

Kashmir Convener



Supreme Court directs West Bengal govt to grant permission for Partha Chatterjee's trial

P/02



Cash at Judge house CJ sends in-house committee report to PM, President for further action

P/02



Security Beefed Up Across Delhi As Armed Conflict With Pakistan Intensifies

P/02

Pahalgam Terror Attack Was “Original Escalation” By Pakistan: Foreign Secretary



KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said on Thursday that Pahalgam terror attack was “original escalation” by Pakistan and India responded in “controlled, precise, measured, considered and non-escalatory” manner through precise strikes on terror infrastructure early on Wednesday. Addressing a joint press conference

here, Misri said that India’s intention is not to escalate matters and is only responding to the escalation.

“Pakistan escalated on April 22, we are only responding to escalation. If further escalation, the response will be in the appropriate domain,” Misri said.

He said when talks were going on about the Pahalgam at the UNSC, Pakistan opposed the role of TRF (The Resistance Front).

“This is after TRF claimed the responsibility of the attack not once, but twice... Col Qureshi and Wing Commander Singh clearly said yesterday as well as today, that India’s response is non-escalatory, precise, and measured. Our intention is not to escalate matters and we are only responding to the escalation. No military targets have been targeted; only terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan has been hit,” Misri said.

The Foreign Secretary said Pakistan’s reputation as the epicentre of global terrorism is rooted in a number of instances.

“I don’t need to remind where Osama Bin Laden was found and who called him a martyr... Pakistan is also home to a large number of UN proscribed terrorists and also to terrorists proscribed by many countries... You must have seen in the last few days, their Defence minister and former foreign minister accepted their country’s involvement with such terror groups,” he said. “It’s also odd that funerals of civilians are being carried

>>SEE ON P-7

Pak attempts to attack 15 places in North, Western India foiled

Air defence system at Lahore neutralized

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: India foiled Pakistan military’s attempts to attack 15 places in Northern and Western India using missiles and drones, and destroyed a Pakistani air defence system in Lahore, officials said on Thursday.

Addressing a news conference here Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Yomika Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “The Pakistani military attempted last night to target Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj. These attempts were neutralised by the Integrated Counter Unmanned Aircraft System (Grid and Air Defence systems).”

Pertinently, the Pakistani attempt came after Indian armed forces early Wednesday carried

>>SEE ON P-7

National Security Meeting

PM Modi stresses ministerial coordination with state authorities, institutions

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting with the Secretaries of various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India to review national preparedness and inter-ministerial coordination in light of recent developments concerning national security.



According to a government media release, PM Modi stressed the need for seamless coordination among ministries and agencies to uphold operational continuity and institutional resilience.

The PM reviewed the planning and preparation by ministries to deal with the current situation.

The Secretaries have been directed to undertake a comprehensive review of their respective ministries’ operations and ensure foolproof functioning of essential systems,

>>SEE ON P-7

Satish Sharma visits cross border firing victims; assures support to displaced residents



KC News Network

JAMMU: Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Service Sports, Satish Sharma, today visited Milan Di Khui, Kachrial, Thanger, Khour Camp, Khour Bazar, Nalriana, Nai Basti and RD Resort, where displaced residents from Gignral, Garar, Sainth and adjoining zero-

>>SEE ON P-7

Enquires About Health Of Cross Border Shelling Victims In GMC Jammu

KC News Network

JAMMU: Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Service Sports, Satish Sharma, today visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu to meet and

>>SEE ON P-7

CM Omar Reviews Situation In Border Districts

Orders immediate ex-gratia relief for victims of shelling

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a meeting for the second straight day with Deputy Commissioners of all border districts through virtual mode to take stock of the prevailing situation in the wake of cross-border shelling.

The meeting was convened to review the preparedness and readiness of district authorities in responding to exigencies, evacuation measures and safeguarding the lives and properties of residents in the affected areas.

In his remarks, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts to ensure the seamless provision of essential supplies and services, including food, water, electricity and medical care.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta,



Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department & Information, Commissioner Secretary Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Secretary Health & Medical Education, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch, Baramulla, Kupwara, and Bandipora and Director Information who attended the meeting in person and Deputy Commissioners through

video conferencing.

Both Divisional Commissioners and the respective Deputy Commissioners briefed the Chief Minister on the ground situation, availability of essential commodities, medical supplies and basic amenities.

The Deputy Commissioners also briefed the meeting about the temporary shifting of some population to safer zones,

>>SEE ON P-7

Our Armed Forces Demolished Terror Factories Inside Pakistan: LG Sinha

Chairs High-Level meeting, reviews Preparedness

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today reviewed the security situation in the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir. The review meeting was attended by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; DGP, Nalin Prabhat; Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti; ADGP CID, Nitish Kumar; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari; Divisional Commissioners, IGP, DIGs, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs and other senior officers of administration and police department.

The Lieutenant Governor took stock of the situation and the preparedness in the various districts of the UT. The officials also briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the actionable measures taken on

the directions passed during the meetings on May 06 to ensure Physical infrastructure, Public safety and Cyber security.

security forces to face any emergent situation. Seamless coordination among the Administration, Police and Armed Forces is the key in



The Lieutenant Governor directed the officials to be on alert and deal sternly with any attempts to disturb public order and take the strongest possible measures to prevent fake news and disinformation.

“I have full confidence in the ability of officials, Police and

the present situation.

Deputy Commissioners and SSPs must together visit the vulnerable areas and spend time with people on the ground and focus on their needs and be responsive,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

>>SEE ON P-7

J&K hospitals fully prepared to handle border tensions: Official

Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: In the wake of intense cross-border

shelling that has resulted in over a dozen civilian deaths and injured approximately 100 others along the Line of Control (LoC), hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir are on high alert to manage any further escalation of the conflict.

An official from the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the health infrastructure is fully prepared to handle emergencies.

Eight districts—three in Kashmir and five in Jam-

mu—bordering Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), are considered most vulnerable to injuries, and all necessary facilities have been activated to ensure timely treatment for the injured.

The government Medical College (GMC) Hospital Jammu, a leading healthcare institution in the region, said it is ready to manage medical emergencies arising from ongoing border tensions.

“We are equipped to respond to any situation. Mini ICUs with ventilators and monitors are operational,

and we have sufficient stocks of medicines,” said an official at GMC Jammu.

The hospital has prepared over 200 beds, with medical teams and logistical support staff on standby to provide 24/7 care, especially for those affected by shelling incidents. Authorities have also issued alerts to health facilities in border districts such as Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua, and Samba, urging vigilance and preparedness. Similar

>>SEE ON P-7

‘We've seen wars, but not this fear’: Uri residents



Waris Fayaz

URI: Terrified cries, shattered windows and homes turned to rubble—this is what remains in a Uri village along the Line of Control (LoC) after intense shelling from across the border that left residents traumatised and displaced.

Villagers, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News

destroyed ours completely,” he said. “We have nothing left—only our lives, and even that felt uncertain.”

Several structures in the village were reduced to debris, and at least nine civilians sustained injuries, now undergoing treatment at hospitals in Baramulla and elsewhere.

“We have no other option but to leave our homes,” said a Salamabad resident, taking shelter at the government-established relief centre in Government Degree College (GDC) Uri. “We’re not safe there anymore—shells can drop anytime, without warning,” he said. Another resident said they are left with nothing but fear and

>>SEE ON P-7

Chief Secretary takes stock of arrangements for SANJY-2025



KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high level meeting of all the concerned departments attended by the senior functionaries of Civil Administration and Police to review the position of arrangements being made for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2025. Dulloo had department wise

appraisal of the status of facilities to be created by them for safety, security and convenience of the pilgrims going to visit the holy cave during the yatra period.

The Chief Secretary took a detailed review of the facilities to be created for pilgrims particularly in transit camps, lodgements and enroute Jammu-Srinagar National Highway besides on both the axis leading to holy cave from Baltal

and Chandanwari.

He directed the concerned to suitably augment all the requisite facilities to ensure smooth and safe conduct of the pilgrimage. He directed the line departments including the PWD, Jal Shakti, PDD, H&UDD, RDD, Tourism, Health, Forest, FCS&CA, Telecom, DMRR&R and others to ensure that the works identified for them are completed well in advance.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned Divisional Commissioners to ensure proper coordination among the departments for timely execution of works on ground. He stressed on finalization of tenders for services like sanitation and others to be done before June so that the service providers are

>>SEE ON P-7

Edu institutes in JK parts continue to remain shut today, tmrw

Riyaz Bhat

SRINAGAR: Amid prevailing situation, authorities Thursday said that the educational institutes in Baramulla, Kupwara and those falling nearby Srinagar and Awantipora airports shall continue to remain closed on Friday and Saturday.

It also said that the school and colleges in five districts of Jammu region shall also remain closed on May-09.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the officials have said, “All the schools including the government as well as private schools in Baramulla, Kupwara and those falling nearby the Srinagar and Awantipora Airport shall remain



closed on May-09 and May-10 as precautionary measures.

Besides, the authorities have also said that the schools falling under the sub-division in Gurez shall also remain closed on May-09 and May-10 as a part of precautionary measures. Divisional Commissioner Jammu on microblogging

>>SEE ON P-7

Supreme Court directs West Bengal govt to grant permission for Partha Chatterjee's trial

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the West Bengal government to grant permission within two weeks to initiate the trial against the state's former education minister Partha Chatterjee and other co-accused in an alleged cash-for-jobs scam.

The directive came during a hearing on Chatterjee's bail plea, with the division bench of Justices Surya Kant and N.K. Singh responding to arguments from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which claimed that the state had failed to provide the required sanction.

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju told the court that the delay was hindering the investigation and unnecessarily prolonging the legal process. The court noted that once permission is granted, the trial against Chatterjee and the other accused can proceed in the trial court.

The Supreme Court has scheduled the next hearing for July 17, when it will consider the bail applications of Chatterjee



and the eight other co-accused.

The CBI's investigation focuses on alleged recruitment irregularities within the West Bengal Board of Primary Education (WBPE). On December 27, the agency filed a chargesheet against former Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Partha Chatterjee, accusing him of accepting bribes from more than 1,000 job seekers in exchange

for promises of jobs.

Chatterjee was first arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in July 2022 during a money laundering probe linked to the suspected recruitment scam involving the West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC). The Supreme Court later granted him conditional bail in this case in December last year.

Meanwhile, the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday declined to hear a contempt of court petition concerning the SSC recruitment case, in which over 25,000 teaching and non-teaching staff positions were annulled.

The petition accused the SSC and the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) of failing to comply with directives issued by both the High Court and the Supreme Court in connection with the job cancellations.

The petitioners argued before a division bench comprising Justices Debangsu Basak and Mohammad Shabbar Rashidi that the authorities had yet to begin recovering salaries from disqualified or "tainted" candidates.

In response, the SSC and the state's education department contended that the contempt proceedings were not maintainable in the high court, as the core matter is already pending before the Supreme Court.

Cash at Judge house CJI sends in-house committee report to PM, President for further action



NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna is understood to have recommended the Union Government to initiate a motion for the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma.

The CJI on Thursday forwarded the inquiry panel's report on the incident regarding cash at Justice Varma's residence to the PM and President, along with Justice Varma's response.

In a statement released on Thursday, the Supreme Court said:

"Chief Justice of India, in terms of the In-House Procedure, has written to Hon'ble the President of India and Hon'ble the Prime Minister of India enclosing therewith copy of the 3-Member Committee report dated 03.05.2025 along with the letter/response dated 06.05.2025, received from Mr Justice Yashwant Varma."

While the details of the panel's report are not yet known, the sources said that Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna has recommended that a motion for the removal of Justice Varma be initiated.

According to the sources, since Justice Varma has refused to resign, CJI Khanna had therefore informed the President and Prime Minister to initiate removal proceedings under Article 124(4) of the Constitution.

This would involve referring the matter to Parliament for impeachment, requiring a motion supported by MPs and a three-member inquiry under the Judges (Inquiry) Act.

