

# Kashmir Convener



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## Playing With Blood Of Indians Will Cost Pakistan Dearly: PM Modi

KC News Network

**BIKANER (RAJ):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asserted that the country's enemies have learnt what happens when 'sindoor' becomes gunpowder, and lauded India's armed forces for creating such a trap that Pakistan was forced to go down on its knees.

In his first public address in Rajasthan after Operation Sindoor that was launched in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, the prime minister slammed Pakistan, and said in response to the attack on April 22, "we destroyed nine biggest terror hideouts in 22 minutes".

"The world and the enemies of the country have seen what happens when 'sindoor' turns into 'barood' (gunpowder)," he said at the public meeting in Palana in Bikaner, which shares border with Pakistan.

"Ab toh Modi ki naso mein lahu nahi garam sindoor beh raha hai (Not



blood but sindoor runs in Modi's veins)," he said, adding, Pakistan will have to pay a heavy price for every terrorist attack.

He said India's response to the terror attack was not a game of vengeance but a "new form of justice" and there will be no trade or talk with Pakistan, there will be talk only about Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

In a stern message to Pakistan, he

said India is not going to be scared by nuclear threats and if there is a terrorist attack on the country then it will give a befitting reply.

"If there is a terrorist attack on India, it will get a befitting reply. The time and methods will also be decided by our army and the conditions will also be ours. India is not going to be

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### India-Pak Understanding On Cessation Of Hostilities Reached Bilaterally: Jaishankar

KC NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** The India-Pakistan understanding on cessation of hostilities was arrived at following direct negotiations between the two sides, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said against the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's claim that Washington played a role in brokering the truce.

Jaishankar also said that India will again hit terrorists in Pakistan in response to any future terror strikes like the one in Pahalgam, suggesting that it was the reason why Operation Sindoor has not been concluded.

In an interview to Dutch broadcaster NOS, he said that the government was very clear that "if there is such an attack, there will be a response". Jaishankar was in The Hague as part of his three-nation tour

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## Fast-track recruitment process: CM Omar to JKSSB

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting to review the functioning of the Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), stressing the need to remove bottlenecks and ensuring time-bound and transparent recruitment process.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance, Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department, Commissioner Secretary



Cooperatives Department, Secretary Law, Chairperson JKSSB and other senior officers.

Chairperson JKSSB Indu Kanwal Chib presented a comprehensive report on recruitment activities undertaken

since 2019, including department-wise details of posts that have been advertised, are under examination, and are in the final stages of selection. She highlighted

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## CIK produces chargesheet against terrorist aide

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) on Thursday said to have produced a charge-sheet against a terrorist associate (Airtel Franchise) for issuing 'SIM Card Connection' to active terrorists.

"Police Station CIK produced charge sheet against one Mudassir Ahmad Sheikh S/O Bashir Ahmad Sheikh R/O Hanand Chawalgam Kulgam vendor of Airtel company, before the Hon'ble Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Kulgam in case FIR No. 18/2020 U/S 420, 468, 471 IPC of Police Station CIK Srinagar for issuing 'SIM Card Connection' against a non-existing person which

was actually used by a terrorist," a spokesman said in a statement.

Police Station CIK had received an information through reliable sources that the procurement of SIM card connections from various Telecom Service Providers by terrorists / members of proscribed organizations / Over Ground Workers (OGWs), is made in a pre-planned criminal conspiracy, with the active connivance of their sympathizers and, in several instances, with the complicity of 'Franchise/Point of Sale (POS)' through fraudulent and dishonest means, the statement reads.

Accordingly, police said that on 09.10.2020, a case under FIR number

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## IWT Will Remain In Abeyance Till Pak Stops Terrorism: India

KC NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** India on Thursday once again as-

serted that the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan will remain in "abeyance" until Islamabad "credibly and irrevocably" abjures support to cross-border terrorism as "water and blood" cannot flow together.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal also said that any bilateral talks with Islamabad will only be on vacation of illegally occupied territories of Kashmir by Pakistan.

"You are well aware of our position that any India-

Pakistan engagement has to be bilateral," he said in response to a question on US President Donald Trump showing interest in helping India and Pakistan in resolving the Kashmir issue.

"I would like to remind you that talks and terror don't go together," Jaiswal said.

"On terrorism itself, we are open to discussing the handing over to India of terrorists whose list was provided to Pakistan

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## Govt committed to address concerns of trading community: CM Omar

KTMF highlights issues for redressal



KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday reaffirmed his government's commitment to addressing the concerns of the trading community and facilitating economic revival in the region.

The Chief Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting with a delegation of traders from across the Kashmir Valley, under the banner of the Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF), led by its Chairman, Mohammad Yaseen Khan.

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## Rahul Gandhi To Visit Poonch On May 24

KC News Network

**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is likely to visit Poonch in the Jammu region on Saturday to meet the families of those killed and affected by the recent Pakistani shelling, party sources said.

This will be the second visit of Gandhi, the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, to Jammu and Kashmir after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 25 tourists and one local were killed.

The former Congress chief is set to visit Poonch and meet the next of kin of those killed and the families affected by Pakistan's cross-border shelling, the party sources said.

During his visit to Jammu and Kashmir last month following the attack, Gandhi had said the idea behind the terror strike was to divide the people of the country and it was imperative that India stood united to defeat terrorism once and for all.

The Poonch sector was witness to heightened artillery shelling about two weeks ago following the rise in tensions with Pakistan after India carried out precise strikes on nine terror hubs in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) that included the headquarters of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed



(Bahawalpur) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (Muridke) on May 7. A wave of artillery shelling, and missiles and drone strikes by Pakistan in the Jammu region — particularly in Poonch — killed 27 people and injured more than 70 between May 8 and 10 after India launched Operation Sindoor to target terror infrastructure in the neighbouring country and PoK.

Thousands have fled from the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border areas to seek refuge in government-run relief camps. India carried out precision strikes under Operation Sindoor on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the Pahalgam attack.

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## Kiru Hydropower Corruption Case CBI Files Chargesheet Against Ex-Guv Satyapal, 7 Others

KC News Network

**NEW DELHI:** The CBI has filed a chargesheet against former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satyapal Malik and seven others in connection with alleged corruption in the award of Rs 2,200-crore civil works for Kiru hydropower project, officials said Thursday.

After three years of probe, the central agency submitted its findings in the chargesheet before a special court in Jammu.

