

# Kashmir Convener



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Congress, its allies  
acting like 'fifth  
column' against Indian  
armed forces, alleges BJP

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## Pahalgam Terror Attack Fallout

# MHA Asks States To Conduct Civil Defence Mock Drills

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** After the Centre cut the flow of water to Pakistan through the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab River, Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday asked several states to conduct civil defence mock drills on May 7 (Wednesday) amid rising tensions with Pakistan following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 people, mostly tourists dead. A source told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the MHA directed several states to ensure that the mock drills should focus on the key actions such as operationalization of air raid warning sirens. Training of civilians, students, etc, on the civil defence aspects to protect themselves in the event of a hostile attack.



Provision of crash blackout measures.  
Provision for early camouflaging of vital  
plants/installations.  
Updation of evacuation plan and its

rehearsal.  
The purpose of the civil defence mock drills is to enhance emergency preparedness.  
The MHA's advisory came after India decided to cut flow of water to Pakistan. The source said hydroelectric dams — Baglihar in Ramban in Jammu and Kishanganga in North Kashmir — offer India the ability to regulate the timing of water releases.  
Pertinently, soon after the Pahalgam terror attack India had announced slew of measures, including suspension of decades old Indus Water treaty, against Pakistan. India's decision to suspend the 1960 Indus Water Treaty brokered by the World Bank has put Pakistan in quandary.

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## India suspends Indus treaty protocol, begins reservoir flushing on Chenab

● Sluice gates at Baglihar, Salal dams closed without prior notice



Sajid Raina

**SRINAGAR:** Two weeks after the Pahalgam terror attack, India has significantly reduced water flow to Pakistan by suspending regular protocols under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and initiating reservoir maintenance activities at key hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

Notably, soon after the Pahalgam attack, India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, curtailed the Chenab River's water flow to Pakistan, closed the Attari border, revoked SAARC visa exemptions for Pakistani nationals, and ordered their departure within 48 hours. Diplomatic ties were further scaled back with the mutual expulsion of defence staff, marking a significant shift in India's policy toward Pakistan.

Official sources familiar with the development informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the government has initiated reservoir flushing operations at the Baglihar and Salal dams on the Chenab River.

These operations, previously conducted with prior notice to Pakistan under treaty norms, were carried out without any communication this time, they said.

According to officials, the decision not to notify Pakistan stems from the suspension of the IWT mechanism following the Pahalgam attack that left 26 dead.

The sluice gates at Baglihar and Salal dams were opened initially to flush sediment and later closed, temporarily holding back a significant volume of water that would otherwise flow into Pakistan's Punjab province.

Officials estimate that the downstream water flow has been reduced by nearly 90 per cent.

The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), which operates the dams, said the maintenance work was aimed at increasing reservoir capacity and improving power generation.

Baglihar, located in Ramban district, has a capacity of 900 megawatts, while Salal, in Reasi district, produces 690 megawatts. Both projects are classified as run-of-the-river schemes but require periodic sediment removal to maintain operational efficiency.

The current maintenance includes near-emptying reservoirs and operating adjustable spillway gates, temporarily disrupting natural river flow. India has also indicated that similar flushing work will

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## Defence Secretary meets PM Modi amid tension with Pakistan

KC News Network

**NEW DELHI:** Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday amid tension with Pakistan and ongoing preparations for the country's response to the Pahalgam terror attack. During the meeting, Singh is believed to have briefed the Prime Minister about the latest security situation and military preparations, especially on the western frontier. Sources said that response in the event of a multi-front engagement and measures to ensure uninterrupted defence supplies have also come up for discussions that the PM Modi has held with the chiefs of forces and officials over the week.

PM Modi's discussion with the top defence official



came on a day when Russian President Vladimir Putin called him and "strongly condemned" the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, offering "full support" to India in its ongoing fight against terrorism.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also held bilateral talks with his Japanese counterpart General Nakatani during the days, as Tokyo reaffirmed its commitment to countering regional security threats, including terrorism.

On Sunday, PM Modi had met Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, completing his engagement with the chiefs of all three forces to fine-tune the response to the April 22 attack, which left 26 dead.

The meeting came against the backdrop of rising tensions along the Line of Control (LoC), where Pakistan has been violating the ceasefire for 11 consecutive days.

According to the Indian Army, Pakistani troops fired small arms without provocation during the night of May 4-5 in several areas,

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## CM Omar Abdullah urges early implementation of budget proposals

● Chairs high-level meeting at Civil Secretariat Srinagar



KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today emphasized that the efforts of the government should become visible in the coming six months in terms of governance, delivery of public services and overall improvement in functioning

of the government across Jammu and Kashmir.

He stressed that governance must not remain confined to the Civil Secretariat or government offices alone. The Chief Minister made these remarks while chairing a high-level

**CM Omar, top officials resume office at Civil Secretariat Srinagar**

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and other senior officers on Monday resumed the office at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The office at the Civil Secretariat started working here after a gap of six months.

The Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in a post on X, emphasized that his government's priority over

## CJI BR Gavai To Hear Pleas Challenging Waqf (Amendment) Act From May 15: SC

KC News Network

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday said the pleas challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act's constitutional validity will now be taken up by a bench headed by Chief Justice of India-designate Justice B R Gavai on May 15 as the incumbent CJ will be demitting office on May 13.

As soon as a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan assembled for the hearing, the CJI said, "There are certain aspects which you (Centre) dealt with, but that require clarification. I do not want to reserve any judgment or



order at this interim stage. This matter will have to be heard on a reasonably early date and this will not be before me." CJI Khanna will be succeeded by Justice

Gavai a day after his superannuation on May 13.

"We have not very deeply gone into the counter affidavit (of the Centre). Yes, you have raised certain points in regards to registration (of Waqf properties) and have given some disputed figures, that will require some consideration," the CJI said.

"We would have loved to pursue your lordship (the CJI) as every contention has an answer. But, we cannot embarrass you because there is no time," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said while indicating the retirement of the CJI. "It is painful to

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## LG conducts on-site inspection of SASB's office, Yatri Niwas

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today conducted the on-site inspection and reviewed ongoing construction work of the Office and Yatri Niwas of Shri Arnarnath Ji Shrine Board at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar.

The Lieutenant Governor ascertained the progress of the work and emphasised on timely completion of the project. He was informed that the construction work of four floors is completed and the rest of the two floors are expected to be completed by the end of the month of June.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the officials and directed them to accelerate the progress of

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## BOTTOM STORY

# Nomadic Mother Serves Last Tea To Her Kids Before Falling To Gruesome Sexual Assault

Raja Syed Rather/  
Rehan Qayoom Mir

**SRINAGAR :** The family members of Rubena (Name Changed) hardly know that she was serving a last tea to her kid's minutes before she was sexually assaulted and killed by four rapists in Nishat area of Srinagar outskirts.

It was the first time it took Rubena too long to return from the green bushes wherein she had gone to graze the cattle. This time she didn't return as she used to.

For a long time when 40-year-old nomadic woman Rubena didn't appear back to the temporary tent, her daughter rushed towards the woods where she saw her



mother battling life with blood oozing from her body.

With blood stripped clothes, the nomadic woman who fought against the four rapists was found unconscious. However, seeing her daughter, the goons escaped the spot.

For a while, the daughter of the victim who had reached the spot was puzzled and wailed

aloud to call the family to the incident spot in woods. "My sister called us after seeing our mother unconscious and in a pool of blood," the victim's family narrates the ordeal while speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Immediately, the nomadic lady was rushed to the nearby

health facility for treatment, where she was declared brought dead. Holding deep sighs and sobs, the daughter of the victim pleaded justice and demanded the culprits should meet the same fate. "We will only find peace when the rapists will be brought to justice. Our mother has left behind little kids. How can we live without our mother," said her daughter. "Weren't they born from a mother. How can they assault and kill a mother of five. The culprits were Inhumans," she wailed. "We found an accused with blood on his pants due to which he was caught. Otherwise we would have no idea about the culprits."

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## People demand death sentence to culprits

Rehan Qayoom Mir

**SRINAGAR:** The political leaders from different parties of Jammu and Kashmir condemned alleged rape and tragic incident in Nishat, which left nomadic women dead on Sunday.

Pertinently, a nomadic woman lost her life after she was allegedly sexually assaulted in Nishat area on Sunday while all the four persons involved in the act have been arrested by Police.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), National Conference (NC) expressed grief and said that such acts cannot be

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## Cabinet finalises response to Raj Bhavan's queries on business rules



KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** The cabinet, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, on Monday firmed up its response to Raj Bhavan queries regarding amendments to "The Transaction of Business of the Government of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules", sources said.

Sources told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the cabinet which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Omar

Abdullah at 12: 30 AM at civil secretariat here, deliberated on the queries raised by Raj Bhavan over the recommendations made by it vis-a-vis Business Rules.

"The cabinet reviewed the queries and clarifications sought by Raj Bhavan and accordingly finalized its response," a minister, speaking on condition of anonymity, told KNO.

In March this year, Omar Abdullah-led cabinet had proposed

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# SC Seeks Response Of Centre, 18 States On NALSA PIL For Release Of Old And Terminally Ill Prisoners

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and 18 states, including Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, on a plea of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to release on bail a group of prisoners who are terminally ill or above 70 years of age.

These prisoners, who have not come to the top court against denial of bail, require special care but it may not be possible for jail authorities to provide in view of the overcrowding in prisons, the plea said.

A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta took note of the submissions of lawyer Rashmi Nandakumar, appearing for NALSA, and issued notices to the Centre and the states.

NALSA, in its PIL, said that these elderly and terminally ill prisoners are incarcerated in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh,

Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha.

The NALSA is a statutory body in India established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free and competent legal services to weaker sections of society. It also organises Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. Earlier, the CJI-led bench sent the plea to the bench headed by Justice Nath for adjudication.

Nandakumar referred to the data and said many terminally ill persons, whose convictions were upheld by various high courts, were unable to move the top court to challenge their convictions and seek bail or the suspension of sentence and the matter needed an intervention.

"Petitioner urges this court to issue



necessary directions so that prisoners of advanced age and prisoners who are terminally ill are released on bail to ensure that they can be taken care of by members of their families

and can be reintegrated into society in their final days," NALSA's petition said.

The plea said terminally ill prisoners and those of advanced age required specialised

care and individual attention and it may not be possible for prison authorities to provide considering the extent of overcrowding in prisons.

The plea, therefore, urged the top court to issue directions to facilitate the release of prisoners aged above 70 years and those suffering from terminal illnesses. Such prisoners, it said, required specialised medical care and personal attention that overcrowded prisons are often ill-equipped to provide.

NALSA said as of December 31, 2022, India's prison occupancy rate stood at 131 per cent, severely straining infrastructure and impacting the quality of medical care and dignified living conditions within jails.

The petition highlighted some recent cases, including that of a 93-year-old woman incarcerated in Karnataka whose plight

prompted intervention from the District Legal Services Authority. Similarly, bail was secured for a terminally ill undertrial by the High Court Legal Services Committee before the Calcutta High Court.

The plea said the NALSA launched a "Special Campaign for Old and Terminally Ill Prisoners" running from December 10, 2024, to March 10, 2025.

As part of the campaign, dedicated national, state and district units were constituted to visit prisons, identify eligible inmates, and coordinate efforts for their potential release.

Data showed 456 prisoners – including both convicts and undertrials – were identified to be within the targeted categories.

However, the plea sought relief only for prisoners who were convicted by high courts, had not moved the Supreme Court on appeal and wished for legal aid services.

## Conclave to choose next pope will be most geographically diverse in history

**VATICAN CITY:** There is no rule that cardinals electing a new pope vote a certain way according to their nationality or region.

But understanding their makeup in geographic terms can help explain some of their priorities as they open the conclave Wednesday to choose a new leader of the 1.4-billion strong Catholic Church.