On March 22, a three-judge committee was formed under the in-house procedure established by the Supreme Court's full court in 1999. The committee, formed to probe claims of burnt currency found at Varma's residence, comprised Justices Sheel Nagu, G.S. Sandhawalia, and Anu Sivaraman.

Shortly after, Justice Varma was transferred to his parent Allahabad High Court and has been assigned no judicial duties since.

The in-house committee report relied on testimony from 50 witnesses: firefighters, Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora, and Varma's security staff, along with a damning video of burning cash.

Justice Varma's claim that the storeroom was accessible to others and the cash's origins unknown crumbled under scrutiny.

The committee noted that some cash mysteriously vanished post-fire, raising questions of tampering.

A fire broke out at Justice Yashwant Varma's residence on the evening of March 14, allegedly leading to the discovery of unaccounted cash by firefighters at the scene.

At the time of the incident, Justice Varma and his wife were away in Madhya Pradesh, while only their daughter and elderly mother were present at the house.

Subsequently, a video emerged, showing bundles of cash engulfed in flames during the fire.

Security Beefed Up Across Delhi As Armed Conflict With Pakistan Intensifies

NEW DELHI Security was heightened across the national capital on Thursday with additional forces, including paramilitary personnel, being deployed at key installations.

The security beef-up comes amid an armed conflict between India and Pakistan. The Pakistani military last night tried to target Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj. The attempts were foiled, and a Pakistani air defence system was destroyed in Lahore.

Police sources said special commissioners of all zones are holding meetings with the



deputy commissioners of all 15 districts.

"All DCPs are actively monitoring law and order in their areas. They have already briefed their officers like ACPs and SHOs. DCPs are personally monitoring their area and Delhi

Police (East) Abhishek Dhania, in a statement, said, "As part of ongoing anti-terror measures, the police conducted a thorough security inspection at the Mayur Vihar Phase-I Metro Station, a vital public installation. During the visit, CISF personnel were briefed, and a focused coordination meeting was held."

"The station is secured with 41 operational CCTV cameras monitoring every critical point. In each shift, 7 male and 2 female CISF personnel remain deployed to ensure robust, round-the-clock security. This will ensure the safety of the commuters," he added.

Bomb Disposal Squads

carried out anti-sabotage checks at several locations.

"The district's BDS team conducted anti-sabotage checks at malls, markets, hotels and vital spots to ensure public safety throughout the district. The exercise strengthened vigilance and preparedness against potential threats," DCP (Southwest) Surendra Choudhary said.

Police checks in the city, especially at the bordering areas, have been ramped up, with all the vehicles entering Delhi being checked. "We have intensified vehicle checking as part of anti-terror measures, reinforcing public safety and vigilance," DCP (Rohini) Amit Goel said.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
CENTRAL JAIL SRINAGAR

TELE-FAX: 01942423514
E-mail: -jsrinagar-jk@nic.in
e-TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF HP GAS 14 Kgs, 200 grams.
e-NIT No. - 04 of 2025
Dated:08-05-2025

Note: All the Bidding process will be done on www.jktenders.gov.in.
The online e-tenders are invited, for and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir U/T, from original manufactures/ authorized distributors having valid Gas license issued by Competent authority for supply of commercial HP Gas (14 Kgs 200 grams per Cylinder) for Central Jail Srinagar for the year 2025 (12 months). The intending tenderer/s shall have to attach earnest money to the tune of Rs. 1,00,000/= in the shape of CDR/FDR from any Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank to be pledged to the Sr. Superintendent Central Jail Srinagar, the same will be released after rate contract in respect of successful bidder is finalized.

01. The detailed documents, criteria and other terms and conditions can be seen/ downloaded from the Government website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

1.	Date of issue of tender notice	08.05.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09.05.2025
3	Bid submission start date.	09.05.2025
4	Bid submission end date.	26.05.2025 up to 2:00 PM
5	Date and time of opening of Technical Bids (online)	27.05.2025 at 02:00 PM
6	Date and time of opening of Technical Bids (online)	27.05.2025 at 02:00 PM
7	Cost of tender documents (Non-refundable)	500

02. Tender Fee (Cost of tender document)
An amount of Rs. 500 towards the cost of the tender fee has to be deposited by the bidders in the following bank account:

Name of Account holder Supdt/A. O. Central Jail Sgr.
Account Number 0101010200000040
Name of the Bank J&K Bank
Branch J&K Bank Khanyar
IFSC JAKAOSHIRAZ

03. The receipt copy of the tender fees is to be uploaded on the online portal with the tender documents.

04. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on web site www.jktenders.gov.in.
05. The bidders must submit their bids both technical bid and price bid online in electronic format only with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
06. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including earnest money of Rs.1.00 lacs and receipt of tender document fee on online portal with technical bid. However, in case any Clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.
07. The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful/non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document fee, failure of submission of tender documents fee by the bidder using the site shall entitle him for blacklisting.
08. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.
09. The bidder should have an experience in the supplies of Gas at least 05 years to any Government and Semi Government Department the Certificate of which should also be uploaded while submitting the bid.
10. Bidder has to submit an Undertaking on affidavit, duly attested by a Notary declaring, mentioning therein that the Firm has not been blacklisted in the past by any Department/ Institution/, etc. of Central Govt./ State Govt./ Govt. of UT. In last five years and all the documents uploaded/ submitted in this tender by the bidder are correct and genuine. The same shall be uploaded at the time of submission of bids.
11. The bidder has to upload his PAN Card/GST Registration Certificate.
12. Clarification if any will be entertained from 08.05.2025 to 22.05.2025.
13. The technical bids uploaded will be opened on 27.05.2025 at 02:00 PM, in case the said date is declared a holiday bid will be opened on the next working day.
14. The tender shall be submitted in two parts viz; Technical bid and Price bid. Only those bids which are technically qualified with reference to the terms and conditions notified will be considered for financial evaluation. Both the technical and price bid has to be submitted in online mode only.
15. Note: - All terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the detailed e-NIT issued for the supplies. Also, the bidders are requested to quote the price of the items in the price bid/BOQ only and should not disclose their rates in any other tender documents.
16. Release of payments in favour of the Agency/Distributors/Suppliers and Contractors subject to the availability of funds. No claims of payment can be entertained till the funds are released from Prison Head Quarter.
17. CGST/SGST clearance certificate for the year 2024-25 and income tax clearance certificate for the year 2024-25 to also be uploaded in the technical bid.
NO: - Accts/CJS/ 523-25
Dated: - 03-05-2025

DIPK-1221/25

Sd/-Superintendent
Central Jail Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
(R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION KASHMIR, ENGINEERING
COMPLEX SRINAGAR RAJBAGH.

Near Silk Factory Srinagar- 190008.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-NIT No.20/R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2025-26 issued under Endorsement No: ERB/1468-76
electricdivisionrnb@gmail.com DATED:06-05-2025.

For and on behalf of The Government of J&K(U/T)e-tenders (Single cover system) are Invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/UT/Central Government Departments for the following works:-

SL No.	Name of Work	E. Cost (In. Lacs)	Cost of Tender/Doc. (In Rs.)	2% Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion (Calendar Days)	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account	Remarks
01	Balance work of NTPHC at Botingoo Sopore B.W.O Electrification of Doctors Residential Quarter)	Rs. 4.833/= Lacs	Rs. 200/=	Rs. 9670/-	Linked with progress of civil work	"AAY" Class Electrical	M.H Capex Budget	Accord of Administrative Approval Accorded By Director Health Services Kashmir vide order No.45/DHSK of 2023 Dated:-07-08-2023

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06-05-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08-05-2025 from 06.00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	08-05-2025 from 06.00 PM
4	Bid Submission End Date	20-05-2025 upto 04.00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	21-05-2025 at 02:00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids(Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities(BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:
Note:- The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the E-NIT carefully before uploading soft's copy.
As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat Finance department vide No. OM No. A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under-
Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared ist Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
a)
1. The Cost of tender document should be collected by introducing Treasury Challan (Receipt).
2. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)
2.1. All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:-
a. All the bidders shall upload the Scanned copy of the Latest Enlistment Registration Contractor License duly renewed for the current year. 2025-26
b. Scanned copy of GSTIN Registration/No.certificate with return clearance certificate (Form GST-3B) for the month of March 2025 or Quarter January to March
c. Scanned copy of PAN card. (As reflected in GST Regd./GST Form-3B).
d. Scanned copy of valid contact number/E-mail-id.
e. All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan (Tender document cost) (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date) by debit to M.H.0059 in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir (Tender inviting authority). Mentioning NIT No./S.No/Name of the work. Name of the division as per Annexure I
f. Scanned copy of Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/Pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir (Tender Inviting Authority).(dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid submission End date).
g. The successful bidder shall submit the scanned copy of Latest renewed JKPWDOMS Contractor card valid for the current year before issuance of contract allotment.
1. The successful bidder has to execute the agreement and subsequently submit the same to this office within same day after issuance of formal allotment order for commencement of work as per the terms and condition laid.
2.2. The successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @5% of contract value in the shape of CDR/ FDR/BG after issuance of Letter of Acceptance which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. The EMD @ 2% of successful bidder will be released only after the submission of 5% performance Security deposit.
2.3. The bidder who so ever participate the e-tenders floated by this office will submit Additional Performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG in case the bidder has Submitted the below Percentage Bid against the Advertised Cost for the work as per below mentioned percentage Breakup in order to avoid unbalancing of e-tender and shall be released after 100% completion of work"-

S. No	% age of Unbalanced bid Viz-a-viz advertised cost on account of Low Rate.	Additional Performance security to be Deposited on quoted bid by L1
1.	Upto and including 15%	NIL
2.	Greater than 15% upto & including 20%	5%
3.	Greater than 20% upto & including 25%	10%
4.	Greater than 25% upto & including 30%	15%
5.	Greater than 30% below	20%

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Electric Division Kashmir, Srinagar (Tender receiving authority)
No.ERB/1468-76
DATED:-06-05-2025

DIPK-1249/25

SD/-Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Electric Division Kashmir
Engineering Complex Srinagar
Rajbagh

Red Cross Day: District Red Cross Committee organizes programme at GGHSS Amira Kadal

DC Srinagar highlights role of Red Cross, volunteers in providing humanitarian aid, support during emergencies and everyday life

SRINAGAR: In connection with the celebration of World Red Cross Day-2025, an impressive function was organized by District Red Cross Committee at Government Girls Higher Secondary school (GGHSS) Amira Kadal, here today. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the chairman District Red Cross Committee was the chief guest on the occasion. Addressing the function, DC underlined the role of District Red Cross Society in offering help, care, and life-saving services to people in disasters. He also highlighted the role of Red Cross teams, volunteers in providing humanitarian aid and support during emergencies and everyday life

Dr Bilal lauded the dedication, compassion, courage of the District Red



Cross team and other volunteers for working tirelessly by responding the

needy people during any calamity or exigent situation.

DC remarked that natural calamities have spared no one during any worst situations, but Red Cross staff and volunteers play pivotal role in saving and rehabilitation of people. He also deliberated upon the background of the Red Cross Society and remembered international Red Cross volunteers their contribution for the welfare and betterment of the society. DC said that the society was formed long ago which benefited thousands of needy all over the world. Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Adil Fareed; Chief Education Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Deputy CEO, ZMO Batamaloo, Principal GGHSS Amira Kadal, staff and others were present in the event.

