

Kashmir Convener



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‘Terror-Free J&K’ is the Goal: LG Manoj Sinha

Reviews Security Situation In J&K, Yatra Readiness



KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a Unified Headquarters meeting at Raj Bhawan here on Tuesday to review the current security scenario in the Union Territory and that for the annual Amarnath Yatra, Jammu dining guide

The meeting was attended by top officials from civil administration, police and other security forces.

Sinha congratulated the armed forces, security agencies and Jammu and Kashmir Police for Operation Sindoor and successfully neutralising terrorists in the past few days, an spokesman said.

He directed the security agencies to carry out precise, intelligence-led operations to

neutralise terrorists and dismantle support cells, and discussed key strategies and broader counter-terrorism approaches to achieve the goal of 'terror-free J-K'.

He also reviewed the security preparedness for Amarnath Yatra scheduled from July 3 to August 9 this year.

Sinha directed the senior officials of armed forces, Central Reserve Police Force, intelligence agencies and J-K Police to take all necessary action to ensure a safe and peaceful pilgrimage season.

The meeting was attended by Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat, GoC 15 Corps Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, GoC 16 Corps Lt Gen P K Mishra,

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Police Attach Properties of 3 Terror Handlers

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday attached properties of three Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) based terror handlers in Sopore sub-district of north Kashmir

Police said in a non-kinetic operation, Sopore Police today attached 29 marlas of land belonging to Arshid Ahmad Teli of Nowpora Tuijar; Firdous Ahmad Dar alias Umar Dar and Nazir Ahmad Dar alias Shabir Illahi- both residents of Harwan.

“The property attachment is linked to FIR No. 28/2008, registered at Police Station Sopore, under Sections 2/3 of the EMICO Act, Sections 120-B and 121 of the IPC, and Sections 7/25-27 of the Arms Act,” a police statement said.

The action was executed under Sections 82 and 83 of the CrPC by Sopore Police in coordination with Revenue authorities, following due approval from the competent court. Earlier the trio, who are based in Pakistan and PoJK, had been

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Indian Forces Acted Like Skilled Surgeons During Operation Sindoor: Rajnath Singh

Removed infected parts, ensured minimal impact beyond intended areas

KC News Network

LUCKNOW: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said the Indian armed forces operated with the precision of skilled surgeons during Operation Sindoor, targeting the roots of terrorism across the border with accuracy and discipline.

Addressing an event on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of KN Memorial Hospital, Singh said, “Our forces acted just like expert doctors or surgeons. A surgeon uses his instruments precisely where the disease lies, and the Indian forces have done the same – striking at the root of terrorism with unmatched precision.” This was Singh's first public appearance since the May 7 Indian military operation that



struck several terrorist bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Drawing a comparison between the

work of soldiers and doctors, Singh said both serve the nation in vital ways – one protecting health, the other safeguarding national security.

“Both undergo rigorous training, operate under intense pressure, and must take swift, critical decisions during emergencies. This similarity was seen during Operation Sindoor, just as the commitment of doctors was witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic,” he added.

Referring to Pakistan's response, Singh remarked, “As is its habit, Pakistan did not accept defeat easily and attempted retaliatory attacks on Indian soil. They targeted civilians and even places of worship – temples,

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India won't tolerate terror that hides under nuclear blackmail: Foreign Secretary

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Tuesday asked the members of the All-Party Delegation to tell the world that India won't tolerate terror that hides under nuclear blackmail.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the Foreign Secretary while briefing the three of the seven All-Party Delegation members, who are going to represent India's stand on the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead

and “Operation Sindoor” said, “No distinction will be made between the terrorists, their leaders and the government that sponsors them.” He told the delegation members that India's zero tolerance against the terrorism needs to be conveyed to the world. During the meeting, officials said, the Foreign Secretary discussed all the important issues with the members of the delegation.

“He (Foreign Secretary) also discussed the points which members are expected to discuss with the world leaders as well as diplomats of various nations,” they added.

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Over 13 lakh Govt school students gets free textbooks, uniform

Riyaz Bhat

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir more than 13 lakh students of government-run-schools are being provided perks of free textbooks and uniforms under the Right to Education Act.

An official said that under Right to Education, “At least eight lakh students of classes 1st to 8th are provided with the free uniform. The usual cost for the uniform is Rs 600 per child.” Besides, the official according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “At least 5.50 lakh children of classes 3rd to 5th are provided with free textbooks.” About the quality education and Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE), the official further said, “15,550 pre-primary sections of Kindergartens were started in schools of UT including the PM SHRI Schools.” It also said that 13,804 AAYA and helpers stands engaged for these Pre-Primary Sections. “46 Model Kindergartens, have been constructed out of 188 Model Kindergartens.

“About the skill education the official further said, “Vocational Education has been implemented in 1350 schools including in PM SHRI Schools and it will be introduced in 554 schools.” The official further mentioned that 2146 Vocational Trainers have been engaged and 1,34,000 students from class 9th to 12th are enrolled in 15 different trades. “So far 1335 Vocational Labs have been established and 1915 more will be installed in coming months,” the official said—(KNO)

Heatwave Alert ! Amid soaring mercury, admin issues advisory to minimize heat stroke risks Doctors urges people to take precautions



Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: As temperatures continue to rise sharply across Kashmir, the District Administration of Srinagar on Tuesday issued a detailed heatwave advisory aimed at safeguarding public health and minimizing the risk of heat-related illnesses.

The advisory, issued by the District Magistrate who also is the Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Srinagar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) calls for immediate public

cooperation in adhering to key preventive measures. Citizens have been strongly urged to limit outdoor movement, especially between 12 PM and 3 PM, the hottest period of the day.

“Avoid unnecessary outdoor activities during peak hours. Stay hydrated and take appropriate steps to prevent heatstroke,” the advisory emphasized.

To combat the scorching heat, residents are encouraged to drink plenty of water throughout the day, use Oral Rehydration Solutions (ORS), and consume hydrating seasonal fruits such as watermelon

and cucumber.

The advisory strongly discourages the intake of beverages like tea, coffee, carbonated drinks, and alcohol, which can worsen dehydration.

The administration also advised the public to wear light-coloured, loose-fitting cotton clothing and make use of hats, caps, or umbrellas when stepping outside.

Special attention has been called to vulnerable segments of the population, including children, senior citizens, pregnant women, and those with chronic medical conditions. The advisory stresses that these groups are particularly susceptible to heat-related complications and must be protected with extra care.

Event organizers and institutions planning public gatherings have been urged to reschedule events during cooler hours and make arrangements for proper ventilation, shaded areas, and access to

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Tourism revival on cards after Yatra ends, says CM during Ganderbal visit

Inaugurates key projects, Visits Kheer Bhawani, interacts with people



Raja Syed Rather

GANDERBAL: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that the government is putting adequate measures to ensure safe and smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra and Mela Kheer Bhawani.

Speaking with reporters in Ganderbal, CM Omar said that the administration is making adequate arrangements while security related measures are also being made to ensure

smooth conduct of Mela Kheer Bhawani and Amarnath Yatra.

He said that tourism has been hit badly, but currently the situation is not such to revive the sector again. “Once the Amarnath Yatra concludes, the government will sit with stakeholders and take measures to revive tourism again,” he said.

He added that tour operators from outside also want tourism to flourish here again.

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Ensure adequate arrangements for Kheer Bhawani Mela: CS

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday asked the divisional administrations of both the regions for ensuring immaculate arrangements for peaceful and successful celebration of annual Kheer Bhawani Mela to be observed on 03rd of June at Tulmulla Ganderbal.

Dulloo was speaking at a high level meeting of civil administration and Police department held to take stock of the preparations being put in place for smooth conduct of this religious festival.

The Chief Secretary emphasised upon both the Divisional Commissioners and Relief Commissioner to have close coordination with each other for pleasant experience of the pilgrims. He called upon

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J&K Haj Committee Sets New Dates to Compensate Cancelled Flights



KC News Network

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Haj Committee on Tuesday issued a revised schedule for Haj chartered flights that were earlier cancelled due to the closure of Srinagar International Airport earlier this month.

According to the notification the flights will resume from

May 25, 2025.

As per the notification, the revised schedule covers six flights that were cancelled between May 7 and May 12. An additional flight was already accommodated on May 15. In total, seven flights carrying 1,895 pilgrims were affected by the cancellations.

A senior Haj Committee official confirmed that one of

the originally scheduled flights (dated May 8) has been split into two. “With this arrangement, the backlog created due to the seven cancelled flights will be fully cleared,” the official said.

As per the revised flight dates, flight SG-5207 originally on May 7 is scheduled now on May 25, SG-5208 originally May 8 will depart on May 27, SG-5208 Split from May 8 scheduled on May 28, SG-5209 Originally May 9 will leave on May 30, SG-5210 originally May 10 will leave on May 30, SG-5211 originally May 11 will leave on May 31 and SG-5212 originally May 12 will depart on May 31.

The Haj Committee has assured that a separate notification

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Modi-led Govt committed to safety, security of border communities: LoP Sharma

BJP Leaders Assess Damage in Poonch, Vow Support for Border Residents

Yogesh

JAMMU: The Leader of Opposition and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Sunil Sharma on Tuesday visited the border areas for the fourth straight day to assess the damage caused by Pakistani shelling.

Sharma was accompanied by several Party leaders and legislators including Sham Lal Sharma, Dr Narinder Singh and others.

They visited Geeta Bhawan and Gurudwara Sahib in Poonch town to assess the damage caused by Pakistani shelling.

The leaders interacted with local residents, took stock of the situation, and assured coordinated relief and rehabilitation efforts in collaboration with local authorities.

Pertinently, Sharma held a meeting



with Poonch residents late Monday night.

After listening to their concerns, Sharma assured them of prompt support and essential supplies.

“The Narendra Modi government remains committed to ensuring the safety, security, and development of border communities, focusing

on infrastructure enhancement and sustained relief efforts,” he said.

Meanwhile, as per a statement issued here, a senior delegation of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) visited the shelling-affected areas of Poonch district to assess the ground situation and coordinate relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected population.

The delegation comprised Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma, BJP National Secretary and MLA Dr. Narinder Singh, J&K BJP Vice President and MLA Sham Lal Sharma, J&K BJP General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta, MLA Adv. Ranbir Singh Pathania, and District President S. Gurdeep Singh Khalsa. The BJP leaders held a detailed meeting with the district administration to review the relief measures being undertaken in

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Srinagar Airport Handles 31,000 Flyers in 5 Days Despite Disruptions

Rehan Qayoom Mir

SRINAGAR : Despite the earlier tension and escalation between India and Pakistan, the Srinagar International Airport recorded a passenger footfall of over 31,000 in the last five days, official



data reveals. As per data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), between May 15 and May 19, a total of 210 flights, including scheduled and Haj departures, operated through the airport, carrying 31,511 passengers.