A cardinal who heads the Vatican's liturgy office might have a very different set of concerns than the archbishop of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. A cardinal who runs a large European archdiocese with hundreds of priests likely has other priorities than the Vatican ambassador ministering to war-torn Syria or the archbishop of Managua, Nicaragua whose church has been under siege by the government.

There are currently 135 cardinals who are under age 80 and eligible to vote in the conclave, hailing from 71 different countries in the most geographically diverse conclave in history.

Already two have formally told the Holy See that they cannot attend for health reasons, bringing the number of men who will enter the Sistine Chapel down to 133.

A two-thirds majority is needed to be elected pope, meaning that if the number of electors holds at 133, the winner must secure 89 votes.

The countries with the most electors are: Italy (17), United States (10), Brazil (7), France and Spain (5), Argentina, Canada, India, Poland and Portugal (4).

## High Court Disposes Of Petition On Rahul Gandhi's Indian Citizenship

**LUCKNOW:** The Allahabad High Court's Lucknow bench on Monday disposed of a petition questioning Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Indian citizenship and allowed the petitioner to explore other alternative legal remedies.

A bench of Justices AR Masoodi and Rajiv Singh said that as the central government is not able to give any time limit to resolve the petitioner's complaint, there is no justification to keep this petition pending.

The court told petitioner S Vignesh Shishir, a BJP worker from Karnataka, that he is free to adopt other alternative legal remedies.

In the PIL, Shishir had claimed that he has documents and some emails of the British government which prove that Rahul Gandhi is a British citizen, and due to this he is ineligible to contest elections in India and cannot hold the post of a Lok Sabha member.

In the previous hearing on April 21, the court was told that the Centre had written to the UK government seeking details about claims that Gandhi had British citizenship.

After the submission, the bench had granted time to the central government till May 5 to place before it the outcome of a representation moved by the petitioner against the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, seeking cancellation of his 2024 Lok Sabha election over claims that he had British citizenship.

Earlier, the petitioner had told the court that he sent complaints twice to the competent authority regarding Rahul Gandhi's alleged dual citizenship, but no action was taken by them.



While hearing the PIL on November 25, the court sought information from the central government regarding its decision on the representation of the petitioner.

Deputy Solicitor General SB Pandey had informed the court that acting on the petitioner's representation, the ministry concerned had written to the UK Government seeking details about Gandhi's alleged British citizenship and hence the government needed more time to take a final decision on the petitioner's representation.

## UN's top court to rule on Sudan's request alleging Emiratis funded Sudanese paramilitary forces

**THE HAGUE:** The top United Nations court

will rule on Monday on a request from Sudan to issue emergency measures against the United Arab Emirates, in a case accusing the UAE of breaching the genocide convention by arming and funding the rebel paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in Sudan's deadly war.

In March, Sudan asked The International Court of Justice for several orders, known as provisional measures, including telling the UAE to do all it can to prevent the killing and other crimes targeting the Masalit people.

The UAE called the filing a publicity stunt and, in a hearing last month, argued the court had no jurisdiction.

"The case is baseless both legally and factually. The UAE is not involved in the war, and this case is yet another attempt by the Sudanese Armed Forces, one of the warring parties, to distract from its own responsibility," Reem Ketait, a senior official at the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said in a statement ahead of the decision.

Mission – POSHANAN  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT RAJWAR

Mail Id [cdpoicdsrj@gmail.com](mailto:cdpoicdsrj@gmail.com)

Sub:- Tentative Merit list of 2nd meritorious of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) & Sahayikas (AWWS) under Provisions for operation of waiting list/selection of next meritorious candidate vide order No:- MD/Poshan/Plg/2024/4469-88, dated: 14-02-2025 in Anganwadi centers of POSHAN Project Rajwar in response to the advertisement Notice No:01 of 2024 Dated:- 22-02-2024 Under Endorsement No:- CDPO/Poshan/Rjr/1 133-1142, DATED:- 22-02--2024., and Advertisement Notice No:- 01 of 2023, dated:- 17-05-2023.

Regarding the captioned subject, objections are invited from the applicants if any, & same should reach to the office of undersigned within 05 days from the issuance of this notice. No objections will be accepted after the cutoff date. The tentative merit list has been made purely on the basis of marks obtained by the candidates in 12th standard. For Sanginis (AWWS) and 10th standard married for Sahayikas (AWHS).

S no	Index No.	Name of Panchayat Halqa	Ward No	Name of AWC advertised	Name of applicant	Parentage/ Spouse	D.o.B	12th	10th	12th% age	Remarks
01	1	Shehlal	04	Shehlal A (AWW)	Raheela Islam	D/O:- Ab Salam Bhat	11-03-1999	391/500	=	78.2	2nd meritorious
02	30	Waskhura	04	Waskhura (AWH)	TABASUM WALI	W/O:- Tanveer Ahmad Dar	31-03-19	=	184/500	36.8	2nd meritorious

No:- CDPO/POSHAN/Rjr/Estt/2025/96-106  
Dated:- 05-05-2025

Sd/-  
Child Development Project Officer  
Poshan Project Rajwar

DIPK-1143/25

## Government of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Public Works Department (R&B) Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir

Email: [xennrbmdsk@gmail.com](mailto:xennrbmdsk@gmail.com)  
**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS**  
**eNIT No: 04 of R&B/MSDK/2025-26 Dated: 03-05-2025**  
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir, Anantnag invites e-tenders in two (02) cover system, from original equipment manufacturers (OEM)/ firms having relevant experience for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (in Lakh)	Cost of T/ Doc	Earnest Money (@ 2 % of Adv. Cost (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Position of Funds
1	Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of Laundry for 50 Bedded Hospital at Pahalgam in District Anantnag	40.00	1100/	80000	60 days	Available with the Intending Department as per the AAA

Intending Authority: Health and Medical Education Department  
Accord of Administrative Approval: AAA vide Order no. 244-JK(HME) of 2020 Dated: 12/03/20  
Technical Sanction No: CE/(R&B) KTS/296 of 2021-22 Dated: 06/08/21  
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:  
Critical Dates of this Tender:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	03-05-2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	03-05-2025 (03:00 PM)
3.	Bid submission Start Date & Time	03-05-2025 (03:00 PM)
4.	Bid Submission End Date & Time	23-05-2025 (03:00 PM)
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	24-05-2025 (12:00P )
6.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical
7.	Tender document Fee Submission (Between the start and end date of bid submission)	By uploading a scanned copy of Treasury Challan Receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir Anantnag to be deposited in Major Head 0059 OR By uploading a copy of e-challan of the money remitted in the Account No: 0014010200000198 favoring Executive Engineer (R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir Name of the Bank: Jammu & Kashmir Bank Branch Name: TP Anantnag Branch Code: EMPIRE IFSC Code: JAKAOEMPIRE MICR Code: 19205100
8.	Earnest Money Deposit Submission	Earnest money deposit @2% of the estimated cost, in shape of CDR/FDR from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Mechanical Division South Kashmir Anantnag. The bidders must upload documentary proof (scanned copies) of the FDR/CDR. In case of unsuccessful bidder(s), the EMD shall be released immediately after placement of the work order in favour of the lowest bidder and in case of the successful bidder the same shall be released after submission of Performance Security @5% of Allotted cost in shape of FDR/CDR within 07 days after intimation by tender inviting authority.

No: R&B/MSDK/ 261-64  
Dated: 03-05-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Mechanical Division  
South Kashmir

DIPK-1121/25

## CBI Arrests Oil India Official, Private Company Executive For Bribery

**NEW DELHI:** The CBI has arrested a deputy general manager of Oil India Limited posted in Assam's Duliyaan and a private company executive for alleged bribery of Rs 7 lakh, officials said on Monday.

Prayas Chakravorty, a deputy general manager (DGM) of Oil India Limited (OIL), had allegedly demanded the bribe from Jyoti Kumar Singh, the DGM of Noida-based United Drilling Tools Limited, for the award of certain contract in favour of the private company, they said.

Both were arrested and produced before a CBI special court in Ghaziabad on Monday.

"It was also alleged that accused public servant (Chakravorty) demanded 70 grams of gold ornaments for



himself as well as for some other unknown public servant from accused DGM (Singh) of said private company in lieu of award of certain contract in favour of him," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

Singh told the accused official that he could not arrange the gold jewellery and would pay

in cash, the officials said.

United Drilling Tools MD Kunal Gupta, also an accused in the FIR, arranged Rs 7 lakh to be delivered to Chakravorty, according to the statement.

On receiving the cash, Chakravorty allegedly purchased gold coins worth more than Rs 3.70 lakh from a shop in Noida

and took home the remaining cash amount on the same day.

"The CBI laid a trap immediately thereafter and caught the accused public servant red-handed with Rs 3.34 lakh cash (approx) and documents related to the purchase of gold from the possession of accused public servant," the spokesperson said in the statement.

"Searches were conducted at residential and official premises of the accused at various places in Delhi, Noida, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia which led to the recovery of gold jewellery (obtained as bribe),

over Rs 30 lakh cash (from private persons), mobile devices and several incriminating documents," according to the statement.

## Congress, its allies acting like 'fifth column' against Indian armed forces, alleges BJP



**NEW DELHI:** The BJP on Monday alleged that the Congress and its allies have become a "fifth column" working to lower the morale of armed forces after the Uttar Pradesh Congress president took a 'toy Rafale' jibe at the government over its response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi sought to draw a parallel between Pakistani army and leaders of INDIA bloc, saying the former is bombarding the Indian armed forces from across the border by violating the ceasefire while opposition

leaders are targeting them with their comments from within.

The ruling party's fresh attack on opposition parties, especially the Congress, came following Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajai Rai's taunting remarks for the alleged lack of action by the government against terrorists.

Rai showed a toy plane depicting Rafale fighter aircraft with lemon and chillies hanging from it and targeted the government for not putting them to use.

Trivedi noted that it is in a series of comments from opposition leaders aimed at demoralising the armed forces.

Citing past comments of a number of Congress leaders, he said while hardly any Pakistani leader is being quoted in the Indian media for any remarks against the Pakistani army, Indian politicians are being frequently cited in the neighbouring country for their criticism of the government and allegedly lowering the morale of Indian armed forces.

## Congress spreading rumours about Waqf Amendment Act: Union Minister Bupendra Yadav

**NEW DELHI:** The rights of Muslim groups and individuals to create, manage and regulate Waqf will remain intact, Union Minister Bupendra Yadav said on Monday, and alleged that the Congress is spreading rumours about the Waqf Amendment Act, 2025.

Addressing a press conference at Delhi BJP office, the Union minister said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has come up with various reforms in the fields of social justice, economic growth, transparency and gender equality.

"The Waqf Amendment Act, 2025 recently passed by Parliament is an important milestone of this progressive journey," he asserted.

The Congress is spreading rumours that the rights of Muslims will end due to the Act, he alleged, adding that it was not for the first time that the Act was amended.

Some issues like transparency and management in Waqf affairs remained unaddressed in the last amendment in 2013, which have been taken care of now by the Waqf Amendment Act, 2025, he said. "The rights of the Muslim groups and individuals to create, manage and regulate Waqf will remain intact even after the latest amendment," Yadav said.



# SSP Mehta Orders Strict Measures for Non-Local Workers’ Security in Bandipora

Calls for strong action against drug trafficking, Other illegal activities

KC NEWS DESK

**BANDIPORA:** Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Harmeet Singh Mehta on Monday called for taking concrete steps for ensuring the safety and security of non-local labourers and employees working in the district.

SSP Mehta passed the directions while reviewing security measures and crime control in the district. He said the supervisory officers and SHOs must take all the measures to improve investigation with latest techniques and standard operating practices to ensure safety and security of non-local labourers and employees.