DC Reasi felicitates JK Board Class 10th and 12th Toppers

REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik felicitated the district's top-performing students in the JK Board Class 10th and 12th examinations for the academic year 2024-25, here today. The felicitation ceremony was held in the Auditorium of the DC Office Complex, where students were honored for their outstanding academic achievements. Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik congratulated the students on their success and commended their dedication. Trophies were awarded to the meritorious students as a token of appreciation and encouragement. The Class 12th toppers were Pranvi Sharma (Science stream), Khushdeep Kour (Commerce stream), and Hitakshi Sharma

(Arts stream). In Class 10th, Kamakshi Sambyal of Gurukul Public School and Sakshi Devi of Government Higher Secondary



School Reasi were recognized for their exceptional results in the private and government school categories, respectively. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner praised the hard work and perseverance of the students, as well as the

guidance provided by their teachers and the unwavering support of their families. She offered heartfelt congratulations to all the achievers and encouraged students to pursue their goals fearlessly, continue learning with curiosity, and strive for excellence. She further emphasized that the administration remains committed to supporting every young achiever in Reasi. The event concluded with enthusiastic applause and a deep sense of pride as parents, teachers, and officials celebrated the students' success. The ceremony stood as a powerful reminder of the transformative impact of education and the immense potential of the district's youth.

World Red Cross Day: DLSA, Ganderbal organizes blood donation camp

GANDERBAL: On the eve of World Red Cross Day, District egal Services Authority (DLSA),

Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal. The event was aimed to



Ganderbal, in collaboration with, District Hospital Ganderbal and ED DROP (NGO), successfully conducted a Blood Donation camp at District Hospital Ganderbal. The camp was organized under the inspiring theme 'Keeping humanity Alive', emphasizing the importance of selfless service and community contribution. The event was conducted under the leadership of Abdul lasir, Chairman, DLSA, Ganderbal, along with the guidance of Sheikh

promote the noble cause of blood donation, raising awareness about its significance, and encourage voluntary blood donations to meet the demand for blood in medical emergencies. Secretary DLSA, Ganderbal, appreciated the dedication and generosity of all the donors, organizers, and volunteers who made this event a success. Their selfless act will undoubtedly contribute to saving precious lives in our community, he said. The event saw enthusiastic

participation from legal professionals, government employees, social activists, police personnel, and members of the public. The occasion was further enriched by the presence of Shabir Hussain Khan, known as the 'Blood Man of Kashmir,' and Bilkees Ara, known as the 'Blood Woman of Kashmir,' inspiring others with their unwavering commitment to this life-saving cause. Their remarkable contributions, having donated hundreds of blood units over the years, have established them as beacons of service and compassion in the community. Over 20 units of different blood groups were collected during the camp, marking a significant contribution to local healthcare needs and underscoring the community's generosity and willingness to donate blood.

Red Cross Society observes 'World Red Cross Day

SRINAGAR: J&K branch of Indian Red Cross Society Thursday organized an event to commemorate 'World Red Cross Day 2025' in Red Cross House Srinagar. Red Cross staffers and the volunteers were present on the occasion. G.A. Qureshi, Hon. Treasurer IRCS J&K hoisted the Red Cross flag. Addressing the gathering, Qureshi spoke on this year's theme 'Keeping Humanity Alive' which captures the essence of what the Red Cross Movement stands for- neutrality, compassion and unwavering support for those in need. He urged the Red Crossers to be present for the people in their most difficult times, putting humanity first regardless of race, gender, nationality, religion or political beliefs. "On this day, let us take pledge to alleviate human sufferings and wipe every tear. Today is an opportunity for us to unite in our persistent commitment to a common humanity. We also reaffirm the fundamental principles of the Red Cross movement, which are at the heart of everything we do to assist people in need and during troublesome times. Let us continue to work together and be a beacon of hope to those who are in despair and support to those who feel forgotten or deprived," he said. He enjoined upon the Red Cross volunteers to remain in close contact with the respective Deputy Commissioners for providing prompt and effective assistance during emergencies and crisis situations.

Horticulture Department Kathua organises exposure visit for Fruit Growers

KATHUA: The Department of Horticulture Kathua organised a one day Exposure visit for a group of 25 Farmers/Fruit Growers of Billawar and Lohai Malhar blocks under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), here today. Chief Horticulture Officer Ashwani Sharma flagged off the Exposure Visit to the Centre of Excellence for Fruits, SKUAST-Jammu - Udheywalla, conducted under the direction of Director Horticulture Jammu C. L. Sharma. The CHO interacted with the group of farmers and advised them to learn the latest horticulture techniques during the exposure visit and adopt the same in their fields for better returns. During the Exposure visit, an Interactive Session was held for the visiting farmers which were chaired by Dean, Faculty of Horticulture and Forestry, SKUAST-J Prof. Vikas

Tandon, alongside Division of Fruit Science Prof. Akash Sharma, and District Level -Subject Matter Specialist (Pomology)

Sandeep Gupta while interacting with the participants, educated them about incentives available under various Schemes/



Kathua Sandeep Gupta., Prof. Tandon, while addressing the Farmers, briefed about the activities being taken up at COE, especially about the latest and elite cultivars of different Fruit plants being propagated at the centre. He further disclosed that the interested farmers can take these quality Fruit plants of high yielding varieties at genuine rates. Prof. Akash imparted in-depth knowledge about Scientific Orchard Management.

Programs presently under implementation viz. HADP, JKICP, MIDH, CAPEX and urged them to take maximum benefit from these Schemes/Programs. A live demonstration about various propagation techniques was given to the Farmers during their visit to different Hi-tech Houses. Sohan Lal Incharge HDO Billawar/Lohai Malhar accompanied the Farmers/Fruit Growers during the exposure

Mini-Super Bazar M-PACS Maitra inaugurated at Ramban

Facility offers wide range of consumer needs

RAMBAN: The Cooperative Mini-Super Bazar M-PACS Maitra, established by the Cooperative Department, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, with a project cost of Rs. 95.42 lakh, was inaugurated here today for public service. The state-of-the-art retail facility was jointly inaugurated by Chairperson, District Development Council Dr. Shamshad Shan and local Member Legislative Assembly Arjun Singh Raju. The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary; Senior Superintendent of Police, Kulbir Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak; Deputy Registrar Cooperatives Societies, Priyanka Sharma; along with prominent citizens, officers from various departments, and officials of the Cooperative Department. Speaking on the occasion, the Chairperson emphasized the significance of strengthening grassroots-level cooperative institutions to boost the local economy and create self-sustaining employment avenues. She lauded the department's efforts in executing the project efficiently and hoped that the Mini-Super Bazar would meet the essential commodity needs of the public at fair prices. The MLA congratulated the Cooperative Department and the district administration for completing this public-centric initiative. He stressed the importance of such cooperative ventures in enhancing market access for local producers and generating economic opportunities in rural and semi-urban areas. The Deputy Commissioner advised the Cooperative Department and the managing staff to ensure quality services, transparency and people-friendly practices. He highlighted the potential of the Mini-Super Bazar to serve as a model for similar projects in other parts of the district. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to empowering cooperative institutions for inclusive development. Earlier, the Deputy Registrar gave a detailed briefing of Cooperative Mini Super Bazar. She emphasized that Cooperative Mini super Bazar would also cater to the market needs of the farmers associated with production of organic products by giving them a platform to sell their produce to the customers. The Mini Super Bazar houses a special organic and local produce section for that purpose, so that the local farmers of the area can sell their produce at competitive prices instead of falling prey to distress selling at low prices. The project also offers good potential for employment generation for the youth of the area and can go a long way in enhancing the financial prospects of the society. The newly inaugurated Mini-Super Bazar is expected to cater to a wide range of consumer needs, promoting fair trade practices, providing market linkage to local products and boosting cooperative-led retail in the region.

Reasi Administration celebrates World Red Cross Day with active community participation

REASI: The District Administration and District Red Cross Society Reasi celebrated World Red Cross Day today with great enthusiasm and active community participation under the theme "On the Side of Humanity." Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, who also serves as the Chairperson of the District Red Cross Society, was the chief guest on the occasion. The programme began with the lighting of the lamp by the chief guest and other dignitaries. The celebration paid tribute to the humanitarian spirit of the Red Cross movement. Students from various schools and colleges, along with volunteers, actively participated in the event. A symposium was held in which six students highlighted the importance, history, and humanitarian values of the Red Cross Society. The

event also featured a dance performance by students. Various officials including CEO, Tehsildar Pouni and



prominent citizens like Vactch Pati Sharma were felicitated for their contributions to the Red Cross. In recognition of academic excellence, the Deputy Commissioner awarded trophies to students who achieved outstanding results during the 2024-25 academic year in Classes 10 and 12.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of humanity, stating that every individual should help others in whatever capacity they can to fulfill their role as responsible citizens. She highlighted the significant role played by the Red Cross in providing humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and health services both globally and locally. Applauding the efforts of volunteers, she urged all citizens to come forward and

contribute to the noble cause of serving humanity. The event also honored the generosity of those who support humanitarian efforts. Certificates of appreciation were distributed to officers and citizens who made significant contributions to the Red Cross Society in Reasi. A Red Cross Day pledge was solemnly taken by all attendees, reaffirming the commitment of students, teachers, and officials to uphold the fundamental principles of the Red Cross. A vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Kuldeep Khajuria, District Executive Secretary of the Red Cross. Among those present were ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, Dy. DEO Rakesh Kumar, CEO Deepak Kumar, DSWO, Tehsildars, ALC, DIO (Information), district officers, officials, teachers, and students.

Prominent Shia leader Aga Syed Ahmad Moosvi joins Apni Party



Srinagar: Prominent religious and political leader from Budgam, Aga Syed Ahmad Moosvi, joined Apni Party on Thursday during a special event organised at the party headquarters in Srinagar. Party president, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, along with other senior leaders, gave a warm welcome to Aga Sahib upon his joining the party. According to a statement issued here, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, while welcoming Aga Syed Ahmad Moosvi into the party fold, said that Aga

Sahib's joining would enhance the party's presence and strengthen the cadre further in his constituency. He said, "Given Aga Sahib's credibility, integrity, and his influence among the masses, I am sure that his presence in the Apni Party will further strengthen the party cadre in his constituency and beyond. It is a matter of great pleasure to welcome him into the party. The entire leadership extends a warm and wholehearted welcome to him."

LMD Kulgam imposes Rs1.55 lakh penalty on Agrochemical entities for regulatory violations

KULGAM: In a significant move towards safeguarding consumer rights and ensuring strict enforcement of



regulatory standards, Legal Metrology Department (LMD), Kulgam, has imposed a penalty amounting to 1.55 lakh on various agrochemical entities for violations of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 and other relevant provisions under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. The enforcement drive was carried out on the instructions of Anuradha Gupta, Contoller, Legal Metrology Department J&K. During routine market inspections conducted by the inspection team of the department, serious discrepancies were detected with regard to mandatory

declarations on packaged commodities, including agrochemical products. The violations primarily pertained to non-compliance with statutory requirements such as incorrect labeling, absence of manufacturing details, and non-declaration of net quantity, among others. Following the detection of these irregularities, cases were formally booked, and the concerned agrochemical entities subsequently approached the department with applications seeking compounding of the offences. After following the due process of law, a penalty of Rs1.55 lakh was realised from the erring entities in accordance with the provisions of the Legal Metrology Act. The department urges all manufacturers, packers, and traders to strictly adhere to the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules to avoid penal action. Consumers are encouraged to remain vigilant and report any discrepancies or violations in packaged products to the department for timely redressal.

Hailstorm and Torrential Rain Wreak Havoc in Bankoot Block

MLA Bandipora Urges Immediate Relief Measures

Bandipora: A severe hailstorm followed by torrential rain caused widespread damage in the Bankoot block of Bandipora district on Wednesday. The unseasonal weather wreaked havoc on standing crops, fruits and vegetables, leaving farmers and residents distressed. According to local reports, the intensity of the hailstorm led to the complete destruction of crops, particularly affecting horticultural

and vegetable produce, which serve as primary sources of livelihood for many families in the area. Taking serious note of the situation, the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Bandipora, Nizamuddin Bhat has urged the Revenue Department to immediately assess the extent of the damage and initiate compensation and relief measures. "The people of Bankoot block have suffered significant losses. I have asked

the concerned officials to take urgent steps for on-ground assessment and necessary support," the MLA said. In addition to the agricultural losses, the drinking water supply in Lawdara and Gamroo villages of Bandipora has been severely disrupted. MLA Bhat, confirmed that he has already raised the matter with the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, demanding swift action to restore water services in the affected areas.