In its chargesheet, the CBI has named Malik and his two aides Virender Rana and Kanwar Singh Rana, the officials said.

The other persons named in the chargesheet included the then Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt Ltd (CVPPPL) managing director M S Babu, its directors Arun Kumar Mishra and M K Mittal, managing director of construction firm Patel Engineering Ltd Rupen Patel and private person Kanwaljeet Singh Duggal, they said.

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## Heatwave sweeps J&K: Srinagar hits 133-year May record at 34.4°C

Owais Gul

**SRINAGAR:** The intense heatwave has gripped Jammu and Kashmir, with Srinagar surpassing the previous records on Thursday as the station recorded the third highest-ever temperature in the month of May at 34.4 degrees Celsius.

An Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), shared that Srinagar recorded the season's highest day temperature today at 34.3 degree Celsius.

He informed that the station has recorded the third-highest-ever day temperature in the month of May in 133 years.

The previous record was 34.3 degrees Celsius recorded on May 28, 1971, he said.

J&K is presently witnessing an intense heatwave, while the administration and doctors have issued advisories, appealing people to take adequate precautions.

Meanwhile, as per the details, Qazigund recorded the third highest temperature in the month of May since



1956 at 33.5 degrees Celsius. However, in May 2024, the temperature of 34.0 degrees Celsius was recorded, which stands as the all-time record, Keng said.

According to Keng, Kokernag recorded the all-time highest day temperature in the month of May since 1978 at 33.3 degrees Celsius. The previous all-time highest temperature was recorded on 15 May 2001 at 32.6 degrees Celsius.

Moreover, Pahalgam recorded a maximum temperature of 27.8 degrees Celsius while Kupwara and Gulmarg recorded 31.6 and 25.4 degrees Celsius, respectively. Jammu region also witnessed a rise in the temperature. The data reveals that, except Batote, the mercury in different stations of the winter capital settled above 30 degrees Celsius.

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### School Timings Changed In Kashmir Amid Soaring Heatwave

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Amid the ongoing heatwave, the J&K government has announced a change in school timings for all government and recognized private schools in the region.

### Srinagar Braces for Heatwave, Public Urged to Stay Safe

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The District Magistrate's Office Srinagar has issued a heatwave advisory as temperatures in the region are expected to rise sharply over the next few days. The District

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## Not a single word on terrorism, Pak: LoP Sharma slams NC resolutions

Sajid Raina

**SRINAGAR:** Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sunil Sharma, launched an attack on the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), accusing the party of ignoring the Pahalgam terrorist attack and the sacrifices made by Indian security forces during Operation Sindoor.

Speaking in a 5-minute video statement, Sharma, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "For the first time, not only India but the entire world has seen such a response to a terrorist incident. The courage shown by our forces during Operation Vermilion is unmatched."

He added that it was surprising that the JKNC, in its Executive Committee meeting, passed seven resolutions but did not mention the army or the security forces even once.

"There is no appreciation, no recognition of the bravery of our forces. The sacrifice they made for Jammu and Kashmir, for the unity and integrity of India, has not been acknowledged by the National Conference," Sharma said.

He questioned why the resolutions did not include any reference to terrorism or Pakistan. "Pakistan-sponsored terrorists killed 26 innocent people. Yet there is no mention of Pakistan, no mention of terrorism. What kind of sympathy is

this?" he asked.

Sharma said the JKNC was more focused on demanding the restoration of Article 370 and statehood instead of standing with the nation during a time of crisis. "They are talking about special status. What special status? There is no



such thing in the Indian Constitution. The Supreme Court never mentioned 'special status' in its verdict either," he said.

According to him, bringing up Article 370 again is an insult to the Constitution and the Supreme Court's decision. "370 is history. It has been buried. It's not coming back," he said.

Sharma also criticized the timing of JKNC's political demands.

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# Why this thundering silence: Cong slams govt after Trump reiterates India-Pak ceasefire claims

**NEW DELHI:** With US President Donald Trump repeating his claim that he settled the recent conflict between India and Pakistan through the promise of trade, the Congress on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not rejected such statements even once and asked why this “thundering silence”.

Congress' general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said that for the eighth time in 11 days, President Trump has claimed full credit for the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, praised the PMs of India and Pakistan equally and put them on par in every way, and also reiterated that trade with the US was the instrument he used to get the two countries to declare a ceasefire.

“Yet our PM – Donald bhai’s great buddy – is completely silent on what the US President is repeatedly saying. The External Affairs Minister also continues to maintain complete quiet on what his pal, the US Secretary of State, has said in support of the US President’s claims and about the ‘neutral site’ for talks between India and Pakistan,” Ramesh said in a post on X.

Why this thundering silence, he asked. Congress’ media and publicity department head Pawan Khara said this is the eighth time President Trump has made this claim that he got Operation Sindoor stopped. “He claims to have used trade to get India to end Operation Sindoor. Prime Minister Modi has not rejected this claim even once. What does this silence mean?” Khara said in a post on X.



In his remarks in the Oval Office during a meeting with visiting South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Trump said, “If you take a look at what we just did with Pakistan and India. We settled that whole, and I think I settled it through trade.” He said the US is doing a “big deal” with both India and Pakistan.

“And I said, ‘What are you guys doing?’” Trump said.

“Somebody had to be the last one to shoot. But the shooting was getting worse and worse, bigger and bigger, deeper and deeper into the countries. And we spoke to them, and I think we, you know, I hate to say we got it settled, and then two days later, something happens, and they say it’s Trump’s fault.

“But... Pakistan has got some excellent people and some really good, great leader. And India is my friend, Modi,” Trump said to which the South African president replied, “Modi, mutual friend” .

“He’s a Great guy and I called them both. It’s something good,” Trump said.

The US President has been repeatedly claiming that he helped settle the tensions between India and Pakistan.

India carried out precision strikes under Operation Sindoor on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Indian forces launched a fierce counter-attack on several Pakistani military installations.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the military confrontation after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

On May 10, Trump had announced that India and Pakistan agreed to a full and immediate ceasefire after a long night of talks “mediated” by Washington.

## Raut alleges attempt to bribe Maharashtra legislature panel, CM orders SIT probe

**MUMBAI:** Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut has alleged that his party’s workers foiled an attempt to ‘bribe’ the state legislature’s Estimates Committee during their visit to Dhule district.