He also called for enhancing intelligence gathering capabilities and strengthening anti-drug initiatives.

According to a statement issued by Bandipora Police on its social media handle, the meeting was convened to assess the overall security



scenario and address issues concerning new criminal laws, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the Unlawful

Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CTNS), and the handling of dynamic data.

SSP Mehta emphasized the importance of efficient policing, timely investigation, and the swift disposal of cases to maintain public trust in the police system.

Particular focus was laid on drug-related offenses, with the SSP urging a zero-tolerance policy under the NDPS Act. Officers were instructed to take strict action against those involved in unlawful activities under UAPA and to adopt modern investigative methods along with standard operating procedures to enhance the quality of investigations.

Discussions also revolved around enhancing intelligence gathering, strengthening anti-drug initiatives, and improving coordination among different security agencies to ensure a robust security environment in the district. The officers were instructed to maintain heightened vigilance, particularly in sensitive areas, to counter any potential threats to peace and stability.

## CSIR-IIIM Mentored Solar Engine Project Wins Top U.S. Innovation Award

Dalhousie Student Japteg Singh Secures \$31,000 in HonorsGradU Scholarships

**JAMMU:** Japteg Singh Bamrah, a Class 12 student from Dalhousie Public School, has won the prestigious HonorsGradU 2025 Scholarship, receiving \$10,000 and an additional \$5,000 innovation grant for his Solar Mech Engine project.



Mentored under the Jigyasa Hackathon Initiative at CSIR-IIIM Jammu by Dr. Nasir URasheed, Japteg's solar thermal energy innovation was among five projects selected globally from thousands of entries. He is the first Indian since 2012 to top the HonorsGradU list.

HonorsGradU, a U.S.-based non-profit promoting student-led sustainability, awarded Japteg the top technology project recognition. His project was incubated at CSIR-IIIM under the Start-Up India campaign, with support from scientists including Dr. Asha Chaubey.

Japteg has also received admission offers from over ten top universities in the U.S., Australia, and Canada, along with \$16,000 in annual scholarships.

"CSIR-IIIM gave me the environment to innovate," Japteg said, crediting Director Dr. Zabeer Ahmed and mentor Dr. Nasir for their support.

The project gained incubation support at CSIR-IIIM Jammu, an institute that has been instrumental in fostering grassroots innovation under the Start-Up India, Stand-Up India campaign—launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 and steered by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Vice President of CSIR.

Japteg's journey began at CSIR-IIIM Jammu through the Pan-CSIR Jigyasa Hackathon, where he was mentored by Dr. Nasir URasheed.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu, congratulated Japteg and his mentor, stating: "This achievement reflects CSIR-IIIM's commitment to nurturing young talent in sustainability and innovation. We welcome students across India to leverage our facilities, mentorship, and platforms like the Jigyasa Hackathon to bring their ideas to life."

## Police seizes five tippers involved in illegal extraction of minerals in Pampore

BILAL HABIB

**PAMPORE:** In continuation of its ongoing drive against illegal mining Awantipora Police seized five tippers used in illegal excavation and transportation of minerals in Patalbagh area of Pampore in south Kashmir's Police District Awantipora.

Acting tough against the persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, Police party of Police Station Pampore headed by SHO Police Station Pampore Inspector Naieem Rashid under the supervision of SDPO Pampore Shri RP Singh seized Five tippers bearing registration numbers JK02AH-8984, JK04E-1427, JK03B-3251, JK04B-3681, JK03B-3314.

Accordingly, case vide FIR NO. 50/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Pampore and further investigation has been initiated.

Police is committed to take action against violators who are taking undue advantage of night hours by extracting minerals illegally to the detriment of people health, the ecology and the revenue of the government. Community members are requested to come forward with any information regarding illegal mineral-related activities in their neighbourhood

## Airtel Business Launches ‘Business Name Display’ to Boost Customer Trust

**SRINAGAR:** Airtel Business has launched "Business Name Display" (BND), a first-of-its-kind service that allows enterprises to display their brand name on the recipient's mobile screen during outgoing calls. The feature aims to improve customer trust and reduce spam call confusion.

The service helps customers easily identify legitimate calls from businesses, addressing a growing issue where essential calls—from banks, hospitals, delivery services, and more—are often mistaken for spam.

"BND ensures safer, more transparent communication. It builds trust and helps businesses stand out while giving customers clarity on who's calling," said Sharat Sinha, Director & CEO, Airtel Business.

The service was successfully piloted with over 250 companies, making 12.8 million calls from 1.5 million numbers across sectors such as banking, logistics, food delivery, and retail, resulting in higher customer engagement.

To activate BND, businesses can register and configure their details via the Airtel Business portal.



## MLA Nizamuddin Bhat Inaugurates Emergency -ICU at District Hospital Bandipora

**BANDIPORA:** MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat, Monday inaugurated the newly established Emergency Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at District Hospital Bandipora.



On the occasion, the MLA, accompanied by the Medical Superintendent Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani, toured various sections of the hospital to assess the quality of services being provided.

During his visit, he interacted with patients and their attendants, seeking direct feedback on the healthcare facilities and patient care standards.

Expressing satisfaction over the improvements in the hospital, MLA Bhat reiterated his commitment to enhancing health services in the district. "Patient care is our topmost priority. I am pleased to see positive changes in the functioning of the hospital and assure continued efforts to provide accessible and quality healthcare to the people of Bandipora," he stated.

The inauguration of the ICU is expected to greatly enhance emergency medical response capabilities in the district, especially for critical patients requiring intensive monitoring and care.

Local residents and hospital staff welcomed the initiative, calling it a much-needed development that will benefit thousands across the region.

## District Admin Holds Workshop To Boost MSMEs In Bandipora

**BANDIPORA:** District Administration Bandipora today organised a District level awareness workshop under RAMP (Raising and Accelerating of MSME Performance) at Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The District level awareness workshop for SIP Implementation was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, and was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Zafar Husson Shawl; Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Maqbool; officials from District Industries Centre Bandipora, Jk trade promotion Organization, Lead bank Bandipora, Handloom and Handicrafts departments and Artisans.

During the event, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora highlighted the importance of such schemes in today's time and reiterated the government's commitment to empower and support budding entrepreneurs through schemes like RAMP, which will create livelihood opportunities for our youth. This program is aimed at uplifting and guiding small unit holders and artisans in the district.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed that new indus-

trial estates are being set up in Chewa, Nowgam, and Ajas, which will provide spaces for budding entrepreneurs and

and the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India, aims to support around 5.55 lakh



skilled youth to set up their own units and businesses. He emphasized that success in such ventures requires dedication and strong willpower.

He praised the District Industries Centre (DIC) Bandipora for its continuous efforts to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship in the region.

Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) program—a joint initiative funded by the World Bank

MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) across the country. With a total project outlay of Rs. 6062 crore, including a loan of Rs. 3750 crore, the scheme is designed to boost the performance and potential of India's MSME sector.

The workshop aimed to sensitize artisans, and aspiring entrepreneurs about the benefits and opportunities under the RAMP scheme and how they can take advantage of them.

## Bandipora’s Suhail Syed Lone Wins Best Hindi Film Line Producer Award at Mumbai Event

**SRINAGAR:** It was a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir as Suhail Syed Lone from Bandipora and Shabir Ahmad from South Kashmir were honoured with the Golden Jubilee Awards in Mumbai. These awards were pre-

Murad, Rajpal Yadav, Ashoke Pandit, Gajendra Chauhan, Abha Parmar, Arjun, Manoj Pureby, B.N. Tiwari, Ashok R. Dubey, and Gangeshwarilal Shrivastava. Their presence added charm and importance to the occasion.

Among the awardees, Suhail Syed Lone stood out as he received the Best Hindi Film Line Producer Award, marking a significant achievement for the Kashmir region. His contribution to Hindi film production was widely appreciated, and his recognition brought great pride to his hometown of Bandipora. Shabir Ahmad from South Kashmir was also nominated for his work, which itself reflects the growing talent from the Valley being recognized at the national level.

The awards function featured musical performances, emotional tributes, and inspiring speeches. Awards were presented in various categories to recognize the hard work and dedication of individuals in the field of media and entertainment production. The event highlighted the essential role played by production executives—the backbone of the entertainment industry.

This was the first time that individuals from Kashmir received such a prestigious national-level recognition from ACTAPE, and it marks a milestone for the region's creative professionals. The achievements of Suhail Syed Lone and Shabir Ahmad are expected to inspire many more youth from Jammu and Kashmir to pursue careers in film and media production.



sented by the Association of Cine & TV/Ad Production Executives (ACTAPE) during its 50th Golden Jubilee Celebration and 12th Annual Awards Function, held at the ISKCON Auditorium in Juhu on Thursday evening.

The grand ceremony was graced by Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Ramdas Athawale, who attended as the Chief Guest. He appreciated ACTAPE's five-decade-long contribution to uplifting India's film, television, and advertising production sectors.

The event was attended by several prominent film and television personalities, including Raza

## Teachers’ Forum Delegation Meets ZEO Quil Muqam, Raises Key Teachers’ Concerns

**BANDIPORA:** A high-level delegation of the Teachers' Forum from District Bandipora, comprising district and zonal leadership, held a crucial meeting today with the Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) of Quil Muqam at his office. The

action from the authorities to resolve the delays.

The Forum further expressed concern over the misuse of official WhatsApp groups, where non-relevant comments and interference have disrupted communication. They urged that these



meeting aimed to address important educational issues and advocate for the timely resolution of teachers' grievances.

One of the main concerns raised was the posting of teachers from Quil Muqam Zone currently working outside the zone without valid justification. The Forum demanded their immediate repatriation to ensure that the local educational needs are not compromised.

The delegation also highlighted the need for transparent and fair rationalization of teaching staff, stressing that this process must be free from bias to maintain balance and quality in all schools.

Issues related to Travelling Allowance (TA) and pending arrears were also discussed. The leaders pointed out that several teachers are facing financial hardships and urged prompt

platforms be strictly reserved for official and educational content.

The ZEO Quil Muqam gave a patient hearing to all concerns and assured the delegation that all pending matters would be prioritized and addressed appropriately.

Those present in the meeting included Zonal President Bandipora Mr. Riyaz Rasool, Zonal President Quil Muqam Mr. Mohammad Shafi Tantry, Zonal Publicity Incharge Mr. Shaheen Ahmad, District President Mr. Sajjad Ahmad, Vice Zonal President, Zonal President Sumbal, and General Secretary Mr. Anjum Nisar.

The efforts of the Teachers' Forum have been widely appreciated in educational circles, with hopes that such constructive engagements will continue to strengthen the education system in the district.



Editorial



Digital Divide

The launch of the Digital India Common Service Center (DICSC) project marks a crucial step in India's mission to bridge the digital divide, fostering inclusive growth in rural areas. With nearly 4,740 centers to be established nationwide, including a significant focus on districts like Pilibhit and Gorakhpur, this initiative is not only a step toward economic empowerment but also a transformative shift for rural communities toward a digitally inclusive future. Digital access is essential for development, and through high-speed broadband, rural citizens will have access to e-governance, education, telemedicine, and financial services previously out of reach. This connectivity will help rural residents engage more fully with the economy, access crucial healthcare, and gain educational resources. Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) will play a pivotal role, fostering local job opportunities and enabling these communities to sustain and grow economically. Equally significant is the focus on mobile, GPS-enabled service vans that will bring government schemes and essential services to even the most remote areas. This aspect of the project ensures that no community is left behind in the digital transformation, particularly those in difficult-to-reach locations. For places like Pilibhit and Gorakhpur, where 720 and 1,273 centers are being set up respectively, the digital expansion means improved livelihoods and more robust economic participation. The DICSC project, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, is a powerful example of how public policy can drive grassroots development. The project will initially run for six months, with the potential for extension, giving both the government and communities time to assess the project's impact and adapt to ongoing needs. In embracing this digital transformation, India is not only addressing its digital divide but also fostering a generation of digitally literate, economically empowered citizens who can participate in a rapidly evolving global economy.