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Designate Protection Officers To Ensure Safety Of Women From Domestic Abuse: SC To States, UTs

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed all the states and union territories to identify officers in the Department of Women and Child Development at the district and taluka levels and designate them as protection officers.

A protection officer is an appointed individual tasked with ensuring the safety and well-being of victims of domestic violence.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma directed the chief secretaries of the states, UTs and the secretaries of the Women and Child/Social Welfare Departments to coordinate and ensure the designation of officers as protection officers under the Domestic Violence Act.

"They shall also take steps to discharge their duties under Section 11 by giving wide publicity through media to promote awareness about the provisions of the Act, ensure effective coordination of services

under the Act, and implement its provisions," it said. The bench directed for the exercise to be completed within six weeks from today in areas where protection officers weren't designated.

"The states shall ensure the availability of service providers, help groups, and shelter homes for distressed women. The respondent states shall also identify shelter homes for this purpose," the top court added.

Underlining the right under the Legal Services Authorities Act, the bench ordered the member secretary of National Legal Services Authority to instruct all member secretaries of the state legal services authorities to spread awareness among women about their right to free legal aid and advice under the Domestic Violence Act.

They shall also give adequate publicity to these provisions, the bench said.

"Needless to say, if any woman approaches for



legal aid or advice, it shall be provided expeditiously, as the Act guarantees every woman the right to free legal assistance," it noted.

The top court's direction came on a plea filed by NGO We the Women of India seeking to fill massive gaps in infrastructure under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act across the country for providing effective legal aid to women survivors of abuse at matrimonial homes and creating shelter homes for them post lodging of complaints against husbands and inlaws.

The NGO, in its plea filed through advocate Shobha Gupta, said domestic violence continues to be the most common crime against females in India despite the Domestic Violence Act coming into force more than 15 years.

Govt May Try As Much To Cover Up 'India's Biggest Scam', Truth Is Coming Out: Cong On Adani Issue

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Tuesday flagged media reports claiming that SEBI has warned two offshore funds holding Adani Group shares with penalties and said the market regulator's actions might appear on the surface to represent progress but the probe has dragged on for over two years with the conglomerate benefitting from the delay.

There was no immediate reaction from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) or the Adani Group on the claims.

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, said the "double-engine" Modani saga continues.

"SEBI has reportedly threatened two Mauritius-based offshore funds controlled by Elara Capital –? Elara India



Opportunities Fund and Vespera Fund –? with penalties and licence cancellations for failing to provide shareholding details," he said on X.

Ramesh said, these funds have been accused of "stock

parking" – being fronts for benami Adani investments in their own companies in violation of SEBI rules.

"The two funds have reportedly offered to settle the matter without admitting guilt and paying a token fee, which is the course of action most convenient for Modani," the Congress leader said.

In December 2022, 98.78 per cent of the India Opportunities Fund was invested in three Adani Companies, while in June 2022, 93.9 per cent of Vespera was invested in Adani Enterprises, he said.

"SEBI's actions might appear on the surface to represent progress, but the fact is that the Supreme Court had required this investigation to be completed in two months, but it has dragged on for more than two years. The only people who have benefited from this delay are Modani," Ramesh said.

Nia, Ib Grilling Haryana Youtuber Arrested For Spying For Pakistan: Police



CHANDIGARH: The National Investigation Agency, Intelligence Bureau and military intelligence officials are questioning Haryana YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra, who has been arrested on charges of spying for Pakistan, police said on Tuesday.

A probe into her financial transactions and travel details is also underway, they said.

Hisar-based Jyoti (33), who ran a YouTube channel titled 'Travel with JO', was arrested from the New Aggarsain Extension on May 16.

She was booked under the relevant sections of the Official Secrets Act and the BNS, police said.

Jyoti was among 12 people who have been arrested from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh over the past two weeks on charges of espionage, with investigators pointing

at an alleged Pakistan-linked spy network operating in north India.

A senior Haryana Police officer in Hisar on Tuesday said the central agencies and military intelligence officials are also probing her travel details, as she had reportedly visited Pakistan, China and some other countries.

An attempt is being made to draw a complete chain of events to see which countries she visited and in what sequence, the officer said.

Earlier, police said her known sources of income did not justify her foreign travels, adding that her financial transactions were also under scanner.

A forensic analysis of Jyoti's laptop is underway, police said, adding that they would also question those who were in touch with her.

On Sunday, Hisar SP Shashank

Kumar Sawan said that Pakistani intelligence operatives were developing Jyoti as an "asset".

She was allegedly in touch with a Pakistani official posted in the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi during the four-day military conflict between India and Pakistan that followed the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, the SP said. Sawan said while Jyoti did not have any direct access to any information related to the military operations, she was directly in touch with Pakistani intelligence operatives (PIOs).

"This is modern warfare that is not just fought on the borders. We came across a new modus operandi wherein PIOs were trying to recruit some social media influencers," the SP said.

Sawan also said Jyoti went to Kashmir before the Pahalgam attack and visited Pakistan before that, adding that police are trying to establish the "links" between these visits.

Jyoti, whose YouTube channel at present has 3.87 lakh subscribers, came in contact with Ehsan-ur-Rahim alias Danish at the Pakistan High Commission in 2023, when she went there seeking a visa to visit the neighbouring country.

On May 13, India expelled the Pakistani official working in the high commission for allegedly indulging in espionage.

Communal politics practised by mainstream parties root cause of all problems: Kejriwal

NEW DELHI: AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said Hindu-Muslim politics practised by mainstream parties for the last 75 years is the root cause of all problems in the country.

Speaking at the launch of the party's student wing – the Association of Students for Alterna-



tive Politics (ASAP) – here, the former Delhi chief minister accused the current BJP dispensation of destroying the city's education system.

"Our country is grappling with a lot of problems. Why is this happening? It is because parties like the BJP, the Congress and others have only indulged in politics in the last 75 years," he said.

"These parties are only teaching our school children about Hindu-Muslim... This is the root cause of problems in our country," he said.

Talking about the ASAP, he said student cultural groups will be formed in colleges across the country under the forum.

Kejriwal said the AAP has proved that elections can be fought with complete honesty.

He also hit out at the BJP-led government in Delhi for the long power cuts in the national capital.

"Nowadays, there are three to four hour-long power cuts in Delhi, which did not happen earlier. Within three months, they (BJP) have started ruining the education in Delhi," he said.

In BJP's model money is in hands of select rich, while Cong gives to poor: Rahul Gandhi

HOSAPETE (KARNATAKA): Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday said that the BJP follows a model under which select rich people get entire money and resources, whereas in the Congress' model, money is put into the bank accounts and the pockets of the poor.

The Congress leader was speaking at an event to mark Karnataka Congress Government's two years in office, during which over one lakh title deeds were distributed to eligible beneficiaries, whose "undocumented habitations" have been declared as revenue villages.

"Congress party Government has completed two years. During the election, we made you promises. We had promised five guarantees. The BJP people said that Congress party will not be able to fulfill it. The Prime Minister said this won't be done," Gandhi said.

Listing out the five guarantee schemes implemented by the Government, he said, "We have told you that we will put money into the bank account of Karnataka's poor. Today, thousands of



crores of rupees is being directly put into your bank account. This money, you use for the education of your children, for your health. This is what we wanted – your money comes back to your pocket."

"The BJP wants only to select people to get India's entire money, but we want the money to go to the pockets of poor, backward, dalits, adivasis directly. When we put money into your pockets, that money goes into the market and because of this production increases and money gets injected into villages as you spend

this money in your villages and cities and Karnataka's economy benefits from it," he added.

Stating that in the BJP's model, the entire money is given to two-three billionaires, the Congress leader said these billionaires don't spend money in villages or towns, but they buy assets in London, New York and other places.

"Your money goes into the hands of a select few under the BJP's model. In their model, employment gets finished, but in our model, employment gets generated.

In their model, if you are ill, you will be under debt, in our model, you will have money in your pockets and you will get treated. You will give lakhs of money to private schools, colleges and universities for education under their model and face debt, while in our model we give you money," he added.

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, party general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, host of party leaders and ministers were present at the event.

The Congress government's five guarantee schemes are –200 units of free power to all households (Gruha Jyoti), Rs 2,000 monthly assistance to the woman head of every family (Gruha Lakshmi), the additional 5 kg of rice to every member of a BPL household (Anna Bhagya),

Rs 3,000 every month for unemployed graduate youth and Rs 1,500 for diploma holders for two years (Yuva Nidhi), and free travel for women in public transport buses (Shakti).

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR JAMMU & KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

CPO Chowk Panjtirthi, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar.

www.jkssb.nic.in

Notice

Subject: Rescheduling of Driving Test-regarding

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned candidates that, as per Notice No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM/2/2025-04 (7661717) dated 09-05-2025, the driving test for the post of Driver (Home Department), which was earlier scheduled to be held on 10-05-2025, has been postponed. The said test shall now be conducted on 26-05-2025 (Monday) at the same venues as previously allotted.

Further the Admit Cards already issued for the driving test scheduled on 10-05-2025 shall remain valid for the rescheduled test on 26-05-2025.

No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM/2/2025-04 (7661717)

Dated: 20.05.2025

Sd/-

Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NIT NO 140F R&B/Anantnag/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/1704-13DATED 19-05-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Repair and Renovation of Building of District Legal Service Authority Anantnag.	2.91 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 2.47 + (18% GST Amount 0.44)	200	5820	20 Days	District Capex 2025-26 (NFB Grants)	DEE Class & MSME's Only

Project:Authority:District Development Commissioner Anantnag.

Position of Authorization: Authorized Vide Order No.76- DCCA 2025, Dated 19.05.2025.

- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of 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:

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	19-05-2025 From 19-05-2025 (03:00PM)
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	To 24-05-2025 (04:30PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 19-05-2025 (03:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 24-05-2025 (04:30PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	26-05-2025 (11:00AM) In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender Inviting Authority) [NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt] (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority). (The Date of EMD/CDR/FDR/BG should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and validity of EMD at the time of opening of Bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond Bid Validity of 120 Days). The same EMD should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
- Small MSME's are required to pay only 50% of the amount of EMD. Bid Security or Rs 5000/- whichever is lower.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The date of Performance Security (CDR/FDR/BG) should be after the date of issuance of letter/LOI to deposit the performance security. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- 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 Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.
- Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

Dated:20/05/2025

DIPK-1615/25

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

Fake Land Deals in Jammu: Bandipora Court Orders Arrest of Jammu Man in Cheque Bounce case

Accused made people to pay for land earmarked for Regional Science Centre in Jammu

SUHAIL RATHER

BANDIPORA: A local court in Bandipora has issued a non-bailable warrant against Ab Gani Khan, a resident of Chowadi, Jammu, in connection with multiple cheque bounce cases linked to a broader land scam that duped several buyers in the district.

The Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Bandipora, Amandeep Singh, passed the order under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act after the accused failed to appear before the court in three separate cheque dishonour cases.

The court has directed the Station House Officer (SHO), Sainik Colony, Jammu, to arrest the accused and produce him before the court on or before May 24, 2025.

According to the court order, the warrant has also been forwarded to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Jammu for execution. SSP Jammu has been asked to comply the warrant and a compliance report has been sought in case the arrest is not carried out.

The directions were passed in three separate cases related to cheque bounce cases filed by three petitioners including-Hilal Ahmad Bhat,



Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh and Sheikh Saleem-all residents of Bandipora. The petitioners are being represented by Advocate Shafiq Ahmad Bhat.

The accused fraudster along with a local accomplice Shahnawaz Ahmad Mir of Plan Bandipora was under the scanner for allegedly run-

ning an organised land scam that defrauded over a dozen residents of Bandipora district. "After several attempts, the accused gave cheques to three persons (petitioners) after he was pressed to return the money but the cheques bounced as there was no balance in the account," petitioners told Kashmir Convener.

Even after providing fake cheques, the duo allegedly promised to sell land in Chowadi, Jammu, which, as it later turned out, was earmarked for the Regional Science Centre and other developmental projects being taken up by the government.

Victims claimed that they were shown fake land documents and made to believe the deal was genuine. However, when asked to provide proper documentation for legal registration, the accused started dilly-dallying. Three Buyers who were duped said Shahnawaz Mir gave them cheques issued from the bank account of his accomplice Ab Gani Khan addressed to State Cooperative Bank Narwal but all the cheques got bounced followed which they were left with

no option but to register a case against the land mafia.

The matter gained further attention after JK Government in Jammu last year confirmed that 100 kanals of land at Chowadi had been officially identified for the Regional Science Centre, exposing the scam.

"We were surprised when we read the news about the land that was shown to use by these persons as proprietary land," said one of the petitioners.

He said the fraudsters who seem to be part of big land mafia have duped dozens of persons from Bandipora including several locals politicians. "We were lucky to get cheques at least after a long struggle but those too bounced and hence the legal proceeding," he added.

Locals have urged law enforcement agencies, including the police and the NIA, to launch a deeper investigation into the matter, warning that this may be just the "tip of the iceberg" of a much larger land mafia network operating in the region.

DLSA Baramulla to hold Lok Adalat on May 31st

BARAMULLA: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Baramulla in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Committees of District Baramulla is going to hold National Lok Adalat on Saturday, 31st of May 2025.

The said Lok Adalat will be held at District Court Complex Baramulla as well as at all the Tehsil Legal Services Committee Headquarters of District Baramulla.

During the Lok Adalat, Pre-Litigation and pending court cases such as NI Act under section 138, Bank Recovery matters, Labour Disputes, Electricity, Water Bills and Cases pending in courts like Criminal Compound Offence, MACT cases, Land Acquisition cases will be taken for amicable resolution.

As such all concerned parties /advocates who desire to get their cases of aforementioned nature settled through the said Lok Adalat may approach District Legal Services Authority Baramulla /Tehsil Legal Services Committees of District Baramulla by or before 25th May 2025.



Indian Army's Poonch Brigade Leads Fierce Response Under Operation SINDOOR: Brigadier Mahajan

POONCH: Brigadier Mudit Mahajan, Commander of the Poonch Brigade, on Monday said that the Indian Army delivered a decisive and calibrated response to Pakistan's unprovoked aggression across the Line of Control under Operation SINDOOR, declaring that the Poonch Brigade was "not just a part but the heart of the operation."

In a press briefing, Brig Mahajan said the operation followed a Pakistan-sponsored terror strike in Pahalgalam, prompting the Indian Army to strike six of nine identified terrorist infrastructure targets located opposite Poonch, Rajouri, and Akhnor. "These were neutralized with unmatched precision and purpose the very same night," he said.

The Army's initial retaliation was confined to terrorist camps, but when the Pakistan Army escalated by targeting civilian areas, Indian forces expanded their operations to strike military assets, the commander added.

Brig Mahajan highlighted the role of Army Air Defence in countering an emerging threat of drone swarms. "Air Defence units demonstrated exceptional skill and coordination, intercepting every aerial threat to safeguard troops and civilian populations," he said.

While exact figures of enemy casualties are still being verified by intelligence agencies, the officer said that Pakistan Army has suffered heavy losses in both personnel and morale. "They have lost credibility before their own nation," Brig Mahajan noted.

He asserted that Operation SINDOOR remains suspended but not concluded. "The Indian Army is fully alert and ready. If challenged again, we will respond not with words, but with fire and the resolve of the nation," he said.

Imam Hussain A.S Hospital Organises Free Gynaecology Camp in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: In a significant health initiative, Imam Hussain A.S Hospital and Paramedical Institute, Bemina Srinagar, organised a free gynaecology camp on Tuesday, drawing a large number of women from across the Kashmir Valley.

The camp was aimed at raising awareness among women about the importance of reproductive and general health at all stages of life. Dr Tayzeen, a senior gynaecologist, led the OPD and provided consultations, diagnosis, and treatment to patients suffering from various gynaecological issues.

According to the organisers, the camp witnessed an overwhelming response, with women from different districts attending and availing free medical services. "The purpose of organising such a camp is to sensitise women about their health, especially in areas where access to specialised healthcare remains limited," the hospital management said in a statement.

Dr Iftikhar, Medical Superintendent of Imam Hussain A.S Hospital, emphasised the hospital's commitment to community service. "Being a part of the society, it becomes imperative upon us to hold such camps for our female patients and extend professional care without financial burden," he said.

The hospital administration further announced plans to organise similar health awareness programs in the near future, catering to the needs of underserved sections of the society.

Civil Defense Workshop held at Kupwara to boost response to emergencies

KUPWARA: Zila Sainik Welfare Officer (ZSWO) Kupwara in collaboration with District Administration Kupwara organized a Civil Defense Workshop for volunteer ex-servicemen at Zila Sainik Welfare Office Kupwara.

The aim of the workshop was to enhance and to facilitate appropriate response to emergencies such as Armed Conflict, Warfare, Natural Disaster or similar exigencies by using the experience of volunteer ex-servicemen.

In this regard, a list of volunteer ex-servicemen has been prepared to facilitate the timely deployment and operationalization of ex-servicemen security teams for watch and ward duties as and when required.

The aim is to ensure effective coordination with the District Administration Kupwara.

Chairman DLSA Bandipora Reviews Preparations for 2nd National Lok Adalat

BANDIPORA: In view of the upcoming 2nd National Lok Adalat, now scheduled for May 31, the Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora and Principal District and Sessions Judge, Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, chaired a preparatory meeting today with all Judicial Officers of the district.

The meeting was held to review and streamline preparations for the Lok Adalat and was attended by Sushil Singh (Additional District & Sessions Judge), Iqbal Ahmad Akhoo (Chief Judicial Magistrate), Sheikh Babar (Secretary DLSA), Amandeep Singh (Additional Munsiff/JMIC, Sumbal), and Mehak Mehboob (Munsiff/JMIC, Gurez).

Key discussions focused on identifying cases suitable for amicable settlement. Chairman DLSA directed judicial officers to thoroughly verify records and prioritize old pending matters for resolution during the National Lok Adalat. He also instructed that pre-Lok Adalat conciliation sessions be conducted in advance to provide parties with a platform for negotiated settlements.

Emphasizing the significance of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, Mr. Choudhary said the National Lok Adalat is an opportunity to reduce case pendency and deliver swift, cost-effective justice.

Judicial officers shared inputs and formulated a detailed action plan to ensure smooth and effective execution of the Lok Adalat across all courts in the district.

The Chairman also underscored the need to encourage settlement of pre-litigation matters and directed that interested parties be informed and facilitated. In this regard, DLSA Bandipora has invited all individuals willing to resolve their disputes through the Lok Adalat to approach the office of the Secretary, DLSA Bandipora, on any working day from today onwards.

The National Lok Adalat initiative is aimed at promoting access to justice and fostering amicable settlements outside the conventional litigation process.

DIPR Jammu convenes 'Nasha Mukht' Bharat awareness programme at GHSS Bhalwal

JAMMU: Cultural Unit Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu, in collaboration with District Administration Jammu, convened a Cultural Awareness Programme titled 'Nasha Mukht Bharat' (Say No to Drugs) today at the Government Higher Secondary School Bhalwal.

The aim of the initiative was to enhance awareness regarding the detrimental effects of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free community. Artists from the Cultural Unit, Jammu captivated the audience with thematic songs, effectively demonstrating the repercussions of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society at large.

The programme was attended by officials of Health, Jammu Kashmir Police Department, staff of school and students. The students showcased Nukkad Natak centered on the theme. Principal, Harpreet Kour, expressed her insights on the subject, highlighting its significance to the audience. She commended the Department of Information and Public Relations for organizing such a meaningful programme designed to enhance awareness.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu, Mukesh Kumar Sharma.



Secretary DLSA Bandipora Reviews Legal Aid Services in the district

BANDIPORA: The Secretary of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Bandipora, on Tuesday convened three separate introductory-cum-review meetings with Panel Lawyers, Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs), and Adhikar Mitras (PLVs) to assess ongoing legal aid efforts and strengthen access to justice for marginalized communities across the district.

The meetings focused on evaluating the quality, timeliness, and effectiveness of legal services being provided, particularly to the poor, vulnerable, and underrepresented. Discussions revolved around improving court representation standards, better case management, and devising strategies to enhance outreach and awareness. The Secretary emphasized the need for LADCs and Panel Lawyers to maintain regular engagement with legal aid beneficiaries, ensure professional and diligent representation in criminal trials, and

raise awareness about government welfare schemes. He further directed them to offer timely legal support to

individuals such as school dropouts, distressed senior citizens, and mentally ill persons in need of support.



aggravated women and needy individuals, especially in remote areas.

Addressing the Adhikar Mitras (PLVs), the Secretary highlighted their crucial role in the grassroots legal aid framework. He encouraged them to conduct door-to-door awareness campaigns, extend legal help at police stations, and identify vulnerable in-

BJP Pulwama Organises Mega Tiranga Rally in Pampore

BILAL HABIB

PAMPORE: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Pulwama on Tuesday organised a massive Tiranga Rally across multiple locations of Saffron Town Pampore in South

"Indian Army Zindabad," and "Jammu Kashmir Police Zindabad." Marchers moved through various parts of Pampore, uniting under the tricolour to honour the bravery and sacrifice of the security personnel.