While a senior official said an investigation has been launched, the committee chairman, Arjun Khotkar, rubbished allegations linking the episode to his personal assistant (PA). Khotkar is an MLA of the Shiv Sena led by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

In a post on X on Wednesday night, Raut alleged that more than Rs 5 crore in cash was found in a room at the government guest house in Dhule city.

“When the legislature estimates committee visited Dhule district today (Wednesday), about five and a half crore rupees were kept in room number 102 at the Dhule government rest house Gulmohar for giving bribe to the committee,” the Rajya Sabha member claimed.

Former Shiv Sena MLA Anil Anna Gote and local Sena (UBT) leaders locked the room and stood guard outside, Raut said.

“Despite informing the district collector, superintendent of police and Anti-Corruption Bureau, no one has come even after four to five hours.... There is no cooperation from the administration. The bribe was meant to suppress corruption in development works and officials’ involvement in it,” he alleged.

The estimates committee is empowered to scrutinise

the utilisation of funds allocated to a particular area in the state budget.

Meanwhile, Dhule superintendent of police Shrikant Dhivare told reporters that the matter was being probed.

Anil Gote told reporters that Room 102 at the Dhule rest house was booked in the name of Khotkar’s PA Kishore Patil.

The money was kept in the room to be distributed to the committee members, he alleged.

Khotkar told reporters that the money found in the Dhule rest house had nothing to do with the committee. He rejected Gote’s allegations that the room was booked in the name of his PA.

“I spoke to my PA. He said he hadn’t booked that particular room. He had booked the one next to it,” he said.

Raut later told reporters that the person in whose name the room (102) was booked should be probed.

## Rahul Gandhi Discusses Inclusion, Education Policy With SC, ST, OBC Students At DU

**NEW DELHI:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday visited Delhi University’s North Campus to interact with students from Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Other Backward Class (OBC) communities, focusing on issues of representation, equality and academic justice.

The interactive session held at the office of Delhi University Students’ Union (DUSU) president witnessed enthusiastic participation of students from multiple colleges and departments.



Engaging with the students, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha highlighted the importance of democratic participation and inclusive academic spaces, a DUSU statement said.

The students raised concerns over caste-based discrimination, lack of

representation of marginalised communities in faculty positions and top administrative posts, and their “exclusion” from hiring in top multinational corporations.

They also voiced grievances about the disproportionate academic weightage of skill enhancement courses (SECs) and value addition courses (VACs) under the National Education Policy (NEP), which they alleged gave excessive power to the faculty members.

## Aam Aadmi Party Appoints New Office-Bearers Across States

New Delhi, May 22: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday released a fresh list of office-bearers, appointing key leaders to organisational roles across various states as well as for overseas coordination.

The appointments were formalised through an official announcement signed by Sandeep Pathak, the party’s national general secretary (organisation).

Senior AAP leader Dilip Pandey has been appointed as the party’s overseas coordinator. Additionally, he has been named ‘Sah Prabhari’ (co-in-charge) for Uttar Pradesh, along with Vishesh Ravi, Anil Jha and Surendra Kumar. As part of the organisational restructuring, new ‘Prabharis’ (state-in-charges) have been assigned for nine states and one union territory.

Jitender Singh Tomar has been appointed in-charge for Madhya Pradesh, Rajesh Gupta for Karnataka, Rituraj Govind for Himachal Pradesh, Mahendra Yadav for Uttarakhand, Dheeraj Tokas for Rajasthan, Prakash Jarwal for Maharashtra, Priyanka Kakkar for Telangana, Shelly Oberoi for Kerala, Pankaj Singh for Tamil Nadu, and Prabhakar Gaur for Ladakh.

The party also announced new ‘Sah Prabharis’ for select states. Ghanendra Bhardwaj will serve as the ‘Sah Prabhari’ for Uttarakhand, while Vijay Phulara will assume the role in Himachal Pradesh. These additions are expected to boost local leadership and coordination in these regions, party sources said.

The move is part of AAP’s broader strategy to consolidate its organisational base and expand its influence across the country and among Indian communities abroad, party sources said.

## Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT Industrial Training Institute Lalpora Lolab

Email: [itilalpora@gmail.com](mailto:itilalpora@gmail.com)  
Admission Notice

Offline applications are invited from the un-employed candidates of District Kupwara for admissions to the following **Short term modular courses** in Govt. ITI Lalpora. The applications can be had from the office of undersigned with effect from **23-05-2025 to 02-06-2025.**

S. No	Name of Short Term course	Duration	Minimum Qualification
1	Basic Computer Digital Literacy	15 days	8 <sup>th</sup>
2	Solar Power Technician	01 month	8 <sup>th</sup>
3	Basic Masonry and concreting	01 month	8 <sup>th</sup>
4	Sozni Embroidery	01 month	8 <sup>th</sup>
5	Basic Tailoring	01 month	8 <sup>th</sup>
6	Mobile Repairing	01 month	8 <sup>th</sup>

Candidates having minimum age of 14 years, as on **1<sup>st</sup> May 2025**, with no upper age bar can apply. The applicants have to fill up the admission forms **available at Govt. ITI Lalpora along with the following documents**

Marks Certificate of 8<sup>th</sup> standard.  
Date of Birth Certificate.

Aadhar Card.

The training will be free of cost and it is expected that the nominal stipend shall be provided to the successful candidates, after the approval from the competent authority.

**Important Note:**

Selection will be made purely on the basis of academic merit obtained by the applicants in their qualifying examination (8<sup>th</sup>).

**Note:- For any query please contact :-7006420752**

No:- ITI-Lal/Trgs/2025/21-25

Dated:- 22/05/2025

**DIPK-1737/25**

**Sd/- Superintendent Industrial  
Training Institute, Lalpora**

## Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- [xennmhcdk@yahoo.in](mailto:xennmhcdk@yahoo.in)-----

Gist of e-tender

**NIT No: M&HDS/TS/2025-26/09/e-tendering**

**Dated:-21.05.2025**

**(SHORT TERM)**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from Original Equipment manufacturers or registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work: -

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (In days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Earnest Money	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. SITC of the Hot and cold Ac Units in MRU at Govt. Medical College, Srinagar	6.212	500	10	02 Mcs of 2025 Dt:- 06.05.2025	M&HDS/TS/04 of 05/25	2% of the estimated cost	Available with Intending Department

**Downloading of Bids:-** The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) from **21.05.2025 (18.00 hrs)** and can be downloaded from **21.05.2025 (18.00 hrs)**

**Uploading:** The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site **21.05.2025 (18.00 hrs) to 04.06.2025 (13:00hrs)** in two (02) covers.