Pakistan in Bid to Reverse Kashmir's Rising Normalcy



Syed Ata Hasnain

Every right-thinking Indian will commence everything he does today with a prayer on his lips and deep-set anger in his heart. The attack by Pakistan-



sponsored terrorists of The Resistance Front (TRF) on innocent Indian and foreign tourists at Basiran near Pahalgam and the loss of a large number of lives needs the severest condemnation. There has to be a response, of course, although I feel we should allow the government to consider the most appropriate one with the best national and international professional advice.

One of the prime reasons for the attack was the fast-diluting relevance of Pakistan in the Kashmir narrative. Let me explain this with the help of an unpublished draft paragraph of the article that I was writing for this very newspaper just two days ago. The paragraph read as follows: "I recently travelled to J&K's capital city and its suburbs on the banks of the Jhelum, on a quiet weekend. Besides that, I spent some time at an uncharacteristically quiet Line of Control. A calm optimism seemed evident everywhere. Hostility, which was so evident in the

eyes of the population earlier, seemed to be fading. Practiced observers like me can probably feel the change in the air, through the looks people give you and the conversations they make.

None of these alluded to anything negative. Which is why I sense danger, and not without reason. When statistics start to indicate normalcy and minds start to accept this, the point of danger becomes evident. A strange paradox, but true". This article remained unpublished in the light of the terrorist attack. However, it's not difficult to explain the premonition. Pakistan has invested just too much

exactly what Pakistan did not want.

To put India under intense pressure, Pakistan knows that the sometimes-tenuous communal temperature can be incendiary. That is why these terrorists specifically profiled the tourists, ensuring that Hindus would be targeted and inflammatory messages addressing India's Prime Minister would be relayed. Besides this, the current visit of US Vice President J.D. Vance to India reminds one of a similar incident in March 2000. US President Bill Clinton was on a visit to India and was to speak to India's Parliament. The night before that, the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba

internal security situation, coupled with its failed economy hardly affords Pakistan the ability to risk a serious conventional conflagration with India. Therefore, applying rationale, one would surmise smaller acts, a combination of many of these to attempt to achieve something quite similar that they wish to achieve through Pahalgam. It would be less risky too.

However, knowing the Pakistani mind, these irrational acts will continue. That is why it's up to India to ensure that it responds, but only after thinking through. The one thing we definitely need to do is to eschew every Indian becoming a strategist and proffer advice to the government. Remember, we have an elected government in place, unlike that of Pakistan. Such a government looks at the national interest from every angle. It has a set of professionals who will advise, plan and execute. We should have the fullest faith in the political and military leadership and leave it to their sense of proportion and timing. While it is a hugely sentimental moment which has shaken up India's deep-rooted psyche, we cannot afford sentiment alone to rule our judgment.

There are thousands of innocents of all communities, good loyal Indians who are the heart and soul of our nation. We must ensure unity among our people despite the gravest of provocations and this one is definitely not the last of them. The way forward is to ensure that Jammu and Kashmir's progressive normalcy is enabled at any cost. With the terrorist strength small, the flow of intelligence will also be limited. Hence there has to be greater anticipation of potential actions which can upset the applecart in favor of the adversaries. Remember there are other linkages here, and India needs to get the pro-active diplomatic domain on J&K re-activated so that our narratives are the predominant ones.

There should be no dilution in our outreach programmes resulting from the inevitable negativity that an event such as Pahalgam tends to send out. The political environment is not yet vitiated, and a certain maturity is evident all around. We can all understand how difficult it is for those who have suffered as families but the biggest neutralisation of Pakistan's Kashmir strategy will be to make sure it does not regain any of the space that it has lost over the last couple of years. As far as a response to Pahalgam is concerned, we will await the decisions of the government, which knows this best.

The writer, a retired lieutenant-general, is a former GOC of the Srinagar-based 15 ("Chinar") Corps. The article was published by Deccan

When Seeing Your Own Child Becomes a Luxury

PARVAZ AHMAD

They say NICUs are the quietest corners of a hospital—places where only the steady hum of machines, the hushed voices of nurses, and the breathless prayers of parents occupy the air. But in their silence, the loudest stories unfold—ones

He had already watched his wife, Sana, endure eight months of struggle—of swollen feet, daily injections, blood pressure pills, endless hospital visits. She was diabetic and hypertensive, and each day of her pregnancy was a borrowed day. She had developed Bell's palsy in her last trimester. Half

That his only glimpses came through others—paramedics, aides, strangers—offering him secret snapshots for a few rupees?

The first time, he was shown only his son's legs. "That's all you get for fifty rupees," someone muttered casually.

But Imran did not flinch. He just stared at the

But how do you tell a newborn anything? Especially when you're not even allowed to see him?

This wasn't a story of medical negligence. It wasn't about blame or bureaucracy. It was about something deeper—something far more invisible and harder to fix. It was about the heartbreak of modern parenthood in crisis. About rules that are made for the benefit of the neonates, but broke hearts in real life. About a father who was made to feel like a stranger to his own son. About a mother who fought for months only to be separated at the very beginning.

People often speak of maternal pain—the strength of mothers, the courage of childbirth—and rightly so. But there are fathers too. Fathers like Imran who carry their pain in silence, in clenched fists and sleepless nights. Fathers who are expected to stay strong when they are crumbling inside. Fathers who wait behind glass doors, eyes fixed, heart aching.

And in another town, in another small room, there was Sana. Her face still drooped on one side from the palsy, her body still sore from surgery. But her pain was not from the physical wounds. It was the distance. The helplessness. The inability to hold the child she had fought so hard to bring into the world.

She too waited—for the sound of a ringtone, for a text from her husband that would say, "He's better now."

But that message didn't come.

Only the machines kept beeping. The baby kept breathing. And Imran kept waiting.

This is not just a story. This is a mirror—held up to every system that forgets the human behind the patient. To every parent who has stood outside a NICU door, whispering their love through glass.

Ask yourself:

What would you give to hold your child?

What does it mean when seeing your own baby becomes a luxury?

And somewhere tonight, in some corridor, a father still stands—not holding his son, but holding on. For one moment. One heartbeat. One hope.

He's not asking for much. Just a chance to be a father.

— A Story for All Who Wait Behind ICU Doors

— A Story for All Who Wait in Love and Silence

Author is an Assistant Professor of Computer Sciences and can be reached at [hed.parvaz@gmail.com](mailto:hed.parvaz@gmail.com)



no camera can capture, no logbook can record. This is the story of Imran and Sana. It is a story of waiting. Of aching. Of loving in the distance.

Imran stood near the entrance of NICU-A every single day. Always in the same spot. One hand gripping his phone, the other tucked nervously into his pocket. His eyes, fixed unblinkingly at the heavy glass doors and his ears focused on the loudspeaker announcements, told a story of sleepless nights and relentless hope. His child—his firstborn—had come into this world not with cries, but with silence. Born too soon. Too frail. A life dependent on tubes and ventilators, nestled inside a crib of blinking lights and plastic walls.

"He's not stable. He's on full ventilator support," they had said.

Imran didn't ask questions. He didn't argue policy. He only nodded and waited.

What choice did he have?

her face had gone stiff. Even eating and smiling had become labors of love. But she carried on—for the child, for the future.

And then, when the moment of birth came, it wasn't relief that followed. It was another round of fear. Her baby was taken away to the NICU almost instantly—barely breathing, his chest struggling under the strain of life.

While the child was rushed to one hospital, Sana remained 60 kilometers away, recovering from her surgery, the stitches across her belly still raw. She lay in a modest bed, clutching her phone like a lifeline, waiting for updates from Imran. Every ring of the phone jolted her heart. Every silence between them hurt more than the scar she bore.

And Imran—what could he say to her?

That he hadn't even seen their child properly?

That he hadn't been allowed to enter the NICU even once?

image as if it was a picture from God, his breath catching at the sight of two tiny legs wrapped in sterile white. He kept that photo tucked as a mobile wallpaper like a sacred relic. Because when you have not held your child, have not whispered to him, have not kissed his skin—pixels become priceless.

And so, he waited.

For twenty-three days and twenty-three nights.

He waited through thunderstorms and restless nights, through sunrises that didn't warm him and sunsets that felt like endings. He watched other parents come and go. Some left smiling. Some left in silence. Some left wrapping their lifeless kids inside blankets. And every night, Imran kept waiting in the waiting area of the NICU-A and texted Sana:

"No change today. He's still on support. But he's fighting."

And she would reply, "Tell him I'm waiting too."



# CS launches ‘Info Connect’ – a monthly chronicle of J&K’s progress

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant stride towards enhancing government-public communication, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today unveiled the first edition of ‘Info Connect’, a monthly magazine published by the Directorate of Information & Public Relations (DIPR). The release ceremony was held in the presence of Commissioner Secretary, Information & CAD, M. Raju, and Director, Information & PR, Nitish Rajora. ‘Info Connect’ aims to present a comprehensive account of the developmental milestones, policy initiatives, and noteworthy events shaping the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Designed as a rich repository of authentic information, the magazine offers citizens a window into the evolving socio-economic landscape of the region. Applauding the initiative, the Chief Secretary hailed the publication as a much-needed platform for disseminating accurate and timely information about the UT. He emphasized that the magazine should not

only report government activities but also spotlight key sectors such as tourism, trade, industry, infrastructure, and innovation. Stressing the importance of regular and consistent outreach, the Chief Secretary advised that the magazine become a permanent feature of DIPR’s public communication strategy. He noted that such efforts bridge the gap between the administration and the people, creating a dependable channel to inform citizens about various schemes, services, and ongoing projects that affect their daily lives. Commissioner Secretary M. Raju

commended the DIPR team for the timely and well-curated publication, calling it a “powerful tool to counter misinformation and portray the true picture of development in the region.” He encouraged the department to ensure continuous improvement in content quality and prompt dissemination to maximize public awareness and impact. Sharing insights into the magazine’s layout and editorial vision, Director Information & PR, Nitish Rajora, highlighted the magazine’s role in integrating traditional and modern outreach channels to keep citizens informed and engaged. He reiterated the Department’s commitment to using every available platform to build trust and transparency between the government and the public. The launch of ‘Info Connect’ marks a new chapter in the government’s mission to cultivate an informed and participatory citizenry, reinforcing the values of transparency, inclusivity, and good governance in Jammu & Kashmir.



# Delegations call on Dy CM, raise their issues, concerns

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today met various delegations including scores of individuals at Civil Secretariat here and took stock of their issues and concerns. The delegations included vocational instructors from Skill Development Department, JKI, ITI, Mechanical Engineering Association, District Ganderbal Contractors’ Association, Sericulture department besides

several individuals who called on the Deputy Chief Minister and sought prompt redressal

to road connectivity, irregular water supply, enhanced electricity bills, pending

allotment of sufficient funds for payment of wages.

The deputations brought several issues before the Deputy Chief Minister concerning their respective areas and sought timely redressal of the same.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while interacting with the delegations, assured them that all their genuine issues and problems will be looked into for redressal at the earliest.



of their issues and concerns. The issues mainly pertained

payments, regularisation of daily wagers/ contractual staff and

## Training programme on e-Office held at Kulgam

**KULGAM:** To enhance digital governance and streamline official functioning, District Administration Kulgam today organized a comprehensive training programme on the e-Office system for government employees at the District Headquarters, here. The training session, held under the

supervision of ADDC Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan, aimed at familiarizing employees with the features and functionalities of the e-Office platform to ensure efficient, transparent and paperless working in government offices. During the session, master trainers were also nominated who will further facilitate

training at various departmental levels and provide handholding support for effective implementation of the system. District Informatics Officer NIC, Expert from IT department civil Secretariat, Shabeer Ahmad were also present during the training session.

