

Kashmir Convener



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PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK FALLOUT

India Commits To Severe Action Against Terrorists And Their Backers: PM Modi

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Terrorism is the "biggest threat" to humanity and India is committed to take "firm and decisive" action against the terrorists and their backers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, against the backdrop of escalating tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad over the horrific Pahalgam terror attack.

He made these remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with visiting Angolan President Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco. Modi announced a defence credit line of USD200 million for the African nation.

His assertion on strongly dealing with terrorism came even as India announced fresh punitive measures against Pakistan including complete ban on imports from Pakistan, suspension of all postal services from



that country and banning entry of Pakistani-flagged ships at Indian ports. "We are unanimous that terrorism is the biggest threat to humanity. I expressed my gratitude to President Lourenco and Angola for their condolences to those killed in the

terrorist attack in Pahalgam," Modi said in his media statement. "We are committed to take firm and decisive action against the terrorists and those who support them. We thank Angola for their support in our fight against cross-

border terrorism," he said.

It is learnt that the Pahalgam terror attack figured prominently in Modi-Lourenco talks.

At a media briefing, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the global community has come out in large numbers and strongly condemned the terror attack on Indian soil.

"They have also conveyed a very strong sense of solidarity and support for India. And, they stand with the people of India in this hour," he said.

Citing "cross-border linkages" to the April 22 attack, India has promised severe punishment to those involved in the strike.

After the talks between Modi and Lourenco, India and Angola signed three pacts that will provide for bilateral cooperation in areas of ayurveda and

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NO PAK- FLAGGED VESSELS ALLOWED ON INDIAN PORTS

KC NEWS NETWORK

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways issued an order banning Pakistani-flagged vessels from entering Indian ports with immediate effect.

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NO EXCHANGE OF MAILS AND PARCELS

KC NEWS NETWORK

In a related development Department of Posts that operates under the Ministry of Communication ordered suspension and exchange of all categories of

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LoC Heats Up Pak Violates Ceasefire for Ninth Night, India Responds Firmly

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: The post-to-post small arms firing between India and Pakistani troops continued in different sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir for the ninth consecutive night, officials said on Saturday.



As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), however, there has been no casualty in the border skirmishes initiated by Pakistan troops in violation of the ceasefire agreement, they said.

This was the ninth consecutive night of unprovoked firing from across the border, which had mostly been restricted to LoC. There was only one incident of firing along the International Border (IB).

"During the night of 02-03 May 2025, Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked small-arms fire across the Line of Control opposite the Kupwara, Uri, and Akhnour areas of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir," an official said, adding that Indian Army responded promptly and proportionately.

Since the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, Pakistani troops have violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir for nine consecutive nights, totalling approximately 25-30 incidents. These violations occurred across multiple sectors, including Poonch, Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, Akhnour, Naushera, Sunderbani, Tangdhar, Tutmari Gali, Rampur and the Pargwal sector along the International Border.

The Indian Army responded proportionately, with no casualties reported, amid heightened tensions following the attack—(KNO)

India Suspends All Trade and Postal Services with Pakistan

>>> Centre bans import of goods from Pakistan; prohibits Pak vessels from entering Indian ports <<<

Sajid Raina

NEW DELHI: In the aftermath of April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists dead, the Centre on Saturday announced snapping of more ties with Pakistan. The decisions included imposing a ban on

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Omar Abdullah Calls On PM Modi, Discusses Situation In J&K Highlights public outrage, 'spontaneous' protests against massacre

Sajid Raina

NEW DELHI: For the first time after April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Saturday and discussed with him the emerging situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

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Kashmir will always remain integral part of India: Dr Farooq



Jahangeer Ganaie

ANANTNAG: Asserting that Kashmir will always remain an integral part of India, National Conference (NC) President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Saturday

said that Pakistan and terrorists have failed in their ploy of creating a wedge between Muslims and Hindus.

Talking to the reporters here in Pahalgam, Dr Farooq, said that the people have given the biggest message to them that they are not scared. "We are in Pahalgam right now and it makes us happy to see the people visiting here without any fear," he said.

"Those who wanted to scare us have failed. The perpetrators of the attack have also

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Sunday Market Blast

NIA Chargesheets Three Accused, Linked With ISIS Terrorist Outfit



KC News Network

NEW DELHI: The NIA has chargesheeted three accused, linked with the banned "Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)/Islamic State Jammu and Kashmir (ISJK)" terrorist group, for their involvement in the 2024 Srinagar market grenade attack which killed one woman and left several other civilians injured, an official statement said

on Saturday.

In its chargesheet filed before the NIA Special Court, Jammu, the anti-terror agency has named Sheikh Usama Yaseen, Umar Fayaz Sheikh, and Afnan Mansoor Naik under relevant sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, Explosive Substances Act, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), it said.

All three are currently lodged in judicial custody, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said in the statement.

Usama and Umer were arrested on November 7, just four days after the November 3, 2024, attack at the busy Sunday Market near Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) in Srinagar, it said.

Afnan was arrested on November 8 for his active role in the criminal conspiracy, aimed at waging a war against

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Hajj 2025: First Batch Of 178 Pilgrims To Leave From Sgr Today

Mubashir Alam Wani

SRINAGAR: The first batch of Hajj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir is all set to embark on their sacred journey as the inaugural flight for Hajj-2025 will depart from Srinagar International Airport on Sunday.

The flight, as per the officials, will carry 178 pilgrims, comprising 96 males and 82 females, marking the beginning of this year's pilgrimage season from the region.

According to the Jammu & Kashmir Hajj Committee, over 3,600 pilgrims from J&K are scheduled to perform Hajj this year under the government



quota.

Pilgrims scheduled for Sunday's flight, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) were instructed to report at Haj House, Bemina, between 5:00 and 5:30 AM. Security measures at the venue have been

tightened, and only registered pilgrims with valid passes will be allowed entry.

As per the officials, the entire Hajj departure process from Kashmir will span from May 4 to

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President Murmu Pushes For Legal Empowerment Of Panchayats To Settle Disputes



KC News Network

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday made a strong pitch to extend the dispute resolution mechanism to rural areas so that the Panchayats are legally empowered to mediate and resolve the conflicts in villages.

She said social harmony in villages is an essential prerequisite

of making the nation strong.

Murmu also said that while people who mediate in family or land disputes in village are socially empowered, they lack legal empowerment which leads to such cases failing to get settled at the village level itself.

Addressing the first conference on mediation here, she said during resolution of disputes, affected parties know

that the mediators lack delegation of legal powers, therefore, they do not agree with the decisions.

The president said there was a need to create a mechanism where disputes at village level are settled there only and the atmosphere is not vitiated and people live in harmony.

At times the disputes spiral out. Several small issues can be resolved at the grassroots level itself, she asserted.

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, CJI-designate B R Gavai and Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal were also present at the event.

Murmu said it could perhaps be due to an oversight or lack of time that a judicial system from the village to the Supreme Court has not been established.

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Sunil Sharma Calls Pahalgam Terror Attack an 'Assault on Humanity,' vows stern action



KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Saturday condemned the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 civilians, most of them tourists, calling it an "unprecedented attack on humanity" and vowed that the Government of India would bring the perpetrators to justice.

Speaking to reporters in Bandipora, Sharma said, "This is the first such incident in India's history where tourists—

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Mehbooba claims Dr Farooq implicated Kashmiris in Pahalgam attack, regrets his statement

NC spokesman refutes allegations, says

>>> PDP chief lying, it is not politics, but recklessness <<<

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday claimed that National Conference (NC) president Dr Farooq Abdullah's statement implicating Kashmiris in the Pahalgam terror attack is deeply disturbing & regrettable.

However, the NC chief spokesman and MLA Zaidi, Tanvir Sadiq reacted sharply to her statement and termed it as "reckless."

In a post on X, Mehbooba as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), wrote: "Farooq sahab's statement implicating Kashmiris in the Pahalgam terror



attack is deeply disturbing & regrettable. As a senior leader that too as a Kashmiri his statement risks fuelling divisive narratives providing ammunition to certain media channels

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Sajad Lone calls for temporary pause on political infighting

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on Saturday called for a pause for political infighting among regional parties.

Taking to X, Lone expressed concern over the "political mudslinging", stating that while parties would have ample opportunities to engage in political discourse, the current situation demands restraint.

"We will have many more moments to fight it out politically. But these are trying

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You have failed to uphold ‘Rajdharma’: Kharge to PM on Manipur ‘no-show’

NEW DELHI: Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of failing to uphold ‘Rajdharma’ by not visiting Manipur even once in the last two years.

In a post on X, he said Manipur continues to be troubled for two years without the Prime Minister setting foot on its soil. Kharge said the violence in Manipur began on May 3, 2023 and still continues.

Just two days ago, 25 people were injured in a violent clash in Tamenglong district, he noted.

He said more than 260 people have died and 68,000 people displaced and thousands are still living in relief camps.

“Narendra Modi ji, Even as Manipur awaits your presence and return of peace and normalcy, we want to ask 3 pointed questions to you.

“Since January 2022, your



last election rally in Manipur, you have made 44 Foreign visits around the globe and 250 domestic visits across the nation, yet you have not spent a single second in Manipur. Why this apathy and disdain for the people of Manipur? Where is the political accountability,” the Congress chief asked.

He said the President’s rule in the state was not imposed despite its people demanding it.

He said that it was imposed

only after 20 months of the request when the BJP was faced by a no-confidence motion brought in by the Congress party and BJP’s own MLAs couldn’t decide a chief minister.

“Why did the DOUBLE ENGINE Government fail in its Constitutional duty to provide security and safety for its citizens?

Why did you not sack the Chief Minister earlier?

“Your DOUBLE ASSAULT

Government is still failing Manipur. Despite the Home Ministry’s rule in place now, incidents of violence haven’t stopped,” Kharge claimed.

He alleged that the Centre passed a resolution for the President’s rule “in a hurried manner, at 2 AM midnight” to hide its “rank incompetence.”

The Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha said Manipur’s economy has lost thousands of crores in damages in the past two years’ of ethnic strife.

He said that the demand for grants for the state, which the Centre brought in the Parliament, made several social spending cuts. “What happened to the Peace Committee announced by the Home Minister? Why didn’t you meet the affected people of all communities even in Delhi? Why didn’t you announce a special package for the state?

2 women shot on campus of small technical college near Los Angeles

INGLEWOOD (US): Two female employees of a Southern California technical college were shot on campus and taken to the hospital in an incident that authorities were attributing to workplace violence.

The shooting occurred around 4 pm Friday in an office at the Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology Campus in Inglewood, where Mayor James Butts said the suspect was believed to be a former employee.

Aerial TV video showed a heavy police presence outside the campus in the city, which abuts Los Angeles to the southwest.

One of the victims was in critical condition, Butts said. The Los Angeles County Fire Department confirmed on the social platform X that two people were taken to the hospital.

The school went on lockdown for at least an hour after the shooting. Chris Becker, president and chief administrator of the campus, told KABC-TV that the campus is patrolled regularly and that as an aviation school, safety is one of the things it focuses on the most. “It’s a peaceful campus,” Becker said. “It’s a nice community of students and teachers and staff.”

The Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology has campuses across the country. Its Inglewood location accommodates 500 students and offers training programs focused on aviation maintenance technology, according to its website. It is about 1.5 km from the Los Angeles International Airport. (AP)

IAF Conducts Night Drill With Fighter Jets On Ganga Expressway Airstrip In Shahjahanpur



SHAHJAHANPUR: The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted night-time combat drills involving fighter jets on the country’s first expressway airstrip on the Ganga Expressway in Shahjahanpur district, officials said Saturday.

The drill, which took place between 7 pm and 10 pm on Friday, saw fighter jets Rafale, Sukhoi, Jaguar, and Mirage-2000 simulate touch-and-go landings and combat operations on the 3.5-kilometre airstrip near Piru village under the Jalalabad Police Station limits.

Superintendent of Police Rajesh Dwivedi told PTI, “Multiple fighter jets carried

out successful sorties as part of a night operational exercise. The drill involved precision landings, coordinated take-offs, and tactical operations by jets such as Rafale, Sukhoi, Jaguar, Mirage-2000, and M-32.” More than 250 CCTV cameras were mounted on and around the airstrip for surveillance and security. “This ensures safe operations and quick response in case of any untoward incidents,” he said.

Traffic was halted for nearly three hours on the Bareilly-Etawah route that intersects the expressway while the sorties took place.

