinary Officer (AVO), who retired from the Animal Husbandry Department after more than 40 years of dedicated



service.

The function was held at the meeting hall of the BVO Complex, Bandipora, and was attended by staff and dignitaries from the department. Dr. Parvaiz Ahmad Bhat, Livestock Development Officer (LDO), was the chief guest on the occasion. Dr. Khalid Hameed Bhat, Block Veterinary Officer (BVO), and Dr. Bilal Ahmad, Disease Investigation and Liaison Officer (DIL), were present as guests of honour.

President TFSA Bandipora, Syed Shahnawaz Ahmad, delivered the welcome address and presented a detailed overview of the retiring official's service record. He noted that Mr. Kar conducted nearly 30,000 artificial inseminations over his four-decade-long career, resulting in over 10,000 livestock births — an achievement highly appreciated by the association.

“His honest, disciplined, and dedicated service has been an inspiration for all of us,” said the president in his address.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad highlighted Mr. Kar's role in societal upliftment through his professional contributions. Dr. Khalid Hameed Bhat lauded the retiree's commitment to both departmental and community welfare. Chief guest Dr. Parvaiz Ahmad Bhat said, “Life is like a book where retirement marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. It should be embraced with joy and dignity.”

The event concluded with the presentation of an appreciation certificate and gifts to Mr. Kar as a token of gratitude for his services. While the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer of Bandipora could not attend due to official commitments in Baramulla and Sumbal, the ceremony was marked by warm wishes and heartfelt acknowledgments from all attendees.

A vote of thanks was presented by Syed Shahnawaz Ahmad on behalf of TFSA Bandipora.

## GVEI Students Win Big at Karate Premier League 2024

**SRINAGAR:** The students of Green Valley Educational Institute (GVEI) Srinagar have brought laurels to the school at the Karate Premier League Championship 2024 organised by the Amateur Karate Do Association of J&K (AKAJK) on April 28 and 29 of 2025.

Wafai Tazkiya and Bareera Beigh clinched two gold medals each in Kata and Kumite categories, showcasing exceptional skill and determination.

Shaya Showkat added to the tally with one gold and one silver, also in Kata and Kumite events. Their outstanding performances stood out among a large pool of competitors from across the region.

The championship was graced by the presence of Ambedkar Gupta, President of AKAJK and Aijaz Ahmad General Secretary of AKAJK, who commended the spirit and discipline demonstrated by the young athletes.

Chairman GVEI Muhammad Yousuf Wani extended his heartfelt congratulations to the students and their families. He applauded their hard work and dedication of the students.

“These achievements are a testament to the commitment of our students, the guidance of their mentors, and the support of our Physical Education Department,” he said.

Wani said the students have not only made the institution proud but also inspired others to pursue excellence in sports.

“The school continues to encourage holistic development by supporting both academic and co-curricular excellence,” the school hand-out reads.



## GDC Sumbal Organises Awareness Programme Against Drug Abuse

**SUMBAL:** As part of the ongoing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign under Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, Government Degree College (GDC) Sumbal on Thursday organised an awareness programme to sensitise students about the rising menace of drug abuse.

The event was held in the college auditorium and was chaired by Principal Prof (Dr) Shabeena Shawl.

In her welcome address, principal GDC Sumbal Prof. Shabeena Shawl underscored the crucial role of parents and educational institutions in the early detection and prevention of substance abuse. “Parents must stay vigilant and closely observe behavioural changes in their children. Strong family support and value-based upbringing

are key to preventing drug abuse,” she said.

On the occasion, speakers called upon students to act as peer leaders and spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug addiction. They stressed the importance of community engagement, informed dialogue, and joint efforts to combat the growing challenge.

Resource persons from various departments highlighted the multidimensional impact of drug abuse, ranging from health issues and financial distress to social alienation. They asserted that addressing the issue requires sustained awareness campaigns and active community participation.

The programme witnessed participation of faculty members, officials

and students, including convenor NAMBA of GDC sumbal Dr. Manzoor



Ahmad Parray, Dr. Zahid Ahmad, Gh Mohi uddin from the Excise Department, Fayaz Ahmad from the Youth Services and Sports Department, and ASI Manzoor Ahmad.

## ECI Launches Three New Initiatives to Improve Voter Services and Electoral Roll Accuracy



**NEW DELHI:** In a bid to improve voter convenience and ensure greater accuracy of the electoral rolls, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced three new initiatives, aligning with the vision laid out by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar during the recent Conference of Chief Electoral Officers. The conference, held in March, was also attended by Election Commissioners Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi.

Under the new measures, the ECI will now electronically access death registration data from the Registrar General of India. This step is in accordance with Rule 9 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 and Section 3(5)(b) of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, as amended in 2023.

Spokesperson said the initiative will help Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) receive timely updates on registered deaths, enabling quicker and more accurate deletion of names from the electoral rolls. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will be tasked with verifying this data through field visits, without waiting for citizens to submit Form 7 for name removal,

thus streamlining the process.

The ECI has also announced a redesigned Voter Information Slip (VIS) to make it more user-friendly. In the revised format, important details such as the voter's serial number and part number will be displayed more prominently in larger fonts. This is expected to assist both voters in identifying their polling stations and officials in quickly locating voter information during elections.

In another move to enhance the transparency and visibility of the election process, the Commission has directed that all BLOs be issued standardised photo identity cards. These cards will help voters easily recognise the BLOs during door-to-door verification and registration drives, reinforcing their credibility as frontline representatives of the Commission. The ECI emphasised that BLOs, being the first point of contact between citizens and the electoral machinery, must be easily identifiable to ensure effective public engagement. These latest reforms underline the ECI's commitment to making the electoral process more efficient, inclusive, and citizen-centric ahead of upcoming elections.

## JKMPCL Celebrates International Year of Cooperatives at Hajin

**BANDIPORA:** The Jammu and Kashmir Milk Producer's Cooperative Limited (JKMPCL), operating under the brand name Snowcap, marked the International Year of Cooperatives with a district-level prize distribution ceremony held at Town Hall Hajin in Bandipora district on Thursday. The event focused on recognizing excellence within the cooperative network and promoting the success of local milk producers and their societies.

As part of this initiative, prizes and cheques were distributed among the top five milk producers in the district. The ceremony aimed to celebrate the achievements of cooperative members while reinforcing JKMPCL's mission of strengthening grassroots dairy development and empowering rural producers across Jammu and Kashmir.

The event was graced by JKMPCL CEO Chirag Bhensadadia, who applauded the efforts of the dairy farmers and encouraged continued dedication to cooperative principles. “The spirit of cooperation is the backbone of our dairy network. Recognizing our best-performing producers is vital to encouraging others and building a stronger community,” Bhensadadia said.

Senior Apni Party leader Imtiyaz Parray, Admin Head Farooq Ahmad Najar, Board Director Manzoor Ahmad, and Procurement Incharge Muzaffar Ahmad, Rather Mehraj Role Model Sarpunch J&K were also present, along with Supervisors Mudassir Ahmad, Aadil Nissar, Adil Parray, Riyaz Ahmad, and several other dignitaries from across Sonawari.

While speaking to the media, Supervisor Mudassir Ahmad emphasized the importance of such events in motivating milk producers. “This program is a great initiative to acknowledge the hard work of our milk producers. It not only rewards excellence but also inspires others to contribute more actively to the cooperative movement,” he said.

The event was widely appreciated by attendees and marked a significant step in fostering a culture of recognition, empowerment, and unity among the milk-producing community in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Field Teams on High Alert Amid Forest Fire Threats: CCF Kashmir

Bandipora: The Forest Department is fully equipped and prepared to handle any potential forest fire situations, said Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Kashmir, Irfan Rasool Wani. He was addressing a gathering at the Cheternar Forest Training Institute in Bandipora.

Wani stated that the department has already identified forest fire-prone zones and has established fire control rooms, deployed field staff and forest watchers, and stocked essential firefighting equipment. “We have also conducted dedicated training sessions to strengthen our response mechanism in the event of any fire outbreak,” he said.

With the current heatwave intensifying across the Valley, the risk of forest fires has risen, particularly in vulnerable regions like Autumn. Wani assured that field teams are on high alert and have been directed to respond immediately to any reports of fire.

The department has urged the general public to remain vigilant and report any forest fire-related incidents to the nearest forest office or local authorities. Shepherds and visitors have also been advised to strictly avoid using fire-related materials such as cigarettes and matchsticks within forest zones to prevent accidental ignitions.

## Girl Cadets Visit Nagrota Military Station During NCC Annual Training Camp

**NAGROTA:** As part of the ongoing Annual Training Camp (ATC) from April 17 to 26, 2025, around 150 girl cadets from the 1 J&K NCC Girls Battalion, Srinagar, visited the Army Aviation Squadron at Nagrota on April 24. The visit aimed to inspire and empower young cadets by offering them a first-hand glimpse into Army Aviation operations and the life of defence personnel.

During their visit, the cadets witnessed a live helicopter demonstration, providing them with a practical understanding of aviation capabilities and manoeuvres. They also had the opportunity to interact with Army pilots and technical staff, who shared their experiences, challenges, and insights into aviation operations and the importance of teamwork and precision in national defence.