The rally started from the BJP office at Drangbal and culminated at the BDO Office Pampore. The event was led by BJP District President Pulwama, Er Syed Showkat Gayoor Andrabi, who was joined by senior party leaders including District General Secretaries Nisar Ahmad Bhat and Mohammad Asif Ganaie, Vice Presidents Manoj Pandita, Pushpa Wangoo, and Mubeena Akhtar, and Spokesperson Anjir Koul, among others. Several youth leaders and grassroots members also participated actively, marking a robust show of support.

Speaking to Kashmir Convener, Er Syed Showkat Gayoor Andrabi said,

"Today's Tiranga Rally is a tribute to our brave soldiers who delivered a strong and fitting response to the enemy during Operation Sindoor. We salute the martyrs of this mission. The people of Pampore stand firmly with our security forces. Operation Sindoor has only paused – any future threat will be answered with even greater resolve."

He added that BJP is holding such Tiranga rallies nationwide, including in every district, constituency, and block, to celebrate the operation's success and honour the armed forces.

"After Pampore, similar rallies were held in Pulwama town, Kakapora, and Darsara on Sunday, and more are planned in the coming days," he said.

The rally underscored BJP's growing grassroots presence in South Kashmir and highlighted its commitment to the ideals of nationalism, unity, and development. The event resonated deeply with the people, reinforcing solidarity with Indian forces and the broader national sentiment.

Editorial



Out-of-Pocket Expenditure

The recent data from India's National Health Accounts (NHA) earlier this year reveals a remarkable trend: Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE) on healthcare is steadily decreasing. This shift is largely attributed to increased government investment in healthcare and the creation of a more accessible and affordable public health infrastructure. Between 2014-15 and 2021-22, government health expenditure (GHE) as a share of GDP rose from 1.13% to 1.84%, while the share of government spending on health grew from 3.94% to 6.12%. These figures highlight a strong commitment to public health, which is reshaping India's healthcare landscape. Key initiatives, such as Ayushman Bharat and various state-level health insurance schemes, have been instrumental in providing coverage to economically vulnerable populations, reducing their reliance on personal savings for medical expenses. Social security expenditure on healthcare also saw a notable increase, protecting individuals from catastrophic healthcare costs that once loomed as major financial threats. The government's focus on enhancing public health infrastructure and workforce development, particularly in rural and underserved regions, further strengthens the availability of services, thereby reducing OOPE. The implications of reduced OOPE extend far beyond financial relief. By making healthcare more affordable, people are encouraged to seek timely medical attention, which translates into better health outcomes. Families, especially those in economically weaker sections, can now allocate resources to essentials beyond healthcare, thus enhancing their financial resilience. The shift toward government-funded healthcare is also creating a stronger healthcare workforce and paving the way for universal health coverage, a long-term goal that aligns with India's vision for an equitable healthcare system. India's healthcare reforms, embodied by reduced OOPE and increasing government investment, mark a transformative shift. This progress lays the foundation for a healthier, financially secure population and brings India closer to a future where healthcare is accessible to all. As the nation continues its journey toward universal health coverage, the promise of affordable and inclusive healthcare stands stronger than ever.

Where Ethics, Journalism, And Content Creation Collide



MANUELA CALLARI

The lines are blurring. Where traditional journalism ends and content creation begins is no longer a clear border, but a dynamic frontier demanding a new ethical map. As journalists adopt the tools and personas of influencers, and influencers tackle journalistic work, how do the core values of journalism translate to this fluid, fast-paced digital landscape?

At the 2025 International Journalism Festival in Perugia, Italy, journalists-turned-content creators discussed the practical dilemmas faced daily by media innovators trying to deliver credible information, especially to younger audiences who increasingly look beyond legacy outlets. For them, navigating this space means challenging long-held assumptions and establishing new guidelines that are grounded in transparency and rigor.

Prioritizing rigor over labels In the creator economy, traditional titles seem to carry less weight with audiences than the actual substance of the work. At the Perugia festival, the conversation at the "Journalism ethics in the creator economy era" panel began by addressing the sometimes-uneasy relationship between the terms "journalist" and "influencer."

Sruthi Gottipati, who is building a creator-driven, Gen-Z-focused news startup, SpotOn, argued against getting hung up on labels. "I don't think people care that much about the label," she said. "I use the words 'influencer' and 'creator' interchangeably. What's most important is the kind of work that you're putting out, that has that kind of journalistic rigor that we've been trained in."

She said that core journalistic values — accountability, transparency, truth, fairness — are paramount, regardless of how creators identify themselves. The key is embedding these principles into the content. At SpotOn, she aims to "unlock the value that journalists bring" by training them as creators, while also equipping creators interested in substantive reporting with the rigor of journalism.

Re-evaluating objectivity The long-held ideal of detached objectivity is also transforming. The panel challenged the tradi-

tional notion of journalistic objectivity, suggesting the conversation has evolved. Kassy Cho, whose outlet, Almost, focuses on global news for young people, explained their decision to move beyond strict neutrality, particularly when covering issues with clear power imbalances. "Journalism is about accountability, and sometimes

fairness, accuracy, and transparency in one's approach. Monetization with integrity Ethical considerations extend to how this new form of journalism is funded, and here, transparency becomes a necessity. Gottipati debunked the myth that audiences are turned off by sponsored content. In her experience, viewers are savvy and resent be-

that had been carefully cultivated there. Breimer advised creators against platform dependency. "Be smart about your business strategy. Collect email addresses because they can't be taken away from you," she suggested. She also called for solidarity: "I would love to see more coverage of our journalists being in danger on these social platforms, defending



when you are neutral and platform both sides, then it can actually lead to harmful narratives," she said, citing climate change reporting and coverage of Gaza as examples. "For us at Almost, we made the editorial decision to call the war on Gaza a genocide in our reporting because that was the truth, that was what we were seeing. Having moral clarity is not harmful, but sometimes neutrality means you being silent and being complicit."

Sanne Breimer, the founder of Inclusive Journalism, added that true objectivity is an illusion. "To think that I am born as an objective human being is just not the way it goes," she said, stressing the importance of "positionality," or recognizing how one's own background shapes perspective.

Admitting that no journalist is truly a blank slate — everyone brings their background and perspective — encourages a more honest relationship with the audience. It shifts the focus from an unattainable objectivity to achievable goals, such as impartiality,

ing misled far more than they mind clearly labeled, value-aligned sponsored content. "What they don't like is to be taken for a ride," she said.

Cho's Almost offers an alternative model, funding its journalism by operating a studio that creates content for value-aligned nonprofits and assists them with their communication campaigns. "We don't really see journalism and activism as opposites because journalism at the end of the day is about speaking truth to power," she argued.

Building on borrowed land Yet, even the most ethical creators operate within ecosystems they don't control. The reliance on platforms like TikTok, Instagram, or X presents a constant vulnerability. Cho shared her experience of having Almost TikTok account repeatedly banned for content deemed problematic by opaque platform rules, often for reporting on Gaza or Syria, despite adhering to journalistic standards. Each ban meant abruptly losing a vital connection to the audience

the profession of journalism wherever it unfolds."

Learning from creators: Lessons for legacy media Legacy media has much to learn from the creator space, particularly in terms of audience engagement and transparency. Young audiences, Cho noted, often turn to creators because they feel that traditional media "tends to serve power, not the truth."

Breimer argued the biggest threat to legacy media isn't external disruption, but internal resistance to change. "The biggest threat to legacy media is legacy media," she said, urging established outlets to welcome self-reflection and learn from independent creators. "Embrace the fact that there are journalists out there with fresh ideas doing things on platforms that you may not know a lot about, but you can learn from."

The article was published by IJNET Digital Magazine. Author Manuela Callari is a freelance science journalist specializing in human and planetary health. Her work has appeared in MIT Technology Reviews, Smithsonian, The Guardian, Mongabay and others.

Direwolf Reborn: A Scientific Breakthrough or a Genetic Illusion?

BY RAYEES UL ISLAM

In what has been hailed as a major scientific milestone, the American biotechnology company Colossal Biosciences claims to have brought back an extinct species — the Direwolf, which vanished from Earth some 13,000 years ago. This attempt at de-extinction marks a bold step in genetic science, though it has sparked controversy, ethical questions, and scientific scrutiny.



Colossal, co-founded by tech entrepreneur Ben Lamm and renowned geneticist Dr. George Church, has ambitious plans to resurrect long-lost species such as the Tasmanian tiger, the Dodo bird, and the Woolly Mammoth — a species of giant elephant-like creatures that roamed snowy landscapes over 4,000 years ago.

Their first successful effort, according to the company, is the Direwolf — a predator made popular by the TV series Game of Thrones. Inspired by the show, Colossal has named the first two pups Romulus and Remus, and a third female pup born later was christened Khaleesi. The animals were reportedly born through Cesarean section at a secret facility in the United States and are now five months old.

Ancient Beast, New Questions

At first glance, the achievement seems remarkable — the rebirth of a species lost to time. But scientists and critics have cast doubt on the claim, suggesting that these animals may not be "true" Direwolves but rather genetically modified versions of grey wolves with engineered traits.

To understand the roots of this claim, one must trace the Direwolf's history. Fossils of the species were first discovered in 1854 near the Ohio River. Initially classified by American

scientist Joseph Leidy as Canis dirus (meaning "terrifying dog"), the Direwolf was long believed to be a close cousin of the modern grey wolf. However, a groundbreaking study published in Nature in 2021 revealed that Direwolves diverged from the grey wolf lineage around 5.7 million years ago, sharing no genetic overlap and coexisting with coyotes and grey wolves in ancient North America.

So why did the Direwolf vanish while other canines survived? Theories include failure to adapt to climatic shifts, inability to interbreed with other canids, or extinction of their prey. Unlike today's adaptable grey wolves, Direwolves may have been evolutionary specialists — and that specialization might have led to their downfall.

Science Behind the Resurrection

Three primary methods are being explored to "de-extinct" animals:

- Back-Breeding: This involves selectively breeding animals with traits resembling extinct species. The Quagga Project in Africa used this method to recreate the extinct quagga, a zebra-like animal.
- Cloning: This technique, perfected with the famous "Dolly the Sheep" in 1996, requires an intact cell nucleus from the extinct species — something that is incredibly rare, making cloning difficult for ancient animals.
- Genetic Engineering: This is Colossal's chosen method. Using advanced CRISPR gene-editing, scientists extract preserved DNA from fossils — in this case, a Direwolf tooth over 13,000 years old and a 70,000-year-old skull. They then edit the DNA of a close relative — the grey wolf — to reintroduce traits lost to extinction. In the Direwolf project, 14 genes were altered to produce the current pups.

On October 1, 2024, Romulus and Remus were born. Khaleesi followed on January 30, 2025. These pups now live in a high-tech, controlled environment — far removed from the wild terrain their ancestors once ruled.