## Div Com Kashmir inspects operational preparedness of STP Noorbagh

**SRINAGAR:** In connection with the completion of Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme of Greater Srinagar under JnNURM, Divisional Commissioner



(Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Monday conducted an on-site inspection of the 60 MLD

Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Noorbagh.

He inspected the operational readiness of the mega project which is expected to significantly improve drainage for nearly one-third of Srinagar city. Emphasizing the project’s critical role in urban sanitation, he instructed the Zonal Manager of NBCC to accelerate all pending mechanical and electrical works to ensure the plant becomes functional by the end of May.

On the occasion, Div Com also interacted with the local residents and listened to their concerns regarding persistent sewer and storm water issues. He assured them that efforts were being intensified to complete the mega project.

Div Com was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, officers of Revenue and UEED departments during the visit.

## Transport Commissioner interacts with transporter delegations

**SRINAGAR:** Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, today interacted with various delegations of transporters to listen to their grievances and demands.

During his visit to Transport Bhawan, Srinagar, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, reviewed the newly constructed building of Transport Commissioner’s Office. He instructed the Executive Engineer of Roads and Buildings Department to complete the remaining construction work within next 20 days.

He also reviewed the delivery of online services and directed the concerned officials to ensure 100% adherence to Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) timelines. This initiative aims to minimise public footfall in government offices by promoting efficient online service delivery. Additionally, the Commissioner inspected the functioning of the Regional Transport Office (RTO), Srinagar. He emphasised the need to streamline operations and improve the quality of services being provided to the public.

## Distt admin Srinagar organizes training session under PMAY-U 2.0 survey

**SRINAGAR:** On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, District Administration Srinagar today organized training sessions for smooth conduct of survey under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U 2.0) at S P College to equip field staff with the necessary knowledge and skills for the survey to identify houseless families in the district.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Srinagar, Rifat Aftab, who is also the District Nodal

Officer PMAY 2.0, presided over the Training session and provided an overview of the Survey to be conducted under the scheme.

She emphasized that the scheme aims to provide all-weather pucca houses to all eligible urban households across the district with the vision of ‘Housing for All’.

She added that 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 survey

in the district.

During the session, District Statistics and Evaluation Officer (DSEO) discussed technical aspects of the PMAY 2.0 mobile application, which shall be used for surveys to capture the important aspects under the scheme.

Detailed training sessions on the use of the application were demonstrated by the master trainers, ensuring that participants understood its operations for conducting efficient and accurate field surveys.

## Distt admin Budgam accords warm farewell to outgoing GM DIC

**BUDGAM:** District Administration Budgam today organized a farewell function for the outgoing GM DIC Waseem Raja on his transfer from District Budgam.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo; ADDC, ADC, ACR, CPO, Executive Engineers, senior district officers and other officials were also present. Speaking on the occasion, DC said, “Outgoing GM DIC, Waseem Raja, served the district with great zeal and sincerity, excelling not only in his departmental responsibilities but also in the additional assignments entrusted to him by the District Administration, especially during the JK Assembly elections of 2024.” He added that all the assignments given to the officer were completed sincerely and well in time.

DC further said the workmanship & dedication of the officer will be missed in the district. All the officers present in the function extended their best wishes to Waseem Raja for his future assignments. District administration wished him the best for his future assignments.

Waseem Raja the outgoing GM DIC Budgam thanked the District Administration for their active support and cooperation during his tenure. He also expressed his gratitude to the people of Budgam for their love and affection.

## Awareness programme on NALSA, LSUC held at Budgam

**BUDGAM:** In order to educate children about their rights and responsibilities, promoting legal literacy and empowering them for their rights, Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC) Budgam today organized a legal awareness program for children at PALAASH Child Care Institution (Boys), Budina Budgam.

The event was held under the supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Budgam and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam and Ubaid-ul-Khazir, District Social Welfare Officer Budgam.

In her presidential address, Secretary DLSA Budgam highlighted that this program provided a vital platform for

children to learn about their rights, access to justice, and the role of legal services in protecting their interests. She emphasized that the initiative is expected to



have a positive impact on the lives of these children, enabling them to assert their rights and make informed decisions about

their future. Chief LADC, Budgam, Latief Ahmad Khan emphasized the pivotal role of the NALSA scheme 2024 in creating child friendly legal services available to

equipping children with the knowledge of their legal and constitutional rights.

Children of Palaash enthusiastically and actively participated in the programme.

The event also saw active participation from members of the Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC), superintendent and staff members of PALAASH Budina Budgam.

The event underscores the commitment of J&K Legal Services Authority and DLSA Budgam towards nurturing a legally aware and empowered younger generation, and their efforts align with the mission to provide accessible justice and support to vulnerable sections of society including children.

## DC Shopian reviews health sector, stresses improving services



**SHOPIAN:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a meeting of officers in order to review the health care sector of the district.

Various health services including construction of new government accommodations for health centers, maternal and child health, dialysis, tele-radiology and diagnostic services, human resources and implementation of national health programs, monitoring and regulation of psychotropic drugs were reviewed in the meeting along with analysis of health indicators.

Progress and achievements of District Hospital, CHCs, PHCs and other centres were presented for deliberation and a way out discussed for further improvement of healthcare across the district.

DC asked for improving parameters spanning across the wide spectrum of healthcare services, government welfare schemes and other indicators.

The need to strengthen the Jan Aushdi & Prescription Audits and PMJAY performance was stressed also on the occasion along with Blood bank and emergency services.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR, SDM, CMO, DNO Ayush, DIO, DSEO, MS DH, BMOs, Asst. Drug Controller, Drug Inspectors and other concerned officials.

## SHEW Mission Shakti Ganderbal organizes awareness programme at Poshan project Kangan

**GANDERBAL:** Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Mission Shakti Ganderbal today organized an awareness cum felicitation programme focused on the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative and other government schemes for empowerment of women at Poshan Project Kangan.

The events aimed to raise awareness about the importance of girls’ education and the role it plays in fostering gender equality in the community.

On the occasion, awareness was raised on key government initiatives such as the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme, which focuses on the protection, education, and participation of girls,

along with other vital programs like Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana, Tejaswini scheme Beti Amol hai scheme, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and other women related schemes under different departments.

These initiatives provide financial support, health benefits and incentives for girls’ education,

creating a robust foundation for their future success.

Experts spoke about the transformative power of education and the importance of breaking down societal barriers that limit girls’ opportunities.

During the event, Badhaye kits were distributed among 30 nursing mothers of baby girls of Poshan Project Kangan.

## Div Com reviews development plan for augmentation of civic amenities en-route Jammu Division

**JAMMU:** Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting to review the development plan for augmentation of civic amenities

Administrations and concerned Heads of departments for floating the tenders of the works at the earliest.

The district wise works



and renovation works for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025 enroute Jammu division.

The meeting attended by MD JPDCI, Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners of Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban and officials from Tourism, RDD, PWD, Health and Jal Shakti discussed the execution of the identified works as per the approved works plan.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the District

approved included repair, renovation and augmentation of basic amenities such as power, water, Toilet facilities at the various lodgement centres in the districts en route the annual holy pilgrimage.

The Divisional Commissioner directed MD JPDCI to start work for providing power supply to the lodgement centres and Yatra camps at Lakhanpur Kathua, Bhagwati Nagar Jammu and in Chanderkote Ramban and

illumination works. He further asked the Commissioner JMC and Deputy Commissioner Jammu to start the process for tenders of works at Yatra camp Bhagwati Nagar Jammu.

The officials of RDD and JMC apprised the Divisional Commissioner about the tenders to be floated for mobile toilets, sanitation works and hiring manpower.

The health department was asked to start the stocking of medical supplies and readiness of Ambulances for the holy pilgrimage at Yatra camps and lodgement centres.

The PWD was asked to look after the works of installation of waterproof hangers, temporary sheds at Yatra camp Bhagwati Nagar.

The Deputy Commissioners were asked to monitor the progress of works for its quality execution and timely completion.

## Speaker visits Assembly Complex Srinagar



**SRINAGAR:** Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today visited the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to review the functioning of various offices.

During his visit, the Speaker inspected several sections within the complex and interacted with the staff.

While reviewing functioning of offices, the Speaker directed the employees to maintain highest level of professionalism and regular attendance, besides ensuring prompt and efficient disposal of files.

Emphasizing the importance of smooth office functioning in Srinagar, the Speaker conducted a detailed review of essential facilities, including availability of potable drinking water and electricity.

He also assessed the status of transfer of official records from Jammu, where a month long Budget session was conducted recently.

He urged the officials to ensure timely disposal of files besides effective functioning of their respective departments.

The Speaker was accompanied by Additional Secretary Legislative Assembly, Bilal Ahmad Bhat and senior officers of Legislative Assembly including Qazi Mushtaq Ahmad, Shabir Ahmad Wani, Mohammad Jamaludin and Fayaz Ahmad Joo.

## India, Japan Pledge Deeper Defence Ties, Unite Against Terrorism

**New Delhi:** In a firm reaffirmation of their growing strategic ties, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday held a bilateral meeting with Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. The meeting was marked by a strong condemnation of terrorism and a call for unified global action against state-sponsored and cross-border terrorism.

Referring to Pakistan’s continued support for terrorism, Rajnath Singh said such state-sponsored acts destabilise regional peace and security. He emphasised the urgent need for a collective international response to tackle the threat of terrorism and its sponsors.

The Japanese Defence Minister offered full support to India in the wake of the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, and expressed deep condolences for the loss of lives.

The two leaders reviewed the progress of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, focusing on strengthening defence and security cooperation. They discussed enhancing the scope and complexity of joint defence exercises and expanding maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Defence Minister Singh outlined opportunities for defence industrial collaboration, particularly in areas such as tank engines, aero engines, and Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO). He also highlighted India’s readiness to cooperate with Japan in automation, artificial intelligence, and other niche domains.

The two Ministers also agreed to take forward regional cooperation in emerging areas like cyber security and outer space, underlining the future-

oriented nature of the bilateral defence partnership.

Earlier in the day, Minister



Nakatani paid tributes at the National War Memorial and was accorded a ceremonial Tri-Services Guard of Honour. The visit marks a continuation of high-level engagements that have gained momentum since 2014, when the India-Japan partnership was elevated to the level of Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

The dialogue concluded with both sides expressing a strong commitment to bolster defence ties, ensure regional stability, and collaborate in building resilient defence ecosystems.



PART-I

# Snow Flames: A Metaphysical and Existential Cartography of Majrooh Rashid’s Poetic Vision



SHABEER AHMAD LONE

“Poetry, as Majrooh Rashid’s verse exemplifies, is not ornament but ontology-a revelation of the unseen, echoing Wallace Stevens’ “priest of the invisible” and Ibn Arabi’s view of mystical speech as inherently poetic. It is where the soul dwells, as Heidegger puts it, and where silence speaks, as Rumi and Dickinson suggest. Rashid’s metaphors-snow and flame-echo Rilke’s loneliness, Shahid’s longing, and Eliot’s quest for transcendence beyond personality. In his lines, we witness Frost’s union of thought and feeling, Adunis’s poetic liberation, and Nietzsche’s art against despair. His poetry is at once veiled and luminous-a metaphysical and existential cartography of being.”

In every age, the finest poetry does not merely mirror the world; it reshapes the soul’s perception of existence itself, unveiling hidden harmonies between suffering and splendor, mortality, transcendence and pathways to transformative experience and awakening. The interplay between stylistic nuances, thematic depth and richness, and multifaceted socio-cultural context-varying traditions, histories and worldviews underscores the enduring power of poetry to reflect and transform the human consciousness.