An official spokesperson said the interaction proved to be highly motivating for the cadets, many of whom expressed their aspiration to join the Armed Forces and serve the nation. The visit also reinforced key values such as discipline, leadership, and national integration—fundamental tenets of the NCC's mission. By offering such exposure, the NCC continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing future leaders and instilling in them a sense of patriotism and commitment to nation-building. The visit left a lasting impression on the young cadets, igniting their spirit of adventure and dedication to the country.

## Army's Key Logistics Depot in Kankinara Gets ISO 9001:2015 Accreditation

**NEW DELHI:** The Engineer Stores Depot (ESD), Kankinara, Army's key logistics hub for procurement, provisioning, and warehousing of engineering stores, has been awarded the ISO 9001:2015 certification by the Indian Register Quality Systems. This marks an important upgrade from its previous ISO 9001:2000 accreditation.

As a crucial facilitator for supplying spares of earthmoving equipment, bridges, and engineer-origin stores to field units, formations, field workshops, and Army Base Workshops, ESD Kankinara plays a vital role in ensuring operational readiness and efficiency. The ISO 9001:2015 certification reinforces the depot's commitment to international standards of quality management systems (QMS). The certification recognizes ESD Kankinara's adherence to fundamental principles of quality management, including leadership, people engagement, process-oriented operations, continuous improvement, and evidence-based decision-making. It also acknowledges the depot's capabilities in risk management, internal distribution, and warehousing—key components for ensuring timely and effective supply chain functioning in military logistics.

With this upgraded certification, ESD Kankinara is now aligned with the latest industry norms, promising better decision-making support, improved performance, and higher satisfaction for end-user units across the Indian Army.

## Strengthening Democracy

In a welcome move to strengthen transparency and accessibility in the electoral process, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced three voter-centric initiatives that reflect its evolving vision of responsive and inclusive democracy. These reforms are rooted in both technological adaptation and administrative clarity—further enhancing the credibility of electoral rolls and making the voting process simpler and more citizen-friendly.

The first reform—electronic access to death registration data from the Registrar General of India—is a long-awaited step in ensuring that electoral rolls remain accurate and up to date. The move not only aligns with existing statutory provisions under the amended Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, but also reduces the burden on citizens to manually submit Form 7 for deletion of names. By empowering Booth Level Officers (BLOs) with timely data and field verification duties, the ECI ensures that the sanctity of the voters’ list is preserved while cutting red tape.

Equally notable is the redesign of the Voter Information Slips (VIS). In past elections, the small font and cluttered layout often confused voters, particularly the elderly or first-time participants. The new format—with prominently displayed serial and part numbers—will make it easier for voters to locate their polling stations and for officials to ensure smooth facilitation at booths. This seemingly simple change can have a significant impact on the ease and speed of voting on election day.

Perhaps the most symbolic but vital reform is the issuance of standardized photo ID cards to all BLOs. These frontline officials play a pivotal role in house-to-house verifications and voter registration drives, especially in rural and semi-urban regions. A standardized ID not only boosts public confidence but also helps eliminate impersonation, misuse, and confusion about the authenticity of the BLO. At a time when democratic institutions across the globe are under scrutiny, such pragmatic and people-first initiatives by India’s Election Commission reinforce the credibility of our electoral process. As the largest democracy in the world prepares for future elections, the adoption of smart governance tools and emphasis on voter facilitation shows that our democratic machinery is not just intact—it is evolving for the better. In these reforms, one finds not just administrative efficiency, but a reaffirmation of the ECI’s commitment: every voter matters, and every vote must count.



SHABEER AHMAD LONE

**"Indeed, in their stories is a lesson for those of understanding. Never was it [the Qur'an] a narration invented, but a confirmation of what was before it and a detailed explanation of all things and guidance and mercy for a people who believe."-(Surah Yusuf: 111), "So relate the stories that perhaps they will reflect,"(Surah Al-A'raf: 176.)**

The Qur'anic narrative, through its rich tapestry of stories and parables, offers an unparalleled reservoir of wisdom, shedding light on the very essence of human existence. These narratives, which have transcended time and space, engage with fundamental aspects of life such as morality, justice, faith, and the pursuit of knowledge, reflecting the core struggles of humanity in diverse socio-political and historical contexts. The timeless relevance of the Qur'anic stories lies in their ability to speak to the universal human experience, from the quest for spiritual meaning to the challenges of navigating moral dilemmas in a world fraught with inequity. In the story of Prophet Yusuf, for example, themes of patience in adversity, forgiveness, and the reconciliation of personal and familial suffering provide not only moral guidance but also profound insights into the dynamics of power, authority, and trust. Similarly, the parables presented in the Qur'an—such as those in Surah Al-Kahf and the Spider's Web—serve as metaphors that transcend their original setting, offering moral insights that resonate with the contemporary challenges of materialism, consumerism, and spiritual void. The Qur'an's literary depth, combined with its ethical and spiritual insights, creates an enduring source of reflection and



guidance, not just for individual believers, but for entire civilizations across centuries. It invites readers to reconsider their values, re-align their goals, and deepen their understanding of the relationship between human agency and divine will.

One of the remarkable features of the Qur'anic narrative is its ability to address the full spectrum of human emotions, struggles, and aspirations. It does not merely provide moral lessons in the abstract but immerses the reader in the lived experiences of individuals, communities, and nations. Take the story of Prophet Noah, for example, which explores themes of perseverance in the face of ridicule, unwavering faith in the face of adversity, and the consequences of ignoring divine guidance. The narrative unfolds not just as a historical account but as a multi-layered lesson on human persistence, the testing of faith, and the profound moral consequence of defying divine will. Similarly, the story of Prophet Yusuf (Joseph) A.S, with its intricate layers of betrayal, temptation, patience, and eventual triumph, speaks not only to personal virtue but also to the complex dynamics of family relationships, power, and forgiveness. In both these stories, the Qur'an introduces us to the human experience in its full depth, showing us the timeless relevance of virtues such as patience, trust in God, and forgiveness.

Furthermore, the Qur'anic parables, often rich with metaphorical significance, offer insight into the nature of human life, society, and the world around us. The parable of the two men in Surah Al-Kahf, for instance, contrasts the ephemeral nature of worldly wealth with the eternal value of spiritual wisdom. Through this allegory, the Qur'an invites its readers to reconsider their attachment to material possessions and, in turn, to reflect on the fleeting nature of worldly success. Similarly, the parable of the spider's web, illustrating the weakness of relying on anything other than the divine, challenges the reader to acknowledge the frailty of human constructs and the impermanence of all things except God's will. These parables, though simple in their form, are laden with rich layers of meaning that call the reader to reflect deeply on their priorities, values, and understanding of life itself.

The stories and parables in the Qur'an are, in many ways, reflections of the broader human struggle to reconcile divine will with human desire, to navigate between the material and the spiritual, and to understand the nature of justice and mercy in a world that is often marred by suffering and injustice. The story of Prophet Musa (Moses) and Pharaoh, for instance, is more than just an account of the struggle between a prophet and a tyrant; it is an exploration of the human tendency toward arrogance and oppression, the abuse of power, and the eventual triumph of divine justice. The narrative of Musa's confrontation with Pharaoh speaks to the eternal conflict between truth and falsehood, justice and tyranny, and the relentless march of divine intervention in human affairs. In this story, the Qur'an not only recounts the battle of wills between Moses and Pharaoh but also paints a broader picture of humanity's ongoing struggle with oppression and injustice, offering solace to those facing similar battles in their own lives.

The Qur'anic narratives, while firmly rooted in the context of early Islamic society, offer lessons that resonate universally. The universal

appeal of these stories is not bound by time or place; they remain relevant as they address fundamental human experiences: the quest for justice, the fight against oppression, the search for meaning in the face of suffering, and the recognition of God's mercy and wisdom in all aspects of life. For example, the Qur'anic stories of the People of the Cave (Ashab al-Kahf) invite reflections on faith in times of persecution, the value of solidarity and trust in God, and the transient nature of worldly power. The lessons embedded within these narratives are timeless and universal, offering guidance for individuals and societies seeking to navigate moral dilemmas, overcome adversity, and align their actions with divine wisdom.

At their core, Qur'anic stories are rooted in universal human experiences. They encompass themes such as faith, patience, repentance, justice, and the struggle between good and evil—principles that transcend time and culture. The narrative of Adam and Iblis, for instance, (Surah Al-A'raf, 7:11-25) explores themes of temptation, free will, and divine mercy. Unlike other scriptural accounts, the Qur'an retelling emphasizes human dignity and the potential for redemption, thereby elevating the story to a timeless moral lesson about human fallibility and hope.

The influence of Qur'anic stories extends beyond their spiritual and moral dimensions; they have also shaped intellectual and cultural discourses across civilizations. In Islamic philosophy and Sufism, these narratives have been interpreted allegorically to explore metaphysical truths. For instance, the story of the "Seven Sleepers" (Surah Al-Kahf, 18:9-26) has been analyzed as an allegory for spiritual awakening and the soul's journey toward divine realization. Similarly, in art and literature, these stories have inspired countless works that seek to convey their timeless wisdom through creative mediums.

The artistic mastery of the Qur'anic narratives amplifies their impact. The use of rhythm, symmetry, and rhetorical devices ensures that these stories are not only memorable but also emotionally and intellectually engaging. For instance, the parable of the "Light" (Surah An-Nur, 24:35), which describes divine guidance as a niche containing a radiant lamp, uses a cascade of metaphors to evoke the beauty and clarity of faith. Such literary brilliance elevates the Qur'an to the status of a universal masterpiece, admired not only for its spiritual depth but

also for its artistic elegance.