SKIMS Establishes Command Centre Amid Rising Border Tensions

Srinagar: Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, has activated a Command Centre to ensure efficient coordination and rapid emergency response. This move is aimed in case of any medical or logistical emergencies. To streamline communication and enhance preparedness, SKIMS has issued a list of key contact numbers for various departments, including the SKIMS Control Room, Engineering Control Room, and the Medical College & Hospital Control

Room at Bemina. The Command Centre will function 24/7 and will be overseen by senior officials such as Mohd. Akram Wani and Dr. Shahnawaz Hameed. The SKIMS Command Centre can be reached at 0194-2403306 or 0194-2403470. For medical-related emergencies, the SKIMS Control Room is available at 0194-2403679. Dr. Shahnawaz Hameed, an official in the control room, can be contacted directly at +91-9906968288. In case of engineering-related issues,

Er. Ishfaq Ahmad is available at +91-9796170026. For medical emergencies specifically at SKIMS Medical College & Hospital, Bemina, Dr. Shifa Deva can be reached at +91-9419550111. Authorities have requested the public to use these contact numbers responsibly and only in genuine emergency situations. The establishment of the Command Centre highlights SKIMS' proactive approach and its commitment to safeguarding public health during uncertain times. (KNS)

Editorial



BRO at 66

As the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrates its 66th Raising Day, it does so with renewed pride and purpose, having carved an unmatched legacy of engineering excellence, national service, and strategic relevance. The virtual inauguration of 50 infrastructure projects worth ₹1,879 crore by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is not just a ceremonial milestone—it is a resounding endorsement of BRO's crucial role in strengthening India's borders and uplifting some of its most inaccessible regions.

Since its inception in 1960, the BRO has grown from two initial projects—Tusker and Beacon—to becoming a cornerstone of India's border infrastructure strategy. It is no overstatement to say that BRO has transformed the meaning of “connectivity” in the remotest terrains, often under hostile weather and in high-altitude environments that challenge even the most seasoned engineers.

This year's landmark achievement of completing 50 projects across six states and two Union Territories, including critical bridges and roads in Jammu & Kashmir, reflects the organisation's unwavering commitment to national service. These infrastructures are more than brick and mortar—they are lifelines for defence logistics, conduits for socio-economic development, and symbols of the State's presence in vulnerable border areas.

Particularly noteworthy are the six projects completed by Project Sampark in Jammu & Kashmir, including key bridges on strategic routes like the Basohli–Bani–Bhaderwah and Dhar–Udhampur roads. These bridges not only ensure swift military mobility but also offer relief and opportunity to local communities long isolated by inadequate infrastructure.

More than ever, as India pursues a dual strategy of defence preparedness and economic development in border regions, the BRO stands as both sentinel and architect. Its ability to turn inhospitable terrain into strategic advantage is indispensable in today's geopolitically volatile environment. As tensions persist along our northern borders, roads and bridges are as critical as weaponry—and perhaps even more enduring in the message they convey: that India is here to stay.

As the nation celebrates BRO's 66 years of relentless service, we must salute its silent warriors—engineers, labourers, and support staff—who brave avalanches, sub-zero temperatures, and landslides to keep India connected and secure. The roads they build today will pave the way for a more secure, integrated, and prosperous India tomorrow.

The Eternal Quest: Redemption in the Flow of Human Consciousness



SHABEER AHMAD LONE

Glimpses of redemption unfolding:
Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror. Just keep going. No feeling is final." -R.M Rilke
"I wish I could show you, when you are lonely or in darkness, the astonishing light of your own being." -Hafiz
"The wound is the place where the Light enters you."
"Don't grieve. Anything you lose comes round in another form." -Rumi
"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." St. Augustine
"Pain and suffering are always inevitable for a large intelligence and a deep heart. The really great men must, I think, have great sadness on earth." -Fyodor Dostoevsky
To see a world in a grain of sand / And a heaven in a wild flower, / Hold infinity in the palm of your hand, / And eternity in an hour." -W.Blake

Throughout the long arc of human history, one question has persistently animated the heart, haunted the conscience, and elevated the spirit: Can we be redeemed? Redemption—whether conceived as the liberation of the soul, the healing of memory, the purification of guilt, or the restoration of balance or the idea of being saved, renewed, or liberated from suffering or wrongdoing, has served as one of the most powerful and unifying motifs across the world's spiritual, philosophical, artistic, and psychological traditions. It is the silent yearning behind every prayer, the tremble in every act of confession, the courage behind every moral struggle, and the radiance behind every act of forgiveness. Redemption reflects a timeless cry for wholeness amidst fragmentation, a return to the center from which we have strayed. Whether whispered in the solitude of a mystic's heart, thundered through prophetic proclamations, or reflected in the self-transformative insights of secular minds, it reveals the deepest contours of our shared humanity. It testifies to our unique capacity to hope beyond despair, to find light through wounds, to transform loss into meaning, and to become more through suffering—not less. In a world often scarred by alienation, violence, and moral confusion, the redemptive impulse appears not as escapism but

as the most courageous affirmation of life's sacred possibility. It is not merely about rescue—it is about remembering: the astonishing light, dignity, and divinity within and around us, even when obscured. Redemption is thus not a static doctrine, but a living, evolving tapestry of human consciousness—woven from countless traditions, trials, and insights, and constantly inviting us to reimagine what it means to be healed, whole, and human.

The universal human longing for redemption transcends individual cultures and epochs, reflecting an essential aspect of the human condition. Redemption is deeply intertwined with the notion of moral imperfection, with humanity's intrinsic vulnerability often leading to error, suffering, and moral failings. Redemption arises as a response, not merely rectifying personal moral failings but representing a transformative vision for transcending human frailty. It offers renewal and restoration for those who have strayed or endured profound suffering, but it also exists in tension and paradox, positioned between individual salvation and collective liberation, between personal transformation and shared moral progress. This duality renders it richly multi-faceted, with the capacity to address both internal struggles and broader social concerns.

Religious traditions articulate the theme of redemption with profound insight, each offering unique expressions that both unite and distinguish human experiences. In Christianity, redemption centers on salvation history, with Christ's ultimate sacrifice redeeming humanity from original sin. Christian redemption merges notions of divine love, forgiveness, and transformative grace. St. Paul writes, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace," emphasizing both the universal need and the divine gift of redemption. In Judaism, redemption is equally central but often takes a communal focus. The story of the Exodus embodies the Israelites' redemption from slavery, and the yearning for messianic redemption—an age of peace and justice—is a core element of Jewish eschatology. It is not solely about personal atonement but expresses a collective longing for world renewal. Similarly, Islam presents redemption as a journey of forgiveness and divine mercy, linked to individual repentance but ultimately fulfilled in the hereafter, when justice is restored. In Hinduism, redemption is seen as liberation (moksha) from the cycle of samsara (birth, death, and rebirth), in which the individual soul (atman) attains unity with the divine (Brahman). Redemption, here, is a profound spiritual liberation, achieved through devotion, knowledge, and ethical action. Buddhism, too, seeks liberation from the cycle of samsara. However, Buddhist redemption focuses

on enlightenment (nirvana), which frees individuals from suffering and ego's illusions, marking the final liberation from attachment and ignorance. Each tradition shapes redemption in ways that address both universal human longings and specific doctrinal understandings.

Philosophical discourses offer alternative, often secular, interpretations of redemption, framing it in terms of existential freedom and self-realization. Friedrich Nietzsche famously critiqued traditional redemptive frameworks, especially Christianity, which he saw as promoting guilt and self-denial. Nietzsche envisioned self-redemption through a "philosophy of self-overcoming," urging individuals to embrace life fully and create personal values. The "Übermensch" (Overman) embodies self-redemption, where one transcends societal constraints to author their own destiny. Jean-Paul Sartre, another existentialist, approached redemption from an atheistic standpoint, rejecting external salvation and proposing radical freedom and authenticity as paths to redemption. Sartre's assertion, "Man is condemned to be free," captures his vision of redemption as an ongoing act of self-determination, where individuals find meaning through their choices in an indifferent universe.

In literature and mythology, the theme of redemption explores the intricate moral and emotional dimensions of forgiveness, transformation, and renewal. Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment" is a compelling example, where Raskolnikov's journey from alienation to spiritual awakening represents redemption achieved through profound psychological suffering and spiritual transformation. It is not forgiveness from others that redeems him but an inward reckoning with his own guilt and humanity. Mythology often frames redemption through heroic quests. Figures like Hercules and Prometheus undergo trials to restore cosmic balance or redeem themselves, embodying the idea that redemption serves a higher purpose beyond personal salvation. These narratives highlight that redemption, while personal, often carries societal or cosmic significance.

In social and political realms, redemption has inspired movements that seek justice, equality, and liberation from oppression. Martin Luther King Jr., for instance, articulated redemption as a vision of the "beloved community," rooted in racial justice and reconciliation. King's redemptive ideal combines nonviolence and love as transformative forces against injustice. Nelson Mandela's struggle against apartheid further illustrates redemption on a national scale. His journey from prisoner to president symbolized South Africa's redemption, achieved through forgiveness, reconciliation, and collective healing. Redemption in these contexts surpasses individual liberation,

embodying societal healing, collective justice, and the affirmation of shared dignity.

Contemporary thought brings new dimensions to the quest for redemption, extending its implications to environmental, psychological, and scientific fields. Environmental redemption recognizes humanity's impact on the natural world and calls for restorative action to heal ecological imbalances. Here, redemption involves acknowledging interdependence with nature and cultivating sustainable practices to protect the planet. Psychological discussions of redemption often revolve around personal healing and growth, where "redemption narratives" help individuals reinterpret past suffering as meaningful and transformative. Redemption, in this sense, fosters resilience and self-acceptance, creating pathways for people to transcend personal trauma and find purpose.

The quest for redemption is not merely a theological dogma or philosophical abstraction—it is the innermost narrative of the human spirit, echoing through every age and arising in every wounded heart that dares to seek light amidst darkness. From sacred scriptures to secular philosophies, from epics of myth to revolutions of conscience, redemption stands as a perennial axis around which human existence turns. It invites us to see failure not as final, but as formative; suffering not as punishment, but as potential; and the fractured self not as condemned, but as capable of transformation. It holds open the door between the fallen and the forgiven, between exile and return, between despair and the renewal of meaning. In a time when technological acceleration and existential disorientation threaten to unmoor us from our ethical and spiritual centers, the redemptive vision remains a compass toward inner integration, social healing, and ecological responsibility. Whether through divine mercy, moral awakening, psychological reconciliation, or communal justice, redemption calls us to transcend limitation without denying it, to face brokenness with courage, and to reimagine both self and society with compassion. It is the luminous thread running through Hafiz's laughter, Augustine's restlessness, Rumi's wound, Dostoevsky's anguish, and King's dream. As we confront the ever-unfinished project of becoming fully human, the redemptive journey continues—not as a destination, but as a deepening awareness that the source of healing lies not in some distant perfection, but in the courageous, loving embrace of our shared imperfection. In that embrace—personal and collective, sacred and secular—lies the enduring possibility of renewal, and the unfolding of our most profound human potential.