In Prof. Majrooh Rashid’s “Snow Flames”-poetic collection and his later corpus, we find such a rare alchemy: a poetic vision where the fleeting touch of snow and the restless hunger of flame conspire to dramatize the deepest metaphysical tensions of being and becoming with existential reflection.

A luminous first edition (2025) of nearly 270 poems across 288 pages, exquisitely published by Ink Links Publishing House, Pampore, with an evocative cover design by Rouf Qayasi. Enriched by Prof. Neerja Mattoo’s insightful foreword and profound reflections by scholars Prof. Bina Biswas and Prof. Santosh Bakaya, this timeless volume radiates poetic and intellectual brilliance with penetration as the key coupled with economy.

Prof.Majrooh Rashid’s work rises beyond the confines of time and geography, resonating with the ancient wisdom of Rumi’s dance between annihilation and subsistence, with Hafiz’s sweet intoxication in the mystery of being, with Iqbal’s call to creative selfhood, and with the existential courage of Camus and Heidegger. Rashid’s verse transforms memory into revelation, pain into purification, and loss into luminous becoming, thereby inscribing himself into the perennial conversation of the spirit across civilizations. His poetry does not merely invite us to read-it demands that we awaken: to the miracle of impermanence, to the radiance that lies concealed within fragility, and to the soul’s indomitable yearning to turn every fall into flight. In an increasingly distracted world, Rashid reorients our attention to the essential: the mystery that trembles between the melting snowflake and the leaping flame, between silence and song, between dust and divinity.

In the subtle undercurrents of “Snow Flames”, one senses how Majrooh Rashid masterfully reconciles the paradox of snow and flames, revealing profound emotional, philosophical, and existential forces that shape the human journey/condition through poetic realities. Majrooh Rashid’s “Snow Flames” and his later poetic corpus constitute a luminous exploration of the metaphysical tension at the heart of existence-the ceaseless dance between fragility and grandeur, loss and renewal, despair and transcendence. Drawing deeply from classical and modern traditions-Kashmiri, Urdu, Persian, Arabic, English, and existential European thought-M. Rashid crafts a vision that is simultaneously rooted in personal memory and cosmic yearning.

“Snow Flames” masterfully blends Modernist and Postmodernist sensibilities, juxtaposing existential despair with the celebration of paradox. It channels Modernism’s search for meaning amid fragmentation, capturing the tension between suffering and transcendence. Simultaneously, it embraces Postmodernist fluidity, challenging fixed narratives and highlighting the multiplicity of truths. Rashid’s poem invites readers into a world where beauty and pain, life and death coexist as inseparable forces, urging a redefinition of existence as a dynamic, ever-evolving journey. In this synthesis, “Snow Flames” transcends traditional boundaries, offering a timeless reflection on the complexities of being.

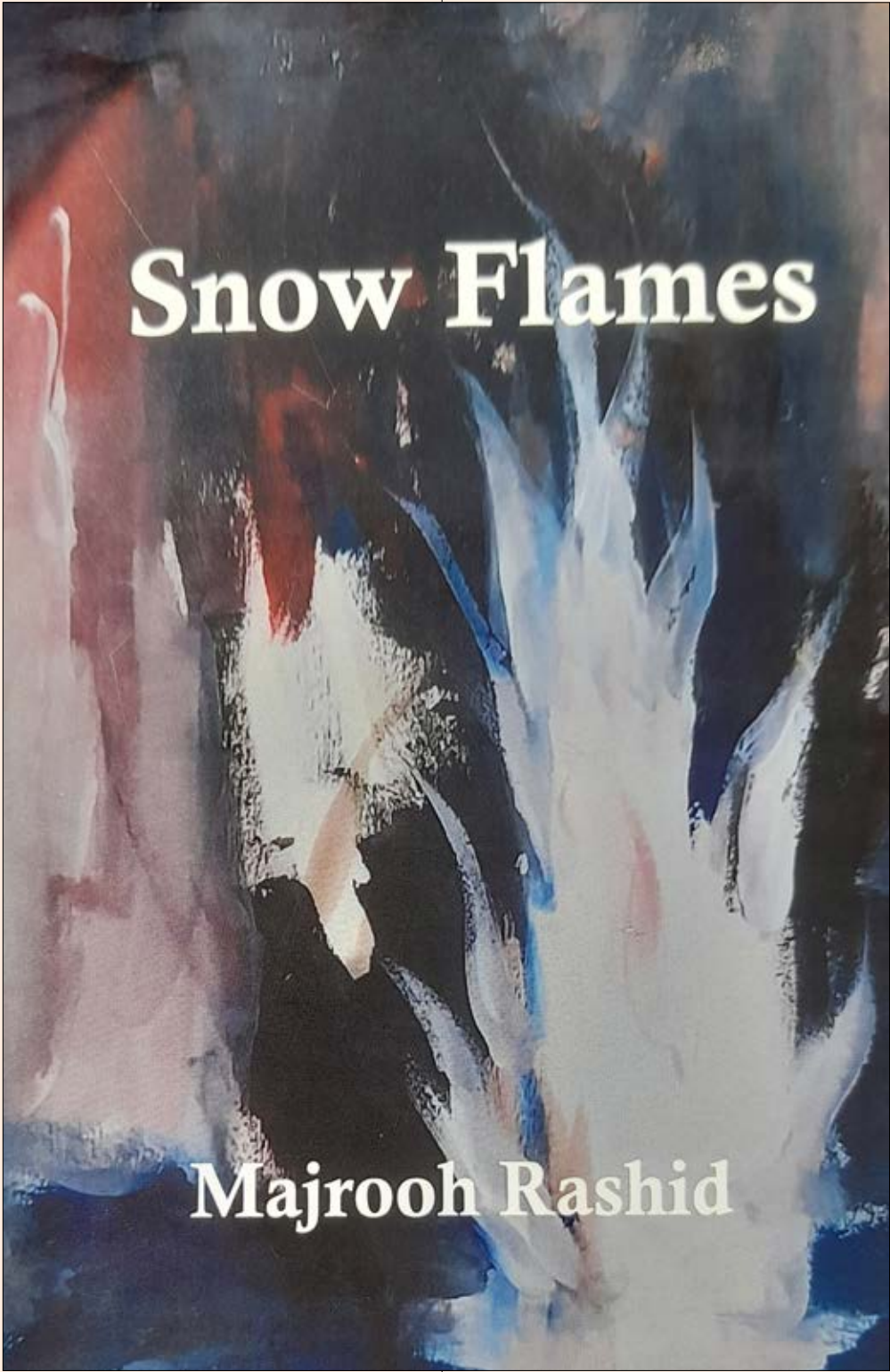
Engaging resonances with Rumi’s mystical dialectics, Iqbal’s philosophy of selfhood, Hafiz’s celebration of spiritual intoxication, Khayyam’s elegies of impermanence, Heidegger’s ontology of being-toward-death, Camus’ revolt against absurdity, Eliot’s religious-existential landscapes, Schuon’s metaphysical timelessness, Whitman’s democratic mysticism, and Darwish and Milosz’s witness to fragility and endurance,Majrooh Rashid’s work elevates itself into the perennial dialogue of soul with existence. This humble attempt traces the deep structures of Majrooh Rashid’s poetics, articulating

how snow and flame emerge as twin symbols of the soul’s passage through time, suffering, beauty, and illumination.

T.S. Eliot’s The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock’s existential paralysis mirrors the frozen intensity of “Snow Flames”, where inner fragmentation and societal disconnection blaze within a cold, unyielding world.” Snow Flames” mirrors the Dionysian and Apollonian dichotomy, fusing order and chaos to reveal the transformative beauty at the heart of existence.

Magee’s “High Flight” and M. Rashid’s Snow Flames both capture the soul’s ascent, transcending the tempo-

ra to touch the eternal in fleeting moments of grace. aflame in my veins, desirous of touching the blue sky, soaked and was caught up in the shower rained down from your cloudy mind. My poems , passions ashes grew restless for being scattered into the lake of life for attaining the ultimate peace on the lakebed.



ral to touch the eternal in fleeting moments of grace.

His poetry becomes a cartography of existential navigation. Snow recalls the silence that pervades Arnold’s Dover Beach, where “ignorant armies clash by night” against a backdrop of cosmic indifference, yet M.Rashid refuses to yield to despair. Flame rises as a protest, much like Camus’ “invincible summer” that resides within the depths of winter. In this creative tension, M.Rashid echoes the Sufi tradition where “fire and light are but veils on the face of the One,” as Hafiz sings. Snow may melt; flame may consume; yet both point to a reality beyond their transient forms-the eternal Logos to which Eliot alludes when he writes, “the fire and the rose are one.”

Transformative poetic reflection through serendipitous selections

The poem “My Poems” distills the soul’s journey from fervent creative fire to serene dissolution. Through the alchemy of elemental symbols-fire ignited by passion, water poured from a “cloudy mind,” and the ashes of poetic longing scattered into the “lake of life”-it evokes the timeless transformation of self and art. It speaks to a universal truth: poetry, born of intensity, finds its ultimate peace in surrender. Profoundly resonating with global poetic traditions, My Poems captures the elemental transformation of self-fire into ash, passion into peace-mirroring Sufi annihilation (fana), Romantic transcendence, Zen stillness, and Bhakti surrender. The poet dissolves the self into the lake of life, echoing the timeless human yearning for unity, stillness, and ultimate truth.

My Poems

I was a fire, but by the eternal ardour

the unseen, and how poetry itself is the dancer, disappearing into the eternal rhythm it invokes.

Lyrical Limits

The sun too, might have woken up early in the morning , for cherishing the feast of the swinging movements



Prof. Majrooh Rashid’s “Snow Flames” and later works thus emerge not only as a chronicle of individual sensibility but as a profound cartography of the human condition itself-its agonies, aspirations, bewilderments, and triumphs. In weaving the delicate textures of snow with the consuming urgency of flame, he joins that timeless fellowship of souls-Darwish singing amid ruins, Milosz memorializing imperilled beauty, Whitman embracing the cosmos within a blade of grass, Eliot plumbing the burnt-out ends of modern days.

of your dance and might be like me, passing through the by lane to catch a glance of your lyrical arms, Shimmering with lush subtle rhythm, attuned to the eternal song, resonating in the back drop assimilating into my emptiness, pouring out my pores. The blue sky outside, proud of its expanse, is envying your limits.

“The Gospel of Time” distills the metaphysical weight of existence into an elegant, timeless meditation on transience. The poem’s portrayal of time as a “viewless chariot” quietly dismantles illusions of permanence, evoking both the existential angst of modernist poetry and the mystical awareness of impermanence found in Eastern traditions. Echoing echoes of Eliot’s Four Quartets and the Sufi concept of fanaa, it offers a lucid, lyrical passage through memory, oblivion, and the soul’s fading scent-ultimately leaving us with a silence more articulate than speech.

TO BE CONTINUED...



# Continued From P1...

## MHA Asks States

Under the Indus Water Treaty, the Western Rivers—Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab—are allocated to Pakistan, while the Eastern Rivers—Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej—are allocated to India. However, India retains limited rights over the Western Rivers, including usage for domestic, non-consumptive, agricultural, and hydroelectric purposes under strict regulations. The April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam was linked to Pakistan-backed terrorist groups, bringing bilateral relations between India and Pakistan to a boiling point. India has downgraded diplomatic ties, suspended trade activities, closed border gates and banned entry of Pakistani vessels into the sea waters. Pakistanis in India were deported. Since April 22, Pakistan troops have violated LoC ceasefire in J&K and fired small arms for 10 consecutive nights which has further escalated tensions between the two nations.

## India suspends

be carried out at the Kishanganga hydroelectric project on the Jhelum River. The Kishanganga project has been at the centre of long-standing disputes between the two countries. India's recent actions signal a policy shift towards using its full entitlement of waters under the treaty without the usual bilateral engagement. Beyond the immediate reservoir activities, India has expedited work on multiple hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir, including Pakal Dul, Kiru, Kwar and Ratle. These projects are expected to add over 3,000 megawatts of capacity by 2027-28. The government described the current steps as part of a broader reassessment of India's approach to water-sharing with Pakistan, prioritising national interests and security concerns over treaty obligations.