**Opening of Bids :-** The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on **04.06.2025 at 15.00(hrs)**

No:M&HDS/1093-97

Dated:22.05.2025

**DIPK-1734/25**

**Sd/-Executive Engineer  
(R&B) Division Budgam.**

## SC Directs NHAI To Take Effective Steps To Curb Unauthorised Occupation Of Highways



**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court has directed the National Highways Authority of India to take effective steps to curb unauthorised occupation of highway lands and form surveillance teams of police officials to carry out patrolling.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced the ‘Rajmargyatra’ mobile application which aims to provide comprehensive information and efficient complaint redressal for national highway users.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih said information about the availability of the mobile application shall be displayed prominently at toll and food plazas on highways.

“We direct the Joint Secretary (Highways) to file on record the details of various categories of complaints lodged on the ‘Rajmargyatra’ mobile application, including complaints regarding unauthorised occupation of highway lands and action taken thereon.

“We further direct NHAI to report compliance regarding the creation of grievance redressal portal for reporting complaints relating to unauthorised occupation of highways. The compliance affidavits shall be filed within three months,” the bench said.

The top court also directed the highway

administration to issue a detailed Standard Operating Procedure regarding the constitution of teams for inspection of the national highways, including collection of data regarding unauthorised occupation of highway lands.

“We direct the Union of India to constitute surveillance teams consisting of State police or other forces. The duty of the surveillance teams will be to do patrolling regularly and punctually. Even this compliance shall be reported within a period of three months.

“We direct the highway administration and the concerned respondents who are members of the same to take into consideration the suggestions submitted by the amicus curiae on October 5, 2024 and take steps to implement the said suggestions,” the bench said while posting the matter for compliance on September 15.

The top court was hearing a PIL filed by a person named Gyan Prakash whereby he sought various directions for implementation of provisions of the Control of National

Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 and removal of encroachments from highways. Advocate Swati Ghildiyal was appointed amicus curiae by the apex court for assisting in the matter.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR (190002)

GIST of eNIT 03 of 2025-26

Invitation for Bids (Notice Inviting Tenders)

e-NIT No. 03 of 2025-26

Dated: 20/05/2025.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K State, e-tenders (in two cover system) are invited on Item rate basis from approved and eligible bidders as defined in the SBD for the following works:-

S.No.	Title	Details
01.	Name of the Work	Revamping /Modernization of Marval Lift Irrigation Scheme, Pulwama
02.	Source of Funds /Scheme Code	NABARD RIDF XXX (M.H. 4701)
03.	Estimated Cost	3918.80 Lacs
04.	Position of Administrative Approval	Accorded vide Govt. order No. 55-JK (USD) of 2024 Dated: 04.03.2024 issued under endstt. No. JSD-PS03/2/2024-PLG-JSD Dated: 04-03-2024
05.	Position of Technical Sanction	Sanctioned vide Chief Engineer Kmr., Irrigation & F C Department Srinagar's order No.64-DB of 2024-25 dt.06.03.2025
06.	Position of Funds	Budgetary Provision 2025-26
07	Period of Completion	36 months
08.	Cost of Tender Document	10000/-in the form of Treasury Challan/ Treasury Receipt for bidders of UT J&K and for U.T. outside bidders may formulate DD/ Banker's cheque from any Scheduled bank in favour of Executive Engineer M.I.D. Srinagar (Copy shall be uploaded online)
09	Website/portal address	<a href="https://jktenders.gov.in">https://jktenders.gov.in</a>
10.	Earnest Money Deposit (in Lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Lakhs)
11.	Selection Criteria /Eligibility Criteria	As defined in SBD of this work
12.	Period of Tender Validity	The Tender shall remain valid for 120 days after the bid submission end date.
12.	Period of Tender Validity	The Tender shall remain valid for 120 days after the bid submission end date.
13	Critical Dates	
a)	Publishing date and time of tender amendments documents	22-05-2025 at 04:00 PM
b)	Starting date & time for downloading of tender documents	22-05-2025 at 04:00 PM
c)	Pre-bid meeting, Site Visit and Clarification to Tender documents	29-05-2025 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Chief Engineer Kmr., I & F.C. Deptt Rajbagh Srinagar
d)	Starting date and time of bid submission (Cover No.1 to 2)	22-05-2025 at 04:00 PM
e)	Closing date and time of bid Submission (Cover No.1 to 2)	13-06-2025 up to 04:00 PM
f)	Date and time of bid opening (Cover No.1)	14-06-2025 at 12:00 PM in the office of the Chief Engineer Kmr., I & F.C. Deptt Rajbagh
g)	Date and time of bid opening (Cover No. 2)	Will be intimated online after completion of evaluation of Technical Cover (Cover-I)

- A pre-bid meeting will be held to clarify issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage by the bidders.
  - Prospective Bidders within UT of J&K shall submit the tender Document Fee (Non Refundable/ Non- Transferrable) in the shape of e-Challan/Treasury Challan/ Treasury Receipt pledged in favour of Executive Engineer M.I.D. Srinagar to be deposited under MH-0702-Rev. Misc. While as the bidders outside UT shall submit the same in the form of Demand Draft pledged to Executive Engineer, M.I.D. Srinagar
  - Earnest money /Bid Security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir Payable at Srinagar. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity.
  - Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bids as per Finance Department O.M. No. A/24(2017)-651 Dt: 07-06-2018.
  - The Contractor shall have to arrange all the key construction material for successful completion of the work. No Departmental store shall be issued.
  - Key construction material to be used and arranged by the contractor for execution of work is given below:  
a) CEMENT: 43 Grade OPC conforming to IS: 8112-2013 (Latest Version) as required in the work, from Reputed manufacturers of cement approved as currently displayed on cement information system online portal of the Ministry of Industry, Government of India, and holding license to use ISI certification mark for their product. However final selection shall be based on design mix and approval of the Department.  
b) STEEL OF ALL SORTS: Fe-500 Conforming to IS: 1786-2008 (Latest Version) from primary producers such as SAIL, TATA TISCO, JINDAL PANTHER or RINL only as approved by the Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India  
c) STRUCTURAL STEEL OF: Grade E250 Conforming to IS: 2062-2011 (Latest Version) from primary producers such as SAIL, TATA, JINDAL or RINL only as approved by the Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India.
  - The bidder should have valid dealership or authorization issued by original pump manufacturer (OEM). The same is to be uploaded in Technical Bid (cover 1st) necessarily without which the bid shall be outrightly rejected.
  - Further details can be seen in bidding document available on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
  - Conditional bids and the bids not meeting the qualifying criteria shall be summarily rejected.
  - The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason.
  - Subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum if any shall be published on above website.
- No:393-415  
Dated:22/05/2025