Author can be mailed at shabirahmed.lone003@gmail.com

Balancing Legacy and Innovation: Russia, US and India's Defence Procurement Policies

ROHITH NARAYAN STAMBAMKADI

Challenges in US–India Defence Partnership
Despite significant strides in the India–US defence partnership, potential collaboration remains mired in each country's procedural morass and challenges such as technology transfer restrictions and timely project execution. For instance, while the 2023 GE-HAL MoU to co-produce F414 jet engines marked progress, delays in predecessor F404 deliveries postponed India's MiG retirements, highlighting trust and compatibility issues.[xxxiv] Similarly, the US\$ 3.8 billion MQ-9B drone deal took eight years to materialise, while earlier efforts, like the transfer of EMALS for Indian aircraft carriers, failed due to regulatory hurdles.[xxxv] US export controls like ITAR complicate approvals, impaired by inter-departmental consultations and post-export compliance.[xxxvi]

Further, India's non-NATO status adds to these delays owing to several compliance and procedural requirements. On India's side, bureaucratic inefficiencies, regulatory bottlenecks and US concerns over India's intellectual property ecosystem deter US start-ups and limit technology transfer potential.[xxxvii] To address these issues, both nations must streamline export processes, align timelines with STA-1 principles and prioritise frequent trials for smoother execution. India should further revamp regulatory frameworks to foster private sector engagement, ensuring projects are executed efficiently, boosting trust and unlocking the partnership's full potential.

These challenges were highlighted in the recent February 2025 summit where both the partners agreed to review their respective regulatory standards impairing or delaying defence and technology partnerships.[xxxviii] Nevertheless, addressing these challenges needs strategic urgency given rapidly evolving security threats and technological advancements from China. Beijing's debut of its sixth-generation fighter aircraft,[xxxix] and the potential transfer of fifth-generation fighters to Pakistan significantly alter the regional balance of air power, detrimental to both India and US's interests.[xl]

Simultaneously, India's own indigenous fifth-generation fighter programme—the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)—continues to



India has also seen a boost in defence exports to US\$ 2.63 billion up by 32.5 per cent compared to last year in 2023.[xiv] These developments contributed to reduced reliance on foreign equipment and systems, including Russia. Although Russia remains the primary arms supplier to India accounting to 36 per cent of India's current defence imports, this is the first period since the 1960s when deliveries from Russia made up less than half of India's arms imports.[xv] Russia's share of Indian arms imports has shrunk from 58 per cent in 2014–18 to 36 per cent in 2019–23.

face delays, constraining India's ability to independently field next-generation air capabilities in the near term.[xli] Lastly, as the evolving character of future battlefields are increasingly becoming high-tech infused and software defined with faster kill-chains, both the countries can leverage on their respective industrial capabilities particularly in autonomous weapons like Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), anti-drone weapon systems,

maritime surface and underground systems, quantum technologies, among others.

Conclusion
While Russia continues to play a role in sustaining India's operational readiness through MRO of legacy platforms, its declining reliability and closer alignment with China complicate the partnership. In contrast, India's growing defence cooperation with the US, underpinned by initiatives like iCET,

INDUS-X, and recent deals like COMPACT and TRUST, offers a pathway to advanced technologies, defence innovation and enhanced self-reliance. However, navigating these partnerships requires overcoming procedural hurdles and expediency in revising existing structures and mechanisms given increasing threats and technological advancements from China and changing operational ecosystem for future warfare.

Views expressed are of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Manohar Parrikar IDSA or of the Government of India. Paper was published by Manohar Parrikar Institute For Defence Studies and Analysis. Author is the founder of the Indian Forum for Public Diplomacy (IFPD), a non-profit advocating civilian-led strategic studies in India. E-mail: rs2343@georgetown.edu

PART II

CYCLING CAN BEAT STRESS AND IMPROVE WORK PERFORMANCE!

Want to reduce your stress level? If yes, then cycling to work instead of driving a car.

A new study suggests that cycling to office daily not only make you healthier, but also helps to reduce stress and improve your work performance.

Researchers Stephane Brutus, Roshan Javadian and Alexandra Panaccio compared how different modes of commuting - cycling, driving a car and taking public transport - affected stress and mood at work.

Brutus, the lead author said, the results indicate that cycling to work is a good way to have a good day.

He says, "Employees who cycled to work showed significantly lower levels of stress within the first 45 minutes of work than those who travelled by car."

The study did not, however, find any difference in the effect on mood.

For the finding, the research team collected data from 123 employees at Autodesk, an information technology company in Old Montreal, using a web-based survey.

Respondents replied to questions about their mood, perceived commuting stress and mode of travel.

The survey differentiated between perceived stress and mood, a more



transient state affected by personality traits and emotions.

The study only assessed answers from respondents who had completed the questionnaire within 45 minutes of arriving at work.

This was done to get a more 'in-the-moment' assessment of employees' stress and mood.

Brutus notes that this time specification was the study's major innovation. He explains, "Recent research has shown that early morning stress and mood are strong predictors of their effect later in the day".

He added, "They can shape how subsequent events are perceived, interpreted and acted upon for the rest

of the day."

He said that the time specification ensured a more precise picture of stress upon arrival at work. Retrospective assessments can be coloured by stressors that occur later in the workday.

"There are relatively few studies that compare the affective experiences of cyclists with those of car and public transport users," says Brutus, an avid cyclist himself.

He said, "Our study was an attempt to address that gap."

At the same time, the team confirmed previous research that found that cyclists perceived their commute as being less stressful than those who travelled by car.

Green tea could kill oral cancer



A compound found in green tea may trigger a process that kills oral cancer cells while leaving healthy cells alone, finds a promising study.

According to food scientists from Pennsylvania State University, the research could lead to treatments for oral cancer as well as other types of cancer.

Earlier studies had shown that epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG), a compound found in green tea, killed oral cancer cells without harming normal cells.

"But researchers did not understand the reasons for its ability to target the cancer cells," said Joshua Lambert, associate professor of food

science and co-director of Penn State's Center for Plant and Mushroom Foods for Health.

The current study shows that EGCG may trigger a process in the mitochondria - the cells' powerhouse - that leads to cell death.

"EGCG is doing something to damage the mitochondria and that mitochondrial damage sets up a cycle causing more damage and it spirals out, until the cell undergoes programmed cell death," Lambert explained.

It looks like EGCG causes the formation of reactive oxygen species in cancer cells, which damages the mitochondria, and the mitochondria

responds by making more reactive oxygen species, he said.

As this mitochondrial demise continues, the cancer cell also reduces the expression of anti-oxidant genes, further lowering its defenses.

"So, it is turning off its mechanism of protection at the same time that EGCG is causing this oxidative stress," Lambert added.

The EGCG did not cause this reaction in normal cells.

In fact, it appeared to increase the protective capabilities of the cell, according to the researchers.

The findings were reported online in the journal Molecular Nutrition and Food Research .

Grapes can nip colon cancer in the bud, reveals research!



Often criticised and avoided by many for their sugar content, grapes are also considered a healthy option due to the powerful antioxidants they pack, known as polyphenols, which may slow or prevent many types of cancer.

That said, a study has come out in support of this fact saying that the compounds, found in the skin and seeds of grapes, may help in killing colon cancer stem cells.

The third most common cancer in the world

- colon cancer or colorectal cancer - victimizes one in 22 men and one in 24 women around the world.

The compounds, resveratrol, which are found in grape skins and seeds, could also eventually lead to treatments to help prevent colon cancer, said Jairam K.P. Vanamala from Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute.

"The combination of resveratrol and grape seed extract is very effective at killing colon cancer

cells," Vanamala added.

The researchers suggest that the findings could pave the way for clinical testing of the compounds on human colon cancer, which is the second most common cancer in women and the third in men.

If successful, the compounds could then be used in a pill to help prevent colon cancer and lessen the recurrence of the disease in colon cancer survivors.

Vanamala noted that according to cancer stem-cell theory, cancerous tumors are driven by cancer stem cells. Cancer stem cells are capable of self-renewal, cellular differentiation and maintain their stem cell-like characteristics even after invasion and metastasis.

When taken separately in low doses, resveratrol and grape seed extract are not as effective against cancer stem-cell suppression as when they are combined together, according to the researchers.

"This also connects well with a plant-based diet that is structured so that the person is getting a little bit of different types of plants, of different parts of the plant and different colors of the plant," said Vanamala.

For the animal study, they separated 52 mice with colon cancer tumors into three groups, including a control group and groups that were fed either the grape compounds or sulindac, an anti-inflammatory drug, which was chosen because a previous study showed it significantly reduced the number of tumors in humans.

Should you eat salad for breakfast?

There has been a lot of discussion on what foods to include for breakfast and surprisingly one of them is borrowing from lunch or dinner. It's good ol' salad. While tea, coffee and juice are some of the most popular go-to's in the morning, salad is still irregular and may take some getting used to. Nutritionists explain why greens work in the first meal of the day...

'Plant-based foods'

Says Rati Shah, diet specialist, "Breakfast is actually the most important meal of the day and what you eat in the morning can keep you fueled till lunch or mid-afternoon so eat right. Yes, salads work as any plant-based ingredients help prevent illnesses. And who says the salad has to be just leaves? Add pine nuts, chopped tomatoes, dry fruit or even avocado to it, she says.

Nishta Wadhwan also says it's a good break from the usual, "It helps break free from the bowl of oatmeal or eggs that one normally has. Eating a fiber-rich meal like this also provides apt nutrition to the body."

HOW TO ASSEMBLE YOUR SALAD IN THE MORNING

Get the base right: Use any leftovers and greens that you have. Brown rice can be an apt base.

Add protein to it: How about adding an egg to the bowl? Other options include chicken and nuts.

The dressing: Salads taste that much nicer with an addition of dressing. Drizzle vinaigrette, honey-chilli or add creamy yoghurt to it. To go citrusy, add orange juice on the top.

Here are a few combinations to try

Boiled egg with walnuts and lettuce.

Strawberries with pepper lime juice and



- kale
- Smoked salmon and arugula with chopped avocado
- Baby spinach with apple pomegranate and slices oranges
- Poached egg with crumbled feta, pepper, avocado and tomatoes

Anti-obesity injections: Good or bad?

According to a recent survey, 80 per cent of Delhi NCR residents are obese. In the year 2014, there were around 20 million obese women and 9.8 million obese men recorded in India alone. The figures published in the Lancet also stated that worldwide, the number rose from 105 million obese people in 1975 to 641 million in 2014. Two years later, the numbers are still dangerously high. But with more and more people realizing the ill effects of obesity, bariatric surgeries, weight loss diets and anti-obesity medications are finding more takers.

Aiming to do the same, an injection named Victoza was launched in India a few years ago. The weight loss potential of injection Victoza, which was originally used for the management of Diabetes mellitus, was recognized early in the course of drug usage. Subsequently US FDA accepted it as a weight loss therapy in non-diabetics too. And people wanting to lose weight obviously got lured - after all who wouldn't want to opt for an anti-obesity injection over spending hours at the gym. But it isn't as simple as it sounds. Dr Ashish Ahuja, Senior Consultant Laproscopic Bariatric Surgeon and Associate Professor in Department of Surgery, Dayanand Medical College and Hospital, Ludhiana, warns, "Victoza is primarily an anti-diabetes injection and is not meant to treat obesity. It may cause weight loss but poses high risk of thyroid and pancreatic cancer.

Moreover, Victoza-led weight loss is temporary, unlike weight loss surgeries that keep away lost weight for a longer time. Also, if the injection is self administered, it can even lead to hypo or hyperglycemia."

Diabetes and obesity, though considered to be two different diseases, are closely linked with each other. Dr Sanjay Kalra, Consultant Endocrinologist, Bharti Hospital Karnal & Vice President, South Asian Federation of Endocrine Societies elaborates, "Both diabetes and obesity share so many causes, clinical features and complications that the term 'diabesity' is often used to describe them in combination. Liraglutide is an effective medication, which is used to manage both diabetes and obesity. A once daily injection, it is used in differing doses (up to 1.8 mg daily for diabetes, and 3.0 mg for obesity)."

A large multinational trial, the LEADER trial, conducted in over 10000 participants, demonstrated not only safety, but benefits of liraglutide or victoza. "This drug reduces the risk of death, the risk of death due to cardiovascular cause, and the risk of worsening of kidney disease. This represents a major advance in diabetes care, as we can prevent progression of diabetes and postpone its complications with liraglutide," Dr Kalra adds.