Dwivedi said that during the exercise, some fighter jets

were seen landing with the help of ropes dropped from helicopters, followed by ground tactical deployment.

“Despite strong winds and unfavourable weather during the day, the drill was completed successfully, with the night operations proving to be smoother and more efficient,” he added.

The drill was originally scheduled for two days, but IAF officials completed the entire exercise in one night.

“The programme scheduled for the next day was cancelled as the objective was already achieved,” the SP said.

Additional District Magistrate (Finance and Revenue) Arvind Kumar said, “Fighter jets made contact with the airstrip near the VIP camp and then took off again. Over 1,000 sanitation workers and other personnel from the Panchayati Raj Department were deployed along a 40-kilometre stretch to ensure no animals or obstructions entered the airstrip.”

Prince Harry to pursue security case with minister after losing UK court battle

LONDON: Prince Harry has said he will write to UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper about his concerns over the security detail that would be available to his wife Meghan Markle and children Archie and Lilibet when in the country.

The 40-year-old younger son of King Charles III on Friday lost his Court of Appeal battle in London over the issue, which he blamed as an “establishment stitch up” in an explosive interview with the BBC.

The Duke of Sussex, who is no longer a working royal and based in the US, revealed that he has not spoken to his father amid the legal wrangles and fears for the security of his wife and kids.

“This process has only ever been about ensuring my safety and that of my immediate family when we are in the United Kingdom, so that we may safely visit my home country with the same level of security that other governments deem necessary for our protection,” Harry said in a statement following the court ruling against him.

“The court’s ruling confirms that the Executive Committee for the Protection of Royalty and Public Figures, known as RAVEC and comprised of senior officials



from the Royal Household, Home Office and Metropolitan Police, has failed to follow its own mandated processes for me, which are applied to all other high-risk and high-profile individuals.

“Given my profound concerns over this issue, I will be writing to the Home Secretary to ask her to urgently examine the matter and review the RAVEC process,” he said.

Buckingham Palace has not responded in detail but issued a statement to indicate that the matter of the Duke’s security was a closed subject.

“All of these issues have been examined repeatedly and meticulously by the courts, with the same conclusion reached on each occasion,” a palace statement said. Describing the legal battle

as a “last resort”, Harry – who remains fifth in line to the British throne – expressed his anguish at not being in contact with his father and appealed through his BBC interview for a “reconciliation”.

He said: “I can’t see a world in which I would bring my wife and children back to the UK at this point.

“There have been so many disagreements between myself and some of my family... I would love reconciliation with my family. There’s no point continuing to fight any more, life is precious. I don’t know how much longer my father has, he won’t speak to me because of this security stuff. It would be nice to reconcile.”

Harry has been strongly criticised for fuelling speculation about the health of the 76-year-old

monarch while he is undergoing cancer treatment. “Prince Harry is saying ‘I don’t know how long my father has’ – that’s going to cause real concern and more speculation in the media and the wider public about what his diagnosis is, which is incredibly unhelpful going forward,” Ailsa Anderson, a former press secretary to the late Queen and Harry’s grandmother, told ‘Sky News’.

“What you don’t want to do is have your private life played out in the media. So, if you truly want reconciliation, you’ll do it in private, not in a BBC News interview,” she said.

After Harry decided to step down from full-time royal duties and moved to California in 2020, RAVEC decided to downgrade his high-level police protection for when he was back in the country.

Since then, as the Duke of Sussex he has argued that his private protection team in the US no longer had access to the UK intelligence information needed to keep his wife and children safe.

At the Royal Courts of Justice on Friday, Judge Sir Geoffrey Vos said that while Prince Harry’s safety concerns were both “powerful and moving”, his “sense of grievance” did not “translate into a legal argument”.

Woman dies when bomb she is carrying explodes in Greek city of Thessaloniki, police say

THESSALONIKI (Greece): A woman was killed early Saturday in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki when a bomb she was

carrying exploded in her hands, police said.

The 38-year-old woman apparently was carrying the bomb to place outside a nearby bank around 5 am, police said.

Several storefronts and vehicles were damaged by the explosion.

Police said the woman, whom they did not publicly identify, had a criminal record related to drugs and prostitution and had been involved in at least one robbery and thefts in the past.

The Greek police’s division for organised crime was investigating the incident, while authorities were also investigating whether

the woman might have had ties to extreme leftist groups.

Greece has seen occasional bombings, as well as targeted killings, attributed to various organised crime groups.

The country also has a long history of politically motivated violence dating back to the 1970s, with domestic extremist groups carrying out small-scale bombings that usually cause some damage but rarely lead to injuries.

While the groups most active in the 1980s and 1990s, whose preferred targets tended to be politicians,

PM Modi Continues To Shun Manipur; Shah Big Failure: Congress

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Saturday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi “continues to shun” Manipur and Union Home Minister Amit Shah proved to be a “big failure” in managing the situation in the state which has been in the grip of ethnic strife since 2023.

Congress General Secretary In-charge, Communications, Jairam Ramesh said the BJP formed a government in Manipur with a massive mandate in February 2022, and exactly two years ago today, the state erupted in sectarian violence. “What began on May 3, 2023, therefore, was the self-dictated, self-directed derailment of the so-called double engine sarkar in the state.

Three months later, the Supreme Court was compelled to declare that there had been an absolute breakdown of Constitutional machinery in the state,” Ramesh said on X.

Faced with a no-confidence motion to be moved by the Congress in the state assembly.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JS-PHE Deptt.

Rural Water Supply Division, Ganderbal/Sgr.

H.Q: Duderhama Ganderbal.

e – mail: pherwsd@gmail.com, Phone/Fax: 0194 – 2416292,

Reference: This Office e–NIT No:06/JS-PHE/RWSD/Civil of 2025-26, issued UnderNo: JS-PHE/RWSD/Corrs/679-703, dated: 18.04.2025, Works figuring at S No. 01 bearing Tender id. 2025_PHE_275976_1

EXTENSION NOTICE – I

Due to poor response for the work advertised/ published vide this office above referred e–NIT No. & date bearing tender ID mentioned above, the bid submission end and bid opening (online) dates for the said works are hereby extended & re-fixed as under: -

Last date of submission of Bids online 07.05.2025 upto 12:00 P.M.

Date of opening of bids online 07.05.2025 at 02:00P.M.

All other terms and conditions of the e- NIT shall remain unchanged.

No. JS-PHE/ RWSD/ Corrs. /1292- 1316

D a t e d :- 03.05.2025.3.12.2021.

DIPK-1104/25

Sd/- (Er. Samiullah Beigh)

Executive Engineer JS-PHE,

RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Estates Department, Civil Secretariat J&K, Jammu.

e-NIT No. 01-J-Est of 2025 Dated: 02-5-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited from the registered reputed contractors / dealers/ firms /MSME units or registered suppliers for supply of various items and execution of various jobs in Civil Secretariat Jammu and other allied offices at Jammu as per details enclosed in annexure for the following Item :-

S.No	Particulars	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Document
1	Carpentry Repair of old furniture	0.50 lacs	
2	Upholstery of old furniture	0.50 lacs	
3	Fire proof/fire retardant re-polishing of existing/old furniture items	2.50 lacs	
4	Chemical Washing/Dry cleaning of furnishing items	0.10 lacs	2,000/-

Date of Publishing of tender	02.05.2025
Period of Down loading of documents	03.05.2025
Bid submission start date	05.05.2025
Bid submission end date (online documents)	15.05.2025
Date & time of opening of Bids (online)	19.05.2025 at 11:00 AM subsequent date in the office of Director Estates Jammu Civil Secretariat Jammu.

For further details or any clarification, please contact the office of Director Estates Jammu during office hours on these numbers 0191-2520431, 9419422696, 7006118068 or send your mail on email jkdirectorestates@gmail.com

General Instructions:

1. The tender documents along with other Terms and Conditions of the NIT and relevant documents can be downloaded from the UT website http://jktenders.gov.in.

2. The tender shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http://jktenders.gov.in.

3. The tenders uploaded on the website upto end date will be opened on the due date in the office of Director Estates Jammu, Estates Department Jammu or any other subsequent date convenient to the High-Level Purchase Committee.

4. The complete bidding process will be online.

5. Cost of tender documents is 2,000/- in the shape of demand draft (non-refundable) in favour of Chief Accounts Officer, Estates Department J&K payable at Jammu.

6. The tenders should be accompanied with the Earnest Money as mentioned above in the shape of CDR pledged to Director Estates Jammu, Estates Department. Registered MSME units of the UT shall have to deposit Earnest Money deposit as prescribed by the Government subject to the production of proof of their registration as MSME units and production of proof of their registration as such Units for the requisite trade/items and the latest status report of their Units from the Industries Department. This consideration shall however be available for the items within the purview of such registration only.

7. The tender shall remain valid for a period of one year from the date of agreement with Successful bidder/ tenderer.

8. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:

a. Any tenderer withdraws his/her tender during the period of tender validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the tender.

of bids.

b) The firm fails to execute the agreement within 10 days after opening

9. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the Download option as well as from Bidders Manual Kit on website http://jktenders.gov.in. To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate as per Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get DSC from approved vendor.

10. Bidders have to submit bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

11. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.

12. Bidders must upload scanned copies of all necessary documents like CDR/PAN/GSTIN/ Demand Draft(tender fee) / registration certificate duly renewed and hard copies thereof physically to tender receiving authority on due date.

Note: Scan all documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

13. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

14. Cost of tender document in the shape of Demand Draft and CDR (Earnest Money) /bid security and relevant documents shall be made available with the Tenderer on the date of opening of bids..

15. The High Level Purchase Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

16. The rates offered should be quoted in figures as well as in words inclusive of all taxes and levies and other charge. Taxes/ charges not mentioned in the offers will not be allowed and admissible.

17. After supplies are made to the Department, the items shall have to be got inspected / surveyed by the team of experts prior to the acceptance. The pre-delivery inspection/survey of the items shall be carried out at the site of the firm where from the items will be supplied to the Department. The inspection charges, on this account shall be borne by the supplier if, High Level Purchase Committee requires.

18. Any erasing/overwriting mutilation in the tender form will result in outright rejection of the tender.

19. Conditional and ambiguous tender cannot be entertained.

20. The terms and conditions as reflected in Annexure-X are mandatory and should be read very carefully by the intending tenders while furnishing their tenders, which are enclosed and shall form part of this NIT.

No-Est/Acctts/7618605

Dated: 02.05.2025

DIPK-1082/25

Sd/=

Director Estates

Jammu

Bandipora Legislators Discuss Roadmap For District

Emphasize public participation, timely execution

BANDIPORA: In order to ensure inclusive developmental planning, Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from the Bandipora district—representing the constituencies of Bandipora, Gurez, and Sonawari— Saturday jointly chaired a meeting at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora to discuss the formulation of District Capex Plan for the financial year 2025-26.

The meeting threadbare discussed sector-wise proposals across all three constituencies of the district besides discussing the progress of ongoing developmental works under the 2024-25 Capex Plan, taking stock of their financial and physical status.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri gave a detailed overview of the progress made under the District Capex Plan 2024-25, and also highlighted key focus areas for the District Capex Plan 2025-26.

While deliberating on the Capex Plan for 2025-26, MLAs emphasized prioritizing projects

based on public demand. The legislators stressed the need for effective

MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan highlighted key issues of the Gurez constituency, regarding

MLA Bandipora, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat highlighted key infrastructure and welfare projects proposed for the Bandipora constituency.

He called for enhanced inter-departmental coordination and timely fund release to ensure efficient implementation of government schemes. MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone discussed critical areas requiring intervention in the Sonawari constituency.

While reviewing the performance of irrigation facilities, pump stations, and other services, he urged departments to focus on improving delivery mechanisms.

All three legislators collectively urged district officers to involve public representatives while formulating developmental plans.

MLAs stressed on innovative and result-oriented implementation of various government schemes. They urged all departments to maintain transparency, adhere to timelines, and ensure prioritising public welfare developmental initiatives under the District Capex Plan.

The meeting was attended by DPO ICDS Yaar Ali Khan, CPO Mohammad Maqbool Lone, District Officers from various departments, Executive Engineers, BDOs, and other concerned.



implementation of schemes at the grassroots level in alignment with the actual needs and aspirations of the people.

developmental needs, availability of staff, and school infrastructure besides urging the administration to address public issues on priority.

Free press pivotal to working democracies: Dr Farooq Abdullah

SRINAGAR: The President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, emphasized the importance of free press, a primary requisite for democracy to thrive.