But this raises a fundamental question: Is this true de-extinction or just genetic mimicry?

Ecological Concerns and Ethical Questions

Reviving a species is one thing — reintegrating it into the wild is another. Can these Direwolves play the same ecological role their ancestors once did? Would they even survive outside a laboratory?

Experts warn of potential ecosystem disruptions. The Direwolf was a large apex predator — reintroducing it could lead to competition with existing carnivores like grey wolves or even threaten prey populations. Given that they went extinct naturally, some argue that bringing them back may disturb the current ecological balance rather than restore it.

Dr. Peter Marra of Georgetown University puts it bluntly: "We can't look to recover species that have gone extinct in the past before we conserve species in the present."

And he has a point. The Northern White Rhinoceros, for example, now has only two individuals left. There are over one million plant and animal species on the verge of extinction, according to a 2019 UN report. Should our focus not be on saving endangered species that still have a chance, rather than investing millions in resurrecting lost ones?

The Bigger Picture

The resurrection of the Direwolf reflects our growing ability to manipulate life at a genetic level — a field filled with wonder, promise, and peril. But with such immense power comes immense responsibility.

Are we ready to shape nature with such precision? Can we rebuild not just the bodies of extinct species but their behaviors, instincts, and roles in the environment? Or are we simply building biological replicas — fascinating, but ultimately artificial?

As the debate around de-extinction continues, one truth



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remains: Preventing extinction in the first place is always better than trying to reverse it. As the old saying goes, "Prevention is better than cure."

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Satish Sharma reviews Capex plan, Sports Department’s development initiatives

SRINAGAR: Exhorting upon the officers to expedite implementation of the initiatives being undertaken in the sports sector, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, today said that this is imperative for upgrading the sports infrastructure enabling youth create a niche for themselves at national and international level.

The Minister was reviewing the works plan for the department of Youth Services & Sports under the Capex sector for the year 2025-26.

Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Sarmand Hafiz, Director General Youth Services and Sports, Rajinder Singh Tara, Secretary JK Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul and other senior officers attended the meeting.

Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, presented a detailed brief about the developmental and the sports activities to be undertaken.

The Minister emphasized the need to accelerate implementation of ongoing projects aimed at strengthening the sports infrastructure and promoting youth engagement across the region. He expressed concern over delays in certain schemes, instructing the officials to identify and address the bottlenecks hampering progress on

any development initiative.

"The youth are at the core of our development

departments and timely release of funds to ensure smooth execution of vital works.



strategy and sports play a vital role in their holistic growth. We are determined to ensure that all sports related initiatives are completed in a time bound and transparent manner," the Minister stated.

He reviewed the key projects including construction of new sports complexes, upgradation of playgrounds, talent identification programs and district level training camps. He called for improved coordination among the stakeholder

The Minister also advocated for enhancement of wages for National Youth Corps (NYCs) volunteers, acknowledging their critical contribution towards promoting sports and youth development at the grassroots level. "NYCs are the backbone of our field level implementation. It is imperative that their services are recognized through better remuneration and support," he asserted.

The Minister further directed the department

to conduct regular performance audits and field visits to monitor on ground impact. He assured all necessary support from the government to create an enabling ecosystem for sports and youth empowerment.

The meeting also discussed the directions and the budget announcements and called for devising a mechanism for early completion of these besides the recommendations being projected by the Legislators as well.

Apart from the budget review, the meeting also discussed the issue of Rehbar-e-Khel, hike in the honorarium of NYCs besides appointment of outstanding sports persons.

The meeting also discussed projects like Khel Gaon Youth Hostels, state of art cricket academies, major indoor sports, sports projects in the border, rural and tribal areas and the projects under peace and developmental initiatives as well.

The Minister emphasised that under peace and development initiatives and in view of the present scenario in the UT, sports activities should be undertaken on a holistic pattern by involving people and youth in particular. He said that the sports activities can lead to a reduction of the stress level thereby increasing the happiness index and overall health of the individuals.

Chief Justice visits District Court Complex Srinagar



SRINAGAR: Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, alongwith Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Administrative Judge for District Srinagar, today paid visit to the District Courts Srinagar. The visit marked a significant step toward strengthening the judiciary at the grassroots level and reinforcing the commitment of the High Court to ensure accessible and efficient justice delivery.

On the arrival at the District Court Complex, Srinagar, Chief Justice was warmly received by the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and other judicial officers.

Chief Justice was accompanied by Mohinder Kumar Sharma, Registrar General (Officiating) and Rajiv Gupta, Registrar Vigilance, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir, who joined Chief Justice in inspecting the facilities and administrative arrangements at the court complex.

Justice Palli inspected the court facilities and interacted with the members of the District Judiciary, appreciating their efforts in maintaining the rule of law and ensuring the timely dispensation of justice.

During the visit, the Chief Justice reviewed the infrastructure and administrative functioning of the courts. He emphasized the importance of creating a litigant-friendly environment, the use of technology in judicial proceedings, and the need for expeditious disposal of cases.

Addressing the judicial officers, the Chief Justice underlined the pivotal role of the district judiciary as the first interface between the judiciary and the public. He reiterated the importance of integrity, sensitivity, and efficiency in upholding public faith in the judiciary.

As part of the visit, Chief Justice also participated in a plantation drive held within the court complex, symbolizing a commitment to environmental sustainability and green judicial infrastructure.

A sapling each was planted by Chief Justice and Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Administrative Judge for District Srinagar, in the premises of the District Court Complex, with several judicial officers and staff present to mark the occasion.

Amarnath Yatra 2025: DIPR Gears Up for Effective Media and Communication Strategy

Director Nitish Rajora calls for foolproof coordination, early deployment of staff

SRINAGAR: The Director Information, Jammu and Kashmir, Nitish Rajora today



chaired a meeting of officers at the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Srinagar, to review the arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY).

At the outset, the Director took a detailed review of logistical arrangements, including the installation of public address systems (PAS), staff deployment, and the formulation of a comprehensive media and publicity plan. He emphasized the need for robust staff deployment

of early preparedness, the Director instructed that foolproof arrangements be made in advance for the smooth installation and operation of PAS at all earmarked spots to ensure better convenience for the pilgrims.

He further directed that preparations related to installation of hoardings, banners, and other publicity materials be completed well in advance at all identified locations.

He issued strict instructions for effective coordination among

the designated staff to ensure that all stations remain functional and operate smoothly until the culmination of the sacred pilgrimage.

The chair was briefed on the current status of arrangements, including the availability of staff and the installation of necessary equipment and machinery for the hassle-free functioning of stations during the Yatra. Officers also apprised the Director of the facilities being put in place, in line with past practices.

The Director underscored the importance of effective publicity campaigns to disseminate vital information about the Yatra.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Headquarters Vivek Puri, Joint Director Kashmir Syed Shah Nawaz Ahmad Bukhari, Joint Director Jammu Deepak Dubey, Deputy Director Information PR, Deputy Director Central, concerned District Information Officers, and other officials.

MP Mian Altaf chairs DISHA meeting at Kulgam

KULGAM: Member of Parliament (MP), Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha constituency, Mian Altaf Ahmad Larvi, today chaired a meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat, Kulgam.

The meeting was convened to review the implementation and progress of various centrally sponsored schemes and developmental projects in the district.

Chairperson, DDC Kulgam, M Afzal; MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami; MLA Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad Shah were present in the meeting while Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Ather Aamir; SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal, ADDC, ADC, JDP, ACD, Executive Engineers, and other senior officers also attended the meeting.

During the session, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Ather Aamir Khan, presented a PowerPoint overview, highlighting achievements under flagship schemes such as MGNREGA, Jal Jeevan Mission

(JJM), PMGSY, PMAY-G, and various social schemes and programmes.

It was informed that under MGNREGA, a total of 58,709

Stressing the importance of infrastructure, he directed the concerned departments to ensure all unconnected habitations are linked through quality road



job cards have been issued, generating 26.62 lakh man-days during the financial year 2024-25.

Under PMAY-G, against a target of 5,881 houses, 5,345 have been completed. Additionally, a total of 21,245 households were surveyed under PMAY-G Survey 2.0.

Reviewing the Jal Jeevan Mission, MP emphasized the need to achieve 100% household access to clean drinking water, urging officials to maintain quality standards in execution.

networks under PMGSY.

He also called for intensified public awareness campaigns to educate people about government welfare schemes.

MP assessed the staffing and equipment availability at the District Hospital and other vital departments to ensure seamless public service delivery. He reiterated that MGNREGA remains a critical instrument for rural employment generation.

Further, he laid emphasis on the scientific collection and disposal of waste.

Agriculture Department Kashmir celebrates ‘World Bee Day’

SRINAGAR: Agriculture Department Kashmir today celebrated 'World Bee Day' by organising events across all district quarters of the Kashmir division, with the main function held at Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir Lalmandi Srinagar.

The celebrations commenced with the address by the Director Agriculture Kashmir, Mohammad Alyas Khateeb. He appreciated the painstaking efforts put in by the Bee Keepers, apiarists, technical experts and other stakeholders who continuously strive for the development of this sector.

He said that the region offers huge scope for the development of beekeeping as a vibrant agriculture cottage industry and means of additional income for the financial security of the farming community.

He said that under HADP a special project for the development of apiculture is being implemented by the department.

Speaking during the technical session Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Kashmir, Anil Gupta said that the 'World Bee Day' aims to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators and their contribution to sustainable development.

Pertinently this year the 'World Bee Day' is observed under the theme 'Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all.'

The departmental stall was showcased during the event.

On the occasion, Joint Director Agriculture Extension Kashmir, Deputy Director (central), Scientist from SKUAST-K, senior officers of the department and beekeeper from Kashmir division were also present.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Calls For Proper Rehabilitation of Drug Victims

SRINAGAR: A meeting of District Level Committee on Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was Tuesday held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review and strengthen ongoing measures to combat drug abuse, its peddling and proper rehabilitation of drug victims in district.

The meeting deliberated on key issues, including stringent enforcement actions against drug peddlers, intensified awareness campaigns and enhanced treatment and rehabilitation facilities for those affected by substance abuse.

At the outset, DC took first hand appraisal from officers of all line departments and other stakeholders regarding the progress achieved in ongoing fight against the drug menace in order to curb it and tighten the noose against drug peddlers.

Dr Bilal emphasized for intensifying sustained IEC campaigns across the district

to sensitize masses particularly youth about detrimental and harmful effects of drug abuse.

He also laid stress on

private drug de-addiction centers and stressed their effective functioning as per the laid guidelines.



strengthening Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) at SMHS, SKIMS Bemina and at IMHAANs to provide better treatment facilities and proper rehabilitation of drug victims.