## Defence Secretary

including Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Rajouri, Mendhar, Nowshera, Sunderbani and Akhnoor. On Saturday, the Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi spoke with the Prime Minister on the situation in the northern Arabian Sea. So far, India has taken a series of diplomatic measures against Pakistan, including the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) and visa services for Pakistan nationals. Additionally, the Integrated Check Post at Attari has been closed. The Indian government also declared the Defence, Naval, and Air Advisors in the Pakistani High Commission as persona non grata. Lastly, the total diplomatic staff strength at both High Commissions has been reduced from 55 to 30, signalling a significant scaling down of bilateral engagement.

## CM Omar Abdullah

review meeting at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar, marking the formal resumption of official work by Ministers and Administrative Secretaries in the summer capital Srinagar. Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakeena Itoo, Javed Ahmed Rana, Javed Ahmed Dar and Satish Sharma attended the meeting. Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to HCM Dheeraj Gupta, all administrative secretaries, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir and other senior officers attended the meeting. The Chief Minister emphasized the need for start of development activities, implementation of budget announcements and efficient governance amid current challenges. "After six months, we are back to Srinagar Civil Secretariat office. The environment in which we were hoping the offices would open, expecting normal business did not happen. It has been seen that if situation remains conducive and peaceful, it improves functioning of the government," CM said. "We need now to focus on things that are under our control and work to ease the difficulties faced by common people," the Chief Minister said in his opening address. He directed officers to ensure that their efforts during this working season go beyond administrative offices. "We do not have to restrict our working to the Civil Secretariat as was the case during budget session. Now is the good opportunity to see implementation of projects on the ground," he stated. He called upon all departments to concentrate on delivery and accountability. "Let's focus on the deliverables. So that six months from now, when we have to move to Jammu, we can actually sit down with a list of all the positive developments and changes that in spite of the circumstances, we were able to make here," the Chief Minister observed. Referring to the budget passed in the Legislative Assembly this year in March, CM Omar Abdullah said that while opinions may differ, the government's obligation lies in its execution. "But now it is our duty, that the budget that the assembly passed, the budget that this government brought to the assembly and got it approved, we will implement the budget decisions and review meetings shall be held with concerned departments and agencies," he remarked. He underscored the importance of utilizing the budgetary allocations and implementing District Capex plan on the ground. "Because this is the works season, he said, noting the brief window available for developmental works, particularly in the winter zone. The Chief Minister informed that a detailed review would be held with the Chief Secretary, Finance Secretary and departments. "Where there would be obstacles, we will take the necessary decisions to remove those hurdles," he said, urging development departments – including Power, R&B, PHE, Health, and Social Welfare – to accelerate their pace of work. Touching on the broader national support for J&K's development, CM Omar shared details of his recent meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that the highest level in government of India wants to see that in no way should Pahalgam attack derail the process of governance and development

in Jammu and Kashmir. "That is our responsibility which we will have to take care of," he stated. Acknowledging the adverse impact of recent events on the tourism sector, the Chief Minister called for a collective effort to ensure a smooth Amarnath Yatra without any inconvenience to the pilgrims. He emphasized that the civil administration has its own responsibilities which we will have to fulfill at any cost. On the much-anticipated Rail-to-Kashmir project, the Chief Minister expressed hope that the inauguration—originally scheduled for April 19 but postponed due to inclement weather—would happen soon. "The sooner we inaugurate the bridge and the train, the sooner the rumours will end and the rail will benefit us," he said. Reaffirming his commitment to governance, he said, "What we manage to control are the areas of governance that are directly our responsibility. And therein lies the role of all of us sitting in this room... The people have put us here to work together to deliver on their expectations." He concluded with a call for unity and purpose, "I am here only because I want to deliver something for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. That is my only aim, that is the aim of my colleagues. And I'm sure in that, your aim is the same as well." Earlier, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo welcomed the Chief Minister and members of the Council of Ministers at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar and said that all arrangements are in place for smooth functioning of offices at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

## CM Omar, top

the next six months would be "action, accountability, and ensuring that every individual benefits from good governance and development." He urged officers to adopt a results-driven approach and said the government would redouble efforts to address public grievances and push forward developmental initiatives across the Valley. Chairing a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat Srinagar to mark the resumption of the annual office shift to the summer capital, Abdullah emphasized that governance should not remain confined to administrative buildings but be felt tangibly on the ground

## LG conducts on-

identified works for the convenience of pilgrims. The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO, Amarnathji Shrine Board; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar and other senior officials.

## CJI BR Gavai

remind your lordship (about the retirement)," the law officer added. "No! I am looking forward to it," the CJI responded. The CJI categorically said the Centre's affidavit was exhaustive and it has dealt with most of the issues regarding the concerns expressed on the earlier date. The CJI said some figures referred to by the Centre and disputed by the other side may have to be dealt with and the case will have to be heard on any reasonably early date. CJI Khanna, however, said it would not be possible before the bench presided over by him in view of time constraints and posted the pleas for further hearing on May 15 before a bench headed by Justice Gavai, the CJI designate. Earlier on April 17, the Centre assured the top court that it would neither denotify waqf properties, including "waqf by user", nor make any appointments to the central waqf council and boards till May 5. The assurance of the Centre came when the bench was informed that the waqf law was passed by Parliament with "due deliberations" and it should not be stayed without hearing the government. The Centre also strongly opposed the apex court's proposal to pass an interim order against the denotification of waqf properties, including "waqf by user", aside from staying a provision allowing the inclusion of non-Muslims in the central waqf councils and boards. Later on April 25, the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs filed a preliminary 1,332-page affidavit defending the amended Waqf Act of 2025 and opposed any "blanket stay" by the court on a "law having presumption of constitutionality passed by Parliament". The Centre urged the top court to dismiss the pleas challenging the validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, pointing out a "mischievous false narrative" surrounding certain provisions. "While this court would examine these challenges when the cases are heard, a blanket stay (or a partial stay) without being aware of the adverse consequences of such an order in a generality of cases (even on members of the Muslim community itself) were the petitions to be unsuccessful, would be uncalled for, especially in the context of the presumption of validity of such laws," the affidavit said. The Centre urged the bench not to stay the law's provisions and claimed a "shocking increase" of 116 per cent in the waqf properties since 2013. It also opposed the arguments over the necessary registration of "waqf by user" properties till April 8, saying if the provision was interfered with by an interim order, it would amount to "creation of legislative regime by a judicial order". The affidavit rebutted the submissions that Muslims might be in the minority in the Central Waqf Council and state Waqf Boards due to the change in the law. Justifying a provision on "waqf by user" properties, it said any interference would create a "legislative regime by a judicial order". Waqf by user refers to a practice where a property is recognised as a religious or charitable endowment (waqf) based on its long-term, uninterrupted use for such purposes, even if there isn't a formal and written declaration of waqf by the owner. During an earlier hearing, the bench proposed

to stay certain key provisions of the Act, including the power to denotify properties declared as waqf by courts and the inclusion of non-Muslims in central waqf council and boards. The bench decided to hear only five of the total number of pleas before it and titled the case: "In Re: Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025". The Centre notified the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 last month after it got President Droupadi Murmu's assent on April 5. The Bill was cleared by the Lok Sabha with the support of 288 members while 232 MPs were against it. The Rajya Sabha saw 128 members voting in its favour and 95 against it.

## Cabinet finalises

amendments in the business Rules and sent it to Raj Bhavan for approval. The proposal was returned by Raj Bhavan, with queries and clarifications. The LG's secretariat found that some of the cabinet recommendations were contrary to the Reorganisation Act-2019, which explicitly states that LG shall act in his discretion in matters of All India Services, Anti-Corruption Bureau and all other subjects beyond the jurisdiction of J&K Legislative Assembly. Meanwhile, NC spokesman and MLA Tanvir Sadiq said the cabinet has finalised its response and it will be sent to Raj Bhavan today. "Some queries were raised by Raj Bhavan. Today, the cabinet met under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and prepared its response," he said. As per section 55 of J&K Reorganisation Act, the LG shall make business rules on the advice of the council of ministers for the allocation of business to the ministers; and for the more convenient transaction of business with the ministers including the procedure to be adopted in case of a difference of opinion between the Lieutenant Governor and the council of ministers or a minister

## People demand

allowed to go unpunished. "The JKNC expresses deep sorrow and strong condemnation over the alleged rape and eventual death of a nomad woman from Reasi. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her family in this moment of profound loss," JKNC wrote on X. NC General Secretary & MLA Khanyar, Ali Mohammed Sagar, Member of Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi and MLA Kangan Mian Mehar Ali have also expressed deep anguish over the incident and extended their solidarity with the bereaved family. "This tragic incident is a grim reminder of the growing threat of violence against women. Such acts are an affront to our collective conscience and cannot be allowed to go unpunished," reads the post. Mian Mehar Ali, MLA Kangan in a post demanded fast track investigation into the incident and exemplary punishment to the perpetrators. "A Bakerval girl has been brutally assaulted and raped, leading to her death, by two men in Nishat area of Srinagar. I demand fast track investigation into the incident and exemplary punishment to the perpetrators," Mehar Ali wrote. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti in a post expressed shock over the incident. "Deeply shocked and heartbroken by the alleged rape and tragic death of a tribal woman in Nishat. Reports suggest she suffered brutal injuries and succumbed en route to the hospital. The police have arrested the accused, who were reportedly intoxicated during the crime. Substance abuse, particularly alcohol and drugs, is devastating our youth and fueling horrific crimes like rape and murder. This tragedy reflects a broader societal crisis. My heartfelt condolences to the victim's family. I hope the perpetrators face the full force of the law," Mehbooba wrote. MLA Handwara and Peoples Conference (PC) Chairman, Sajad Gani Lone said that the culprits deserve stringent punishment and demanded a fast-track trial. "A barbaric crime against a tribal woman. A tribal woman was sexually assaulted and murdered in the Nishat area. The culprits deserve stringent punishment and a fast-track trial," Sajad Lone wrote. Apni Party President, Syed Altaf Bukhari in a post, said that those involved in this heinous crime must be brought to justice. "The tragic incident in Nishat, where a nomadic woman originally from Reasi was brutally assaulted and murdered by a group of intoxicated individuals, is horrifying and deeply shameful. Those involved in this heinous crime must be brought to justice. My heartfelt condolences go out to the victim's family. No words of solace can truly ease the pain they must be experiencing at this time," Bukhari wrote. PDP leader, Iltija Mufti demanded that the culprits must be brought to task for this blood curdling crime. "A tribal woman - mother to two sons while grazing her goats is tied to a tree and raped by drunk men. Her family finds her mercilessly beaten. She's rushed to a hospital where not a single doctor is present to attend to the grievously injured victim battling for her life. The culprits must be brought to task for this blood curdling crime," Iltija wrote

## Nomadic mother

"The culprits should be hanged till death," she, along with her family and relatives, demanded. Narrating the moments before the incident the daughter of the victim said that her mother was serving tea to them. "Hardly we knew that our mother was serving the last tea to us." In the meantime, the body was shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar for legal medico formalities and was handed over to the family for last rites this morning. The family reached Dard Woodee, Mammer area of Kangan to bid a tearful farewell to the victim. The brutal killing of a nomadic woman after being sexually assaulted by four persons in Nishat area of Srinagar on Sunday, has left a scar for Reasi family, who questioned the 'safe haven' for a woman folk in the Valley. The family has been visiting Kashmir every year for the last more than a decade to graze their cattle. Every eye was numb at Kangan area when a nomadic family, hailing from Reasi, presently living in Nishat, laid to rest their beloved member. Amid tears and sobs, the family members, told