In his statement on International Press Freedom Day, Dr. Farooq highlighted the crucial role of a free press in a functioning democracy.

He stated, "A free press is essential for keeping citizens informed and holding those in power accountable. The National Conference's 'Naya Kashmir' manifesto has emphasized the necessity of a free and vibrant press to ensure transparency in governance and to educate the public about their rights."



Dr. Farooq stressed that no society can truly experience the benefits of democracy without ensuring freedom and dignity for the press. He acknowledged the challenges faced by journalists in Kashmir and praised their dedication in upholding the values of their profession despite obstacles.

He paid tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while fulfilling their duties. Dr. Farooq saluted the courage of the journalistic community and urged them to continue their fight for the rights of the people.

Quami Ekta Meet Held for Local Youth at Thatri, Kishtwar

KISHTWAR: In an effort to foster peace and strengthen communal harmony, the Indian Army organized a Quami Ekta Meet on 03 May 2025 at Thatri, Kishtwar. The event, aimed at promoting unity among



the local communities, saw the participation of around 40 prominent personalities from nearby villages.

During the meet, discussions were held on various developmental initiatives underway in the region and the challenges faced by the local residents. The focus was on engaging with the community in a positive manner, countering the divisive tactics of adversaries, and ensuring that peace and brotherhood prevail in the area.

Local leaders emphasized the importance of unity and harmony, highlighting the strong spirit of cooperation that exists in the Thatri region. The Indian Army officer present at the event encouraged religious leaders to play an active role in maintaining peace and assured them of full support in meeting local needs.

The meet received a warm reception from the local leaders, who expressed their gratitude for the Army's efforts in supporting the community. This initiative is part of the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to win the hearts and minds of the local population, fostering greater integration and peaceful coexistence in the region.

Withdraw Discriminatory Order on Marriage Assistance Based on Education: Hakeem Yaseen Urges J&K Govt

Srinagar, May 3: President of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (JK PDF) and former minister Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen on Saturday urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government to immediately revoke what he described as a discriminatory and objectionable order that makes only 8th class pass-out females eligible for marriage assistance under the relevant welfare scheme.

In a strongly worded statement issued today, Hakeem Yaseen said that marriage is a basic human right, equally applicable to both literate and illiterate individuals. He questioned the rationale behind linking a welfare scheme like marriage assistance to educational qualification and termed the government directive as regressive and unjust.

Hakeem said the move reflects a betrayal of earlier commitments made by the government to support the economically weaker sections of society, regardless of their educational status. He warned that the order, if not withdrawn, could create unnecessary divisions within society, both vertically and horizontally, further marginalizing already vulnerable groups.

Calling the order a violation of basic human rights, the former minister appealed to the government to withdraw it immediately, without dragging the issue into prolonged debate or procedural delays. He emphasized that assistance for marriage should be provided on the basis of need and not on academic credentials.

The PDF president expressed hope that the administration would take immediate cognizance of public sentiment and rollback the controversial condition in the larger interest of social justice and equality.

DC Kupwara inspects arrangements at NEET Examination Centres

KUPWARA, MAY 3: In order to ensure fair and smooth conduct of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) scheduled to be held tomorrow on May 04, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today inspected various examination centers established in the district to review the arrangements put in place by the District Administration for smooth conduct of the examination.

On the occasion, DC visited various designated examination centres which include Government Degree College (GDC) Boys Kupwara, GDC Women Kupwara, GDC Handwara, GHSS Handwara and BHSS Kupwara.

Double EMI Deduction Creates Financial Woes for Government Employees in J&K

JKReTTF Appeals for Urgent Intervention from CM Omar Abdullah

Srinagar: A sudden and unexplained double deduction of EMIs has left numerous government employees in Jammu and Kashmir grappling with financial distress.

The Jammu & Kashmir Rehbar-e-Taleem Teachers Forum (JKReTTF) has raised alarms over the

deducted on May 1 as scheduled. However, just two days later, on May 3, a second EMI for the same loan was again withdrawn from the accounts of several government employees without any prior notice or explanation.

"This has caused immense financial hardship to employees who depend entirely on their monthly salary to cover essential needs such as household expenses, education, and especially the medical care of aging parents," said Bhat in a statement issued on Saturday. "The arbitrary double deduction has left many employees struggling to manage even their basic needs."

Calling the situation alarming, Bhat appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take urgent note of the issue and direct the concerned authorities to rectify the error.

He also urged JK Bank to immediately refund the wrongly debited amount to prevent further distress.

"The government employees of Jammu and Kashmir UT deserve financial transparency and security. Such errors erode public trust in the banking system and place undue pressure on those who serve the public tirelessly," Bhat said.

The Forum hopes that the government will act swiftly to resolve the issue and ensure that such lapses are not repeated in the future.

Public Outcry Grows Over Poor Functioning of Aloosa Tehsil Office

BANDIPORA: The Aloosa Tehsil office in Bandipora district has come under scrutiny for administrative negligence and sluggish functioning, leaving local residents exasperated and underserved. Multiple complaints



point to delayed services, lack of staff accountability, and indifferent behavior by officials.

One glaring example of inefficiency emerged recently when a Bandipora court ordered a report concerning a road in Aloosa to be submitted by December 23, 2024. Despite the urgency of the matter, the tehsil office failed to meet the deadline, citing the unavailability of the Tehsildar. The concerned party reportedly made several visits to the office but was continuously met with excuses and inaction. "It was only after nearly four months of relentless follow-ups that the office finally submitted the report to the court," said a local source

familiar with the case while speaking to Kashmir News Bureau.

Another resident shared his frustration over the prolonged delay in getting an agreement attested. "I waited at the office for nearly two hours, but the official did not offer a proper hearing or explanation," he said, calling the experience discouraging and disrespectful.

Such incidents are not isolated. Many residents have echoed similar complaints, describing the tehsil office as unresponsive and slow to act. The delays have caused significant inconvenience, especially for those who must return multiple times to complete basic paperwork.

Adding to the woes is the absence of a full-time Tehsildar in Aloosa.

Locals claim that the charge of Aloosa Tehsil lies with the Bandipora Tehsildar, who is reportedly available only twice a week. This limited access has further deepened the administrative crisis in the area.

Kashmir News Bureau made repeated attempts to contact the Tehsildar for comments, but he remained unavailable.

As public frustration mounts, residents are appealing to higher authorities to intervene and address the inefficiencies in the Aloosa Tehsil office. They demand prompt action to ensure reliable, transparent, and timely public service delivery. (KNB)

Motivational Talk to Join Armed Forces Conducted for Local Youth at Chakalsalta

REASI: A motivational lecture aimed at inspiring local youth to join the Indian Armed Forces was conducted at Chakalsalta in Reasi district, drawing enthusiastic participation from young aspirants, including several girls.



Organized by the Indian Army, the event highlighted the immense opportunities and personal fulfillment that a career in the defence services can offer.

Addressing the gathering, speakers emphasized that youth with a thirst for adventure, excitement, and a passion to serve the nation can find their calling in the armed forces. The lecture served

as a platform to introduce various recruitment avenues available to young individuals who wish to join the Army.

A special focus was laid on educating attendees about the newly launched "Agnipath Recruitment Scheme," providing them with clarity on the selection process and the benefits it offers. The session not only informed the aspirants about the procedures and eligibility criteria but also motivated them to channel their ambitions toward national service and self-growth.

The event witnessed an impressive turnout, with students and youth actively engaging and expressing their eagerness to explore a career in uniform. Many participants voiced their appreciation for the Indian Army's outreach initiative, calling it both informative and inspiring.

According to officials, such interactive programmes are essential to guiding inquisitive minds toward meaningful career paths, fostering discipline, and instilling a sense of responsibility and patriotism among the younger generation.

The Indian Army reiterated its commitment to continue such engagements to nurture potential talent and encourage youth to contribute positively to the nation's development.

From Wanvun to Wazwan: Azka Namkeen Finds Its Place in Kashmir's Cultural Fabric

SRINAGAR: In Kashmir, where every celebration carries a legacy, food isn't just diet — it's heritage. One quiet but lasting custodian of this tradition is Azka Namkeen, a local bakery-turned-brand that has become part of everyday Kashmiri life.

From the nostalgic tunes of wanvun sung by women in pre-wedding ceremonies to the elaborate grandeur of wazwan, Kashmir's multi-course culinary spectacle, Azka Namkeen has quietly embedded itself in the rituals of Kashmiri life.

"When the women in my family gather to sing wanvun, it's always over tea and Azka biscuits," says Farhat Jan, a Srinagar-based schoolteacher. "It has become part of the tradition — just like the songs and the stories."

Founded in 1965, Azka Namkeen began as a modest neighborhood bakery with a passion for preserving Kashmiri flavors. Over the decades, it has built a reputation for taste and trust.

With the determination of offering the most authentic Kashmiri bakery products, Azka Namkeen has built a reputation for taste and trust. Over more than four decades ago, what

started as a small bakery with limited offerings quickly grew into a household name, beloved across generations. Its popular items from crisp kulchas and buttery namkeen



biscuits to festive sheermals are now accompany moments that range from casual to ceremonial.

The brand's reach is most visible during wedding seasons, when homes bustle with activity and emotions. "Before the trami arrives, we always serve something light but festive," says Shabir Ahmad, a caterer in the old city. "More and more families now ask specifically for Azka snacks."

But the appeal of Azka Namkeen

goes beyond events. It is woven into daily routines. According to Farooq Ahmad Dar, the brand's founder, the goal isn't just to satisfy hunger but to evoke a sense of belonging. "We aren't

here to just sell biscuits or breads," he says. "We're here to preserve the emotional and cultural value of Kashmiri food. Every product we make carries a story."

The brand takes pride in using traditional recipes passed down through generations, many of which are rooted in the flavors of old Kashmiri households. The packaging, while modern, is subtly influenced by motifs and colors familiar to local

aesthetics.

As Kashmir modernizes, many fear that its traditions might get diluted. But companies like Azka Namkeen offer a different path — one where commercial success and cultural preservation walk hand in hand.

From wanvun to wazwan, from ordinary days to once-in-a-lifetime celebrations, Azka Namkeen is more than just a snack brand. It's becoming a keeper of Kashmiri memory.

Editorial

WAVES Bazaar

The resounding success of the inaugural WAVES Bazaar, held in Mumbai from May 1 to 3, 2025, marks a defining moment in India's march toward becoming a global powerhouse in the creative economy. As the world takes notice of the ₹800 crore in confirmed business transactions—projected to soon surpass ₹1000 crore—it becomes evident that this initiative is more than a marketplace; it is a statement of India's intent to lead in the global storytelling revolution. This maiden edition of the Bazaar served as a catalyst for strategic alliances across film, music, radio, animation, and visual effects sectors. What makes WAVES Bazaar truly revolutionary is not just the volume of business, but the quality and diversity of collaborations it has inspired. From a first-ever Indo-UK co-production like Devi Chowdhurani, to the strategic content alliance between Prime Video and Korea's CJENM, to a proposed Indian Film Festival in New Zealand—these are not just deals, they are cultural bridges. Even early-stage talks between Indian and Russian entertainment giants signal a new era of cross-cultural storytelling and soft power diplomacy. The significance of such initiatives cannot be overstated. In a world increasingly divided along political lines, cultural connections offer a unique platform for dialogue, empathy, and unity. Through music, film, and shared stories, nations can understand each other better—and in that understanding, build lasting partnerships. Moreover, WAVES Bazaar has amplified the creative aspirations of young Indian talents, providing them a rare chance to pitch intellectual properties to a global audience. This is a powerful step toward democratising creativity and decentralising opportunity in the entertainment space. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, NFDC, FFO, and partners like Invest India must be lauded for envisioning this collaborative venture. However, the challenge now lies in sustaining the momentum. Follow-up mechanisms, annual continuity, and stronger government-private synergy will be essential to ensure that the WAVES Bazaar doesn't remain a one-time splash but becomes a permanent tide lifting the fortunes of India's creative industries. India's future on the world stage will not be shaped by trade alone, but by the stories it tells, the values it projects, and the voices it uplifts. WAVES Bazaar has shown what is possible when vision meets execution. The world is watching—and listening.



Smruti S Pattanaik

Global warming is the long-term rise in Earth's average surface temperature due to human activities, primarily the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Over the past century, the planet has warmed significantly, with devastating effects on the climate, ecosystems, and human societies. The urgency to address global warming has never been greater, as its impacts are becoming increasingly visible and severe.