During the meeting, DC assessed the performance of

He sought a detailed report on the performance of these centers.

He also called for early operationalization of the Drug De-addiction & Rehabilitation Centre at Sanath Nagar.

DC also underlined the need

to keep proper vigil on private coaching centers and courier service agencies and asked Sub Divisional Magistrates to conduct surprise inspections of such institutions and establishments.

He further asked them to conduct audits of the private coaching centers and proper regulation of courier services agencies in the district.

Dr Bilal emphasized the importance of a holistic approach involving prevention as well as education, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug victims back into the society, at the same time strict enforcement measures as a strong deterrent.

On the occasion, DC was given a brief regarding ongoing deterrent measures taken by the Police, Excise, Anti-narcotics and Drug Control department.

He was also apprised about the patients visiting IPD and OPD sections of ATFs at SMHS, SKIMS Bemina and IMHAANs with present trending scenario of the drugs related patients.

DC visits Shopian town, inspects ongoing development works

SHOPIAN: To track the pace of ongoing developmental works in the town, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today visited various areas of Shopian town.

DC took first-hand stock of the progress of different developmental projects which are currently under execution in the district through Municipal Council, Shopian.

These projects and works which were visited include a new vending zone at the main town, footpath construction at Gagren and car parking at hospital road.

During the visit, Gupta emphasized the early completion of the vending zone for proper/systematic rehabilitation of street vendors.

This, he said, shall ease the congestion problem in the town. DC called for proper and effective utilization of available land resources for the sustainable development of the town.

DLSA Srinagar raises awareness on NALSA scheme 2010 at Women’s College Zakura

SRINAGAR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, in collaboration with Srinagar Women's College Batpora, Zakura, Srinagar organized an awareness programme on NALSA (Legal Services to Disaster through Legal Services Authorities) scheme 2010, within the college premises, here.

The event was part of a broader initiative to inform the public about the legal rights and remedies available to disaster-affected

individuals under this national scheme.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar and Prof. Syed Ifat Ara, Principal of Srinagar Women's College.

In her welcome address, Prof. Syed Ifat Ara highlighted the importance of integrating legal awareness with higher



education. She applauded the collaborative initiative and emphasized that such awareness

programmes are vital to building informed and empowered communities, especially

in disaster-prone regions. She noted that bridging legal knowledge with academic spaces strengthens the social fabric by ensuring students and citizens are aware of the support systems available to them.

Panel Lawyer of DLSA Srinagar, Advocate Suhaila Ali served as the resource person for the event. She elaborated on the objectives and key provisions of the NALSA Scheme 2010, explaining how it ensures legal aid to victims of natural and man-made disasters.

She emphasized the need for timely legal support in crisis situations and encouraged participants to disseminate the information within their communities.

Her interactive session clarified various aspects of the scheme, including eligibility criteria, access points for legal aid, and the role of Legal Services Authorities in disaster response. The session concluded with an interactive Q&A session, allowing students and faculty to engage with the resource persons.

6 Powerful Ways To Boost Your Financial Wellbeing

KUDIRAT OLATEJU

Financial stress often dominates our lives, especially for women, who are frequently socialised to feel uncertain about money management. We are taught it's impolite to discuss the fine print, but chastised for not knowing enough and not asking more, and it is all to our collective detriment. It has been reported that women are more likely than men to feel “consumed” by money woes (50% versus 44%). In particular, women from underrepresented communities who often support more than just themselves, have an overwhelming pressure and desire to do and be better financially for the many they support and care about. While there is no overnight remedy to many of the practical problems, we have to face in managing our finances, finding peace in the journey and possessing financial understanding is essential.

You're not alone if you feel a long way off from being financially well. Only a third (34%) of women consider themselves financially confident. Interest in “financial wellbeing” has doubled in the past 5 years according to Google trends data, so we know you want to! We hope these 6 strategies can increase the number of women possessing financial wellbeing.

Gaining Financial Wellbeing
Having “Financial Wellbeing” means being in a state that leaves us feeling in control of our finances, whether they are “good” or “not so good”. Even when we have far-off seeming goals or growing worries, we are resolute in knowing we have strategies to survive (and hopefully enjoy) the journey to them. In a nutshell, this means possessing financial confidence. With this literacy, and some psychological reframing, we can build a spirit of resilience that enables us to take control of our financial futures, make informed decisions, and work towards a secure foundation for ourselves and our families.

Financial confidence isn't just about knowing the numbers; it's about believing in your ability to make sound financial decisions. Why? A study showed that women are more likely to engage in positive financial behaviours like saving and investing when they have a higher self-efficacy (i.e., confidence in their financial skills).

This is where literacy comes in, and this is where many advisors and financial counsellors recommend starting. After all, another study published in the Journal of Financial Services found that individuals with higher financial literacy experienced higher financial self-efficacy and wellbeing. We agree that there's a knowledge gap here, but in our experience with women, especially those from under-represented backgrounds, it is more than just a 'knowledge gap'. There is a level of ease and peace-of-mind that comes from regular engagement, interaction, and proximity to a certain theme or world that isn't as widely offered or easily navigable for women.

Confidence doesn't come just from “being better” (i.e. the learning); but the regular doing and knowledge sharing, cultivation, nurturing and simply being more engaged in the wider world that happens alongside the learning.

Here are the 6 strategies to help you achieve financial wellbeing:

1. Macro and Micro Learning
It should be more than just a book or two you read when you're trying to fill that knowledge gap. The best books will speak to you in simple terms, while giving you the tools to understand how others think about finance and budgeting. This way, when you get to complementing your learnings, it doesn't feel like you're starting all over again.

Our favourite series that has a title for everyone is The Little Book; which includes “The Little Book that beats the Market”. The series is written as a mini dive into an introduction on exactly what the big investors make sound so big and difficult, while explaining and detailing simple suggestions through storytelling to help you get in on the action in smarter and more applicable ways.

To solidify the book's introduction to the world of personal finance management, it would serve you well to complement the reading in the way



that suits you best, and turbocharge your confidence along the way. Maybe try ‘microlearning’ There are an abundance of tools you can use to augment your greater learning with bite-sized exercises and quizzes.

Your Juno is a financial education app designed specifically for women. The app provides bite-sized lessons on various financial topics, including budgeting, investing, and debt management. Your Juno aims to make financial education accessible and engaging, offering interactive content and real-life scenarios to help users understand complex financial concepts. The app also features a community aspect where users can share experiences and seek advice, fostering a supportive environment for learning and growth.

FemaleInvest is a platform dedicated to empowering women through financial education and investment opportunities. The app offers a wide range of courses, webinars, and articles on topics such as stock market investing, personal finance

2. Practice makes Perfect

With the foundations formed, practice growing your savings to inspire you in using real money. There are many mock investing platforms, but we like eToro for its complimentary eToro academy that provides the manual to make both your investment decisions and navigate their platform in doing so efficiently.

Use such platforms to practise the art of investing before going into the real deal, to build your understanding and confidence.

3. Stay in The Know

You're already on track here. But keep it up! Regularly reading related content from Amaliah, The Economist and the likes will bolster your familiarity and introduce you to broader topics that give you an edge in navigating the basics.

Had enough of reading? We enjoy listening to Bloomberg News on our morning commute or while getting ready in the morning. Not every phrase or argument will make sense, but the food for thought is not only

to seek it out if you're already online. The key here is to not get too absorbed by one view or one opinion but diversify your sources. Some of our favourite financial voices online include

@VoltsDeevie
@PenniesToPounds
@DeeperThanMoney
4. Find Your Flock

Since you're reading this on Amaliah, you already may have attuned to the power of this strategy. The people we surround ourselves with significantly influence our habits, which includes the financial ones. If you find yourself thrown at the idea of discussing finances openly with your current circle, maybe look to grow a new one.

Platforms and collectives like Bumble BFF or The Stack are spaces you can unabashedly forge new connections centred on your financial interests and goals. If one-to-one feels intimidating, consider joining broader communities online and in person (just a few being Allbright or GLDN). These spaces, though less specific to finance, can be pivoted early on to a

if you really want to. You can create and foster a supportive environment for financial growth for yourself and your loved ones. Being the first to open up and sharing experiences and insights can offer much-needed perspectives to others and foster a sense of solidarity in navigating financial challenges that goes on to be reciprocated.

Is it proving painful staying on top of your budget while being the family designated host? Talk about it. While your near and dear may not have solutions, the sharing is valuable in itself.

Connection is a key antidote to stress, with research showing a strong network can buffer against the physical and mental health consequences of stress. Individuals who discuss financial matters with friends or family are more likely to feel confident in their financial decisions and report lower levels of financial stress.

This highlights the positive impact of social support on financial wellbeing. Research from the National Endowment for Financial Education also backs this up. Millennial Wealth HQ was born out of a WhatsApp chat of like-minded women who felt like they had nothing but questions. Their questions turned out to be the answers for others.

Don't underestimate the value of connection when it comes to money and investing. Hey, start your own WhatsApp group!

5. Challenge the Conventional
For many of us, part of what eats away at our financial wellbeing is the distance from some financial goal or expectation. Whether it's self-imposed, or wrapped in well-meaning advice (“you shouldn't be spending so much on rent!” “enough avocado toast!” anyone?), it can tinge every financial action we take. The worst feelings of financial shame come when we also agree. Maybe you too wish you didn't need that coffee every morning.. but it just makes your commute that much more manageable. Free yourself from the guilt.

We would all be wise to reconsider financial advice with a more critical mindset. It's not about disregarding conventional wisdom entirely, but rather questioning it and seeking alternative perspectives. Perhaps it's getting on the property ladder that's weighing on you? When the average age of a first-time buyer in the UK is 34, and the crisis in supply acknowledged by every popular political party to date: maybe you're not the problem?

Challenging these conventions allows us to reassess our own financial priorities, values, and aspirations, leading to more authentic and fulfilling financial decisions. Besides, “challenging” doesn't mean rejecting. Just think about it a little more.

6. Getting Out of the Financial Freeze

One of my favourite phrases to call on, when I'm wracked with imposter syndrome and self-doubt, is “everyone who is excellent at anything, was once terrible too”. We all have to start somewhere, and the most important advice we have to offer is to start. This strategy and sentiment is the key to everything else.

Too often we can fall into a state of “analysis paralysis” or more specifically “financially freeze”, when we stall, procrastinate, or literally ignore matters, to prevent having to deal with or take responsibility for a financial decision or situation. So remember:

“Allah does not burden a soul beyond that it can bear...” (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:286)

With patience and perseverance, you can find financial wellbeing.