So how exactly does Victoza function? Dr Ambrish Mithal, Chairman-Endocrinology & Diabetes, Medanta elaborates, "The dose of



this daily injection recommended for weight loss is 1.5 to 2 times higher than what is used for diabetes. It functions by controlling our intake. The dose alerts our brain centers to reduce appetite, simultaneously slowing down emptying of our stomach to produce a sensation of fullness."

Having said that, it doesn't work for everyone. Dr Manoj Chadha, Consultant Endocrinologist, P D Hinduja Hospital & MRC, Mumbai says, "Patients may lose between 5-10 per cent of their body weight within 3-4 months. However, a small but significant proportion of patients are categorized as non-responders as these patients do not lose weight." Dr. S.K. Wangnoo,

Endocrinologist, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals adds, "The possible side effects of Victoza are pancreatitis and thyroid tumors, both of which can be fatal. The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) reported that the FDA's clinical safety reviewer originally voted against approving the drug because of its link to thyroid tumors, insufficient study to rule out increased heart attack and stroke risk, as well as an increased risk for pancreatitis. FDA published a warning that doctors weren't fully aware of thyroid risks associated with Victoza. That notice also mentioned that clinical trials suggested an increased risk of pancreatitis in Victoza patients."

Comparing it to weight loss surgeries, Dr Chadha adds, "Bariatric surgery works through multiple mechanisms to reduce weight. Patients end up losing up to 30-40 per cent of their original body weight. However, the earliest weight loss noticed in patients after surgery is through an increase in a hormone called GLP1. Injection Victoza stays in blood circulation for nearly 24 hours. The weight loss following Victoza is a modest 5-10 per cent. However, it could be used pre-operatively to prepare the patient for surgery and judge the possible response of the patient to surgery."

Dr Anup Dhir, MD cosmetic surgery A +Mediart warns against the ill effects of the injection, "I would any day recommend bariatric weight loss over Victoza injection as these injections are mainly meant for Type-2 diabetics. It can cause cancer, thyroid and pancreatic diseases and are also second line medicine. On the other hand, bariatric surgeries aid weight loss by restricting the amount of food the stomach can hold."

With a huge number of people struggling to shed weight, a fat-fighting injection surely seems irresistible. But remember the popular adage - 'all that glitters is not gold'. While more studies will be conducted over a period of time to prove its efficacy and safety, it's always advisable to try the natural way - Eat well and burn calories.

Top-Down vs Bottom-Up: Which Approach Truly Benefits the Poor?



PARVAIZ YOUSUF

In countries like India, development is a main issue. The government wants to have a stable economy, but the main threat is unequal economic distribution. Some people have the most of the money while the majority is left with little. This unequal distribution of funds makes the lives of the poor more severe.

These countries used strong government policies and careful planning to improve the lives of their citizens.

Why Top-Down Approaches Often Fail Countries Like India

Even though the top-down approach has worked in some cases, it has failed in many parts of the world, especially in developing countries. Why does this happen? The reason is simple: it doesn't understand the real needs of the poor people. Take Africa as an example. Many development programs funded by big international organizations have not had a big impact. Why? Because local communities were not involved in the decision-

take control of the development projects. Instead of helping the poor, they use the projects to increase their wealth or power. When this happens, the poor don't get the help they need. The project is no longer about helping them, but about helping the rich. Another limitation is that not all projects can be done at the local level. Some projects are too big or too complex. For example, building a highway, creating industries, or setting up national education systems needs a lot of money, expertise, and resources. Local communities don't always have these things. In such cases, a top-down approach may be needed. The government or big organizations can handle these large projects.

There can also be conflicts between different groups in the



Broadly speaking, there are two main ways to improve the lives of the poor. One is the bottom-up approach and the other is a top-down approach. The government is using either of the two methods to reduce poverty in the country. But the big question is: Which one works better for the poor? Let's break it down. First, we need to understand what these approaches mean.

Top-Down vs Bottom-Up Development

Top-down development is when the decisions about what should be done are made by experts or leaders who are not part of the local community. These experts usually work for the government or large organizations. They make the plans and decide what projects will be carried out to help the poor. In this approach, the leaders at the top believe they know what is best for the people who are living in poverty. They think they have the answers to the problems. The poor people's needs are often decided by others, without asking them what they want or need.

While the bottom-up approach is different. It focuses on getting the community involved in the decision-making process. Instead of the leaders at the top deciding everything, the people who are affected by poverty are given a voice. In bottom-up development, the people who are living in poverty are the ones who identify their problems and choose the solutions. It gives them the chance to take ownership of their development. NGOs, community leaders, and local groups work together with the poor to find the best way to improve their lives.

Does Top-Down Development Have any Benefits?

Even though the top-down approach is not always perfect, there have been some successful results. For example one of the main successes of the top-down approach is in the area of health. Global health campaigns have helped reduce the number of people dying from many diseases. For example, vaccination programs have helped control diseases like polio, malaria, and measles. These programs are usually planned and implemented by experts from the government or big organizations. Because these programs are so well-organized, they can reach many people and save many lives. Another success story comes from infrastructure. Large projects like building roads, setting up electricity, and installing water supply systems are also examples of the top-down approach. These projects can grow communities by giving people access to basic needs like clean water and electricity.

Think about it: in many rural areas, having a road built can change everything. It can make it easier for people to get to markets, for children to go to school, and for doctors to reach villages. Basic infrastructure like this can have a huge impact on improving lives. Lastly, some countries, like South Korea and Taiwan, have used the top-down approach to become economically successful. In these countries, the government played a strong role in building the economy and making sure that development happened in the right way. This helped lift millions of people out of poverty.

making. The poor people were just seen as recipients of help, not as active participants. When these aid programs end, the people lose their sense of ownership. Without this, the projects often fail. For example, in Africa, some development programs funded by international organizations didn't succeed because the poor people didn't have a say in what was happening. The plans were made far away, by people who didn't understand the local problems. As a result, when the aid ran out, the projects couldn't continue.

Another reason why the top-down approach has failed in poor countries is the influence of international financial institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). These organizations often force countries to follow certain policies called structural adjustment programs (SAPs). These policies require countries to cut government spending, and privatize state-owned businesses. At first, these policies might sound good. But in reality, they often cause serious problems. For example, they can lead to higher unemployment, inflation, and greater inequality. In many cases, poor people suffer the most. Let's look at an example from the Ivory Coast. This country faced one of its worst economic crises after accepting loans tied to these SAPs. Instead of helping the country, these loans led to social unrest and made poverty worse.

The Power of the Bottom-Up Approach

Now let's talk about the bottom-up approach, which is focused on giving the community a voice in the development process. This approach has shown that real change is possible when the local people are actively involved. One of the most successful examples of bottom-up development is microfinance. Microfinance helps poor people, especially women, to get small loans to start their own businesses. A famous example is Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. This bank has helped millions of poor people start businesses and improve their lives. The great thing about microfinance is that the borrowers are involved in the process. They are not just given money and left alone. They are part of the solution, and they repay their loans with some interest. The repayment rate is very high because people feel responsible for their loans. Another great example is the work done by NGOs (non-governmental organizations) in many countries. These organizations work closely with local communities. They listen to the community's needs and find solutions that are affordable and sustainable. In countries like Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, NGOs have helped improve health, literacy, and income levels for the poor.

The Bottom-Up Approach Has Some Limitations Too

The bottom-up approach has worked well in many situations, but it is not perfect. There are challenges and limitations that we need to consider. One big problem is called elite capture. This happens when the rich and powerful people in the community

community. People might disagree about what needs to be done first. One group might want to build a school, while another group might need a well. When there are disagreements, decisions take longer. This can delay the development process or cause the projects to fail.

A Combination of Both Approaches is the Way Forward

So, which approach is better? Top-down or bottom-up? The truth is that both have strengths and weaknesses. The best solution is to combine both. For example, the government can set big goals for development, like improving health, education, and infrastructure. But at the same time, the local people should be given a voice in how these goals are achieved. This can be done by having community meetings, consultations, and working with local NGOs. In practice, this means starting with the bottom-up approach. Local communities should first identify their problems and suggest solutions. Once the ideas are collected, the government and other organizations can use their resources and expertise to help implement the ideas on a larger scale.

An example of this is the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in India which combines both approaches. The government sets up the framework and provides the funding. But local communities decide what projects they need, like building roads or digging wells. This way the development meets the actual needs of the people. When both approaches work together, it creates a balance. The top-down approach brings in resources and planning, while the bottom-up approach keeps in mind the community's needs.

Conclusion

The question of whether top-down or bottom-up development works best for the poor is not easy to answer. Both approaches have their strengths and weaknesses. Top-down approaches can bring about large-scale changes, but they often fail to consider the needs and voices of the poor. On the other hand, bottom-up approaches empower local communities but may struggle with large, complex issues that require national coordination. The key is to combine both approaches. Governments, NGOs, and local communities should work together. They can contribute with their strengths to create sustainable and inclusive development. It is not about choosing one approach over the other, but about understanding that the poor need both top-down support and bottom-up empowerment to truly break the cycle of poverty. The poor cannot wait for development to be done to them. They must be part of the process. When they are, the results can be far more effective and lasting.

The paper was published by Jammu & Kashmir Policy Institute- a Srinagar-based independent, non-partisan, youth-driven institution committed to conversations on sustainable development in Jammu and Kashmir. Author Parvaiz Yousuf is a PhD scholar in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at James Cook University, Australia, where he has been awarded the prestigious JCU Postgraduate Research Scholarship for his studies.

Top-down development is when the decisions about what should be done are made by experts or leaders who are not part of the local community. These experts usually work for the government or large organizations. They make the plans and decide what projects will be carried out to help the poor. In this approach, the leaders at the top believe they know what is best for the people who are living in poverty. They think they have the answers to the problems. The poor people's needs are often decided by others, without asking them what they want or need.

Continued From P1...

Pahalgam Terror

out by coffins wrapped in their national flag, and state honours are being awarded,” he added. Misri condemned Pakistan targeting civilians in Jammu and Kashmir through artillery firing.

“Yesterday Pakistan launched a targeted attack on the Sikh community of J&K- hitting a gurdwara in Poonch and hitting the Sikh community members, who came under attack, and three individuals were killed in the attacks... A total of 16 civilians have been killed in Poonch and several others have been injured.”

Defence Ministry said in a statement that during the press briefing on Operation Sindoor yesterday, India had called its response as focused, measured and non-escalatory. It was specifically mentioned that Pakistani military establishments had not been targeted. It was also reiterated that any attack on military targets in India will invite a suitable response.

It said that on the night of May 7-8, Pakistan attempted to engage a number of military targets in Northern and Western India including Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj, using drones and missiles.

These were neutralised by the Integrated Counter UAS Grid and Air Defence systems. The debris of these attacks is now being recovered from a number of locations that prove the Pakistani attacks.

Today morning Indian Armed Forces targeted Air Defence Radars and systems at a number of locations in Pakistan. Indian response has been in the same domain with same intensity as Pakistan. It has been reliably learnt that an Air Defence system at Lahore has been neutralised, the statement said.

It said that Pakistan has increased the intensity of its unprovoked firing across the Line of Control using Mortars and heavy calibre Artillery in areas in Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, Poonch, Mendhar and Rajouri sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sixteen innocent lives have been lost, including three women and five children, due to Pakistani firing. Here too, India was compelled to respond to bring Mortar and Artillery fire from Pakistan to a halt, the statement added.

Pak attempts to

out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan under “Operation Sindoor” and destroyed these sites.

“India’s anti-terror response was focused, measured and non-escalatory and that Pakistani military establishments had not been targeted. Any attack on military targets in India will invite a suitable response,” they said.

Colonel Qureshi and Wing Commander Singh said, “Today morning Indian armed forces targeted air defence radars and systems at a number of locations in Pakistan. Indian response has been in the same domain with the same intensity as Pakistan. It has been reliably learnt that an air defence system at Lahore has been neutralised.”