Causes of Global Warming

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: The primary driver of global warming is the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, especially carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). These gases trap heat, causing the Earth's temperature to rise. The burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas) for energy, transportation, and industry is the largest source of CO₂ emissions.

Deforestation: Forests act as carbon sinks, absorbing CO₂ from the atmosphere. However, deforestation for agriculture, logging, and urban expansion reduces the planet's ability to sequester carbon. When trees are cut down and burned or left to rot, the stored carbon is released into the atmosphere.

Industrial Activities: Industrial processes contribute significantly to GHG emissions through the burning of fossil fuels and the release of pollutants. The production of cement, steel, and chemicals emits large amounts of CO₂ and other harmful gases.

Agricultural Practices: Modern agriculture contributes to global warming through the release of methane from livestock digestion and rice paddies, and nitrous oxide from fertilizers. Intensive farming also leads to land degradation and loss of biodiversity.

Effects of Global Warming

Global Warming: A Global Crisis

Rising Temperatures: Global average temperatures have risen by more than 1°C since the pre-industrial era. This seemingly small change has far-reaching consequences, including more frequent and intense heatwaves.

Melting Ice and Rising Sea Levels: The polar ice caps and glaciers are melting at an accelerated rate, contributing to rising sea levels. Coastal cities and

to the spread of diseases, increases the frequency of heat-related illnesses, and worsens air quality. Vulnerable populations, especially in developing countries, are most at risk.

Solutions to Global Warming

Transition to Renewable Energy: Replacing

Policy and International Cooperation: Global warming requires coordinated action. Agreements like the Paris Climate Accord aim to limit warming to below 2°C. Governments must implement policies such as carbon pricing, subsidies for clean energy, and regulations on emissions.

Individual Actions: Individuals can contribute by reducing energy use, recycling, using public transport,



island nations are at risk of flooding, displacement, and loss of freshwater sources.

Extreme Weather Events: Global warming increases the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, droughts, floods, and wildfires. These events cause loss of life, destroy infrastructure, and disrupt economies.

Threats to Biodiversity: Rising temperatures and habitat loss are pushing many plant and animal species toward extinction. Ecosystems such as coral reefs are particularly vulnerable, with warming seas leading to coral bleaching and death.

Human Health Risks: Global warming contributes

to the spread of diseases, increases the frequency of heat-related illnesses, and worsens air quality. Vulnerable populations, especially in developing countries, are most at risk.

Energy Efficiency: Improving the energy efficiency of buildings, vehicles, and appliances can significantly lower energy consumption and emissions.

Reforestation and Afforestation: Planting trees and restoring degraded forests can enhance carbon sequestration, protect biodiversity, and improve water cycles.

Sustainable Agriculture: Adopting climate-smart agricultural practices can reduce emissions, enhance food security, and support rural livelihoods.

and supporting sustainable products. Education and awareness are key to driving collective action.

Conclusion: Global warming is not a distant threat—it is a present-day crisis affecting every corner of the globe. While the challenges are immense, the solutions are within reach. A united global effort, driven by innovation, policy, and individual responsibility, is essential to mitigate global warming and secure a livable future for generations to come.

Author is a teacher in education department and can be mailed at zahoorlone1979@gmail.com

A Teacher Beyond Compare: The Legacy of Mushtaq Ahmad Mir

JAWAID JAWAD

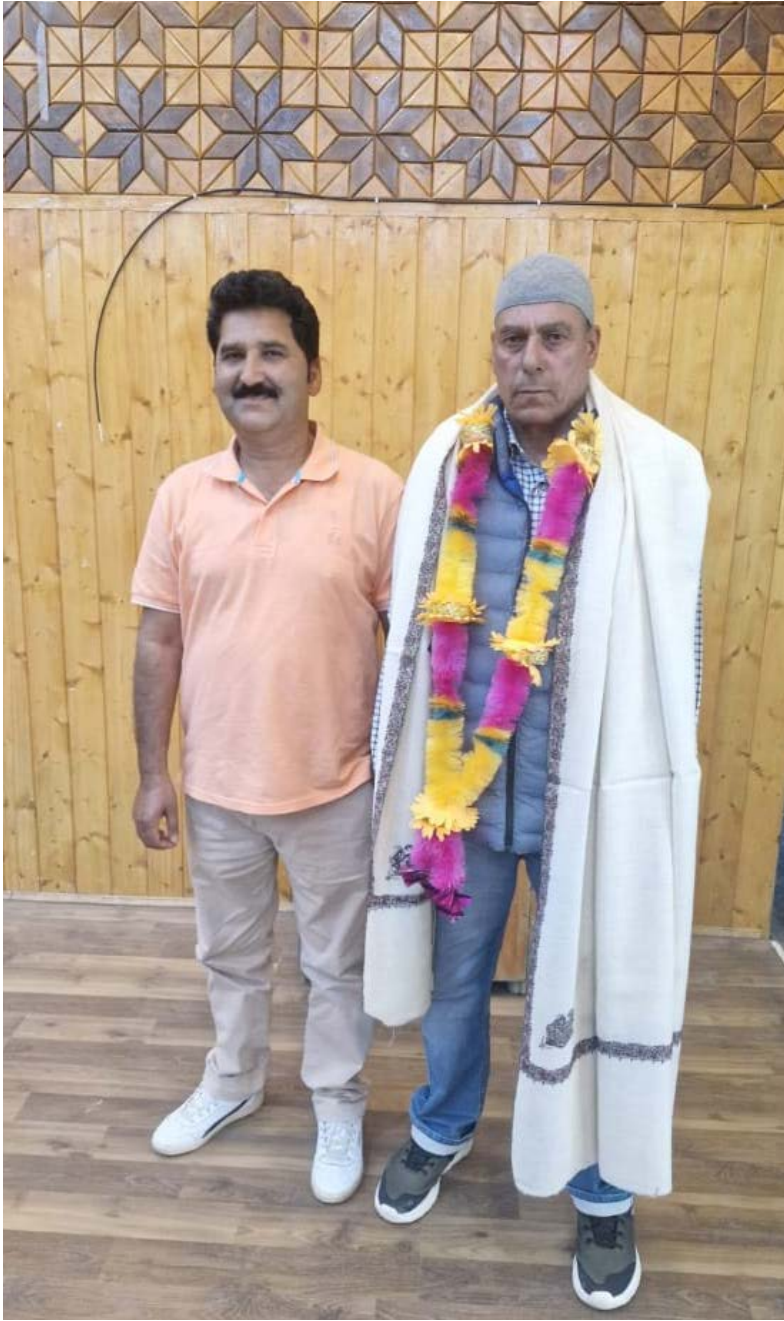
Retirement is a natural phase in every professional's life. Over the years, many employees have retired from their duties, and many more will do so in the future. However, there are some individuals whose work, values, and service leave behind a deep and lasting impact. These individuals become role models, inspiring others with their sincerity, integrity, and dedication. One such person is Master Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, who retired from the Department of Education on April 30, 2025.

Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Mir served at Nadeem Memorial Boys Higher Secondary School for nearly five years before retiring. His retirement, along with dozens of other employees across various departments, marks the end of a chapter not just in his life but in the lives of many students and colleagues who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. He was the youngest son of the late Muhammad Afzal Mir, a well-known and respected teacher and administrator in the region. It is clear that a passion for education and public service ran in the family.

Mr. Mushtaq was known for his calm nature, honesty, and a deep sense of self-awareness. These qualities made him stand out from others. His students and fellow teachers always respected him for his sincerity and ethical approach. He was a postgraduate in Commerce but also had a deep love for literature and poetry, which made his classes lively and enjoyable. He often used poetry and literary references to explain life lessons, which his students found both inspiring and educational.

In any department, it is common for employees to seek promotions, and the Department of Education is no different. Many aspire to become headmasters, lecturers, or educational officers. While ambition is natural, it becomes a problem when promotions are given to people who may not be qualified for those higher roles. Unfortunately, in Jammu and Kashmir, this has become a growing issue. Promoting unqualified individuals has damaged many educational institutions and deprived countless students of quality education. Many capable and hardworking students have suffered due to the incompetence of such promoted officials.

In this context, Mr. Mushtaq set a rare and powerful example. A few years ago, he was offered a promotion to the post of lecturer. This would have meant better pay and higher status. However, he refused the promotion. He explained



that although he had completed his postgraduate studies in Commerce, it had been nearly 30 years since then, and he no longer felt connected

to the subject in a way that would do justice to students at the lecturer level. He felt that accepting the promotion without the ability to serve effectively would be unfair to the students. Such honesty and self-reflection are rare and admirable, and his decision showed his strong principles.

At his farewell ceremony, held at Nadeem Memorial Boys Higher Secondary School, many speakers praised Mr. Mushtaq for his dedication and moral strength. The school's Principal, Mr. Abdul Rashid Lone, shared a touching story that revealed Mr. Mushtaq's true character. He recalled an incident where Mr. Mushtaq had made a minor mistake while registering a student for the board examination. When he discovered the error, he took full responsibility and spent both time and money to correct it. He ensured that the student's academic future was not affected, just to satisfy his own conscience. This story speaks volumes about the kind of teacher and human being he was.

Mr. Mushtaq's departure is not just a loss for his school, but also for the entire education system. We are losing teachers who are not only qualified and skilled but who also understand the importance of honesty, responsibility, and commitment to students. The absence of such teachers will surely have a negative impact on the quality of education and the moral values passed on to the next generation.

It is important that we recognize and appreciate the contributions of teachers like Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Mir. Their work often goes unnoticed, but it is the foundation of our society. As we bid farewell to this noble educator, we also express our hope that the values he lived by will continue to inspire others in the profession. We need more teachers who are not just instructors, but true mentors—people who teach not only from books, but also by example.

In the end, we salute Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Mir for his remarkable service. May his retired life be filled with peace, health, and happiness. And may the seeds he has sown in the hearts and minds of students continue to grow and bear fruit for years to come.

Author is currently Hoi GMS Onagam and the best teacher awardee .

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Javid Dar conducts extensive tour of Rafiabad, Zaingair

BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmed Dar, today conducted an extensive tour of Rafiabad and Zaingair areas of Baramulla to review progress on various ongoing development works in the district.

During his visit, the Minister assessed the pace and quality of infrastructure projects, interacted with locals and had a firsthand account of the issues faced by the residents and farmers of the area.

While reviewing developmental works, the Minister expressed concern

over the slow pace of work on some projects. He directed the officers to accelerate the pace



of progress on these vital work, ensuring completion within fixed timelines. He emphasized the need for ensuring high quality infrastructure that meets the needs of the local community.

The Minister also listened to the grievances of the locals and

assured them of prompt redressal of the same. He instructed the officials to work in tandem with



the local community to address their concerns and ensure that the benefits of development reach the ground level.

The Minister met various delegations, including general public, youth groups and farmers. They raised concerns related to

irrigation, road infrastructure, water supply, power supply and employment opportunities.

The Minister assured them that the Government is committed towards addressing these concerns and urged the community to actively engage with the government to ensure effective development in their respective areas. Dar stated that the government's commitment towards transparency, accountability and citizen-centric governance is incomplete without the public participation. He urged the public to be part of every initiative of the government.

Srinagar admin organizes awareness programme on drug abuse at GBHS Panzinara

SRINAGAR: To sensitise students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage them to help eradicating the menace of drugs from the society, district administration Srinagar today organized an awareness programme on drug de-addiction at Government Boys High School (GBHS) Panzinara.

The event was held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat as a part of an ongoing Drug Free Jammu and Kashmir initiative of the government to educate school children, staff members, and local residents about the growing

menace of drug addiction and the collective responsibility to curb it. During the event, informative sessions addressing the physical, mental, and social consequences of substance abuse were held

to effectively sensitize the participants.

The program witnessed active participation from school faculty, students, local community members,

and officials from various departments.

The event featured active participation from departmental resource persons representing social welfare, police, health, education, excise and others, all working together to raise awareness among students and the local population. Students contributed through speeches, skits, and discussions, further emphasizing the message.

Block Development Officer Panzinara emphasized the crucial role of education, awareness, and community involvement in eradicating the menace of drugs from society.



SHEW, Mission Shakti Shopian conducts awareness programme at Keller

SHOPIAN: To sensitise and empower women at the grassroots level, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Mission Shakti Shopian Saturday conducted a comprehensive awareness programme at Anganwadi Centre Keller Shopian.



The programme focused on raising awareness among local women about a variety of government schemes and welfare services available to them.