**DIPK-1714/25**

**Sd/-Executive Engineer,  
M.I.D. Srinagar**



# Kudara- Shokbaba Road in Shambles Since 2019, Authorities Unmoved

**BANDIPORA:** Residents of Kudara village in Bandipora district have voiced strong resentment over the dilapidated condition of the Shokbaba-Kudara road, accusing the PMGSY department of inaction despite repeated appeals since 2019.

According to locals, the road has been left unattended for years, riddled with potholes and dust, severely impacting daily life in the area. "It's been six years and not a single repair has been carried out," said one of the residents. "We have approached the concerned authorities multiple times, but our pleas have fallen on deaf ears."

The deteriorating condition of the road has taken a serious toll on commuters, particularly patients, school-going children, and pregnant



women. Several residents reported incidents where expectant mothers were forced to deliver on the roadside due to delays in reaching health facilities.

"The dust and uneven surface make it extremely difficult for pedestrians and two-wheeler riders. It becomes worse during rains," said another local.

Residents allege that despite the road being part of a critical connectivity route under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the department has not taken any concrete steps to restore or maintain it. "Neither the administration nor the PMGSY officials have responded to our complaints," they said.

The villagers have once again appealed to the district administration and higher authorities to intervene and initiate immediate repairs to alleviate their suffering.

## KUs' North Campus Organizes Seminar on Biodiversity

**Delina Baramulla:** In a move to spotlight the intersection of biodiversity and sustainable development, the Department of Botany at the University of Kashmir's North Campus in Delina, Baramulla,



hosted a day-long seminar on Thursday to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity.

Centered on the theme "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development," the event drew over 100 participants from across Baramulla and beyond.

The programme was Presided over by Dr. Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad, Director of the North Campus who was event's Chief Guest.,

An official spokesperson said the seminar brought together a constellation of scientific voices and policy experts, highlighting the role of medicinal plants in both preserving ecological heritage and fostering local entrepreneurship.

"This day is not just a celebration," Dr. Ghulam Mohammad said in his inaugural address, "but a call to action — to value, protect, and sustainably harness the biodiversity that sustains us all."

Joining him on the dais were Dr. Raja

Amjad Ali Khan, District Ayush Officer for Kupwara and Baramulla; Dr. Wahid ul Hassan, Technical Officer at the J&K Medicinal Plants Board; and a panel of invited speakers that included Dr. Shakir P. Sultan from the CSIR-IIM in Srinagar and Dr. Azra Anjum, CEO of Emiliu Private Limited.

The seminar aimed to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those tied to environmental stewardship and indigenous knowledge systems. Participants engaged in sessions exploring the commercial and therapeutic potential of medicinal plants, with special emphasis on local species.

"Medicinal plants form a vital yet often overlooked part of our heritage," said one speaker, echoing the day's central message. "They are not only reservoirs of health but also engines for sustainable livelihoods."

A unique feature of the event was a guided "Nature Walk" for students, led by Dr. Aijaz Hassan Ganie, which introduced participants to the local biodiversity of the region in an immersive setting.

As the world confronts accelerating biodiversity loss, events like these serve as crucial platforms to align local efforts with global frameworks. The seminar emphasized the urgency of achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) targets and reinvigorating conservation strategies at the grassroots.

As the day concluded, the atmosphere was charged with renewed purpose — a reminder that the preservation of nature is not just an environmental imperative, but a moral and communal one.

## Two Drug Peddlers Arrested in Pampore; Brown Sugar, Cash Seized

**BILAL HABIB**

**PAMPORE:** In a continued crackdown against drug peddling, police in Awantipora arrested two alleged drug peddlers in the Pampore area on Wednesday, re-



covering contraband substances and cash suspected to be proceeds of narcotic sales.

According to police, a naka checking was established at Kadlabal Pampore by a team from Police Station Pampore led by SHO DySP (Probationary) Shrawan Singh and supervised by SDPO Pampore R.P. Singh. During the checking, two individuals moving under suspicious circumstances were apprehended.

The arrested persons were identified

as Firdous Ahmad Mir alias 'Fir Codein', son of Ghulam Hassan Mir, a resident of Kadlabal Pampore, and Sahil Shafi Khan, son of Mohammad Shafi Khan, a resident of Dalgate Srinagar.

Police said that upon search, the officers recovered 2.25 grams of brown sugar-like substance and cash amounting to 12,000 from their possession. The money is believed to be proceeds from the sale of narcotic substances.

The duo has been taken into custody and shifted to the police station where they remain lodged. A case under FIR No. 57/2025 has been registered at Police Station Pampore under relevant provisions of the NDPS Act.

Police have urged the public to cooperate and share information regarding drug peddling in their neighbourhoods. "Persons found indulging in drug trafficking will face strict legal action," a police spokesperson said. "Our sustained efforts against drug peddlers aim to reassure the community that we are committed to a drug-free society."

## ECI Trains BLAs from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to Boost Grassroots Electoral Participation

**New Delhi:** In a bid to enhance grassroots electoral participation, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched a two-day training programme for Booth Level Agents (BLAs) from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM), New Delhi. A total of 229 BLAs—both BLA-I and BLA-II—from 11 National and State political parties are participating in the session, which is being conducted bilingually in English and Tamil.

Chief Election Commissioner Shri Gyanesh Kumar inaugurated the training and addressed the participants, stressing the crucial role of BLAs in ensuring transparent and efficient electoral processes. "BLAs play a vital part in maintaining error-free electoral rolls and upholding the democratic spirit at the grassroots level," he said. He further noted that the training will enable BLAs to better fulfil their roles as defined in the

Representation of the People Acts of 1950 and 1951, the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, and other



ECI-issued guidelines. This marks the second such training batch held at IIDEM this year. The first session was organized for BLAs from Bihar on April 16–17,

2025.