What makes these narratives even more profound is their emphasis on the moral, spiritual and ethical dimensions of life. The Qur'an does not present mere historical accounts but offers moral parables that invite the reader to reflect on their own actions, behavior, and attitudes toward others. The parable of the two sons of Adam, for example, is a poignant reflection on jealousy, rivalry, and the destructive consequences of unchecked emotions. The Qur'anic narrative implores its readers to examine their inner selves, to purify their hearts, and to cultivate virtues such as humility, patience, and empathy. In this sense, the Qur'anic stories serve as mirrors to the human soul, urging individuals to confront their own weaknesses and to strive for personal and spiritual growth.

Furthermore, the Qur'an's stories and parables are not just moral teachings; they are also deeply spiritual reflections that illuminate the path to divine understanding and proximity to God. The story of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) A.S, with his unwavering faith in the face of great trials, provides a model of spiritual surrender and trust in God's wisdom, even when faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges. Similarly, the story of Prophet Isa (Jesus) highlights the themes of sacrifice, mercy, and the transcendent nature of the divine message. Through these stories, the Qur'an calls its readers to develop a deeper relationship with God, to see beyond the material world, and to recognize the presence of the divine in all aspects of life.

The artistic and rhetorical brilliance of Qur'anic parables further enhances their appeal. Through vivid imagery, striking metaphors, and compelling symbolism, the Qur'an captures the imagination while delivering profound truths. For instance, the parable of the "Good Word" and the "Bad Word" (Surah Ibrahim, 14:24-26) uses the imagery of a tree to contrast the enduring impact of righteous deeds with the futility of evil actions. This poetic yet instructional approach elevates the Qur'an as not just a spiritual guide but also a literary masterpiece.

These stories and parables transcend their immediate cultural and historical contexts, inviting universal reflection, as affirmed in Surah Al-Imran: 137, "Many were the ways of life that have passed away before you. Travel through the earth and see what was the end of those who rejected truth." They echo the interconnectedness of humanity's moral struggles across geography and epochs, inspiring critical inquiry and spiritual awakening. The Qur'an's ability to communicate profound truths through simple yet evocative imagery—"Do you not see how Allah sets forth a parable? A good word is like a good tree, whose root is firm and whose branches reach to the sky" (Surah Ibrahim: 24)—showcases its timeless relevance.

In contemporary times, the relevance of Qur'anic stories has grown even more pronounced. In an era marked by moral ambiguity, social fragmentation, and existential crises, these narratives offer a compass for navigating the complexities of modern life. They provide guidance on personal ethics, social justice, and environmental stewardship, addressing issues as varied as economic exploitation, gender equity, and interfaith relations. For example, the story of the "Ant" in Surah An-Naml (27:18-19) underscores the importance of humility,

community, and mutual respect, values that are critical in today's interconnected world.

The Qur'anic narratives and parables, when explored alongside those of other sacred scriptures such as the Bible, Torah, and Bhagavad Gita, reveal profound universal truths and distinct theological nuances that enrich humanity's collective spiritual heritage. Stories like that of Prophet Yusuf mirror the Biblical Joseph in themes of betrayal, resilience, and forgiveness, yet the Qur'an's emphasis on divine providence and human accountability offers a uniquely spiritual lens. Similarly, parables such as the Spider's Web and the two gardens critique materialism and arrogance, resonating with Jesus Christ's teachings on humility, yet remain firmly grounded in the Qur'anic ethos of tawhid (oneness of Allah). While the Qur'an's direct, exhortative narrative style differs from the philosophical dialogues of the Bhagavad Gita or the genealogical accounts of the Torah, it creates a uniquely immersive experience, fostering both intellectual engagement and spiritual reflection. These stories transcend cultural and temporal boundaries, addressing the shared human quest for justice, mercy, and divine connection. As the Qur'an asserts, "Indeed, in their stories is a lesson for those of understanding" (Surah Yusuf: 111), its narratives serve as timeless, universal discourses, offering profound insights and

Contemplation of the Qur'anic narratives, we are confronted with a compelling invitation to look beyond the temporal and material world, to understand the deeper, often hidden, layers of truth that govern both individual lives and broader societal systems. These stories and parables are not mere historical recountings; they serve as living dialogues that challenge us to re-engage with the world around us through the lens of spiritual and moral awareness. The Qur'an's timeless messages—exploring themes of justice, mercy, humility, and perseverance—call for an introspective approach to human existence, urging readers across eras and cultures to critically examine their actions, beliefs, and aspirations. Whether in the face of oppression, personal betrayal, or the pursuit of justice, the lessons contained in the Qur'anic stories remain indispensable in understanding the nuances of human behavior, the moral intricacies of leadership, and the overarching importance of maintaining faith in the divine plan. Just as the teachings of the Qur'an continue to resonate with Muslims



around the world, they offer universal insights for all people, regardless of tradition, geography, or time period. From the lessons in the story of Prophet Musa and Pharaoh's confrontation to the transformative journeys of figures like Ibrahim and Maryam, the Qur'anic narra-

The Qur'anic narratives, while firmly rooted in the context of early Islamic society, offer lessons that resonate universally. The universal appeal of these stories is not bound by time or place; they remain relevant as they address fundamental human experiences: the quest for justice, the fight against oppression, the search for meaning in the face of suffering, and the recognition of God's mercy and wisdom in all aspects of life. For example, the Qur'anic stories of the People of the Cave (Ashab al-Kahf) invite reflections on faith in times of persecution, the value of solidarity and trust in God, and the transient nature of worldly power. The lessons embedded within these narratives are timeless and universal, offering guidance for individuals and societies seeking to navigate moral dilemmas, overcome adversity, and align their actions with divine wisdom.

tives emerge as sources of resilience, inspiration, and wisdom. As the modern world faces unprecedented challenges, these ancient stories remind us of the enduring power of moral clarity, the value of inner patience, and the need for unwavering belief in the goodness of the divine order. The Qur'anic narrative is, thus, not only a reflection of the past but a beacon for the future, offering profound insights that continue to guide humanity toward a more just, compassionate, and spiritually fulfilled world.

# Quality, timely disposal of grievances cornerstone of efficient administration: CS Atal Dulloo

**JAMMU:** In a comprehensive review meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, the functioning of the public grievance redressal system under the JK Samadhan 2.0 portal was evaluated, with a focus on the pace, quality and effectiveness of responses by the government departments and district administrations.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary, Public Grievances Department, along with Administrative Secretaries of various departments while Deputy Commissioners from across the UT participated virtually.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that the success of any grievance redressal mechanism lies not in mere registration of complaints but in their satisfactory and time bound resolution.

He underlined that timely redressal of citizens' issues is key towards reinforcing public faith in the governance system and ensuring their continued engagement with administrative platforms. Dulloo made out

that mere acknowledgement of grievances does not inspire confidence among the citizens. It is only when their concerns



are addressed promptly and effectively will people feel encouraged to bring issues to the attention of the administration. He described public grievances as a valuable diagnostic tool for assessing the health of governance at the grassroots level.

An in-depth analysis of grievances, he said, can serve as a map highlighting recurring challenges within departments or particular geographic areas. He urged the departments and district officials to utilize the platform not just for grievance resolution but as a means to strengthen the institutional responsiveness and improve public service delivery on ground.

The Chief Secretary laid special emphasis on the quality of disposal, calling for grievance redressal that leads

to the utmost satisfaction of the aggrieved citizen. He directed that no grievance should remain unresolved beyond 30 days.

He also instructed all the departments and Deputy Commissioners to conduct regular reviews of grievance status, ensuring that no case remain pending unnecessarily and that responsibility is fixed in cases of unwarranted delay.

Stressing the need for broader citizen participation, Dulloo tasked the Grievances Department with increasing awareness about the 'JK Samadhan 2.0' portal.

He advised that the portal be highlighted in all government outreach programs and public

meetings. He called for periodic bulk SMS campaigns targeting the registered citizens to inform and remind them about the availability and utility of this grievance redressal platform.

Meanwhile, the Chief Secretary also participated in a live demonstration of the JK Samadhan 2.0 portal.

During the session, he appreciated the improvements made in the portal and recommended further technological advancements to be taken up in collaboration with BISAG-N to enable more data-driven and insightful handling of grievances.

He suggested integrating features like heat maps based on grievance types and locations, which would allow departments to visually analyse concentration of specific issues and areas of concern.

Moreover, he proposed the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other advanced tools to analyse grievances, classify them intelligently, and ensure efficient, targeted and high-quality redressal of each of them.

## Minister Javed Rana Visits Mendhar, Addresses Public Grievances, Security Concerns

**Mendhar:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today conducted an extensive tour of the far-flung areas of Mendhar to assess public issues firsthand and engage directly with residents at their doorsteps.

During his interaction with the locals, the Minister listened to grievances related to public services and assured timely redressal.



Addressing the prevailing security concerns in the aftermath of the recent Pahalgam

terror attack, Rana reassured the public that the Government is fully committed to ensuring their safety and will take all necessary measures to prevent any disruption or threat to normal life.

He also directed the local administration to address public grievances with urgency and compassion, underlining the importance of responsive governance and people-centric service delivery.