During the session, resource persons from SHEW provided detailed information on pension schemes for widows, elderly and specially-abled persons,

marriage assistance schemes for economically weaker sections, support and services provided by the One Stop Centre for women in distress, various employment generation programmes and livelihood opportunities, key helpline numbers related to women's safety and support services, skill development programmes aimed at enhancing self-employment and vocational capabilities.

In addition, special emphasis was laid on the importance of girl child education, urging families to actively support and invest in their daughter's futures.

Other women-centric welfare schemes and social support mechanisms were also highlighted to ensure maximum community benefit.

The programme was well-attended by Anganwadi Workers, members of Self Help Groups (SHGs), representatives of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and a large number of local women from the area.

The interactive session allowed participants to ask questions and seek clarifications on how to avail the schemes effectively.

DC Kupwara inspects arrangements at NEET Examination Centres

KUPWARA: In order to ensure fair and smooth conduct of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) scheduled to be held tomorrow on May 04, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today inspected various examination centers established in the district to review the arrangements put in place by the District Administration for smooth conduct of the examination.

On the occasion, DC visited various designated examination centres which include Government Degree College (GDC) Boys Kupwara, GDC Women Kupwara, GDC Handwara, GHSS Handwara and BHSS Kupwara.

During the visit, Ayushi interacted with the centre superintendents and staff, and took stock of the arrangements made at these centres. She enjoined upon the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines for smooth and transparent conduct of the examination. DC was accompanied by ACR Kupwara and other concerned officers. Meanwhile, DC reiterated the administration's commitment to upholding the integrity and transparency in the conduct of the examination. Meanwhile, five centres have been established in the district to facilitate the local students to appear in NEET examination to be held tomorrow.

District administration Jammu steps up efforts to expand e-Office implementation

JAMMU: In line with the ongoing initiatives to deepen digital governance, Additional District Development Commissioner Jammu, Sher Singh, today chaired a meeting with various district officers to review and expedite the implementation of the e-Office platform across all Tehsil and Block-level offices in the district.

During the meeting, ADDC Sher Singh directed all departments to nominate dedicated Nodal Officers who will act as departmental points of contact for the rollout.

District Informatics Officer, who is also Senior Director IT, Jammu, Sanjeev Kapoor, provided an orientation on the e-Office

platform's features and scope. He outlined that nominated nodal officers will undergo structured training sessions, after which

just a technological upgrade. "Implementing e-Office at the grassroots will boost transparency, efficiency and accountability,



they will be responsible for training additional staff within their departments, facilitating comprehensive capacity building at every level.

The ADDC emphasised that the transition to e-Office is a major governance reform, not

while streamlining inter-departmental coordination and public service delivery," he said.

The meeting concluded with instructions for all departments to promptly nominate their nodal officers and coordinate with NIC for scheduling training.

Seminar on 'Drug Addiction: A Curse' held at GDC Frisal

KULGAM: Government Degree College (GDC) Frisal in collaboration with district administration Kulgam, today organised a Seminar on 'Drug Addiction: A Curse', under the banner of IEC Campaign against Drug Abuse-2025, within the college premises here.

Principal of the College, Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad Shah in his introductory speech emphasized the role of educational institutions against drug addiction.

Drug Control Officer Kulgam, Dr Mustafa, the resource person from district administration highlighted the technical points about drug addiction.

Prof. Mehnaza Jan, resource person from Anti-Drug Addiction Cell of the college, deliberated on the importance of holding such programs in educational institutions vis-a-vis controlling the menace of drug addiction in the society.

In addition to staff members and students of the College many guests from civil society, district administration and Deptt. of Social Welfare Kulgam attended the program.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah visits family of Braveheart Syed Adil Hussain

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah Saturday paid a visit to the family of Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who tragically lost his life while protecting tourists during the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22.

Accompanied by MLA Pahalgam Altaf Ahmad Wani and local party functionaries, Dr. Farooq offered prayers for the deceased and expressed his condolences to the family of the Braveheart Adil. He assured them that the party stands with them

in their time of grief.

During the visit, Dr. Farooq presented one month's basic

gratitude to Dr. Farooq Abdullah and party leaders for their support and solidarity during



salary of the MLA for Pahalgam, Altaf Kaloo, to Adil's father, Hyder Shah, at their residence in Pahalgam. The father of the braveheart expressed his

this difficult time. Interacting with the local media on the occasion, Dr. Farooq emphasized the need to review the Indus Water Treaty, highlighting

the water crisis faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir despite the region's abundant water resources. He stressed the importance of ensuring that the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir are upheld in regards to water usage.

"We have been advocating for a review of the Indus Water Treaty for a long time. It is essential to address the hardships we are facing due to this treaty. We have the right to our own rivers and should not be deprived of our water resources," Dr. Farooq said.

Training program on PMAY-U 2.0 held at Kulgam



KULGAM: In order to equip field staff with the necessary knowledge and skills for the upcoming survey, scheduled to begin from Monday, a training program under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U 2.0) was conducted today at the Auditorium Hall, DC Office Kulgam.

The session was attended by Enumerators, Supervisors, and allied staff involved in the implementation of PMAY-U 2.0 in the district.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan, inaugurated the session and provided an overview of the PMAY-U 2.0 scheme. He emphasized that the scheme aims to provide all-weather pucca houses to eligible beneficiaries residing in urban areas.

Addressing the gathering, District Statistics and Evaluation Officer (DSEO) Kulgam, Suhail Ahmad discussed technical aspects of the PMAY mobile application, which is used for survey and data collection.

Master Trainer, Showkat Hussain conducted a detailed training session on the use of the application, ensuring that participants clearly understood its functionalities for conducting efficient and accurate field surveys.

The primary objective of the training is to ensure the collection of accurate and verifiable data on urban households to identify eligible beneficiaries under the various verticals of the PMAY-U scheme.

Withdraw Discriminatory Order on Marriage Assistance Based on Education: Hakeem Yaseen Urges J&K Govt

Srinagar: President of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Front (J&K PDF) and former minister Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen on Saturday urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government to immediately revoke what he described as a discriminatory and objectionable order that makes only 8th class pass-out females eligible for marriage assistance under the relevant welfare scheme.

In a strongly worded statement issued today, Hakeem Yaseen said that marriage is a basic human right, equally applicable to both literate and illiterate individuals. He questioned the rationale behind linking a welfare scheme like marriage assistance to educational qualification and termed the government directive as regressive and unjust.

Hakeem said the move reflects a



betrayal of earlier commitments made by the government to support the economically weaker sections of society,

regardless of their educational status. He warned that the order, if not withdrawn, could create unnecessary divisions within society, both vertically and horizontally, further marginalizing already vulnerable groups. Calling the order a violation of basic human rights, the former minister appealed to the government to withdraw it immediately, without dragging the issue into prolonged debate or procedural

delays.

He emphasized that assistance for marriage should be provided on the basis of need and not on academic credentials.

The PDF president expressed hope that the administration would take immediate cognizance of public sentiment and rollback the controversial condition in the larger interest of social justice and equality.

Police step up raids on residences of terror suspects in Srinagar

Srinagar: In its continuing persistent action against terrorist associates of proscribed terrorist outfits and in the furtherance of investigation into cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Srinagar Police has intensified searches across multiple locations in the city with the aim to dismantle terror-supporting infrastructure in the district.

As per police spokesperson, the searches were conducted at the residences of Imtiyaz Ahmad Parry son of Gh Rasool Parry resident of Kalamdanpora area Zainakadal involved in Case FIR 29/005 U/S 7/25 A Act of Police Station M R Gunj.

Arsh Koul son of Ashiq Ahmad Koul resident of Dalal Mohalla Zainakadal Srinagar involved in case FIR No. 35/2022 U/S 13, 18, 20, 23, 49 ULAP Act 7/25 A Act.

Mutaib Zahoor Bhat son of

Bilal Colony Soura involved in Case FIR No. 41/2021 U/S 13 UAPA 188, 269 IPC of Police Station Soura.

Basit Ashraf Malik resident of Nowpora Safakadal involved in Case FIR No 156/2024 U/S 13, 19, 39



UAP Act Police Station Safakadal.

Mohd Rafiq Shah son of Noor mohd Shah resident of Hazari Bazar Rainwari involved in case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 109 BNS 13, 16, 19, 20, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanayr. The police spokespersons said the searches were conducted in accordance with proper legal procedures in the presence of Executive Magistrates

the supervision of the officers of J&K Police.

He said the searches were carried out to seize arms, documents, digital devices etc. with the objective of evidence collection and intelligence gathering to detect and deter any conspiratorial or terrorist activity against the security of the nation.

This decisive action of J&K Police aims to dismantle the terrorist ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir by identifying and taking legal action against individuals engaged in such anti-national and criminal activities, he also said.

Srinagar Police remains committed to maintaining peace and security in the city. Any individual found furthering the agenda of violence, disruption, or unlawful activities will face strict legal consequences under the law, the police spokesperson

NEET exam: Shutdown cancelled for 33 KV Bemina I/II, Bemina Exhibition line

SRINAGAR: The office of Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCI today informed that in view of the forthcoming NEET (UG) examination scheduled to be held on Sunday, 04 May, 2025 at various examination centres across Kashmir, the shutdown of 33 KV Bemina I/II line and the 33KV Bemina Exhibition line previously approved vide letter no. CE/D/TS/ 18343-62/TS dated 25-04-2025 scheduled on 04.05.2025 stands cancelled to ensure smooth conduct of the NEET exam.

Further, any other approved power shutdowns that coincide with the NEET exam date are also hereby cancelled.

Operation of 03 Medical stores suspended for violating conditions of licences at Kulgam

KULGAM: A team of Drug Control Officers of district Kulgam today closed the operation of three medical stores at Frisal Kulgam for violating the conditions of license.

Records of various medicines which are prone to addiction and those which have been prescribed/dispensed in violation of norms to the patient were demanded during inspections and discrepancies were found in the sale records.

NCP's Mir Arifa Jan Seeks Central Intervention for Rights of Persons with Disabilities in J&K.

Srinagar: Mir Arifa Jan, State President of the Nationalist Congress Party (NMC) Sharadchandra Pawar for Jammu and Kashmir who is also the State President, BRICS Human Rights Missions Jammu and Kashmir, has submitted a detailed memorandum to the Hon'ble Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Varindra Kumar, urging urgent action to address the longstanding issues faced by persons with disabilities (PwDs) in the Union Territory.

In her letter, Mir Arifa Jan highlighted a wide range of grievances affecting the disabled community, including non-implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPWD Act, 2016), lack of infrastructure accessibility, delays in the issuance of Unique Disability ID (UDID) cards, and the absence of adequate

education and employment measures.

"The disabled population in Jammu and Kashmir continues to suffer due to institutional apathy and lack of coordinated efforts.

We demand urgent implementation of legal mandates and the creation of systems that guarantee the dignity and inclusion of persons with disabilities," said Arifa Jan.

Among the key demands raised were the immediate constitution of the UT Advisory Board for PwDs, strengthening of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs), establishment of a dedicated school for blind children in Srinagar, and setting up of drug de-addiction centres at the Tehsil level, inaccessibility of Public Infrastructure, Inclusive Education and

and Pensions, Representation in Governance, Establishment of Model Special School for persons with Disabilities in Srinagar.

The letter has also been forwarded to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Shri Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and other key officials, seeking their support in taking the matter forward with urgency.

Mir Arifa Jan emphasized that these are not just welfare issues but matters of justice and human rights. She reiterated her party's commitment to advocating for marginalized voices and ensuring that the rights of persons with disabilities are fully respected in J&K, she appreciated the hard work of the Association working for the welfare of the Divyangjan in this U.T of Jammu and Kashmir.

BOOK REVIEW

Destiny Disrupted: A History Of The World Through Islamic Eyes



FIRDOUS AHMAD MALIK

There's also a critique regarding Ansary's somewhat idealized portrayal of the early periods of Islamic civilization. While the golden age of Islamic science, art, and philosophy is rightly celebrated, some critics suggest that Ansary occasionally glosses over the internal conflicts, contradictions, and struggles that were present in Islamic societies, especially during periods of decline or stagnation. For example, the complex relationships between religious scholars, political leaders, and military rulers during times of fragmentation or conquest are not always fully addressed, which could offer a more balanced view of Islamic history.

Finally, some readers have pointed out that while the book is intended to be a bridge between Western and Islamic worldviews, it may still be somewhat inaccessible to readers without a background in Islamic history. Though Ansary writes in a clear and engaging style, the sheer volume of information covered might overwhelm readers unfamiliar with the basic concepts and terms of Islamic history, leaving them with more questions than answers.