During the programme, BLAs were briefed on their appointment procedures, legal responsibilities, and operational duties, including the mechanisms for raising first and second appeals under Sections 24(a) and 24(b) of the RP Act, 1950. These sessions aim to ensure that BLAs are well-versed in addressing concerns related to the final publication of electoral rolls.

In parallel with the training initiative, the ECI has intensified its engagement with political parties. It has conducted 4,719 all-party meetings so far, including 40 by Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs), 800 by District Electoral Officers (DEOs), and 3,879 by Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), involving over 28,000 representatives from across the political spectrum.

## Chairperson DDC B'la inspects key dev. projects in Wagoora-Kreeri

**BARAMULLA:** Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safina Baig, to-



day conducted an extensive tour of the Wagoora-Kreeri area to review the progress of several ongoing developmental projects, with a focus on improving infrastructure and public services.

During the visit, Safina Baig inspected key works in the education and connectivity sectors. At Higher Secondary School Bandi Bala, she reviewed the con-

struction of a nine-roomed triple-storey building being executed at a cost of Rs 237.75 lakh, and a three-roomed double-storey building worth Rs 130 lakh. These projects aim to strengthen educational infrastructure and accommodate increasing enrolments. She also assessed progress on the Shrunz Bridge, a significant connectivity project involving a 50-meter span bridge under construction at a cost of Rs 7 crore. Once completed, the

bridge will greatly enhance mobility and access for several villages in the area.

At Middle School Kohlina, Safina Baig reviewed two construction works—a four-roomed double-storey building estimated at Rs 45.77 lakh and a three-roomed building costing Rs 31.18 lakh. Both structures are intended to improve classroom availability and learning conditions for students.

During on-site interactions, DDC Chairperson directed officers and executing agencies to ensure timely completion of all projects while maintaining quality and safety standards. She emphasized that delays must be avoided and that all works should be regularly monitored.

She also interacted with local residents, assuring them that developmental concerns and public demands would be addressed on priority.

## Women Protest in Bandipora's Dangerpora Over Acute Drinking Water Shortage

**BANDIPORA:** Scores of women staged a protest in Saraie Dangerpora area of Bandipora district on Wednesday, expressing strong resentment against the Jal Shakti Department Sumbal over the acute shortage of drinking water in their locality.

Carrying empty vessels, the protesting women raised slogans demanding immediate

restoration of the water supply. They alleged that they have been facing an unprecedented water crisis for several weeks and are compelled to travel long distances to fetch clean drinking water.

"The taps have been dry for days, and whatever water we receive is contaminated. Our children are falling sick after consuming it," said one of the protesting women.

Residents claimed several children in the area have developed waterborne ailments due to the consumption of unsafe water, prompting serious health concerns in the locality.

The aggrieved residents appealed to the district administration and the Jal Shakti Department to take immediate steps to address the issue and ensure the supply of clean and safe drinking water to the area.



## MLA Sonawari Inaugurates RFID System at GDC Sumbal

**BANDIPORA:** MLA Sonawari, Advocate Hilal Akbar Lone, inaugurated a newly installed Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system at Government Degree College (GDC) Sumbal on Wednesday.

The system, established at an estimated cost of Rs. 22 lakh, is aimed at enhancing library management and improving student services through automation.

Following the inauguration, a special awareness programme on criminal laws was held in the college auditorium.

The session focused on educating students about key aspects of Indian criminal law and their legal rights.

MLA Lone was accompanied by Professor Shabeena Shawl, Principal of GDC Sumbal, Prosecuting Officer Ms. Asifa, and faculty members. A large number of students also attended the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA emphasized the importance of legal literacy among youth and reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening both educational infrastructure and civic awareness across the region.

The event concluded with the distribution of certificates to students for their active participation in various programmes organized by the college.

## CRPF Organises Free Medical Camp In Shahgund

GOWHAR MAQBOOL

**Hajin:** Under its civic action programme Free medical camp was organised by 45 battalion of CRPF at Shahgund area of Hajin village in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday.

The camp was inaugurated by commandant of 45th Battalion Apoorwa in presence of Sh Brijesh Kumar Yadav, Assistant commandant Vijay Singh of CRPF, and Principal Govt Higher secondary school Shahgund and other officers and local eminent personalities were present during the camp.

During the camp besides free medical checkup, consultation medicines were distributed by CRPF and civil doctors. Around one thousand patients have taken benefits of the said medical camp.

Commandant Apoorwa said that earlier 45 Bn CRPF assured the local public that CRPF has always been helping the Kashmiri people and putting all out efforts for peace, prosperity and development of the society. He added that they will continue to conduct such a civic programme for the benefit of the local public in future.

## Dabur Glucose Expands 'Energize India' Campaign to Srinagar

**Srinagar:** Dabur Glucose, a leading instant energy drink from the House of Dabur, extended its nationwide 'Energize India' initiative to Srinagar on Wednesday, organizing an awareness session focused on promoting energy, stamina, and overall wellness among young school-children.

As part of the campaign, Dabur Glucose conducted an interactive



session at a government primary school in Srinagar, engaging over 60 students. The session aimed to educate children on the importance of proper nutrition and hydration in maintaining high energy levels—crucial for physical activity, concentration, and healthy development.

"We are delighted to launch our 'Energize India' campaign in Srinagar to promote the importance of energy and stamina among young athletes and provide them with the necessary boost to excel in sports and daily activities. Dabur Glucose is the perfect supplement for athletes, sports enthusiasts, and people with active lifestyles," said Amit Garg, Marketing Head—Health Supplements, Dabur India Limited. "Our product is designed to provide an instant energy lift, which is essential for those engaged in physical exertion."

The event reflects Dabur's continued commitment to building a healthier and more active India, with a strong focus on grassroots engagement. The company plans to take the campaign to other parts of the country, partnering with schools and sports academies to raise awareness about fitness, nutrition, and stamina management among children and adolescents.



Editorial



Digital Shield

In a bold and timely move to protect India's rapidly growing digital financial ecosystem, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has introduced the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI) — a risk-based intelligence tool aimed at curbing cyber fraud. This initiative marks a significant step in building trust and security in the digital payments landscape, particularly with UPI becoming the preferred payment method for millions of Indians.