## Internship Programme for Central University Students Concludes at DIPR

**JAMMU:** The one-month internship programme organized for students of the Central University concluded today at the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir.

In a brief meaningful ceremony, Director Information, Nitish Rajora, felicitated the interns and acknowledged their enthusiasm, dedication, and active participation throughout the duration of the programme.

The internship aimed to provide hands-on exposure to media operations, public relations, and the communication framework of the government.

The students were engaged in various aspects of media management, content creation, enabling them to gain valuable practical experience.

Director Information Nitish Rajora, while addressing the interns, encouraged them to continue exploring the dynamic field of media

and communication and appreciated their commitment to learning. He highlighted the

this enriching learning opportunity and shared their positive experiences during



importance of such initiatives in bridging the gap between academia and practical work environments.

The students expressed gratitude to the Directorate for providing them with

the internship.

The DIPR reiterated its commitment to promoting youth engagement and skill development through such educational collaborations in the future.

## Dy CM conducts public outreach camp at Chowkian, Kalsian Panchayats

**RAJOURI:** As part of the government's ongoing commitment to grassroots governance and responsive administration, Deputy Chief

Minister assured the public that their genuine issues would be addressed in a time bound manner. He directed the concerned departments to initiate prompt redressal measures.



Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted a public outreach camp at Panchayat Chowkian and Panchayat Kalsian in Nowshera division.

The outreach programme aimed to foster direct communication with the people and resolve their issues promptly.

During the interactive session, the locals raised several

concerns including the need for macadamization of roads, staff shortage in government institutions, inadequate healthcare infrastructure, water scarcity and establishment of a Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Panchayat Chowkian.

Other highlighted issues included the need for additional border bunkers and Anganwadi centres, repair of dilapidated Government Middle School (GMS) Chowkian, low voltage problem and upgradation of GMS Jhanghar and GMS Sarya.

While reviewing implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the Dy CM expressed concern over the slow pace of work. He instructed the officers to expedite project completion so that the benefits reach the people at the earliest.

Regarding the electricity issues, he directed the Power Development Department to take necessary corrective steps to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

On the occasion, the Dy CM also distributed labour cards among the eligible beneficiaries, reaffirming the government's commitment to welfare and inclusivity.

## Road Safety Committee meeting held at Kupwara

DC directs strict enforcement of traffic regulations

**KUPWARA:** In order to review the implementation of road safety measures and traffic regulation in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired the meeting of District Road Safety Committee (DRSC), here.

Addressing the meeting, DC stressed that road safety is a major issue concerning the safety of lives of the people.

She urged all the stakeholders to cooperate in making the roads safer by following traffic rules and regulations religiously.

She emphasized the officers to intensify the enforcement of traffic regulations on the ground and tighten the noose on offenders

to avert the possibility of road accidents in the district which result in losing precious lives.

The SE R&B and BEACON were directed to ensure pothole free roads by repairing and macadamizing all major roads of the district to ensure smooth movement of traffic and the people.

They were also directed to ensure curve improvement on major roads of the district especially hilly roads to remove the black spots which are prone to accidents.

The meeting was attended by SER&B Kupwara, CMO, CEO, ARTO, Executive Engineers, besides, officers from Police, Traffic, and other concerned officers were also present during the meeting.

## Baramulla observes 'International Labour Day'

**BARAMULLA:** Labour Department Baramulla today organized a special programme to commemorate 'International Labour Day', recognizing the invaluable contributions of the working class and raising awareness about their rights and welfare.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, inaugurated a medical and grievance redressal camp organized for labourers.

The camp offered free medical check-ups and consultations, along with a dedicated grievance redressal cell where labourers directly interacted with officials to seek resolution of their issues related to welfare benefits and labour rights.

In his address, DC praised the hard work and resilience of the labour community, stating

that they form the backbone of society.

He informed that during the last financial year, the district administration disbursed approximately Rs.18 crore as financial assistance to registered labourers under various government welfare schemes, reflecting a strong commitment to their well-being.

Highlighting the importance of financial security for the working class, Minga Sherpa urged labourers to come forward and avail benefits under the National Mission for Financial Inclusion, which aims to provide universal access to essential financial services. He specifically encouraged enrolment in two key insurance schemes—Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), which offers life insurance coverage at a nominal premium, and Pradhan Mantri

Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), which provides accidental death and disability cover at a very low cost.

He said these schemes are crucial in safeguarding the future of labourers and their families and called for greater awareness and participation at the grassroots level.

Earlier, Assistant Labour Commissioner Baramulla, Rahil Amin, highlighted the significance of the day.

He also briefed the gathering about various welfare schemes being implemented by the Labour Department to ensure the socio-economic upliftment of the working class.

Later, DC distributed certificates among workers as a token of appreciation for their service and to encourage continued engagement with various government initiatives.

## Satish Sharma extends greetings on Labour Day; reaffirms commitment to

**JAMMU:** Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Sports, Satish Sharma, has extended heartfelt greetings to the workers across the nation, acknowledging their



vital contributions to India's growth and progress.

Speaking at a function organized to celebrate the Labour Day at Jammu, the Minister emphasized the significance of the occasion stating, "Labour Day is a reminder that the strength of our nation lies in the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of its people.

Our workers, across all

sectors, are the backbone of our economy and the drivers of our progress."

The Minister reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment towards ensuring fair wages, safe and dignified working conditions and greater access to social security for all the workers.

Satish Sharma also highlighted various initiatives undertaken by the government to promote skill development, generate employment opportunities and introduce labour reforms aimed at empowering the youth and protecting the rights of workers.

As we mark this important day, he said, "let us recognize the dignity of labour in every form and renew our pledge to build a future where every worker is respected, supported and given equal opportunity to thrive."

## Commissioner SMC reviews Revenue Realisation, progress under PMAY (U) 2.0

**SRINAGAR:** A high-level meeting to take stock of the ongoing progress in revenue realisation and implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 was today held under the chairmanship of Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed at office complex here.

The meeting witnessed the participation of senior officials from various wings of the Corporation, including the Revenue, Planning,

Commissioner issued clear directions to expedite the pace of revenue mobilisation across all wards of the city. Ward-wise revenue targets were allocated to concerned officers, with instructions to intensify field-level efforts to meet the financial goals set for the current financial year.

Dr. Owais stressed the importance of strengthening

revenue collection systems, improving documentation, and ensuring accountability at every



level. "Revenue Realisation forms the backbone of our municipal functioning. Timely and efficient collection enables us to better deliver civic services to the people. All wards must now work on a mission mode to achieve their respective targets," he stated.

Turning his focus to the PMAY(U) 2.0 scheme, Commissioner expressed concern over the slow pace

of application processing and approvals. He directed concerned officials to clear all pending cases without delay, ensuring that the benefits of the central housing scheme reach deserving beneficiaries, especially the economically weaker sections (EWS) and low-income groups (LIG) in Srinagar city.

To ensure wider participation and public awareness of the PMAY (U) scheme, Dr. Owais emphasized the need for comprehensive capacity building among the common

masses, with a special focus on digital empowerment. He called for the organisation of ward-level awareness camps, online registration drives, and facilitation desks at the ward offices to help citizens understand the eligibility criteria and online application process under PMAY (U).

"In the digital age, it is imperative that we empower our citizens with the knowledge and tools required to access government welfare schemes. Special training sessions and awareness drives must be launched immediately," Commissioner added.

Commissioner also directed the SMC Social Media Cell to create simple, multilingual user guides and videos explaining the online application procedure and to collaborate with local NGOs and ward committees to disseminate information at the grassroots level.

## Road Safety enforcement intensified on NH-44 in Baramulla

**BARAMULLA:** In a determined push to strengthen road safety measures, the Assistant Regional Transport Office Baramulla today conducted an extensive enforcement drive along the Baramulla-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44).

The operation led by Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Baramulla, Mohammad Mukhtar Sofi was aimed at curbing violations and ensuring strict compliance with traffic norms, particularly in high-traffic and vulnerable zones.

During the drive, the enforcement team issued 24 e-challans for a range of traffic violations. In addition, five show-cause notices were served on the spot to drivers and vehicle owners found in serious breach of road safety standards.

Special emphasis was laid on the inspection of school buses, two-wheelers, and commercial vehicles. A variety of infractions were observed, including riding two-wheelers without helmets, unauthorized vehicle modifications, operating commercial vehicles without valid fitness certificates, absence of speed limiting devices, and failure to wear seat belts. Speaking to the media, ARTO emphasized the department's commitment to road safety and public welfare. He stated that the objective of such drives is not merely punitive but also educational - to make commuters more conscious of traffic rules and their role in preventing accidents.

"We are committed to creating a safer commuting environment and will continue such enforcement actions regularly," he said.

The Transport Department has urged all road users to follow traffic laws diligently and cooperate with enforcement teams for a safer and more disciplined road culture in the district.

## 'International Labour Day' commemorated at Sgr, B'gam, Pul & Shpn

**SRINAGAR:** In order to highlight the significance of labour rights and generate awareness about the importance of the day, District Legal Services Authorities (DSLAs) across all the districts of Kashmir today observed 'International Labour Day' also known as Global Workers Day with great enthusiasm and fervor.

The day is marked every year on May 1st as a celebration of working-class people, recognizing their contribution to society and promoting worker's rights and opportunities.