Despite these critiques, *Destiny Disrupted* remains an important and thought-provoking work, offering a rare and valuable perspective on world history from an Islamic viewpoint. It is praised for its storytelling approach and for challenging the prevailing Western narratives, even as it has been critiqued for its broad strokes and occasional oversimplifications.

Counterarguments

While *Destiny Disrupted* has faced some criticisms, there are several strong counterarguments that defend the book's approach and its contributions to understanding Islamic history.

One common critique is the book's broad sweep of history, which some feel sacrifices depth in certain areas. However, this wide-ranging narrative is also one of the book's strengths. By offering a comprehensive overview of Islamic history, Ansary allows readers to see the big picture and understand the broader context of how Islamic civilization has evolved over time. His goal is not to delve into exhaustive detail on every subject, but to provide a narrative that is accessible and understandable to a general audience. Ansary's ability to distill complex events into a coherent story is a significant accomplishment, especially when dealing with a topic as vast and diverse as Islamic history. While deeper explorations of specific regions or themes could be valuable, the book's intention is more about showing how Islamic civilization has developed as a whole and how it interacted with the world at large.

As for the perceived oversimplification of certain historical events or periods, this is not an uncommon challenge in writing a work that aims to synthesize vast swaths of history. Critics may argue that the book simplifies complex relationships between Islamic societies and the West, but Ansary's intention is to offer a broad understanding rather than an exhaustive, specialized examination. Given the book's intended audience—those seeking a general understanding of Islamic history—Ansary's approach works effectively for introducing key events and concepts without getting bogged down in overly technical or obscure details. His narrative is meant to spark interest and encourage further exploration rather than serve as the definitive academic work on any particular topic.

Regarding the idealized portrayal of early Islamic civilization, it's important to recognize that Ansary's focus on the "Golden Age" is part of his larger effort to highlight the contributions of Islamic civilization to the world. The Islamic Golden Age is historically significant, and while it is true that there were internal conflicts and challenges, it is equally important to acknowledge the immense intellectual and cultural achievements that occurred during this period. Ansary is not presenting a one-sided, romanticized view of this era but rather emphasizing its positive contributions to science, philosophy, and culture, which are often overshadowed by the focus on later periods of decline or conflict.

On the issue of political Islam and its portrayal in the modern era, Ansary's treatment is intended to offer a broad understanding of the challenges faced by the Muslim world in the 20th and 21st centuries. It's important to remember that the book does not attempt to cover every ideological movement within Islam in minute detail but rather provides an overview of the major political and ideological trends, such as nationalism, secularism, and political Islam. The goal is to introduce readers to these ideas and their historical roots, not to exhaustively analyze every faction or movement. In doing so, Ansary opens the door for further exploration of these complex issues, encouraging readers to engage with the deeper political and theological debates within Islam.

Finally, while the book may be challenging for those

unfamiliar with Islamic history, this is not necessarily a weakness. Ansary's ability to make complex ideas accessible is a key strength, and the book is written in a style that encourages readers to learn without overwhelming them with jargon or technicalities. The aim is to make Islamic history relatable and interesting to a wider audience, and in that respect, the book succeeds. For those looking for a more in-depth understanding, *Destiny Disrupted* provides an excellent starting point, prompting readers to seek out further information and resources.

In summary, while the criticisms of *Destiny Disrupted* are valid in certain contexts, they overlook the book's overarching goal of providing a clear, engaging, and accessible narrative that introduces readers to Islamic history from an Islamic perspective. Ansary's work fills a gap in historical discourse by challenging Western-centric views and offering a broader, more

connection, especially for those unfamiliar with Islamic history, whereas Armstrong's academic approach may be more suited for readers with a background in religious studies.

Another interesting comparison can be made with Reza Aslan's *No God But God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*. Aslan's work, like Ansary's, provides a comprehensive history of Islam, but with a stronger focus on the theological and ideological evolution of the religion. Aslan delves deeply into the philosophical aspects of Islam and its modern challenges, offering a more reflective and personal take on the religion's future. Ansary, on the other hand, offers a broader historical narrative that emphasizes the cultural and political development of Islamic societies and their interactions with the West. Both authors share a personal connection to Islam and bring their own perspectives to their writing, but Ansary is more concerned with offering

views, fostering empathy and challenging prevailing stereotypes. By presenting Islamic history from within, *Destiny Disrupted* invites readers to rethink conventional historical narratives and promotes greater dialogue between cultures, making it a valuable contribution to the global conversation on history, identity, and mutual understanding.

I suggest that *Destiny Disrupted* be approached as an introductory work for those seeking to understand Islamic history from a unique perspective. While it

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Book Title: Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes

Author: Tamim Ansary

Year of Publication: 28 April 2009

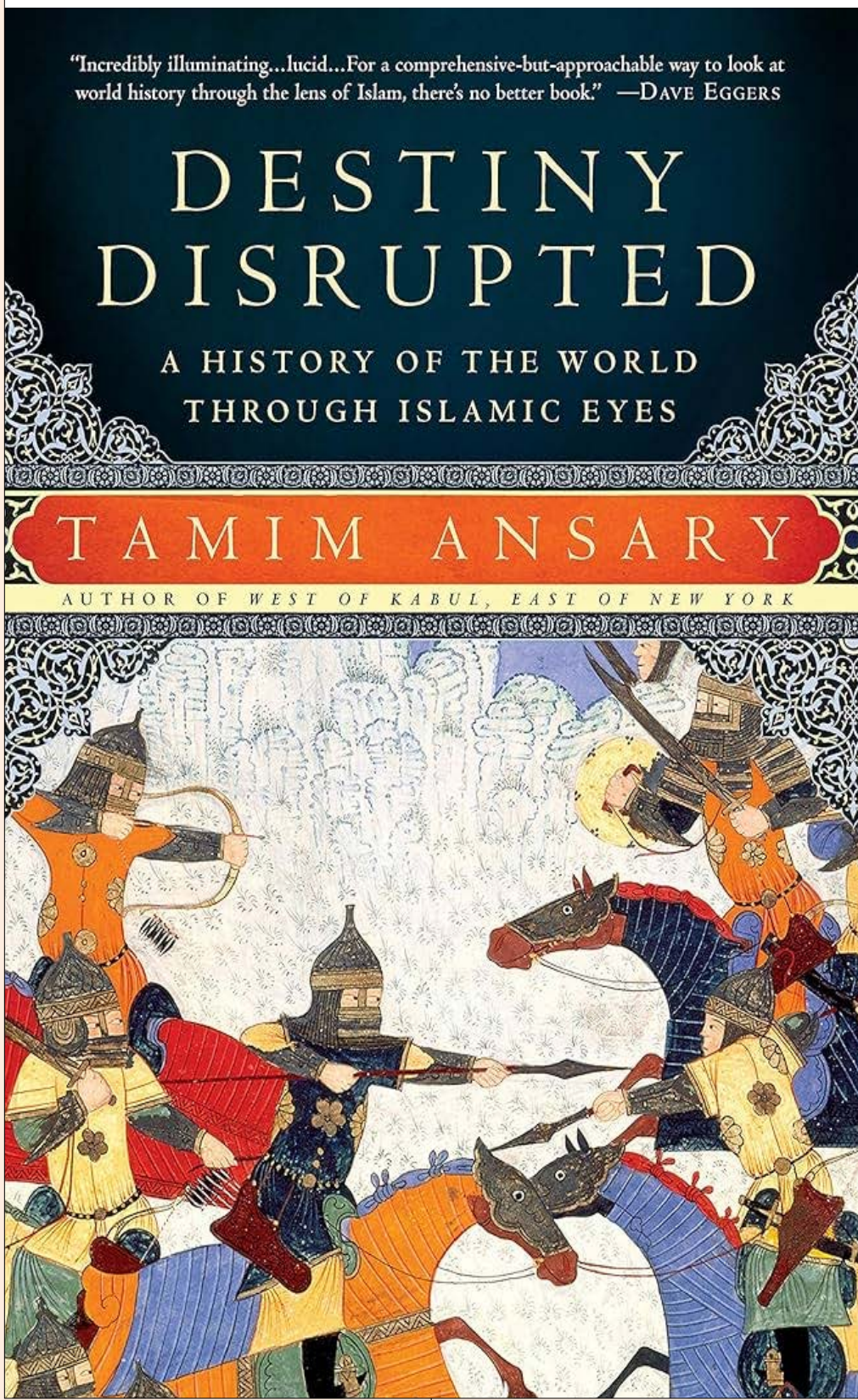
Place of Publication: New York

Publisher: PublicAffairs, an imprint of the perseus books group

Number of Pages: 450
Book price in India: 1460 INR
ISBN No: 13:978-1586488130
Audio Book: <https://DestinyDisrupted.com>
A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes, PHR.Audiobook.com

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may not offer exhaustive details or deep dives into every aspect of Islamic civilization, it provides a compelling and accessible narrative that can spark curiosity and encourage further exploration. Readers who are interested in understanding the historical context of modern-day Muslim societies and the relationship between the Islamic world and the West will find Ansary's work particularly valuable. However, for those seeking a more in-depth analysis of specific periods or intellectual movements, it may be beneficial to complement *Destiny Disrupted* with more specialized works on Islamic history or philosophy. Nonetheless, Ansary's engaging style and clear storytelling make it an excellent starting point for anyone looking to challenge their understanding of world history and broaden their view of Islamic civilization.



inclusive narrative that invites curiosity and deeper understanding. The simplifications and omissions in the book are not weaknesses but are part of Ansary's deliberate attempt to reach a wide audience and spark a conversation about the role of Islamic civilization in world history.

Comparison with previous Books

When comparing *Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes* by Tamim Ansary with Karen Armstrong's *Islam: A Short History*, we can see notable differences in their approach and scope. Armstrong's book is concise and academic, offering a factual and chronological account of Islamic history that covers key events and figures. Her style is more neutral and scholarly, making it an excellent resource for readers seeking a straightforward overview of Islam. In contrast, Ansary's work is more narrative-driven and personal, as he intertwines his own experiences with historical events. While Armstrong provides a focused, factual understanding of Islamic history, Ansary's strength lies in offering a more accessible, engaging story that highlights the cultural and intellectual contributions of the Islamic world, aiming to create empathy between the Islamic world and the West. Ansary's conversational tone and storytelling style provide a deeper emotional

a historical story, while Aslan's work places a greater emphasis on Islamic thought and its philosophical trajectory. While Ansary's work is engaging for those seeking a historical overview, Aslan's book may appeal more to readers interested in the ideological shifts within the Muslim world and the religion's role in the modern era.

Conclusion

Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes by Tamim Ansary stands out as an engaging and insightful exploration of Islamic history from a perspective often overlooked in mainstream Western narratives. Through his narrative-driven approach, Ansary provides readers with a broader, more inclusive view of Islamic civilization, highlighting its contributions and challenges throughout the centuries. His ability to intertwine personal anecdotes with historical events makes the book accessible and relatable, encouraging a deeper understanding of the cultural, political, and intellectual forces that shaped the Muslim world.

While the book has faced critiques for its broad scope and occasional oversimplification of complex historical events, these choices reflect Ansary's intent to offer a general overview that introduces readers to key moments in Islamic history. His work serves as an important bridge between Western and Islamic world-

PART II

Continued From P1...

PAHALGAM TERROR

other traditional systems of medicine, agriculture and culture.

The Angolan president, accompanied by a high-level delegation, arrived in Delhi on Thursday on a four-day trip.

In his remarks, Modi said India is one of the largest buyers of Angola's oil and gas and it was decided to expand the bilateral energy partnership.

"I am happy to announce that a defense credit line of USD 200 million has been approved for the modernisation of Angola's forces," he said.

"There was also discussion on repair and overhaul of defence platforms and supplies. We would be happy to assist in training Angola's armed forces," Modi said.

The prime minister also said that India will share its capabilities with Angola in digital public infrastructure, space technology, and capacity building.

"Today we have also decided to further strengthen our ties in the areas of healthcare, diamond processing, fertiliser and critical minerals," he said.

"The popularity of yoga and Bollywood in Angola is a symbol of the strength of our cultural ties," he said.

Modi welcomed Angola's decision to join the International Solar Alliance.

India has also invited Angola to join its initiatives — Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, Big Cat Alliance and Global Biofuels Alliance.

The prime minister greeted Angola on its presidency of the African Union.

"It is a matter of pride for us that during India's G20 presidency, the African Union got permanent membership of the G20," Modi said.