The FRI, developed as part of the DoT's Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP), is not just another technological tool. It is a multi-dimensional, real-time alert system that classifies mobile numbers as having medium, high, or very high financial fraud risk. This classification is derived from diverse and credible sources — the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), DoT's own Chakshu platform, and intelligence shared by banks and financial institutions. Such an integrated data-driven mechanism allows for proactive, rather than reactive, cyber protection.

What makes FRI particularly impactful is its ability to provide advance warnings to stakeholders like UPI platforms, banks, and NBFCs.

India's fintech revolution is both an economic opportunity and a security challenge. With more than 90% of UPI transactions handled by just a few platforms — PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm — coordinated action becomes vital. The good news is that these platforms are now integrating DIP alerts into their systems. The result is a powerful ecosystem-wide response to a problem that was, until now, scattered and reactive.

Equally commendable is the spirit of collaboration the FRI system fosters. Telecom regulators, financial institutions, and digital platforms are now working together with the common goal of securing the user. This whole-of-system approach sets the gold standard for how digital governance should function in the 21st century.

However, the journey is far from over. To make FRI truly effective, a few key steps must follow. First, universal adoption across all banks and payment systems must be ensured. Second, transparency in how risk levels are calculated and communicated will be critical for maintaining public trust. Finally, user education must accompany this technological intervention — alerts are useful only when users understand and respond appropriately to them.

In the war against cyber fraud, FRI is a new-age weapon — and India is using it wisely.

The Eternal Quest: Redemption in the Flow of Human Consciousness



SHABEER AHMAD LONE

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

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

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

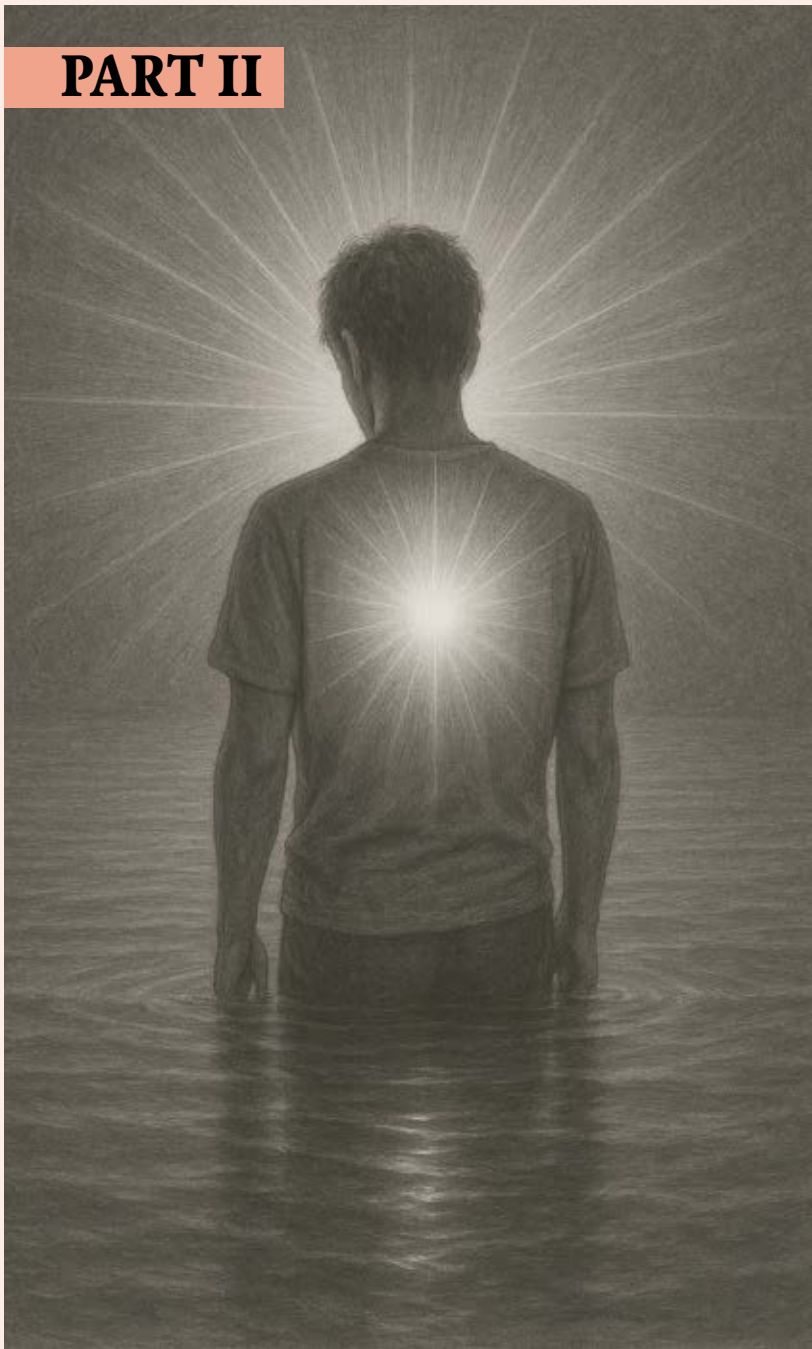
Africa's redemption, achieved through forgiveness, reconciliation, and collective healing. Redemption in these contexts surpasses individual liberation, embodying societal healing, collective justice, and

the affirmation of shared dignity. Contemporary thought brings new dimensions to the quest for redemption, extending its implications to environmental, psychological, and scientific fields.

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

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

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PART II

A Valley Under Siege By Scams

PEERZADA MOHSIN SHAFI

Kashmir, a place once synonymous with piety, simplicity and sincerity is witnessing a disturbing transformation. The land that was once a symbol of spiritual depth and moral clarity has gradually become a hotspot for scams and frauds of various kinds. What was once unimaginable in this culturally rich and religiously rooted society has now become a daily reality. The values that once defined Kashmiri identity are being eroded by the steady rise of deceit and dishonesty, all unfolding before our eyes often through the screens of our mobile phones.

In earlier times, even a single incident of fraud would shock the entire locality. Such stories, often told by elders were rare and remained confined within the area where they occurred. I recall hearing of a case from our locality in the 1980's where a man managed to forge a cheque book and withdraw money from someone else's account. The incident caused a stir and the culprit was eventually caught but such occurrences were anomalies in an otherwise upright society. Likewise, there were cases in other parts of the valley where individuals went as far as creating fake banks and deceived people including widows of their savings and valuables. But these were few and their impact limited by the lack of mass communication tools.