The event was successfully conducted under the leadership of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority and under the supervision of Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority.

AT SRINAGAR, District Legal Services

Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized an event to commemorate International Labour Day at the ADR Centre, District Court Complex Srinagar.

The programme, held under the supervision of Tasleem Arief, Chairman DLSA Srinagar (Principal District & Sessions Judge) witnessed the presence of, Secretary DLSA Srinagar, Sajad Ur Rehman; officials, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Srinagar officials of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, and Para Legal Volunteers.

AT BUDGAM, District Legal Services Authority under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority, observed an awareness Campaign on the occasion of International Labour Day at District Budgam.

The event was successfully conducted under

the Supervision of O.P Bhagat, Chairman DLSA Budgam and the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam.

AT PULWAMA, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Pulwama, under the chairmanship of Malik Shabir Ahmad (Principal District & Sessions Judge, Pulwama) organised an awareness programme today in collaboration with Assistant Labour Commissioner, Pulwama to mark 'International Labour Day.'

AT SHOPIAN, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian in collaboration with Labour Department Shopian today celebrated 'International Labour Day' at Shopian.

The event was held under the direction and guidance of Chairman DLSA Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary.

## IDDC reviews ongoing developmental works under UT Capex, CSS in GMC Udhampur

**UDHAMPUR:** District Development Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, today chaired a review meeting on various ongoing developmental works under UT Capex and Centrally Sponsored Schemes at the Conference Hall of Government Medical College Udhampur.

The meeting was attended by the Director Planning, J&K Health and Medical Education Department; Principal, GMC Udhampur and staff members from both the college and engineering wings.

Principal GMC Udhampur apprised the DDC about the current status of

developmental works at Village Bailey and the Associated Hospital of the Medical College.

The DDC directed all departments to coordinate effectively and expedite the



progress to ensure timely completion of all works.

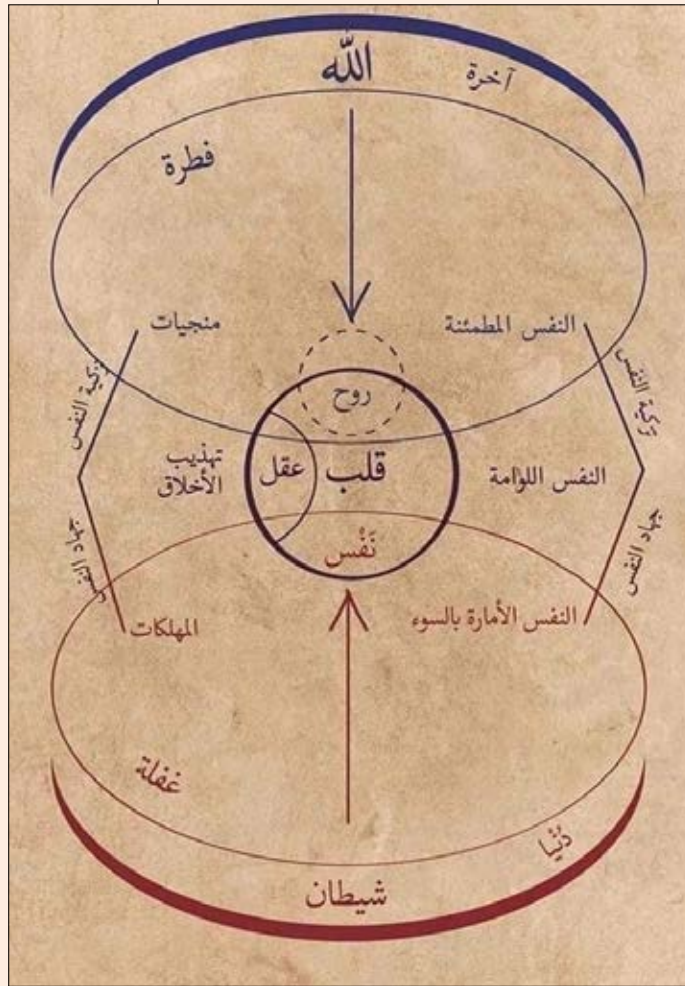
Later, the DDC visited the premises of the Associated Hospital, GMC Udhampur and issued on-spot directions for the judicious use of vacant space for constructing multi-level parking to benefit hospital staff and ease patient access. She also instructed hospital authorities to undertake necessary steps for the facelift of the hospital building, cover the Nallah near the entry point and macadamize the internal roads within the hospital premises.



A portrait of a bearded man, likely a scholar or poet, wearing a red robe and a white turban. He is resting his chin on his hand and holding a book. The background is dark green with pink and white flowers.

The project of revisiting Ibn Arabi needs to engage with major critiques of Ibn Arabi.

Ibn 'Arabi's synthetic view should not be confounded with modern eclecticism and uniformitarianism or "all is okay" cheap spirituality or some interpretations of anekavanta that liquidate the claim of absoluteness of truth or loss of distinction between truth and falsehood. He has very precisely formulated doctrines. His pluralism doesn't mean he is for everything or everything could be read in him. We need formal religion. New Age spirituality and NeoVedantic antinomian mysticism and libertine spirituality of many famous modern mystics would be emphatically rejected in his worldview. Even many modern appropriations of Sufism that involve wild dancing and music performances without observing prescribed requirements as defined by masters has no warrant



His respect for the sacred law is revealed in both his life and works and even Ibn Taymiyyah noted the former. His elaboration of understanding of the Quran as furqan and sharia is haqiqah

Prof. Amin Andrabi, noted Iqbal scholar and Kashmiri traditionalist, defends – and admirably so – Ibn Arabi on all the points on which Iqbal (some of them shared by Ibn Taymiyyah) finds him problematic.

Prof. Andrabi asks how come Iqbal knew about the former's commentary of the Quran if it has been lost (any reports about its being found again are after Iqbal lived and died) and that he didn't have access to reliable translation of the Gita.

Pantheism, appropriated and transmitted through Sufi poetry, turned Muslims into passive collectivity. Prof. Andrabi ignores this charge although one might note that Nasr's refutation of this charge is quite forceful. Ibn Arabi's alleged pantheism posits that human individuality is an illusion and this doctrine implies passivity and inertia. Our author points out that for Ibn Arabi it is God Himself who has given the name *wajud* to the cosmos so how can he ascribe to a view that posits an illusory status for the cosmos and the human self. Pantheism is spiritually affiliated with the *Batinities* whom Ibn Arabi himself "mentions the sects with certain amount of hostility." One might add that he also said "*Sharia is Haqiqa*".

Sufism itself is of foreign origin or ajmi importation into Islam. Our author notes that Iqbal changed his views later perhaps under Massignon's influence. However, in fairness to Iqbal, as noted by Suheyli Umar also, it needs to be noted that Iqbal had said that wujūdī Sufism is of non-Arabic origin (ajmi plant) not wujūd of Sufism is of alien origin. Prof. Andraibi also points out that Iqbal's denunciation of Sufism is "a blatant contradiction of what Iqbal has said about Sufism at numerous other places" and the fact that he himself is best described as Sufi thinker.

Iqbal's statement that Ibn Arabi's *Fusus* contains nothing but heresy and deviation is simply inexplicable. However Andrabi ventures at a probable explanation for this harsh but mistaken view by pointing out Iqbal's reliance on secondary sources like Ibn Khaldun when it came to appraisal of Sufism. He also points

out that "There is no evidence to show that Iqbal had the chance to study the original works of Ibn Arabi... A few centuries earlier the situation was no better for Ibn Taymiyyah who due to lack of authentic reports and reliable texts, in all sincerity, denounced Ibn Arabi on various points....And doesn't seem to be well informed about the works and doctrines of Ibn Arabi. For example, compare Ibn Arabi's position on question of Ithad (unity) and Halul (absorption) with the ideas attributed to him by Ibn Taymiyyah in his *Fatawa*." In fairness to Ibn Taymiyyah it might be pointed out that he was quite careful to phrase his denunciation in terms that indicated his reliance on views attributed to Ibn Arabi. Some other charges are mentioned but not answered although the case for Ibn Arabi's interpretation is clearly and forcefully stated.

Let us note that as access to Ibn Arabi corpus has increased

“

We need to note that Ibn ‘Arabī never uses the expression *wahdatul wajud* for which he is most often targeted by theological critics. This expression was later coined but not used in the sense of pantheism or in such a sense as would warrant Ibn Taymiyyah’s condemnation as erasing all distinction of different levels of existence, of good and evil and of God and servant. He uses expressions which state both the theses of *wahdat al-shuhud* and *wahdat al-wujud* in conjunction and it is this combination, which Sirhindi later stressed but attributed only the latter to him, that expresses his integral understanding. Shah Waliullah and others have explained his position very well vis-à-vis Sirhindi. He rejects nothing that passes as the canon of exoteric Islam and affirms orthodox creed in the beginning of *Futūhāt*. He only reads deeper meanings in it and this doesn’t warrant condemnation from orthodox authorities.

“

and a great number of scholarly studies published, it has become possible to convincingly defend Ibn Arabi against his influential critics – Ibn Taymiyyah, Hazrat Sirhindi, Showkani and Iqbal. He emerges as a colossus of Muslim intellectual and spiritual tradition. Ibn Arabi provides a hermeneutic that unearths universally recognized truths in theological and scriptural material that has usually been interpreted more parochially or exclusively. He aligns himself with what he sees as the unified position of all prophets (thus founders of world religions) and saints and traditional philosophers like Plato. He doesn't base his "position" of no position on any disputable rationalist axiom or proposition. Remaining loyal to the text with exceptional use of philological resources he excavates treasures of meanings that overturn all exclusivist claims.