"India and the countries of Africa had raised their voices in one voice against colonial rule. They had inspired each other. Today we have stood together as the voice of the interests, hopes, expectations and aspirations of the Global South," he said. (Agencies)

NO PAK- FLAGGED

The order, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) states: "In exercise of power conferred by section 411 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with objectives as enshrined under Preamble of the said Act, keeping in view of the present situation, the following directions are hereby issued: A ship bearing the flag of Pakistan shall not be allowed to visit any Indian Port. An Indian flag ship shall not visit any Ports of Pakistan."

"This order is issued to ensure safety of Indian assets, cargo and connected infrastructure, in public interest and for interest of Indian shipping. Any exemption or dispensation from this order shall be examined and decided on case-to-case. This order shall come into force with immediate effect and remain in force till further order," the order states.

NO EXCHANGE OF

mail and parcels from Pakistan through air and surface routes amid escalating tensions between the two nations.

It may be recalled that after the Pahalgam terror attack India had promised severe punishment to those involved in the strike.

In a high-level meeting with the top defence brass, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had 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.

The Prime Minister has affirmed that it is a national resolve to deal a crushing blow to terrorism.

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—(KNO)

Omar Abdullah

and the "spontaneous" protests that followed the massacre.

The meeting, which took place at the Prime Minister's official residence at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg, was the first formal interaction between the two leaders since the terror attack, which marked one of the most significant civilian-targeted incidents in the region in recent years.

Sources informed the KNO that the chief minister is believed to have briefed the Prime Minister on the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on the public response to the violence.

CM Omar informed PM Modi about the widespread protests across the Valley that followed the attack. He said these demonstrations were organised by local residents without political backing, as a collective response to the killings.

The CM reiterated the deep sense of grief and outrage felt by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, a government spokesperson said, adding that Abdullah conveyed to the PM the people's deep sense of solidarity in rejecting the violence.

On April 28, the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the Pahalgam terror attack in the strongest possible terms, reflecting the collective will of the people's representatives to stand united against terrorism and safeguard the peace and harmony of the region.

"The CM also drew attention to the role played by Syed Adil Hussain Shah, a pony ride operator in Pahalgam, who lost his life while trying to stop one of the attackers in an attempt to shield visiting tourists," sources said.

The two leaders are also believed to have discussed the security framework in place in Jammu and Kashmir and whether additional measures are needed in light of the current tensions.

The conversation, according to sources, also touched upon India's diplomatic stance following the attack, particularly actions taken concerning Pakistan.

Later, CM Omar confirmed the meeting through a social media post, saying he had discussed key issues concerning the region with the prime minister. He

did not elaborate further.

"Met Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji in New Delhi today to discuss key issues concerning Jammu & Kashmir," the Chief Minister's office posted on 'X'—(KNO)

India Suspend

or transit of goods originating in or exported from Pakistan. This ban includes both direct and indirect imports and applies to all categories of goods, regardless of whether they are freely importable or previously permitted under existing trade rules.

An order issued by the Commerce Ministry, a copy of which is in the possession of the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), reads: "In exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 the Central Government hereby inserts a new Para 2.20A in Foreign Trade Policy, 2023 as follows with immediate effect: Para 2.20A: Prohibition on Import from Pakistan. Direct or indirect Import or transit of all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan, whether or not freely importable or otherwise permitted, shall be prohibited with immediate effect, until further orders. This restriction is imposed in the interest of national security and public policy. Any exception to this prohibition shall require prior approval of the Government of India."

Hajj 2025: First

May 15, with a total of 11 flights scheduled. The last flight, on May 15, will carry 321 pilgrims. "Pilgrims are expected to stay in Saudi Arabia for 42 to 46 days, depending on their flight schedule," officials said.

Officials added that this year's preparations included three rounds of training and orientation for pilgrims, covering safety protocols, rituals, and travel instructions.

"A vaccination drive has also been completed, with pilgrims receiving mandatory vaccines, including those for influenza and polio. Pilgrims have been informed about baggage limits," officials added.

Pertinently, there were concerns following Saudi Arabia's recent suspension of Umrah, tourist, and visit visas ahead of the Hajj season. However, officials later clarified that this was a routine measure aimed at preventing the misuse of non-Hajj visas for pilgrimage and ensuring better management of facilities for officially registered Hajj pilgrims.

"This step helps reduce overcrowding and logistical issues like what we witnessed during Hajj 2024," said Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, Executive Officer of the J&K Hajj Committee. "Legitimate pilgrims will now have smoother access to accommodation and services."

To ensure seamless movement, especially for pilgrims coming from North Kashmir, authorities have created a dedicated traffic crossing near the Hajj House in Bemina—(KNO)

NIA Chargesheets

India through targeted terrorist attacks on security forces as well as the civilian population, the probe agency said.

The NIA, which has also uncovered possible involvement of other terror groups in the conspiracy behind the attack, found during investigations that the trio had planned, conspired and executed the grenade attack with the intent to create panic and terror in the region.

The attack was part of a broader strategy to disturb public order and further the violent agenda of terrorist outfits operating with support from across the border, the NIA said.

Investigations in the case, which was registered by the NIA on January 31, 2025, are continuing in an effort to identify the wider network involved in the attack. (Agencies)

Kashmir will always

failed. They were in belief that they will divide Muslims and Hindus, they have failed. They have failed in achieving Kashmir. Today it has proven that the people are not scared," he said, adding that Kashmir is part of India, was part of India and will always remain its integral part.

Asked about the tensions between the two countries, Dr Farooq, as per KNO, said that the tensions will flare up when they have committed this action. "People want to see an end of terrorism. For how long are we going to see this terrorism? We have been witnessing it for the past 35 years now. We want to move forward and witness growth. But, they (Pakistan) are halting our growth and beehive that they will make us beggars like their own country. We don't want to remain beggars as we will have to move forward. We will surely become a superpower one day," he added.

In response to another query on the Indus Water Treaty, Dr Farooq said, "We have been saying for a long time that the IWT needs to be reviewed. We are facing hardships because of this treaty. Despite having our own rivers, we are experiencing a water crisis. We are not asking them to stop providing water to them (Pakistan), but we also have a right to it," he said.

Earlier, Dr Farooq Abdullah visited the family of Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who lost his life while protecting tourists during the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 people, mostly visitors, dead.

Dr Farooq handed over the one-month basic salary of the concerned Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Pahalgam, Altaf Kaloo, to Adil's father, Hyder Shah, at his residence in Pahalgam.

The father of the Pahalgam braveheart thanked Dr Farooq Abdullah and other leaders for expressing solidarity and sharing their grief—(KNO)

President Murmu

She said the mediation system did exist in the villages. But since people are educated now, they know that the mediators lack any power.

Murmu said the Mediation Act, 2023 was the first step in consolidating the civilisational legacy.

Now we need to add momentum to it and strengthen its practice, she stressed.

The president said that mediation is an essential part of the delivery of justice, which is at the heart of the Constitution of India. (AGENCIES)

Sunil Sharma Calls

who form the backbone of Kashmir's economy—have been targeted so brutally. The entire region is now gripped with fear and uncertainty. What happened on April 22 was not just a terror attack; it was a humiliation of humanity."

Describing the gruesome nature of the killings, Sharma added, "To shoot a husband in front of his wife, to kill a father before his child—there can be no act more barbaric."

He asserted that the BJP-led central government would not rest until those responsible are eliminated. "Even if I say this from a remote corner of Bandipora, I do so with complete responsibility—the culprits will be killed and buried," Sharma said, reaffirming the Centre's zero-tolerance stance on terrorism.

Referring to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks, Sharma said the message is clear: those behind the Pahalgam attack will be dealt with harshly. "Anyone thinking of repeating such acts will meet the same end. This is our firm commitment," he declared.

Responding to recent comments made by National Conference leader Dr Farooq Abdullah, Sharma was dismissive. "He has spoken in the language of China, Pakistan, and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir in the past. He even claimed that Prime Minister Modi would need ten lifetimes to abrogate Article 370."

While acknowledging Abdullah's recent statement that Pakistan should be taught a lesson, Sharma expressed skepticism. "It's a welcome change, but I urge him to stay consistent. If he has finally taken a stand against Pakistan, then let him not change his tune by evening," Sharma said. (KINS)

Mehbooba claims

to further stereotype & stigmatise Kashmiris & Muslims."

"This isn't only misleading but fatal at a time when students & traders from J&K are already facing heightened vulnerability & attacks. We should draw inspiration from Himanshi Narwal who despite the martyrdom of her husband urged Indians not to blame and target Kashmiris or Muslims," she claimed.

Nonetheless, the NC Chief Spokesman while talking to reporters said: "Mehbooba Mufti is lying. It's shocking that someone who has served as CM would stoop this low. Dr Farooq Abdullah never mentioned 'Kashmiris' or 'locals'."

"At a time when we're trying to protect Kashmiri students, traders, and families across India, it's shameful to misrepresent his words and endanger them further. Mehbooba should apologise and delete that tweet unless she can prove he said what she claims. This is not politics, it's recklessness," Sadiq said—(KNO)

Sajad Lone calls

circumstances. We have lakhs of students and traders outside Kashmir who are scared. There are war clouds. There are YouTubers who have descended here in Kashmir to create a narrative that fits the typical stereotype of a hostile Kashmiri. In the midst of all this, accusations and counter-accusations by local parties will not help. It is most unwanted and undesirable," Lone said.

He urged politicians to momentarily pause politicking for at least the coming month.

"Let us face it—there is nobody squeaky clean out here. Time to take a hiatus for at least the coming month. This is not a sermon. Trust me—I too am itching for a fight. But not now," he added.

Lone said he would refrain from engaging in political mudslinging during these tense moments—(Agencies)

KCCI assures meaningful support to Pahalgam brave heart's family

SRINAGAR: A team of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) led by President Javid Ahmad Tenga visited the family of Syed Adil, who was killed at Baisaran on 22nd of April at Hapatnad to offer condolences.

According to a statement, the team comprising of Junior vice president, Fayaz Punjabi, Secretary General Faiz Bakshi, Treasurer Zubair Mahajan and the Executive Committee Member Tauseef Bhat expressed solidarity with the father of the deceased Syed Hyder Shah and other members of the family.

The KCCI told the family that Syed Adil had played a heroic role in rescuing tourists which is being commended across all globe. "The KCCI assured the family of its meaningful support," the statement reads

Asthma affects up to 10% of Kashmir population: Doctors

Chronic respiratory disease third leading cause of death globally

Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: Asthma, a chronic and potentially life-threatening respiratory condition, is impacting between 5 to 10 percent of the population in Kashmir, mirroring global trends, doctors have warned. They are urging the public to take early symptoms seriously and adopt preventive measures against the disease, which, along with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), has emerged as the third leading cause of death worldwide.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Tanvir Ahmad, a chest disease specialist, said chronic lung diseases like asthma and COPD are responsible for an estimated 4.5 lakh deaths globally each year. "Many of these deaths are preventable with timely intervention," he said.

Dr Tanvir said that while manageable, asthma continues to pose a significant health burden,

particularly in Kashmir, where approximately 8% of the adult population and a substantial number of children are affected. He added that asthma appears to affect women more than men, attributing this trend to environmental, genetic, and occupational factors.

In Kashmir, the cold climate, increasing pollution levels, frequent use of biomass for heating, and exposure to allergens have been identified as key contributors to the rising incidence of asthma, Dr Tanvir further explained.

Dr Khursheed Ahmad, another doctor, said early diagnosis and proper management can improve the quality of life for individuals with asthma. "Unfortunately, myths and social stigma still surround asthma, deterring people from seeking timely help," he said. "Many fear using inhalers, thinking it shows weakness or dependency, which is absolutely untrue."

He cautioned that if left untreated, asthma can lead to severe respiratory distress, permanent lung damage, or even death. "Delayed diagnosis or irregular medication use increases the risk of frequent hospitalisations and long-term complications."

Comparing the situation globally, Dr Khursheed added, "India records ten times more deaths due to COPD than Western countries. This disparity is largely due to a lack of awareness, poor compliance with treatment, and limited access to specialised care."

Dr Javid Ahmad echoed this concern, saying non-adherence to medications is one of the major reasons behind increasing fatalities. "People often stop using prescribed inhalers once they feel better, without understanding that asthma is a chronic condition requiring continuous management," he said. "Inhalers are safe, effective, and have minimal side effects when used properly."

Doctors identified several contributing factors to the rising burden of asthma in Kashmir, including cold and dry climate, which triggers bronchial inflammation; use of wood and coal for heating, leading to indoor air pollution; outdoor air pollution from vehicles and industrial activity; allergens like pollen, mold, and dust mites; smoking, both active and passive, significantly worsening the condition and poor ventilation in homes, especially during winter.