KNO that the brutal killing has pointed toward the unsafe haven for a woman in Kashmir. "The slogans of Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao are falling flat when such an inhuman act is taking place" Uncle of the victim, said. "We have nothing left. Our women, daughters are not safe. Which society we are living in. It was the land of saints, but now such an incident was gruesome. These incidents were being reported in other states, but now, the brutality has reached Kashmir as well," he said. "We demand the police to make progress in this case swiftly like it has managed to arrest the culprits quickly. No Lawyer should plead their case," he requested, adding that the punishment to the culprits should be served within a week's time. Maternal Uncle of the victim thanked the Police for its swift action. "We request the authorities to hang the culprits to death. If justice is not served immediately, such incidents can happen to anyone in future," he said. "The punishment should serve as an example for all." Meanwhile, the locals demanded an immediate liquor ban in the Valley, saying that such incidents can be prevented by imposing a blanket ban on sale and purchase of alcohol. In the meantime, Srinagar Police in a statement said that it received information regarding an attempted sexual assault on a woman (name withheld) by a group of individuals near Water Works Road, Nishat. The victim had sustained grievous injuries and was shifted to the hospital, where she was declared brought dead. "Following the incident, FIR No. 35/2025 under relevant sections of law was registered at Police Station Nishat, and investigation was immediately initiated," police said. It also said that during the course of investigation, four accused persons were identified and arrested including Suhail Bashir Bhat, S/O Bashir Ahmad, R/O Asham Sumbal, Adil Ali Bhat, S/O Ali Mohammad, R/O Zeethyar Nishat, Firdous Ahmad Rather, S/O Ghulam Ahmad, R/O Zeethyar Nishat and Suhail Afzal Bhat, S/O Mohammad Afzal, R/O Pahloo Brein

## Five Journalists Honoured At 2025 Danish Siddiqui Journalism Awards

**NEW DELHI:** Five journalists received the Danish Siddiqui Journalism Awards 2025 for their impactful reporting across print, digital, broadcast, and photojournalism. The awards ceremony, held at the India International Centre (IIC) on Sunday, honours the legacy of the late Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Danish Siddiqui and celebrates journalism rooted in integrity, courage, and service to the public. The list of winners included Meghna Bali of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) for her investigation into visa fraud affecting Indian students in Australia, and Sarvapriya Sangwan of BBC News India for her Hindi series "The Last Man" on India's most marginalised communities. Saumya Khandelwal, contributing photojournalist for The New York Times, was recognised for her visual story on the exploitation of women in Maharashtra's sugar industry.

# NOTICE

Public Notice. This is an information for general public that i want to change the name of my Son in his Birth certificate issued by Municipal Council Bandipora, from last name Mohammad Azaan, to New name Ahmed Iqbal, in feature he will be known as Ahmed Iqbal, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Municipal council Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted. **Mohammad Iqbal Khan. F/O Ahmed Iqbal. Mother's name : Rehana Begum . R/O Panzigam Bandipora .**

# NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the DOB of my Daughter has been Mistakenly Mentioned in her School Records as : 16-03-2017, while as her actual and correct DOB as per her Birth certificate is 16-05-2016. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the principal Al Huda child care institute Bandipora, with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted. **Idrees Ahmad Wani. F/O Zakia Zain. R/O Sonerwani Bandipora .**

# NOTICE

I want to correct the parentage name of my daughter in his school records Fayaz Educational Institute Naikbagh Nowgam Srinagar, Class 1st A , Roll no 14, from Arwah Aijaz D/o Aijaz Ahmad Mallah to Arwah Aijaz D/o Aijaz Ahmad Malla. Now the same is to be corrected. If anybody having any objection may contact the principal of school within a period of seven days, after that no objection will be entertained. **Name Arwah Aijaz D/O Aijaz Ahmad Malla R/O: Arin Dard pora Bandipora**

# OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN MINDWIRE ACADEMY NOWPORA BANDIPORA

Fee Structure

Dated: 05-05-2025

Class	Monthly	Whole Syllabus
8th	2000/=	10,000/=
9th	2500/=	12,000/=
10th	3000/=	14,000/=
11th Med	12000/= Subject	36,000/=
12th Med	12000/= Subject	36,000/=
11th Arts	6000/= Subject	
12th Arts	6000/= Subject	

Faculty List		
S No	Name of the Teacher	Qualification
01	Malik Muzammil	PG Maths, M Phill, Bed
02	Aaqib Manzoor Mir	B-Tec, M-Tech
03	Dr Tanveer Akbar Mir	Phd Zoology
04	Shahid Ul Islam	M Sc Chemistry, Gate
05	Shah Waseem	PG Eco, B ed
06	Mehvish Jan	MA Eng, Bed
07	Jaani Mohd	MA Urdu

Chairman



# India extend dominance in white-ball formats, retain top spot in ODIs and T20Is

India retained their top position in the ODIs and T20Is to extend their dominance in the white-ball formats but slipped a place to fourth spot in the Test format, in which Australia reigned supreme, in the latest ICC annual men's ranking update issued on Monday.

The latest rankings rate all matches played since May 2024 at 100 per cent and those of the previous two years at 50 per cent.

In the ODI rankings, 2023 World Cup finalists India have strengthened their grip at the top on the back of a victorious ICC Champions Trophy campaign, improving their rating points from 122 to 124.

Coming in second place are the runners-up at the Champions Trophy, New Zealand, overtaking their Trans-Tasman rivals Australia, who now occupy the third spot.

Sri Lanka, who enjoyed an excellent run at home in recent months, including ODI series wins against India and Australia, are in fourth place after gaining five rating points, leapfrogging Pakistan (fifth with a gain of one point) and South Africa (sixth with loss of four points) in the process.

Afghanistan also climbed up the ladder – moving to seventh following a four-point improvement – at the expense of former world champions England, who fell to eighth after dropping four points.

West Indies, meanwhile, rose to the ninth spot after gaining five points to surpass Bangladesh, who dropped to 10th with a four-point decline.

India boss shortest format

In T20Is, the current world champions India are placed at the top, although their lead over

the second-placed Australia has reduced from 10 to nine points.

For the first time ever, the annual update

number three, with New Zealand, West Indies and South Africa at four, five, and six respectively.

Sri Lanka's surge continues in the shortest

Australia rule Tests

Reigning World Test Championship holders

Australia have retained their top spot in the Test



In the ODI rankings, 2023 World Cup finalists India have strengthened their grip at the top on the back of a victorious ICC Champions Trophy campaign, improving their rating points from 122 to 124.

features 100 teams in the global T20I rankings, with the updated list including all sides that have played a minimum of eight T20Is over the past three years.

The original global T20I rankings were launched in 2019 and included 80 sides.

The 2022 edition champions England, sit at

format of the game as well, now seventh in the rankings after overtaking Asian rivals Pakistan (8). Bangladesh and Afghanistan follow their fellow Asian teams at ninth and 10th places, respectively.

Ireland also showed improvement, swapping spots with Zimbabwe to sit in the 11th rank.

team rankings, though their lead was trimmed from 15 to 13 points after the annual update.

Pat Cummins' side boasts a rating of 126, staying well in front of the chasing pack.

Ben Stokes-led England made a big jump, moving up into the second place while overtaking both South Africa and India.

Sri Lanka, who enjoyed an excellent run at home in recent months, including ODI series wins against India and Australia, are in fourth place after gaining five rating points, leapfrogging Pakistan (fifth with a gain of one point) and South Africa (sixth with loss of four points) in the process.

## Enjoy taking each day as it comes: Arshdeep Singh

On a late balmy Sunday evening, Arshdeep Singh did what he does best – swing it in favour of Punjab Kings with three top-order wickets against Lucknow Super Giants.

And he doesn't want to look too far ahead as staying in the present has yielded rich dividends for him.

"I am just enjoying the present. We are just taking it day by day," Arshdeep said after his 3 for 16 stopped LSG on its tracks



during a tough chase of 237 in an IPL match.

Arshdeep has now taken 16 wickets from 11 games and is third in the leading wicket-takers' list behind Prasidh Krishna (19 wickets) and Josh Hazlewood (18 wickets) this season.

"For a change, there was movement in the starting overs. I really enjoyed it. In the second innings, it gets colder and the temperature drops down and it swings a bit," Arshdeep spoke about the high-altitude venue on the lap of the spectacular Dhauladhar mountain range.

Arshdeep is happy that he could account for all three in-form batters of LSG in Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram and Nicholas Pooran inside the Powerplay.

"I was just watching him (Nehal Wadhwa's catch to dismiss Marsh) run to the ball. I was praying 'just catch it' because you know Mitch is a very dangerous player when he gets in and gets going. So, we had to take that early wicket. Credit to Nehal for that excellent catch.

"Their top three have been scoring a lot of runs. We thought if we can take their wickets as soon as possible, we will have the upper-hand. The execution was very nice."

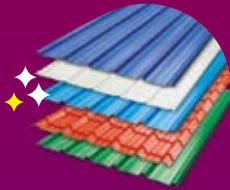
Arshdeep's franchise coach Ricky Ponting feels that the left-arm pacer has progressively got better and has started getting those Powerplay scalps, which he has done for Indian national team in past few seasons.

"I think Arshdeep's got better and better every game. As this tournament's gone on, he's got better and better. I think he's got more confident. He's starting to get those powerplay wickets now that we know that he can with that brand new ball," Ponting said after the match.

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## It stinks: Tim Paine slams secrecy around Rabada's failed drug test

Former Australia captain Tim Paine has slammed the lack of transparency surrounding Kagiso Rabada's failed drug test, calling for full disclosure from the authorities handling the matter.

would return to action, it's been speculated that he may be eligible to represent South Africa at the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia in June.

Rabada is an important member of the Proteas set-up having played 241 international



In a shocking revelation over the weekend, Rabada disclosed that he is serving a provisional suspension after testing positive for a banned recreational drug. The South African pacer had left the IPL last month after playing two games for Gujarat Titans, citing personal reasons.

"It stinks. I don't like this use around personal issues, and it being used to hide stuff that isn't a personal issue," Paine told 'SEN Radio' on Monday.

"If you have a professional sportsman that's tested for recreational drugs during a tournament in which he is playing, that doesn't fall under personal issues for me.

"That falls under you have broken your contract. That is not a personal issue, that is something that is happening in your personal life," he added.

The positive test was recorded during the SAT20 league in January.

"Taking drugs - recreational or performance enhancing - is not a personal issue that can just be hidden for a month. A guy can be taken out of the IPL, moved back to South Africa and we just let it slide under the rug. Then we will bring him back once he's already served his ban," Paine said. According to World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code, the quantum of punishment for usage of recreational drug could be anything between three months to four years.

While there is no clarity on when the pacer

games for South Africa across formats including 70 Tests.

"Not only will play against Australia in the World Test Championship but he's available to be playing now in the IPL. No one knew about what he's taken, what he was given or who the organising body was that oversaw it.

"If he is going to take drugs and be caught doing it I think people deserve to know what he's taken, how long he is being rubbed out for and who sanctioned it. People need to be held to account for stuff like that," Paine added.

Substances such as cocaine, heroin, MDMA and cannabis fall in the category of 'Substances of Abuse'. WADA recognizes they can be taken out-of-competition for reasons unrelated to sports performance.

The use of such drugs carry a maximum of four-year ban but if a sports person can prove that the use occurred out-of-competition and is not related to performance enhancement, the ban could be reduced to three months with no need to further analyze the degree of fault.

The athlete's ban can be reduced to two months if he/she is willing to undertake a treatment program that is approved by South African Anti-Doping body.

If the drug is taken in-competition but the athlete can prove the use was unrelated to performance, a two-year ban will be handed out as the infringement will be considered non-intentional.