(Kudirat Olateju, CFA, is an experienced finance professional and founder of MWHQ, a UK-based organisation that is dedicated to providing financial education and investment advice to women and underserved communities. She is the head writer of the blog over on www.mwhq.co.uk/blog. Prior to founding MWHQ, Kudirat worked as an analyst at JP Morgan and in investment research and strategy at T. Rowe Price. Through her work at these institutions, she gained valuable experience and insights into financial markets, investment strategies, and financial analysis. With MWHQ, Kudirat is passionate about helping women and underserved communities to achieve financial independence and security.)



management, and retirement planning. Female Invest is known for its user-friendly interface and practical approach, breaking down financial jargon and providing actionable insights. The platform also includes a vibrant community where members can connect, share knowledge, and support each other on their financial journeys.

something to talk about within your budding communities but the eventual mastery will serve as guidance for your future financial decision-making.

In the same vein, following a variety of accounts for a diverse selection of financial commentary on social media keeps you close to the content without costing too much of your time

safe space for sharing financial woes and have grown from there thanks to circle-based sharing and similar practices incorporated into group meet-ups that let you shape the discussion. These can all allow you to acknowledge your dreams and worries in a safe, open and understanding space.

Even within your social circle, don't give up on creating the space yourself

Continued From P1...

‘Terror-Free
GoC 9 Corps Lt Gen Rajan Sharawat, Air Vice Marshal Vikas Sharma, AOC J&K, Principal Secretary Home Chandraker Bharti, ADGP CID Nitish Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO SASB Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, senior officials of Armed Forces, CAPFs, J&K Police, Intelligence Agencies and civil administration.

Police Attach
declared Proclaimed Offenders by the Court.
Police said the attachment is aimed at building pressure on the absconding accused to appear before the Court and face the law.
This move marks yet another step in Sopore Police’s continued efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem, ensure accountability, and uphold national security, police said. (Agencies)

Indian Forces
gurdwaras, and churches. But our forces gave a fitting reply.” He emphasised that during India’s counter-strikes, utmost care was taken to ensure only terrorist hideouts were hit, and no harm came to civilian areas.
“Our soldiers made sure that while punishing the perpetrators, innocent lives were not affected,” he said.
Singh also acknowledged the people of his constituency, Lucknow, saying, “When I accepted the invitation for this event last month, I wasn’t sure I could attend due to the developing situation. But with Operation Sindoor concluded successfully, I am here to express my gratitude and admiration – both for our armed forces and for the spirit of the people.” He added, “You (Doctors) treat patients, but we in the defence ministry, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, treat the disease of terrorism beyond our borders. And the success of Operation Sindoor is proof of that resolve.” (Agencies).

India won’t tolerate
Pertinently, seven delegations are visiting the United States, Japan, Gulf nations and other important capitals of the world in coming days to present India’s viewpoint on the recent skirmishes and India’s zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism – (KNO)

Tourism revival on
“Some groups have started arriving again. The revival measures will be taken once the yatra concludes,” he said.
The Chief Minister visited his constituency in Ganderbal where he inaugurated an old age home at Pandach, and also laid the foundation stone for a veterinary hospital. He also visited Kheer Bhawani temple to review arrangements for the upcoming mela.
Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated several development projects, laid foundation stones for various upcoming works and interacted with people to know their grievances.
The Chief Minister, who represents the Ganderbal constituency in the J&K Legislative Assembly, said it reflected “our government’s commitment to improving basic amenities and the quality of life for all.”

At Bakura, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Water Supply Scheme—a vital project that will ensure clean and dependable drinking water in the area. The scheme has been completed under the JKIDFC programme. The scheme, with a revised cost of Rs 329.04 lakh, is a groundwater-based project.
The Chief Minister also inaugurated the Old Age Home at Pandach, constructed at a cost of Rs 499 lakh. The two-storey facility includes medical rooms, dining halls, and accommodation for elderly residents. The Chief Minister inspected the facility and toured different rooms including male and female wards, kitchen, and cardio section.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed his satisfaction over the facility, saying it is a significant step towards ensuring dignity and care for our senior citizens.
Similarly, at Safapora, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of the Science Block at Government College of Engineering & Technology (GCET) Safapora—a key addition to strengthen technical education of the institution.

Ensure adequate
them to make all the arrangements of transportation, accommodation, power, water, sanitation, medical aid and security as well.
Dulloo stressed on improving the arrangements whenever necessary. He asked for creating amenities for comfortable and satisfactory stay of the pilgrims at the shrine and enroute. He directed the district administration to make on spot assessment of the facilities created and requirement of any additional steps to be taken by them.

The Chief Secretary also assessed the transportation arrangements for the journey of devotees besides the condition of road leading to this Shrine, accommodation for night stay and provision of essential supplies to be made for smooth conduct of Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela this year. He asked for ensuring proper cleanliness of the Shrine premises and its surroundings besides collection of garbage and other waste material during the festival days.

Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir gave overview of the measures being taken up by his administration, so far. He detailed out the kind of facilities created for transportation of pilgrims and accommodation facilities made inside the temple premises and at other nearby locations.
He also threw light on the traffic plan, medical aid, 24×7 power supply, water, sanitation and disaster management provisions created by the administration. He revealed that the administration has augmented all these facilities in view of the expected rush of devotees this year.

Besides the Divisional Commissioner, H&UDD, RDD, Tourism, Health and Transport Department informed the meeting about the arrangements made for holding this Mela with great religious zeal and fervour.

It was given out that nodal officers had been designated from the concerned departments to look after the arrangements from these line departments. It was also revealed that provisions for installation of water proof tents, holding of cleanliness drives and desiltation of canal going through the temple complex had also been made to ensure that pilgrims would have an aesthetic and devotional experience during this festival.

The Police Department also showed it’s readiness in terms of the fool proof security arrangements taken by them for the safety of the devotees coming to attend this age old festival peacefully.
The meeting besides the Divisional Commissioners was attended by ACS, Jal Shakti; Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; Commissioner Secretary, F&S&CA; Director, F&ES; Secretary, PWD, Secretary, Health; Secretary, RDD; Secretary, Transport; JGP, Kashmir/Jammu; Commissioner, SMC; Relief Commissioner; MD, JKRTC; Director Health, Kashmir; Director ULB, Kashmir and representatives from other departments.
All the concerned Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police participated in the meeting virtually along with several outstation officers.

Amid soaring
drinking water. The administration also emphasized the

importance of crowd management and the availability of emergency medical assistance at such venues.
In view of the rising risk, all relevant government departments and emergency services have been directed to remain on high alert. Functional helpline numbers and fully responsive emergency teams must be ensured, the advisory added.
Citizens have been asked to regularly monitor weather updates from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and to stay tuned to official channels for the latest guidance. In case of any emergency, residents can contact the District Emergency Operation Centre or dial ERSS 112 for immediate assistance.
“Stay safe, stay cool, and stay informed. Together, let’s beat the heat,” it states.
Meanwhile, doctors urged people to adopt essential precautions to avoid heat-related illnesses as heatwave can lead to heat strokes and people need to take precautions.
Dr Murtaza Hussian, a general physician at DHSK told KNO that current temperatures are “unprecedented” and potentially hazardous if not addressed with preventive care.
“To beat the summer heat, it is important to stay hydrated with plenty of water, electrolytes like ORS, traditional drinks such as lassi, lemonades, and fresh homemade juices,” Dr Hussian advised. He warned against the consumption of aerated drinks, packaged juices, and excessive tea or coffee, as they may contribute to dehydration.
Highlighting key safety measures, Dr Murtaza recommended avoiding outdoor exposure during peak heat hours unless absolutely necessary, increasing fluid intake by 1 to 3 litres more than usual, depending on activity levels, Preferring hydrating options like ORS solutions, lassi, chaach (buttermilk), and soups to replenish water and minerals lost through sweat, steering clear of tea, coffee, and carbonated drinks as they increase urination and dehydration, avoiding sugary drinks and packaged juices due to their high caloric content, Wearing light-coloured, loose-fitting clothes instead of dark and tight ones, Using scarves, caps, or umbrellas for protection and applying sunscreen to guard against UV radiation and skin tanning.
Dr Rukhsana Aziz a doctor posted in South Kashmir also stressed the importance of recognizing symptoms of heat-related illness. “People experiencing exhaustion, laziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, mental clouding, or disorientation should immediately visit the nearest health facility,” she said.
She further emphasized that with climate change pushing temperatures higher, it is critical for the public to adapt their daily routines accordingly. “Limit physical activities, especially during the hottest parts of the day. Vulnerable groups like children, the elderly, and those with existing medical conditions should be monitored closely,” she noted.
Doctors warned that heatstroke, the most severe heat-related illness, can occur when the body’s internal temperature regulation system fails due to extreme heat and humidity, leading to a rapid and dangerous rise in body temperature.
As the region grapples with this unexpected heatwave, health professionals are calling for heightened awareness and community action to safeguard lives—(KNO)

Srinagar Airport
However, more than 50 flights were cancelled during this period. Earlier, the flight operations and footfall were low because of the fallout of the deadly Pahalgam incident, where at least 27 people, mostly tourists, were killed, which led to widespread disturbance. But now the flights are back on track, and operations are normalising again.
“The airport operations are working smoothly, and passengers are coming and departing from Srinagar airport without any disturbance, and the Haj movements are also ongoing smoothly,” an official from the Srinagar International Airport told KNO.
As per the data, the busiest day was May 17, with 7,841 passengers and 50 scheduled flights. However, 21 of those were cancelled due to reasons not yet known.
The lowest movement was recorded on May 18, with 4,915 passengers and 9 cancellations. Notably, on May 15, the airport facilitated the departure of 641 Hajj pilgrims along with regular traffic, bringing the day’s total to 6,844 passengers.
“Passengers have been cooperative, and airlines managed alternate schedules wherever possible. We are working closely with all stakeholders to ensure minimal disruptions during this time,” the official added.
It is pertinent to mention that the spike in airport activity comes days after the tragic Pahalgam terror attack, where 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed. The incident caused temporary disruption across the valley, including reduced tourist flow and cancellations in travel plans—(KNO)

Modi-led Govt
response to the recent unprovoked shelling by Pakistani forces along the Line of Control (LoC). They emphasized the need for immediate relief, long-term rehabilitation, and infrastructure enhancement in the border areas to support the resilience of local communities.
The delegation also visited Geeta Bhawan and Gurudwara Sahib in Poonch town to assess the structural damage caused by the shelling. Interacting with affected families, the BJP leaders offered their solidarity and assured that their concerns would be taken up with the Central Government on priority.
Sunil Sharma, while speaking on the occasion, said, “The courage and resilience of the people of Poonch in the face of constant danger is deeply inspiring. The BJP stands firmly with our border residents and will ensure that no family is left behind in the rehabilitation process.”
Dr. Narinder Singh, remarked, “Our priority is to ensure that essential supplies reach every household impacted by the shelling. The Government of India is committed to providing all necessary support to rebuild lives and restore normalcy.”
Sham Lal Sharma, stated, “The hardships faced by residents due to enemy aggression must be met with swift and coordinated action. We urge the administration to accelerate relief operations and strengthen infrastructure in vulnerable areas.”
Adv. Vibodh Gupta, J&K BJP General Secretary, noted “Border communities are the first line of defense for our nation. Their security, dignity, and well-being must be our top concern, and the BJP will continue to be their strongest voice.”
Adv. Ranbir Singh Pathania, said “We have seen firsthand the devastation caused by this shelling. It is imperative that our response is not just reactive, but proactive, focusing on preparedness, safety, and sustainable development.”
The BJP delegation reaffirmed that the Narendra Modi-led government is fully committed to the development and security of border regions. Emphasis was placed on long-term infrastructure upgradation, construction of reinforced bunkers, and improved emergency response mechanisms—(KNO)

J&K Haj
regarding reporting times at Haj House, Bemina, Srinagar, will be issued shortly.
Pertinently, this revised schedule brings relief to the pilgrims and their families who had faced uncertainty due to the cancellations

earlier this month.
Shailendra Kumar Gets Addl Charge Of Finance Secretary

JAMMU: In an administrative move, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has assigned additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Finance Department, to 1995 batch AGMUT Cadre IAS officer Shailendra Kumar, who is currently serving as Principal Secretary to the Government in the Agriculture Production Department and also holding charge of the Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens.