Having cleared problems in problematizing Ibn Arabi or his legacy, we may now appreciate why he compels attention and one can't afford to ignore him and why he is appreciated across traditions and ages and why the best minds have been attracted to him.

# Continued From P1...

## Punish Pahalgam

Muslims or Kashmiris. "We want peace and only peace. Of course, we want justice. But people of any particular community should not be targeted," she said.

Lieutenant Narwal was among 26 civilians killed in a deadly terror attack in the Baisran valley of Pahalgam on April 22.

"We want action against those who did this, but I am not saying people should go against any group. We want peace," she added.

She said that Pahalgam attackers must be punished. "I am waiting for that. But at the same time, I appeal people across the country to not go against any community, including Muslims and Kashmiris," she said

## We Will Hunt

Twenty-six people, mostly tourists, were killed and several injured when terrorists opened fire at a meadow near the popular tourist town of Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on April 22.

## Army Chief

It reported that India had also warned Pakistan against continued ceasefire violations during the Indian and Pakistani Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) meeting held over the hotline on Tuesday.

The US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is expected to call both Indian and Pakistani leaders later today. He is expected to speak to the External Affairs Minister Jaishankar and the Pakistani Foreign Minister, India Today reported.

## NIA DG Inspects

Jammu and Kashmir Police and stated its investigation."

The NIA team is expected to conduct a thorough assessment of the attack site, collect forensic evidence, and help in identifying those responsible for the carnage.

The NIA's move comes amid intelligence agencies compiling a list of 14 local terrorists actively operating in the Union Territory.

According to sources, these individuals, aged between 20 and 40 years, are actively aiding foreign terrorists from Pakistan by providing logistical and ground-level support.

The identified operatives are reportedly affiliated with three major Pakistan-backed terror outfits: Hizbul Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). Among them, three are associated with Hizbul Mujahideen, eight with LeT, and three with JeM.

Sources revealed the names of these individuals as Adil Rehman Dentoo (21), Asif Ahmed Sheikh (28), Ahsan Ahmed Sheikh (23), Haris Nazir (20), Aamir Nazir Wani (20), Yawar Ahmed Bhat, Asif Ahmed Khanday (24), Naseer Ahmed Wani (21), Shahid Ahmed Kutay (27), Aamir Ahmed Dar, Adnan Safi Dar, Zubair Ahmed Wani (39), Haroon Rashid Ganai (32), and Zakir Ahmed Ganie (29).

The identification of these local terror aides comes as agencies intensify efforts to dismantle the support networks facilitating cross-border terrorism.

Security forces have launched coordinated operations across South Kashmir, particularly in Anantnag and Pulwama districts, where many of the listed individuals are believed to be operating. Senior officials indicate that these names are part of a larger intelligence dossier being used to preempt further attacks and disrupt terror logistics in the Valley.

## US Defence Secy

for the global community to explicitly and unequivocally condemn and call out such heinous acts of terrorism," the Defence Ministry said, as per KNO.

The phone call came amid heightened tensions with Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack. India has taken diplomatic and strategic measures against Pakistan. India has suspended the Indus Water Treaty, closed the Integrated Check Post at Attari, and curtailed the strength of High Commissions.

Pertinently, the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMO) of India and Pakistan communicated via hotline on Tuesday, during which India raised strong objections to the "unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Pakistan Army" along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border

## US Urges India,

New Delhi's "right to defend" itself and its fight against terrorism.

Singh told Hegseth that Pakistan has been "exposed" as a "rogue" state fuelling global terrorism, and "destabilising" the region, adding the world can no longer turn a "blind eye" to terrorism.

In his phone conversation with Jaishankar, Rubio expressed his "sorrow" for the lives lost in the "horrific" terror attack and reaffirmed the US' commitment to cooperation with India against terrorism, according to the US State Department.

"Discussed the Pahalgam terrorist attack with US @SecRubio yesterday. Its perpetrators, backers and planners must be brought to justice," the external affairs minister said on X.

US State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said: "The Secretary expressed his sorrow for the lives lost in the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam, and reaffirmed the United States' commitment to cooperation with India against terrorism."

"He also encouraged India to work with Pakistan to de-escalate tensions and maintain peace and security in South Asia," she said.

On Rubio's phone talks with Sharif, Bruce said the Secretary encouraged Pakistan to work with India to de-escalate "tensions, re-establish direct communications, and maintain peace and security in South Asia".

"The Secretary spoke of the need to condemn the terror attack on April 22 in Pahalgam. Both leaders reaffirmed their continued commitment to holding terrorists accountable for their heinous

acts of violence," she said.

"The secretary urged Pakistani officials' cooperation in investigating this unconscionable attack," Bruce added.

During the phone call, Sharif rejected "India's attempt to link Pakistan" to the Pahalgam attack and reiterated Islamabad's call for an impartial investigation into it, according to a Pakistani readout.

Citing "cross-border linkages" to the horrific attack, India has promised severe punishment to those involved in the strike.

In a high-level meeting with the top defence brass, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the terror attack, according to government sources.

The Prime Minister affirmed that it is a national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism, they said after the meeting.

India on April 23 announced a raft of punitive measures against Pakistan including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down of the only operation land border crossing at Attari and downgrading of diplomatic ties in view of cross-border links to the attack.

In response, Pakistan shut its airspace to Indian airliners and suspended all trade with India, including through third countries.

Pakistan rejected India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and said any move to stop the flow of water will be seen as an "act of war".

## Brother of Adil gets

"My brother gave his life to protect others. This recognition and support bring some solace to our grieving family. We thank Dr. Andrabi and all those who stood with us in this difficult time," he said.

Notably, on April 22, terrorists fired on a group of tourists in Pahalgam's Baisaran area, killing 26 people. Among the first responders was Syed Adil Hussain, a local horse ride operator, who died while trying to shield visitors from the gunfire

## 'We Sleep To

Muzaffar Ahmad, another Karnah resident, said, "We pray for peace along the LoC because war is not an option. The development we've seen in border areas over the past few years came only after the ceasefire between the two nations."

Bordering belt residents, speaking to KNO, pleaded for urgent safety measures and the restoration of calm, saying they have been living under the shadow of escalating violence since the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

The residents said they had appealed to the authorities multiple times to build bunkers for their safety, but are still waiting.

A resident added, "Yes, a few community bunkers exist, and are now being cleaned for the safety measures. The situation is tense, but we stand firmly with the Indian Army. We are the last village before the border, and we want to assure the Army that we are always with them, come what may."

Villagers in Kupwara's LoC belt say the constant hovering of helicopters, combined with frequent gunfire, has shattered the fragile peace they had come to depend on after the ceasefire understanding. "We hardly sleep at night. The silence is broken by gunshots. We fear for our lives and our homes," said a Keran resident.

In Uri, residents expressed similar concerns as sporadic cross-border firing intensified. "We live in constant fear. The sound of shells and bullets haunts us. We pray that peace prevails," said villagers from Churinda, a settlement that has witnessed casualties in past skirmishes. "This is not the first time. Our village has seen blood, injuries, and damage to homes".

Meanwhile, an official said that security forces have intensified vigilance along the Line of Control (LoC) in J&K to prevent cross-border infiltration and the shelling.

"Patrols by the Army and Border Security Force (BSF) have been increased in border districts like Poonch, Rajouri and north Kashmir. A multi-layered defence system, including advanced surveillance and intelligence gathering, has been deployed to monitor suspicious activities," he said

## Pak a failed

from this main issue through the attack and its consequences will be dangerous. "Both the countries have atomic power and if it (atomic power) is used, God knows what will happen," he said.

The ex-chief minister of erstwhile J&K State, further added that the tensions are there, but he doesn't know whether war was the last option. "It is up to the leaders of the two nations to decide on it," he added.

Replying to a query, Dr Farooq said that "I don't think relations between India and Pakistan will ever improve unless the Army goes. People of Pakistan want friendship with India, but not the hierarchy there. The peace between India and Pakistan can only happen when there will be a people's government in Pakistan," he said.

Reacting to the cabinet decision on caste census, Dr Farooq said it was the long pending demand and it is imperative to come up with the number of Muslims, Sikhs, Brahmans, Christians and others living in India

## Attari-Wagah

of such people to 1,617 and 224, respectively.

The Centre issued the 'Leave India' notice to Pakistani nationals after 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed by terrorists with Pakistan links in Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22.

The deadline for exiting India for those holding SAARC visas was April 26. For those carrying medical visas, the deadline was April 29.

The deadline for 12 other categories of visas was April 27. These were visas on arrival and visas for business, film, journalists, transit, conferences, mountaineering, students, visitors, group tourists,

pilgrims and group pilgrims.

Three defence/military, naval and air advisors in the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi were declared persona non grata on April 23 and were given one week to leave India. Five support staff of these defence attaches were also asked to leave India.

India also withdrew its defence attache from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad.