They strongly advocate for increased public awareness and proactive health practices. They recommend timely diagnosis through spirometry and other tests; regular use of prescribed inhalers, especially corticosteroids; avoidance of known triggers, including smoke, dust, and cold air; proper home ventilation and use of air purifiers if necessary; vaccination against flu and pneumonia and education campaigns to remove stigma and myths.

Experts have urged the government and healthcare institutions to enhance asthma surveillance, promote screening, and incorporate asthma education in public health policy. "People living with asthma can lead normal, productive lives if they understand the disease and adhere to treatment," doctors said, adding, "Awareness is the first step towards control."—(KNO)

PM Modi announces USD 200 million for modernisation of Angolan armed forces

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced a USD 200 million defence credit line for Angola and expressed commitment to act firmly and decisively against terrorists and their backers, an assertion that came days after the Pahalgam terror strike.

Modi made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with Angolan President Joao Manuel

Goncalves Laurencio that focused on ramping up overall bilateral ties, including in areas of digital public infrastructure.

In his media statement, the prime minister said Laurencio's visit to India not only gives a new direction to the bilateral relations but also strengthens the India-Africa partnership.

"I am pleased to announce India's USD 200 million defence credit line to support modernisation of Angola's defence forces," he said.

The prime minister also said that there was a discussion on repair, overhaul and supply of defence platforms as well.

India will also share its capabilities with Angola in the areas of digital public infrastructure, space technology and capacity building, Modi said. "We have also decided to further strengthen our relations in areas of healthcare, diamond processing, fertiliser and critical minerals."

The prime minister also said, "We are committed to taking firm and decisive action against terrorists and those who support them."

Highlighting the importance of ties between India and the African Union, he said, "We are partners in progress. We are pillars of the Global South."

Laurencio arrived in Delhi on Thursday on a four-day trip.

Huge interest among global firms to collaborate with IICT: Vaishnaw at WAVES event

MUMBAI: Global firms are keen to work with the newly announced Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT) to harness the creative energies in the country's youth, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said here on Saturday.

The Information and Broadcasting minister made these remarks after seven leading firms — JioStar, Google, Adobe, Meta, Apple, NVIDIA and Microsoft — exchanged Letters of Intent with the IICT on the sidelines of the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) here.

The Letters of Intent were exchanged in the presence of Vaishnaw, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting I. Murugan, and I&B Secretary Sanjay Jaju.

Vaishnaw said the institute is set to become a national hub for the animation, visual effects, gaming, comics, and extended reality (AVGC-XR) sector.

"Already seven firms — Nvidia, Google, Apple, Microsoft, Meta, Star India and Adobe — are collaborating with the IICT. The IICT will work closely with the industry to make our young creators future-ready," he said.

Vaishnaw informed reporters that discussions with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) were also on for a collaboration with IICT. He had a meeting with Daren Tang, the director general of WIPO, on the sidelines of WAVES here on Friday.

The IICT is being set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as a National Centre of Excellence on the lines of the prestigious IIT and IIM in strategic collaboration with trade body FICCI and industry body CII.

"India has the potential to take a global leadership role in the world of media and entertainment. This institute is the first step in that direction and we have to build on it," Vaishnaw said.

The minister said there was a huge willingness among global firms to work with the IICT.

NOTICE

This is an information for the general public that in my Driving Licence bearing Registration No: JK15 2018 0000096, my name has been mistakenly mentioned as Ghulzar Ahmad Khan, while as my actual and correct name as per official records is Gulzar Ahmad Khan. Now I want to apply for its correction. In this regard if any person is having any objection, he/she may file the objections in ARTO Office Bandipora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Gulzar Ahmad Khan
S/O: Mohammad Amin Khan.
R/O: Pethkoot, Mantrigam, Bandipora J&K.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that I have lost Number plate of my vehicle (Vegnor) bearing Registration No: JK15-9272, some where Now I want to apply for its duplicate, and also want to submit missing report in police station, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora within a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Abdul Rashid Lone.
S/O Mohd Sedeeq Lone.
R/O Wanpora Gurez, District Bandipora. Jammu and Kashmir, Pin code: 193502.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement Bearing Consumer ID No: 0216020004548, which is Registered in the name of Gh Ahmad Ganai, S/O Ab Ahad Ganai. Now I want to apply for change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Manzoor Ahmad Ganai, S/O Late Abdul Ahad Ganai, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Kaloosa Bandipora within a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Manzoor Ahmad Ganai.
S/O Late Abdul Ahad Ganai.
R/O Kaloosa Bandipora, District Bandipora jammu and kashmir.

Women’s Tri-Series: Confident India take on resurgent Sri Lanka

India will look to extend their dominant run while a resurgent Sri Lanka will strive to stay in contention for the summit clash when the two teams clash in the women's tri-nation ODI series here Sunday.

Harmanpreet Kaur's side has been clinical so far, notching up wins against both Sri Lanka and South Africa to sit atop the points table with two victories from as many matches.

India had outplayed the hosts in the tournament-opener last week, but Sri Lanka's convincing five-wicket win over South Africa on Friday has injected new life into their campaign.

India have now won eight consecutive ODIs, with all three departments clicking in unison.

WhilespinnersSneh RanaandShree Charani starred with the ball to dismantle Sri Lanka in the first meeting, openers Pratika Rawal and Smriti Mandhana, along with Harleen Deol, ensured a smooth chase of the 148-run target.

Against South Africa, India's top order once again provided the platform before the middle order, led by Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues, added 82 runs in the final 10 overs to post a competitive total.Despite opener Tazmin Brits threatening to take the game away, Rana's timely three-wicket over turned the tide decisively in India's favour. The fielding unit also impressed with sharp work on the ground, supporting the bowlers efficiently.

However, pacers Kashvee Gautam and Arundhati Reddy were expensive against South Africa and will aim for better control and adaptability on the slower surface.

For Sri Lanka, the 128-run fourth-wicket stand between Harshitha Samarawickrama and

Kavisha Dilhari — the highest for the team in ODIs at that position — formed the backbone of their win over South Africa.

added some depth to the top order. India, with momentum on their side, will aim to seal a place in the final, while Sri Lanka

Nallapureddy Charani, Yastika Bhatia, Amanjot Kaur, Tejal Hasabnis, Shuchi Upadhyay. Sri Lanka: Chamari Athapaththu (c), Ka-



The bowling department was equally effective with Malki Madara and debutant Dewmi Vihanga sharing seven wickets between them.

However, the poor form of skipper Chamari Athapaththu remains a concern, putting additional pressure on the batting unit. The inclusion of 19-year-old Vishmi Gunaratne has

will look to stay in contention with another strong performance.

Squads:
India: Pratika Rawal, Smriti Mandhana, Harleen Deol, Harmanpreet Kaur(c), Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh(w), Deepti Sharma, Kashvee Gautam, Arundhati Reddy, Sneh Rana,

visha Dilhari, Inoshi Priyadarshani, Vishmi Gunaratne, Hansima Karunaratne, Achini Kulasuriya, Sugandika Kumari, Malki Madara, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Manudi Nanayakkara, Hasini Perera, Piumi Wathsala, Inoka Ranaweera, Anushka Sanjeevani, Rashmika Sewwandi, Nilakshika Silva, Dewmi Vihanga.

India Had Outplayed The Hosts In The Tournament-Opener Last Week, But Sri Lanka's Convincing Five-Wicket Win Over South Africa On Friday Has Injected New Life Into Their Campaign.

We know how to keep scoreboard ticking on testing pitches: Gill

Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill said the understanding of playing on tricky surfaces has helped the top-three including himself, Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler to do well in the IPL this season.

The trio has scored the bulk of the runs for GT who are on course to make the play-offs. It was no different on Friday as the top-order took the home side to 224 for six which the bowl-



ers could comfortably defend against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

GT also played just 22 dot balls in 20 overs.

"Didn't plan that (22 dot balls), idea was to continue to play like we have. Black soil (pitches), we've seen it's not easy to hit sixes. But the way our top order plays, we know how to keep the scoreboard ticking.

"We've never had the conversation for one of the top-three to always be there at the end. We're just eager to do our best," said Gill at the post match presentation. He top scored with 76 off 38 balls.

On his heated exchange with the umpire during the run chase, Gill added: "There are so many emotions, you give 110% on the field, sometimes you're bound to show emotions."

Having scored 64 off 37 balls, Buttler played down his effort and instead showered praise on Sudharsan, who made 48 off 23 balls.

"I've said it few times, day one watching him in the nets, I was blown away by how good he is. More importantly great head on his shoulders.

"The effort he puts in, the work, the understanding of his game, the humility to keep coming everyday and keep working. He's shown fantastic consistency and getting the rewards he deserves," said the former England captain.

SRH are virtually out of the play-off race after their seventh loss in 10 games. SRH skipper Pat Cummins said they allowed GT to score 20-30 extra runs.

"Chasing 200 looked a bit more realistic. They are class batters. They don't do anything outlandish. If you bowl bad balls, they just put it away. We probably dished out too many bad balls," Cummins said referring to GT's top-order.

There's a 'serious question mark' over Mohammed Shami, says Aakash Chopra

Earlier this month, Mohammed Shami almost broke an IPL record. That of the most expensive four-over spell in a game. He conceded 75 against Punjab Kings (PBKS), just one fewer than Jofra Archer's 76 for Rajasthan Royals (RR) against

about the fact that [at the] Border-Gavaskar Trophy, [Jasprit] Bumrah was alone, there was no Shami, and if there was Shami how things would have been different. But will there be Shami [in England] is the question. And what kind of Shami?

"This tournament is such that it doesn't



Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH). You do go for runs in T20 cricket, but Shami hasn't looked himself in IPL 2025, and as Aakash Chopra put it, "he's not looking good" right now, keeping in mind India's Test tour of England not long after the IPL.

Shami didn't play the last IPL after he was sidelined with an ankle injury and underwent surgery in his right foot in March 2024. In IPL 2023, he won the Purple Cap for his 28 wickets for Gujarat Titans (GT). On Friday night, against GT, he went 3-0-48-0. That took his season's numbers to six wickets from nine matches at an average of 56.17 and an economy rate of 11.23. Combined with much else, Shami's poor run with the ball has been one of the reasons for SRH's dismal season.

"You've had a big surgery like that, I think psychologically for a start [it gets you down]," Danny Morrison said on ESPNcricinfo's Time Out after SRH's latest defeat, which left them on the brink of elimination. "And then you've got to come back and pace yourself, I just wonder: he is no 29-year-old anymore, is he? So there are all of those things that are stacked against you."

If Morrison chose to be kind, Chopra didn't.

"That's a big question there, no, because it's not like he came back from an injury last week or last month. He started playing domestic cricket last year and this is May already," Chopra said. "He's played an ICC event [Champions Trophy] in between. He's played a lot of games. If he's still off the boil, and that has something to do with the injury - and we're all assuming that it is - then there is a serious question mark with regards to what happens next.

"Of course, [SRH] is one story. The other is the tour of England. All of us were harping

matter who you are. If you're not delivering the goods, you will be taken to the cleaners. And right now, what I see with Shami is, pace down is one bit, second is not enough balls getting bowled in the same area. Mohammed Shami was always that. That is his only strength [and], it is phenomenal."

For the record, Shami returned to competitive cricket in the Ranji Trophy late last year for Bengal, and after being a part of the Syed Mushtaq Ali (T20) and the (50-over) Vijay Hazare Trophy squads for Bengal, was back in international cricket with the T20I series at home against England in January-February. The biggest high in all this was picking up 5 for 53 against Bangladesh in the Champions Trophy, where he was India's highest wicket-taker with nine wickets, as his team went on to win the tournament.

In that same Champions Trophy, Shami opened the bowling against Pakistan and bowled five wides in the first over. His lines were off on Friday night too. He drifted into Shubman Gill's pads - and was flicked for six - and gave width to B Sai Sudharsan, and even bowled a 20-run over, the third of the GT innings.

"Going back to that game against Pakistan, where he bowled five wides in the first over - okay that happened also 45 days ago or, maybe more, two months ago [on February 23] - so if he's still not able to get the ball right... because he's not someone who will get flicked for a six; you can drive him for a four, cut him maybe - he doesn't give you that much width by the way - but very seldom will he bowl those that you're flicking for a six and you're happy facing the [next] ball. So yeah, he's not looking good," Chopra said.

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