They said, “Pakistan has increased the intensity of its unprovoked firing across the Line of Control using mortars and heavy calibre artillery in areas in Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, Poonch, Mendhar and Rajouri sectors in Jammu and Kashmir. Innocent lives have been lost, due to Pakistani firing,” they said.

“India was compelled to respond to bring mortar and artillery fire from Pakistan to a halt. Indian Armed Forces reiterate their commitment to non-escalation, provided it is respected by the Pakistani military,” they added

PM Modi stresses

with special focus on readiness, emergency response, and internal communication protocols.

The officers detailed their planning with a whole-of-government approach in the current situation.

All ministries have identified their actionable in relation to the conflict and are strengthening processes.

The ministries are ready to deal with all kinds of emerging situations, the official release said.

A range of issues were discussed during the meeting. These included, among others, strengthening of civil defence mechanisms, efforts to counter misinformation and fake news, and ensuring the security of critical infrastructure.

The ministries were also advised to maintain close coordination with state authorities and ground-level institutions.

The meeting was attended by the Cabinet Secretary, senior officials from the Prime Minister’s Office, and Secretaries from key ministries, including Defence, Home Affairs, External Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Power, Health, and Telecommunications.

The Prime Minister called for continued alertness, institutional synergy, and clear communication as the nation navigates a sensitive period.

He reaffirmed the government’s commitment to national security, operational preparedness, and citizen safety.

Prior to the meeting with the officials, PM Modi also met National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval at his residence.

The NSA briefed him about the current situation on the Western border and developments after Operation Sindoor, sources said..

As per sources, the meeting continued for almost an hour at the PM’s residence. After the meeting with the NSA, the Union Home Secretary also met the Prime Minister.

Our Armed Forces

The Lieutenant Governor directed Divisional Commissioners to meet prominent citizens and ensure continuous public engagement. He said other district officers should also visit border areas and meet the citizens and ensure their safety, medicare etc.

"We have to take precautionary measures and be prepared for any exigency. Ensure effective execution of Evacuation plan and other SoPs. All basic facilities at shelter centres to be ensured," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that our armed

forces have accomplished the goal of demolishing terror factories inside Pakistan and ensured that no one dares to indulge in this kind of misadventure in future.

"The adversary, however, is targeting civilians and on the night of 07-08 May 2025, attempted to engage a number of military targets in the country and the UT of Jammu Kashmir. These were neutralised. We need to be alert and Civil Administration, Defence and law enforcement authorities must work unitedly to tackle all the challenges on the ground," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Cm Omar Reviews

particularly at lodgement centers. The Chief Minister directed for ensuring the availability of basic amenities including food, sanitation, water and power supply in these lodgement facilities.

The Chief Minister was informed that adequate stocks of ration and other essential commodities have been kept in readiness at all strategic locations. He instructed concerned officials to ensure uninterrupted supply chains.

Regarding emergency healthcare, the Chief Minister was briefed about the availability of blood and medical supplies, availability of doctors in Government Medical Colleges and district hospitals, and he emphasized the need for maintaining reserve stocks in need of emergency.

The Chief Minister also directed that senior doctors be deputed to key hospitals in the affected districts to strengthen emergency medical response and ensure specialized care for the injured.

He further instructed the administration to facilitate swift transportation of critically injured victims to tertiary care hospitals outside their districts, using critical care ambulances so that timely and advanced medical treatment is provided without delay.

Further, the Chief Minister directed that additional ambulances be deployed in vulnerable areas to ensure swift medical response and evacuation, wherever needed.

Taking serious note of casualties and injuries caused due to shelling, the Chief Minister directed that ex-gratia relief be disbursed immediately to the next of kin of deceased and injured persons. He further instructed that all required formalities be expedited so that financial assistance—including support from PM CARES Fund and other relief sources—be processed without delay.

The Chief Minister instructed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to undertake field visits to the affected villages and ensure the presence of senior officers of line departments on the ground to monitor the situation closely.

The Chief Minister also directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to ensure that law enforcement agencies step up vigilance in vulnerable areas, especially to protect properties left behind by families who may have temporarily relocated to safer zones.

The Chief Minister commended the efforts of the officers for their measures in these testing times to safeguard people's lives and ensure their well-being.

Satish Sharma visits

line villages have taken temporary shelter. The Minister met with the affected families to take stock of their concerns besides assessing the on-ground situation.

Admiring the courage and resilience of the border residents, the Minister stated, "The spirit shown by the people in these areas under such trying circumstances is truly inspiring. The government stands firmly with them and will ensure that all necessary support is provided to them promptly."

During the visit, Satish Sharma issued instructions to the local administration to ensure uninterrupted provision of essential services including food supplies, healthcare, sanitation and temporary housing. He emphasized the need for a responsive and humane approach in addressing the needs of the displaced population.

Satish Sharma assured them that the government under the dynamic leadership of Omar Abdullah is actively working on enhancing bunker infrastructure, restoring essential supplies and strengthening emergency communication systems to ensure their safety and well-being.

The visit highlighted the government's commitment not only to provide immediate relief but also to formulate long-term support mechanisms for those living in sensitive border areas.

Enquires About

enquire about the health, well-being of civilians injured in the recent cross border firing incidents along the Line of Control (LoC).

During the visit, Sharma interacted with the injured and their families, assuring them of government's full support in ensuring the best possible medical care and rehabilitation. He directed the GMC administration and medical staff to provide all necessary assistance and maintain high standards of care for the injured.

"We stand firmly with every citizen affected by this cowardly act," said the Minister. "The government is committed towards safeguarding the lives and dignity of our people living in border areas", he emphasized.

The Minister was accompanied by senior officials from the Health Department and the District Administration, who briefed him on the ongoing treatment and the measures being taken to support the victims and their families.

J&K hospitals fully

instructions have been disseminated in districts across north Kashmir.

The shelling, which began early Wednesday, was reportedly a retaliatory strike by Indian forces targeting nine terror infrastructure sites in Pakistan and PoK. This military action was in response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, which resulted in 26 civilian deaths.

Poonch district has borne the brunt of Wednesday's shelling. Many homes have been damaged, and residents are relocating to safer areas.

Health authorities have assured the public that all necessary arrangements are in place to handle any emergencies. "From blood banks to trauma units, everything is ready. We have coordinated with district hospitals to ensure efficient patient management," officials said.

An official at GMC Rajouri said the hospital remains alert, as cases from road accidents and other emergencies continue daily. However, given the heightened shelling impact on Poonch and Rajouri, they are especially vigilant this time.

Hospitals also said adequate stocks of medicines and blood supplies are available across all blood banks. They have called on volunteers to step forward and donate blood voluntarily, to ensure sufficient reserves in case of emergencies.

Meanwhile, authorities continue to monitor the border situation closely, as fears of further escalation persist. The Jammu and Kashmir administration has urged residents in vulnerable areas to follow safety advisories and cooperate with emergency services to ensure safety and preparedness

We've seen

uncertainty. "It took us a whole life to build our homes, but in just a moment, everything was destroyed," he said.

Visiting the affected areas, MLA Sajjad Shafi termed the situation "unfortunate and heart-wrenching", highlighting how border residents remain the worst sufferers during such escalations. "Our people have seen the wars of 1947, 1965, 1971 and 1998, but the kind of terror and helplessness they feel now is unprecedented," he said, pointing to the deserted markets and abandoned homes as painful evidence.

The MLA praised the administration's prompt action and outlined the three-tier evacuation setup now in place. "We are shifting people first to Uri, then to Boniyar and finally to Baramulla. Health facilities are fully equipped, and no effort is being spared," he added.

While Sajjad confirmed injuries, he expressed relief that no lives were lost. He appealed for calm and assured residents that they are not alone. "We are here for you," he said.

MLA Uri blamed the recent Pahalgam terror attack for disturbing the fragile peace that border residents had begun to enjoy and prayed for the safe return of displaced families.

In anticipation of further emergencies, the Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Department conducted a mock drill in Uri, assuring locals that they are fully prepared.

An official confirmed that five fire tenders are on standby—one each from Srinagar, Sopore, Muqam, and Baramulla, in addition to the existing unit in Uri. "Our manpower and machinery are alert. We are ready for any fire or rescue operation that may be needed," the official said.

With homes destroyed, livestock abandoned and what not, the residents across the LoC belt repeated the same plea: "War is no solution." They called on both India and Pakistan to restore peace and safeguard the lives of civilians who live on the frontlines of every flare-up.

It is pertinent to mention that the authorities acted swiftly and relocated several families to safer locations. However, the trauma continues to linger.

The escalation follows the launch of "Operation Sindoor" by Indian forces, which targeted terrorist camps across the border in Pakistan. The operation was in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 lives and injured several others

Chief Secretary

available much before the commencement of the yatra.

He also took detailed overview of the ongoing works, condition of tracks, infrastructure and that of other services like capacity of base camps, transit camps, lodgements, holding areas from the concerned Deputy Commissioners. He impressed upon them to make sure that no such facility is established in disaster prone areas and measures like fire-safety audit and compliance with all the safety parameters is done without any compromise.

The Chief Secretary exhorted the administration to increase the ambit of digital prepaid services for the easement of both the pilgrims and service-providers. He asked them to create necessary provisions for enabling most of the transactions are done through this hassle-free mechanism only.

Dulloo further took note of the roles and responsibilities of the Departments like Health, FCS&CA, Forest, Animal Husbandry, SDRF, Information, Transport, Fire & Emergency Services in the successful conduct of the pilgrimage. He directed them to make adequate arrangements of the services provided by each of them along with the backups for any of the unforeseen circumstances. He asked for showing exemplary coordination with each other to make this religious affair memorable for all of the pilgrims coming to undertake yatra this year.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor and CEO SASB made a detailed presentation on the requirements for successful conduct of this year's annual Amarnath Ji yatra here. He also highlighted the roles of the government departments, Security forces and different service providers during this time.

He called on the concerned Deputy Commissioners to conspicuously earmark the disaster prone areas for avoiding pitching of tents/shops/langars there. He asked for ensuring every Yatri/ service provider is allowed on the yatra track only after ascertaining that the concerned is carrying valid RFID card besides employing effective crowd management and optimum frisking time at each access control gate.

He made out that during SANJY-2024, the holding capacity inside yatra camps established at different locations was over 58,000 and outside yatra area it was around 53,000 scattered over different districts right from Lakanpur to Ganderbal. He made out that this year the capacity would suitably be augmented with lodgement facilities to be created near relevant Railway Stations too.

Regarding registration of Labour and other service providers, it was given out that till 07.05.2025, a total of 5,134 ponies, 4,910 pony owners, 325 Pithus, 436 Palkiwalas and 27 Hawkers had been registered by the twin Departments of Labour and Animal Husbandry

here. It was added that all the ponies stands insured under National Livestock Mission for a sum of Rs. 50,000 per animal, covering both natural as well as accidental deaths.

With respect to the weather forecasting infrastructure for dissemination of timely information about weather updates it was revealed that automatic weather stations at appropriate locations would be made operational by 20th June.

Moreover, large sized LED display boards at Base Camps, SMS alert to Administration/Yatra officers, CAP alert by IMD in case of sudden development of potentially hazardous weather condition, Yatra specific web page, Doppler Weather Radar at Banihal top in addition to deployment of IMD officials at Baltal and Nunwan would also be made to make the yatra safe and secure for every pilgrim.

Edu institutes

site X said, "In view of the prevailing situation all Schools, Colleges & educational institutions (private as well as Government) in the districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri and Poonch shall remain closed tomorrow on 9th May as well."

In the meantime J&K State Eligibility Test Agency (Jammu) has postponed the JKSET/LASET Examination 2024-25 slated for May-11.

"Due to the prevailing situation, the JKSET/LASET Examination 2024-25, scheduled to be held on May-11-2025 in UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh, stands postponed till further notice," it reads.