However, those having long-term, diplomatic or official visas were exempted from the 'Leave-India' order. Sources told PTI that altogether 125 Pakistani nationals left India through the Attari-Wagah border crossing point on April 30; a total of 94 Pakistani nationals, including 10 diplomats, left India on April 29; 145 Pakistanis, including 36 diplomats, their dependents and support staff, left on April 28; 237 Pakistanis, including nine diplomats and officials, left India on April 27; 81 left on April 26; 191 on April 25 and 28 on April 24.

Fifteen Indian nationals with Pakistani visa also left India through the international border crossing point on April 30 while eight Indians left India on April 29, the sources said.

Similarly, 152 Indian nationals crossed over to India from Pakistan through the Attari-Wagah border crossing on April 30; 469 Indians, including 11 diplomats and officials, returned from Pakistan through the same route on April 29; 146 Indians returned on April 28; 116 Indians, including one diplomat, returned on April 27; 342 Indians, including 13 diplomats and officials, came back on April 26; 287 Indians crossed over from Pakistan on April 25 and 105 Indians returned on April 24, the sources said.

A total of 73 Pakistani nationals with long-term Indian visas came to the country through the border point on April 30; 22 Pakistani nationals came on April 29, while 129 Pakistanis with the same category of visas entered India on April 28.

Sources said some of the Pakistanis might have left India through airports too, pointing out that since India does not have direct air connectivity with Pakistan, they might have left for a third country.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on April 25 called up the chief ministers of all states and asked them to ensure that no Pakistani stays in India beyond the deadline set for leaving the country.

After Shah's telephonic conversations with the chief ministers, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan also held a videoconferencing with the chief secretaries of states and asked them to ensure that all Pakistani nationals whose visas were revoked leave India before the deadline.

The already-strained relations between India and Pakistan nosedived further after the horrific Pahalgam terror attack, with New Delhi announcing a raft of measures, including the cancellation of visas, against Islamabad, which hit back with a string of tit-for-tat measures.

## India extends

cross-border involvement in the Kashmir attack was underscored at a special security cabinet meeting, prompting it to act against Pakistan.

He said New Delhi would immediately suspend the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty "until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism."

India also closed the only open land border crossing point between the two countries and said that those who have crossed into India can return through the point before May 1.

Pakistani nationals will not be permitted to travel to India under special South Asian visas, all such existing visas were cancelled and Pakistanis in India under such visas had 48 hours to leave, Misri said.

All defence advisors in the Pakistani mission in New Delhi were declared persona non grata and given a week to leave. India will pull out its own defence advisors in Pakistan and also reduce staff size at its mission in Islamabad to 30 from 55, Misri said.

"The CCS reviewed the overall security situation and directed all forces to maintain high vigil," Misri, the most senior diplomat in the foreign ministry, said referring to the security cabinet.

"In reference of Ministry of Home Affairs OM of even number dated 24 April 2025 on the above-mentioned subject, wherein it was ordered to close all types of incoming and outgoing passengers and movement of goods through the integrated Check Post Attari with immediate effect, and permitting those who have crossed the border with valid endorsement to return through the route before 01 May 2025. The order in the said OM has been reviewed and in partial modification of the said OM, it is now ordered that Pakistani nationals may be allowed to exit India to go into Pakistan from Integrated Check Post at Attari till further orders, with due clearances," the fresh office memorandum issued by Ministry of Home Affairs stated.

## South Korea's Acting Leader Han Resigns Amid Reports He Will Run For Presidential Election

SEOUL: South Korea's acting leader, Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, said Thursday he is resigning to take on "heavier responsibility" amid expectation he will run in next month's presidential election.

Han has emerged as a potential conservative standard bearer as the main conservative People Power Party remains in disarray over ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol's stunning martial law imposition in December. South Korean media reported Han will officially launch his presidential campaign Friday.

"I have two paths ahead of me. One is completing the heavy responsibility that I handle now. The other is putting down that responsibility and taking a heavier responsibility," Han said in a nationally televised announcement. "I've finally determined to put down my post to do what I can and what I have to help overcome the crises facing us."

Han, who Yoon had appointed prime minister, the country's No. 2 post, is expected to align with the People Power Party to launch a unified conservative campaign against liberal front-runner Lee Jae-myung, observers say.

Han, 75, is a career bureaucrat with about 40 years of public service and a Harvard doctorate in economics. He has held top posts under both conservative and liberal governments, including trade minister, finance minister and ambassador to the US. He's served as prime minster twice, first under liberal President Roh Moo-hyun from 2007 to 2008 and later under Yoon.

Han's supporters say his extensive government experience, especially on economic affairs, would make him the right leader who can deal with President Donald Trump's aggressive tariff policies and other economic problems. But his critics say Han — who has never had an elected post — has no strong political support base and is too old to become president.

With Han's resignation, Deputy Prime Minister Choi Sang-mok becomes acting president until a new leader is elected on June 3.

Lee, who won the nomination of the main liberal opposition Democratic Party on Sunday, has been favoured to win. But his campaign suffered a blow Thursday after the Supreme Court ordered a lower court to review its earlier cancellation of his conviction over election law violation charges.

While it's unclear the Seoul High Court will come up with a new ruling on Lee before the June 3 election, the development provided his conservative rivals with fodder for a political offensive. Under South Korean law, anyone who receives a fine exceeding 1 million won (\$683) for election law violations is barred from running for elections for five years.

In a Gallup Korea poll released on Friday, Lee won 38% of support ratings, while Han had 6% and four People Power Party aspirants won a combined 23%.

The People Power Party is to elect its candidate this Saturday.

After the liberal opposition-controlled parliament impeached Yoon on Dec. 14 over his martial law declaration that plunged the country into turmoil, Han began serving as acting leader, trying to reassure diplomatic partners and stabilize markets.

But Han quickly clashed with Lee's Democratic Party over his refusal to fill three vacant seats on the nine-member Constitutional Court, which was deliberating whether to formally dismiss or reinstate Yoon. A court decision to dismiss Yoon needed support from at least six justices.

In late December, the Democratic Party and other small opposition parties voted to impeach Han, accusing him of obstructing the restoration of the court's full membership and abetting Yoon's martial law decree. In March, however, the Constitutional Court overturned Han's impeachment, reinstating him as acting president. The court in early April ruled to dismiss Yoon. (AP)

## Holy relics of Lord Buddha to be transported to Vietnam by special IAF aircraft for exposition

NEW DELHI: The holy relics of Lord Buddha enshrined at a vihara in Uttar Pradesh's Sarnath are slated to be transported to Vietnam by a special Indian Air Force (IAF) aircraft from the Hindan Air Base in Ghaziabad on Thursday night for an exposition in that country in May, officials said.

The exposition of the holy relics will be held in Vietnam during the gala celebrations of the United Nations Day of Vesak from May 2 to 21.

The sacred relics will be transported with great reverence to Ho Chi Minh City by a special IAF aircraft, befitting the status of a "State Guest", a culture ministry official had said earlier.

The holy relics were ceremonially brought to Delhi on Wednesday and placed in a "special protected enclosure" at the National Museum for prayers for a couple of hours.

On Thursday evening, the holy relics of Lord Buddha were taken from the National Museum to the Hindan Air Base with full "state honours" in a "special bulletproof vehicle" after rituals at the museum for their onward journey to Vietnam, the officials said.

Monks and nuns chanted prayers as the sacred relics were taken out of the National Museum and on to the special vehicle.

There will be a "special Air Force guard of honour" for the send-off at the airport, the senior official said.

As a special gesture, around 120 monks came from Vietnam, performed rituals at the National Museum and paid their obeisance to the holy relics, he said.

These relics of the Buddha, enshrined in the Mulagandha Kuti Vihara, were excavated in Nagarjuna Konda, a prominent site in Andhra Pradesh.

In Vietnam, the sacred relics will be ceremoniously enshrined, venerated and worshipped at several important sites.

These include the Hanh Tam Monastery in Ho Chi Minh city from May 2 to 8, (coinciding with the UN Day of Vesak 2025), the Ba Den Mountain in Tay Ninh province from May 9 to 13 (southern Vietnam's national spiritual pilgrimage site), the Quan Su Monastery in Hanoi from May 14 to 18 (the headquarters of the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha) and finally, the Tam Chuc Monastery in Ha Nam province from May 18 to 21 (the largest Buddhist centre in Southeast Asia), the culture ministry said in a statement on Tuesday. (PTI)

## Haryana CM Saini lists 'benefits' of amended Waqf Act for Muslims

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday listed several "benefits" of the Waqf (Amendment) Act for the Muslim community.

At a workshop in Panchkula near here, Saini also accused the Congress of misleading Muslims over the provisions of the amended law for vote-bank politics, sources said.

The workshop was part of the BJP's fortnight-long public awareness campaign launched on April 20 to publicise the benefits of the Waqf (Amendment) Act and counter the opposition's criticism of the same.

The amended Act will help make 'Pasmanda' (backward) Muslims the stakeholders in the management and welfare programmes of the Waqf with transparent and efficient management of its properties, Saini said.

"The Waqf (Amendment) Act will play an important

role in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas, Sabka Vishwas'," the chief minister said.

The law will benefit the women, poor and deprived among the Muslims besides increasing transparency in Waqf properties, he said, adding that it will also stop arbitrary encroachment of properties.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister also hailed the Centre's move to include caste enumeration in the next census.