Imported cherry varieties – from Italy, Bulgaria – fetch premium prices in Kashmir

Jahangeer Ganaie
SRINAGAR: The introduction of imported cherry varieties from Bulgaria and Italy is yielding promising economic returns for Kashmir’s cherry growers, even as the region’s traditional varieties are yet to be harvested.
Farmers across the valley told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that these early-ripening imported varieties are currently fetching attractive market prices. While traditional varieties like Siyah, which are nearing maturity, are expected to perform well, the main harvest of conventional cultivars remains several weeks away, they said.
Although the imported varieties lack some of the rich crunch, vibrant colour and nutritional qualities of traditional cherries, they possess a crucial advantage: resilience to adverse weather conditions. “Even light rainfall can damage traditional cherries and reduce their market value,” said Rashid Ahmad, a grower from Shopian.
He said the Italian and Bulgarian varieties are more tolerant of light and moderate rain and are only vulnerable during heavy downpours, making them a more reliable option in unpredictable weather.

Another benefit, growers said, is the staggered ripening pattern of the new varieties. “Traditional varieties tend to ripen simultaneously, flooding the market and causing supply-demand imbalances,” Rashid said. “This often forces growers to sell at lower prices due to their limited shelf life.”
The imported varieties ripen gradually in phases, ensuring a steady supply and more stable demand and leading to better profits. Asif Ahmad, another regional grower, said this year, both Siyah and the imported varieties are priced around Rs 100-150 per kilogram. “While these prices are not extraordinarily high, they are profitable, and this year’s crop looks promising,” he said.
The extended harvesting window provided by the new cultivars has also positively impacted employment. “Traditional harvests typically run from mid-June to early July,” Asif said. “However, the prolonged ripening period of the imported varieties extends the season to nearly two months, creating more opportunities for both local and migrant labourers.”
Basheer Ahmad Basheer, President of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers and Dealers Union, told KNO that cherry prices are currently encouraging and that this trend is expected to continue as the peak season approaches. “With the upcoming harvest of traditional varieties and many imported ones, we remain optimistic about sustained demand and favourable prices,” he added.

Basheer further said that this year’s yield appears promising, boosting hopes for better earnings. “Approximately 80 per cent of cherry production in the valley still comes from traditional varieties, including Makhmali, Siyah, Awal Number, Jadi, Holland, Double, Mishry, Splendor and Steela,” he said. “Imported varieties like Italy currently comprise a smaller share but are steadily increasing in influence.”
According to official data, Jammu and Kashmir produces over 150,000 metric tonnes of cherries annually, making it the leading cherry-producing region in India. The union territory has more than 2,300 hectares dedicated to cherry cultivation, with Shopian, Ganderbal, and Srinagar as the primary producing districts—(KNO)

Designate Protection Officers To Ensure Women’s Safety: SC To States, UTs

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed all the states and union territories to identify officers in the Department of Women and Child Development at the district and taluka levels and designate them as protection officers.
A protection officer is an appointed individual tasked with ensuring the safety and well-being of victims of domestic violence.
A bench of justices B V Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma directed the chief secretaries of the states, UTs and the secretaries of the Women and Child/Social Welfare Departments to coordinate and ensure the designation of officers as protection officers under the Domestic Violence Act.
“They shall also take steps to discharge their duties under Section 11 by giving wide publicity through media to promote awareness about the provisions of the Act, ensure effective coordination of services under the Act, and implement its provisions,” it said.
The bench directed for the exercise to be completed within six weeks from today in areas where protection officers weren’t designated. “The states shall ensure the availability of service providers, help groups, and shelter homes for distressed women. The respondent states shall also identify shelter homes for this purpose,” the top court added.
Underlining the right under the Legal Services Authorities Act, the bench ordered the member secretary of National Legal Services Authority to instruct all member secretaries of the state legal services authorities to spread awareness among women about their right to free legal aid and advice under the Domestic Violence Act.
They shall also give adequate publicity to these provisions, the bench said.

“Needless to say, if any woman approaches for legal aid or advice, it shall be provided expeditiously, as the Act guarantees every woman the right to free legal assistance,” it noted.
The top court’s direction came on a plea filed by NGO We the Women of India seeking to fill massive gaps in infrastructure under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act across the country for providing effective legal aid to women survivors of abuse at matrimonial homes and creating shelter homes for them post lodging of complaints against husbands and in-laws.
The NGO, in its plea filed through advocate Shobha Gupta, said domestic violence continues to be the most common crime against females in India despite the Domestic Violence Act coming into force more than 15 years. (Agencies)

Allotment of State Land: ACB registers case against then Revenue officials, others

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday said to have registered a formal case against the then Revenue officials and others for allotment of state land.
“ACB Jammu registered a formal case FIR No. 08/2025 u/s 5(1)(d)

r/w Sec. 5(2), J&K PC Act, Svt. 2006 & Sec. 120-B RPC at P/S ACB Jammu against Ravinder Sharma, the then Tehsildar (S) Jammu, Mohammad Bashir the then Tehsildar Bahu, Jammu, Mohd Sarwar Lone the then Naib Tehsildar Bahu, Jammu, Mohd Rasheed Malik the then Patwarī Chowadhi, Jammu, beneficiaries and others, for allotment of state land in favour of Tara Singh S/O Lehna Singh R/O Deli Rakh Bandu, Distt. Jammu, under the provision of the Govt. order No. 254/C dated 19.07.2014 without fulfilling the conditions of the Cabinet Order No. 578-C of 1954,” a spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).
During the course of enquiry conducted into the matter, the spokesman said that it has surfaced that allotment order was issued by the then PRO, Jammu, on 24-05-2013 in favour of said Tara Singh as refugee allottee under Cabinet Order No. 578-C and ownership rights have been conferred upon the allottee on 19-07-2014 under the provision of Govt. order No. 254/C in violation of the said cabinet order, wherein it is clearly mentioned the allottee shall have to cultivate the land personally, within a period of six months from the date of the allotment, failing which he will forfeit his right to hold the land and it shall be allotted to some other displaced person.
“Further, as per the Register Khasra Girdawari the land in question remained continuously entered in the name of one Nazir Ahmad S/o Alam Deen as Gair Muroosi. Moreover, as per the revenue record, allotted land in question was neither in possession of allottee Tara Singh nor entry of Girdawari has been found in the revenue record in the name of said allottee, whereas, Power of Attorney pertaining to the land in question in favour of Javid Iqbal has been executed well before the conferment of ownership rights in favour of Tara Singh,” the statement added.
In this way, the then Tehsildar Settlement Jammu, along with the then Revenue Officers/Officials of Tehsil Bahu, Jammu, beneficiary Tara Singh, Nazir Ahmad, and attorney holder Javed Iqbal, conspired together in a well-orchestrated manner to illegally obtain state land, the statement reads, adding that they subsequently sold the land-worth crores-causing significant loss to the state exchequer.

NOTICE

It is hereby notified that the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID: 021502001616 for the Digital Rice Husking Machine at Gulshan Pora, Markundal, is currently registered in the name of Gh. Hassan Bhat, S/o Khazir Mohammad Bhat. Now, the same connection is required to be transferred in the name of Mohd. Rafiq Lone, S/o Ali Mohammad Lone, R/o Hanjiwera Bala, Baramulla. In this regard, if any person has any objection to the proposed transfer, they may submit the same in writing to the office of the Power Development Department, Sub-Division Hajin, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that i have lost my 10th class Discharge Certificate under S.No: 453, some where Now i want to apply for its duplicate in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the principal Govt Higher secondary Institute Aloosa District Bandipora, with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Ishrat Bano.
D/O Gh Mohd Bhat. R/O Aloosa District

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that i have lost my 8th class pass Discharge Certificate some where, Now i want to apply for its duplicate in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Headmaster GOVT Girl Middle School Ajar Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Lone.
S/O Ab Majeed Lone.
R/O Ayathmulla Bandipora.

اطلاع عام

میں، پرویز احمد رش ولد غلام احمد رش، ساکن بانچی ویرا پائین، بذریعہ اس اطلاع کے عوام الناس کو مطلع کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ میرے بینک پاس بک میں میرا نام غلط درج ہو گیا ہے۔ موجودہ طور پر میرا نام ”پرویز حسین شی“ درج ہے، جبکہ میرا درست نام ”پرویز احمد رش“ ہے۔ جیسا کہ میرے ادھار کارڈ، تعلیمی اسناد اور دیگر سرکاری دستاویزات میں درج ہے۔

لہذا میں اپنے بینک ریکارڈ میں نام کی درستی کروانا چاہتا ہوں۔ اگر کسی کو اس بارے میں کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ اس اطلاع کی اشاعت کے 7 دن کے اندر اندر مجھ سے یا متعلقہ بینک سے رجوع کرے، بصورت دیگر میرے درست نام ”پرویز احمد رش“ کو ہی حتمی تصور کیا جائے گا۔

اکاؤنٹ نمبر: 02270401000010485
نام: پرویز احمد رش
رابطہ نمبر: 7780881047

For MI, Rickelton is currently the team's second-highest run-scorer this season behind Suryakumar Yadav, with 336 runs at 30.54 and a strike rate of 153.42 in his 12 innings while Jacks has also been a mainstay for MI this season, playing 11 of their first 12 league stage games. He has scored 195 runs in nine innings and taken five wickets with his offbreaks.