Earlier the University of Kashmir had also postponed all the exams that were scheduled to be held till May-10.

Assistant Controller Conduct of KU in an order on Wednesday had said, "It is hereby notified that all examinations of the University of Kashmir scheduled to be held upto and including 10.05.2025 stand postponed."

Delhi Court Defers Hearing In National Herald Case Against Sonia, Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Thursday deferred the hearing in the National Herald money laundering case involving Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi to May 21 and 22.

Special judge Vishal Gogne after hearing the submissions of the Enforcement Directorate said as notice to co-accused Sam Pitroda was sent via email on Thursday, it was appropriate to hear arguments on the cognisance of chargesheet on the next date.

The court also decided to first hear the ED stand when case's complainant and BJP leader Subramanian Swamy sought a copy of the ED chargesheet.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) PEERZADA HANAN SHAFI SHAH to (New Name) PEERZADA HANAN SHAFI. In future I will be known as (New Name) PEERZADA HANAN SHAFI.

If anyone has any objection he/she may contact the regional passport office Srinagar within seven days. After 7 days, no objection will be accepted.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the DOB of my Son has been Mistakenly Mentioned in his school records as, 16-04-2010, while as his Actual and correct DOB as per his Birth certificate is, 16-04-2013. 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 R P School Nadihal Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Shaheen Iqbal Shah.
F/O Mohammad Hadi Shah.
R/O Nadihal Bandipora , jammu and kashmir .

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement bearing Consumer ID No: 0216020002807, which is Registered in the name of Mohammad Yaqoob khan, S/O Nematulla khan, Now i want to apply for change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Liyaqat Ahmad Khan, S/O Mohammad Yaqoob khan, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Kalooosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Liyaqat Ahmad Khan
S/O. Mohammad Yaqoob khan.
R/O Yali Pethkoot, Banakoot, Bandipora .

On May 2, the court issued notices to former Congress president Sonia Gandhi and leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

It also issued notice to Congress leader Pitroda and Suman Dubey, and "Young Indian", Dotex Merchandise Pvt Ltd and Sunil Bhandari.

The judge said that their "right to be heard" was available at the time of cognisance of the chargesheet.

"Right to be heard at any stage breathes life into fair trial," the judge had said, posting the matter on May 8.

The chargesheet in the matter was filed under Sections 3 (money laundering) and 4 (punishment for money laundering) of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED, which filed its chargesheet recently, began its probe in 2021 after a magistrate court took cognisance of a private complaint filed by Swamy on June 26, 2014. The complaint, the ED said, highlighted a "criminal conspiracy" by several prominent political figures, including the first family of the Congress party led by Sonia, her MP son Rahul, late Congress leaders Motilal Vora and Oscar Fernandes aside from Dubey, Pitroda and a private company Young Indian for their alleged involvement in money laundering in relation to the fraudulent takeover of properties valued over Rs 2,000 crore belonging to the Associated Journals Limited. The Gandhis are majority shareholders of Young Indian with 38 per cent shares held by each one of them. They were questioned for hours by the ED in this case a few years ago.

از نیابت بانڈی پورہ

عنوان درخواست منجانب غلام نبی کرار ولد رحمان کرار
ساکنہ
ارار در پورہ بفرش حصول او بی سی سرٹیفکیٹ۔
استشہاد بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمہ میں کا کاغذات ساکن نسبت حصول سند
او بی سی سرٹیفکیٹ مذکورہ دفتر بذمہ میں زیر کاروائی ہے
اگر اس بارے میں کسی کوئی اعتراض ہو تو سات دن کے اندر پیم
دفتر بذمہ میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں، معیاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی
اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
ناشب تحصیلدار

NOTICE

I have applied for the correction of my name on my Driving Licence issued bearing DL No: JK0520130037323 from Sagib Ahmed to Sagib Ahmad Hurrah. Anybody having any objection may file the same at the Office of the ARTO Office Baramulla within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after the said period.

Sagib Ahmad Hurrah
S/o. Abdul Qayoom Hurrah
R/o. PDD Colony Rangwar
Baramulla.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Driving licence bearing Registration No JK15 2014008011, my name and parantege has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Mudasar Dilwar Bhat, S/O Mohd Dilwar Bhat, while as my Actual and correct name and parantege as per my Aadhaar Card is, Mudasar Dilawar Bhat, S/O Mohmad Dilawar Bhat. 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 Assistant Regional Transport Office Bandipora, with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Mudasar Dilawar Bhat,
S/O Mohmad DilWar Bhat.
R/O Kanzalwan Gurez, District
Bandipora, jammu and kashmir, Pin
code: 193503.

NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of Atif Rafiq Beigh, S/o Rafiq Ahmad Beigh, currently studying in 6th at The Legends School of Education, Hazratbal, Srinagar, has been officially changed to Sadaan Rafiq Beigh.

This change has been sanctioned by the Chief Education Officer, Srinagar, wide order number LSE/919/16 dated 03/12/2016, and is effective immediately. Any objections, if any, may be communicated to the undersigned within 7 days of publication of this notice.

Gill leads the race for India's next Test captain after Rohit's retirement

Shubman Gill has emerged as the frontrunner to replace Rohit Sharma as the full-time Test captain starting with India's Test tour of England, a five-Test series starting on June 20 at Headingley.

Gill's ascension, it is understood, has become inevitable after it became apparent that Jasprit Bumrah, who was the vice-captain of the Test team on India's Test tour of Australia, and led the team in the two Tests Rohit missed, is likely to miss a few Tests in the upcoming World Test Championship (WTC) cycle for workload manage. The squad is expected to be picked when the selection panel, led by Ajit Agarkar, meets later this month. With that series kicking off the next World Test Championship (WTC) cycle for India, it is understood that the selectors want a captain with a long-term view in mind, making Gill, 25, the preferred option.

The question of Rohit's successor in the Test side cropped up once he announced his decision to retire from the format on Wednesday. Bumrah is the designated vice-captain of the Test team, and led in two of the five Tests of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series in Australia, in December 2024 and January 2025, when Rohit had missed out - he was at home for the birth of his child for the first Test of the series, and "stood down" for the last.

But ESPNcricinfo understands that Bumrah's workload as the all-format spearhead of India's fast-bowling attack as well as the fact that he has only recently returned from a stress-related discomfort in his lower back - picked up during that final Test in Australia - after missing the initial few matches of IPL 2025,

has been a concern for the team management and selectors.

Of the players who were part of the set-up in the Sydney Test - the last time India played in the format - KL Rahul has led in three Tests in the past, and Virat Kohli was the long-term captain before Rohit took charge.

Gill has never led in Test matches or ODIs, but has led the team in five T20Is, all on a tour of Zimbabwe in mid-2024 when he was named captain of a side that missed several first-choice

players following India's victory in the preceding T20 World Cup. That Gill was being groomed for the top job has been mentioned in various circles over the past few months, and his performance as batter and captain of Gujarat Titans (GT) in the ongoing IPL season has been

impressive. Gill took over the leadership of the team in 2024 after Hardik Pandya, who had led them to the title in their maiden season (2022) and the final the following year, left to rejoin Mumbai Indians (MI). IPL 2024 didn't go

well for GT, but they have been one of the best performing teams this season.

Gill has been a regular in the India Test team since making his debut in Melbourne in December 2020, when he scored 45 and 35 not out against a full-strength Australia bowling

attack in a Test India won by eight wickets under Ajinkya Rahane's captaincy. He has played 32 Tests overall, scoring 1893 runs at an average of 35.05 with five centuries and seven half-centuries.



The squad is expected to be picked when the selection panel, led by Ajit Agarkar, meets later this month. With that series kicking off the next World Test Championship (WTC) cycle for India, it is understood that the selectors want a captain with a long-term view in mind, making Gill, 25, the preferred option.

Gill has never led in Test matches or ODIs, but has led the team in five T20Is, all on a tour of Zimbabwe in mid-2024 when he was named captain of a side that missed several first-choice players following India's victory in the preceding T20 World Cup.

Future perfect: Hussey hails CSK young guns

Out of the IPL playoffs race, Chennai Super Kings have shifted focus to the 'future' with batting coach Michael Hussey hailing the impact of young replacements Ayush Mhatre, Urvil Patel, and Dewald Brevis, who have brought fresh energy and promise to a rebuilding side.

The five-time champions, who have endured a tough season, claimed only their third win in 12 matches with a two-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders here on Wednesday.

While they prepare to close out their campaign with two more games, Hussey preferred to look ahead with optimism.

"I mean look, all the guys have been working really hard. Obviously the results haven't been going the way we would have liked. But everyone has been doing their best to put a performance out there," the Australian said at the post-match media interaction.

"I feel as though we've played reasonably well in the last few matches but haven't quite been able to get over the line. So, it feels like, that hard work has paid off to some degree, despite obviously not being able to qualify for the playoffs."

The introduction of Mhatre, Urvil, and Brevis has injected fresh life into CSK's campaign, hinting at a promising future. Incidentally, none of them was part of CSK's original auction plan and signed as injury replacements after April 15.

They have since jumped ahead of several players from the original 25-member squad to earn their place in the playing XI.

"When it got to a stage where we were going to struggle to make the playoffs, there was an opportunity to maybe look at what our future looks like," Hussey said after CSK's third win of the season.

"Yes, obviously, we've got those players that were picked in the auction, but this was an opportunity to do some scouting, to have a look at some younger talent that was coming through... get to see them in pressure situations and see if they can handle the pressure of IPL."

Mhatre made headlines with his 94 against RCB, described by many as one of the finest innings by a teenager in this IPL.



Dhoni on IPL future: Nothing to decide now, will take a call later



Chennai Super Kings captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni says "there is no escaping the fact" that he is in the twilight of his IPL career but a decision on his future will depend on how his body responds to the pressure of hard work in the next six to eight months.

The former India captain, who is being met with a sea of adoring fans in yellow at every venue he goes to, is well aware of the emotions and his passionate followers' desire to be there when he plays his last game.

"That is the love and affection I have gotten throughout. Not to forget I am 42 (43). I have played a long time. A lot of them don't know when it is going to be my last time, so they want to come and see me play," Dhoni said after CSK's two-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders here on Wednesday.

Dhoni, who underwent a knee surgery in 2023, has continued to battle fitness concerns. CSK head coach Stephen Fleming recently admitted that the veteran "can't bat 10 overs running full stick."

All of this has contributed in building speculation that the ongoing season is his last outing in the league.

The enigmatic wicketkeeper-batter said he is fully aware of where he stands in his storied career right now but will not make a decision without deliberating hard over it and fully assessing his fitness.

"There is no escaping the fact (that I am in the last phase of my career). After this IPL gets over, I have to work hard for another 6-8 months to see if my body can take this pressure.

"Nothing to decide now but the love and affection I have seen is excellent," Dhoni said.

The win was only the third of CSK's disappointing season marred by inconsistency. With play-off hopes dashed, Dhoni said the focus is now on testing bench strength.

"There were a few things that did not go our way. You could get emotional about it, talk about the pride factor but you have to be practical about it.

"(You) want to be competitive but you also want answers - which batter can fit where, which bowler can bowl where, according to the conditions and all. When we started, hardly anyone was scoring.

"We are out of the tournament, so you give them a chance, see how they react. It is the approach, the mental toughness that you want to check. The most technically-correct batter does not always score the runs, if you have good awareness...there is a chance to be consistent."

Fabricator Friends,
Let your dreams fly high with DURASHINE®!

Get amazing gifts on purchases of DURASHINE® roofs.

Scheme duration 1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024

Training program and certification

Purchase incentive and reward scheme

Home Appliances

Special rewards for best performance in every category

Leaders in Colour Coated Roofing and Cladding Solutions

#ShelterForAll

Authorised Dealer: Saleem Trading Co. Bandipora

Mobile: 7006263383- 9419422669

*Gift photo/images are for representative purposes only