In a major decision, the Central government on Wednesday announced that caste enumeration will be included in the forthcoming census exercise in a "transparent" manner, as it slammed the opposition parties for using caste survey as a "political tool".

The workshop, which was also addressed by Haryana BJP president Mohan Lal Badoli and BJP's Minority Morcha national vice-president Zakir Hussain, was attended by many people from the Muslim community, officials said.

Saini claimed the Waqf law has enraged the land mafia and corrupt people doing appeasement politics.

"During Congress rule, the benefits of Waqf properties were distributed among the corrupt. But now the exploitative and appeasement politics of the Congress and its allies will stop with the implementation of this law," Saini claimed.

Saini also said that the Narendra Modi government at the Centre has done public welfare work by amending the Waqf law.

"The Waqf (Amendment) Act will increase gender equality and ensure the participation of all communities of the Muslim society," he said.

"The Congress ruled the country for 55 years but kept several issues lingering. It did not try to resolve them," he added.

While hailing the move to include caste enumeration in the next census, Saini said the Congress opposed the inclusion of caste data in the 2011 census, with then home minister P Chidambaram saying that castes would not be counted in the census but separately.

He also claimed the Congress brought the Waqf Act in a hurry in 2013 for which the country and the Muslim community had to bear the loss.

"There were many shortcomings in the Waqf Act of 2013, which the Modi government has removed. Prime Minister Modi is correcting the old mistakes of the Congress," Saini said.

Pointing out the difference between the working styles of the BJP and the Congress, the chief minister said the latter only works keeping the vote-bank at the centre, while Prime Minister Modi works keeping the country at the forefront.

## AIMSS Chamiyana to become first hospital in HP to offer robotic surgery, says CM

SHIMLA: Atal Institute of Medical Super Specialties (AIMSS) at Chamiyana near Shimla would be the first hospital in the state to offer robotic surgery, followed by Tanda hospital in Kangra, said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Thursday while inaugurating the In-Patient Department in the hospital.

Also, to cope-up with the patient load at Indira Gandhi Medical College hospital (IGMCH) Shimla and provide better healthcare facilities, some of its departments, including gastroenterology, nephrology and plastic surgery, have been shifted to AIMSS, popularly known as Chamiyana Super Specialty Hospital, a statement issued here said.

Among its many benefits, robotic surgery offers increased precision and accuracy, faster recovery times and reduced risk of infection due to minimally invasive techniques. Patients also experience less pain due to smaller incisions, which helps them recover quickly, often leading to shorter hospital stays.

In the next two months, cardiology and cardiothoracic and vascular surgery (CTVS) services would also be transferred to AIMSS Chamiyana, he said.

Besides upgrading AIMSS Chamiyana, all medical colleges, zonal hospitals, and regional hospitals are also being equipped with modern technology to ensure world-class facilities for patients within the state itself, the CM highlighted.

While at the hospital, the CM also held a meeting on campus and enquired about the services being provided to patients. He also instructed the Public Works Department to improve the approach road leading to the hospital.

The hospital has a capacity of 337 beds and is equipped with high-end operation theatres and a cardiac catheterisation laboratory. While it has just started, it will become fully functional within the next six months, he said.

## Rahul welcomes caste census decision; demands clear implementation timeline

NEW DELHI: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi today welcomed the Central Government's decision to include caste enumeration in the forthcoming national census and called for a clear implementation timeline.

Addressing a press conference at the party office here, Gandhi reiterated the party's longstanding demand for a caste census and emphasised the need to break the 50 percent cap on reservation.

"We also advocate eliminating the 50 percent cap on reservations as it is increasingly becoming an impediment to development, progress and the advancement of the backward castes, Dalits, and Adivasis," Gandhi said.

Highlighting "Telangana as a model state that successfully conducted a comprehensive caste census", Gandhi urged the Central Government to "incorporate some of its effective approaches in the national census".

The former Congress president also demanded the swift implementation of Article 15(5), which pertains to reservations in private educational institutions – a law that already exists.

# I love chasing on any field: Iyer after guiding PBKS to win over CSK

Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer on Wednesday said he "loves chasing on any field" after his 41-ball 72 guided his side to a four-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings and secured the second position in the IPL points table here on Wednesday.

Iyer struck his fourth fifty of the season, making 72 off 41 balls with five fours and four sixes as PBKS knocked CSK out of IPL play-offs race with the win.

"I love chasing on any field. I feel like I thrive whenever there is a big total on the board and you need to take the charge and momentum for the team for the rest of the batters to come and go full throttle," said Iyer, who was adjudged the player-of-the-match. Talking about his form in away games in this IPL, Iyer said, "I don't want to curse it and just stay in the present and reacting to the ball. It doesn't matter where I am playing. I just play with my approach. Sometimes it works sometimes it doesn't."

Iyer said batting against fast bowlers with the new ball has given him a great amount of practice.

"Lately I have been batting a lot in the nets and facing the quick bowlers, especially with the new ball and that's given me immense confidence. This is one part I have really worked on," he said.

"The attitude is something that I keep high whenever I approach the field. So I think all these small boxes have been ticked and that's there to see," he added.

Meanwhile, Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell could probably out of the tournament after fracturing one of his fingers. He didn't

play against CSK on Wednesday.

"It's very unfortunate that he's got a fractured finger," Iyer said at the toss.

CSK skipper MS Dhoni said his side did put up a significant total on the board as they made

Dhoni said CSK is not playing well towards the end – they lost five wickets for four runs as Yuzvendra Chahal claimed a hat-trick in the 19th over to finish with figures of 4/32.

"The partnership between (Dewald) Brevis

which took CSK to an at-par total.

"Well he's (Curran) a fighter, that's something we all know. Whenever he turns up, he wants to contribute. Unfortunately so far, whenever we tried to give him a chance, the wicket was



"I love chasing on any field. I feel like I thrive whenever there is a big total on the board and you need to take the charge and momentum for the team for the rest of the batters to come and go full throttle," said Iyer, who was adjudged the player-of-the-match.

## Maxwell fractures finger, "likely" out of IPL

Punjab Kings' Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell is "likely" out of the Indian Premier League's remaining matches after fracturing his finger.

Maxwell suffered the injury before PBKS' rainied out previous game against Kolkata Knight Riders in which he was dismissed for 7 continuing an underwhelming season.

He was replaced by Suryansh Shedge in last night's clash



against Chennai Super Kings that PBKS won by four wickets.

"Unfortunately, Maxi's broken his finger. He broke it just before the last game at training. He didn't think it was too bad, but it ended up getting pretty bad. He had scans and yeah, the results weren't great. So unfortunately for Maxi, I think it's likely he's out for the tournament," Maxwell's compatriot and PBKS teammate Marcus Stoinis told 'Jiostar'.

Punjab head coach Ricky Ponting said the side is currently trying to figure a suitable replacement which may not be easy to find.

"We will be signing some replacements at some stage," Ponting said in the post-match press conference when asked about the injury setback.

"We've got until our 12th game, so we have a couple of games to go yet. With the squad we've got, we're trying to find players in our squad anyway. So we've got Azmatullah (Omar-zai), Aaron Hardie who hasn't played yet, Xavier Bartlett who didn't play today.

"It's conditions based. But when we get to Dharamsala he will come back into the reckoning up there, where the ball might swing and bounce a little bit more," he explained.

Ponting said the side is having a good look at the Indian talent that it has as international options are limited due to other ongoing leagues.

"...there's not a lot of high quality replacements out there to be honest. So we've just been patient," he said.

## Batters have adapted to Pathirana, says CSK bowling coach Simons

Chennai Super Kings bowling coach Eric Simons has defended Matheesha Pathirana amid his underwhelming form this IPL season, saying that the opposition batters have started reading and adapting better to him.

eight matches this season. He has also been guilty of bowling several wides.

Simons feels the Sri Lankan pacer needs to evolve as batters have found a way to score against him.

"So the evolution, might just be what's next for him tactically as to what he needs to do to



The five-time champions were eliminated from the IPL play off race on Wednesday when they lost to Punjab Kings, their eighth defeat in 10 outings.

Pathirana, known for his slinging action, has lost the control he had in the previous season. Earlier, CSK head coach had said the reason for a dip in form was due to a change in action.

"It's been quite well documented that there was a bit of an action change. But he's pretty much back to where he was and just in terms of the height of his arm on a reasonably consistent basis," Simons said in the post-match press conference.

"I'm not sure that he's less accurate. Batters are playing him a lot better. We can certainly see a trend in the way that batters are playing against him, particularly against Mumbai the other day.

"The technique that they're using, they understand what his plans and what he does," he added.

Pathirana has taken nine wickets at an average of 33.11 and an economy of 10.39 in

keep evolving. Batters need to keep evolving, bowlers need to keep evolving.

"Tonight, his channels are quite good. His lines are quite good. Obviously, he got his lengths, he'd prefer a fuller length, but the batsmen are treating him differently this year."

Simons feels CSK need to be "tactically smarter" in crucial moments in order to win games.

"I think as a team, throughout batting and bowling, there are little areas we want to try and find to be more accurate around what we want to do. But as a unit, the guys have pretty much played their job.

"It's about winning those big overs. Every now and then you're sitting up there and going, if we have a really tight over here, the game changes.

"Sometimes you get away in the last ball or the second-last ball and not understanding sometimes how to come out of an over. I think tactically smarter in key moments is probably some of the growth areas that we need to always work on."

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