With the rise of social media and the expanding reach of the internet, these scams no longer stay within the confines of their origin. The digital age has ensured that every act of fraud, no matter how localized, becomes a matter of global attention. While this has brought a level of awareness, it has also made it easier for scammers to replicate their tactics across different regions. Technology, though a gift in many respects has also become a tool in the hands of the deceitful. The very platforms that could be used to educate and uplift society are being exploited to spread lies, manipulate emotions and commit financial, spiritual and social crimes.

In today's Kashmir, hardly a day passes without reports of new scams emerging. From religious frauds to financial deceptions, the variety and audacity of these scams are staggering. One of the most shocking examples was that of a mentally unstable person who constructed a replica of the Kaaba and managed to convince people to follow him, exploiting their religious faith. Faith healers, once considered guides to spiritual healing have in many cases turned out to be charlatans misusing their influence for personal gain. In the name of matchmaking, elderly individuals have been duped of their savings. In educational institutions, the very spaces meant to nurture respect and learning have at times become grounds for exploitation.

Fake political movements have also taken root in recent years. These so-called revolutions invited people to donate freely for the cause of Kashmir's future, only for these entities to disappear overnight leaving behind broken promises and stolen funds. Even some journalists who should act as watchdogs of society have been found collecting money under the pretense of fundraising, only to later vanish with the contributions. A particularly troubling trend is the number of scams targeting unemployed youth. Lured by false hopes of



employment and economic opportunity, thousands have fallen victim to social media influencers and YouTubers promising jobs or financial gain.

Now frauds in the name of old age homes/rehabilitation centres have come to light. Kashmiris, known for their warm hearts and charitable spirits are quick to offer help when they believe in a good cause. They not only trust but also contribute generously. Tragically, many of these causes have turned out to be fronts for financial fraud. Every time Kashmiris place their faith in something or someone, it seems there are people waiting to exploit that trust.

This brings us to a pressing and painful question. Who is to blame? In truth, responsibility lies with everyone. As a society, we have failed to adapt to the new realities of the modern world. We are still guided by the belief that everyone is honest and well-intentioned, while the reality is far more complex. The world has changed. Scammers today are not just

roadside tricksters, they are educated, tech-savvy, and highly manipulative. They wear the masks of religious leaders, social workers, educators, and journalists. They exploit every gap in our awareness and every ounce of our trust.

It is no longer enough to simply condemn these actions after the fact. Preventive measures must be taken and accountability must be enforced. Government agencies need to crack down hard on fraudulent activities and create systems that detect and prevent scams before they grow. Religious leaders and public figures must verify the authenticity of the individuals and organizations they endorse. Endorsing blindly and then later issuing public apologies or condemnations after scams are exposed is both irresponsible and harmful.

Furthermore, awareness is key. More seminars, public discussions, and workshops must be held across Kashmir to educate people especially the youth and elderly about how to identify potential scams and how to protect themselves.

People must be taught not to trust blindly, no matter how appealing the cause or convincing the individual. Skepticism, once considered a negative trait in a society rooted in faith and trust, is now a necessary survival tool.

The fact is, the innocence that once defined Kashmir has been shattered by a new breed of criminals those who exploit the very values that once made this land noble. The thugs of Kashmir are not always visible; they don't wear masks or



In today's Kashmir, hardly a day passes without reports of new scams emerging. From religious frauds to financial deceptions, the variety and audacity of these scams are staggering. One of the most shocking examples was that of a mentally unstable person who constructed a replica of the Kaaba and managed to convince people to follow him, exploiting their religious faith....



carry weapons. They blend in speak well, promise hope, and then disappear with hearts broken and pockets empty. It is time for Kashmir to awaken to this harsh reality. We must remain vigilant, we must hold each other accountable, and above all, we must protect the integrity of our society before more damage is done.



# Sakeena Itoo reviews progress on finalisation of projects under PMJVK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting to review the progress on the finalisation and implementation of projects under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK) at Civil Secretariat here.

During the meeting, Minister Sakeena held detailed discussions regarding the proposed projects under the scheme. She highlighted that this flagship scheme, will certainly boost the inclusive development of minority communities.

The Minister called upon the officers to consult public representatives for formulation of plans under this scheme so that they can be formed as per

the needs of public. She also asked them to coordinate with respective deputy commissioners in order



to avoid duplication of works. She derved upon the officers to do detailed ground work regarding the need of works in education and health sectors so that the necessary infrastructure can be created under this scheme. Minister Sakeena stressed upon the officers that every criteria

like availability of land and other related things should be checked beforehand so that any approved project doesn't face necessary infrastructure can be established in these areas also for the welfare of people living there. "PMJVK is a significant initiative to ensure equitable development of areas with substantial minority population. We need to ensure that benefits of this scheme reach grassroots level in an efficient manner", Sakeena maintained. Minister Sakeena also underlined the importance of community engagement and participatory planning in identifying priority areas and ensuring local needs are addressed through these projects.

She reaffirmed the government's commitment to inclusive growth and reiterated that PMJVK projects must reflect the vision of equitable access and opportunities for one and all.

## DC Kulgam reviews District CAPEX

**KULGAM:** District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the progress of District CAPEX budget 2024-25 and preparations for the formulation of District CAPEX budget 2025-26.

During the meeting, DC reviewed sector wise financial and physical progress under District CAPEX Budget 2024-25 including PWD, Irrigation and Flood Control, Education, Health, Social Welfare, RDD, DYSSO, UDD,



PHE, PDD and Agriculture allied departments.

Meeting was informed that out of 2619 approved works under District CAPEX 2024-25, 2129 were completed which amounts to 85% expenditure by the end of March 2025. DC took a detailed stock of the progress of ongoing works, plan expenditure incurred during 2024-25, identification of new proposals for 2025-26 and convergence plan. He directed the concerned departments to ensure timely and effective execution of all approved projects without any delay.

# CS Atal Dulloo seeks fortnightly updates about completion of JK highways

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held a detailed meeting with NHAI, NHIDCL, Beacon and Project SAMPARK and sought reports from the executing agencies to furnish fortnightly reports about both the physical and financial progress registered in each project.

The meeting took stock of progress made, so far, in completion of different National Highway projects across the length and breadth of the UT.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary maintained that these projects are being monitored at highest level for effective implementation. He asked for furnishing the weekly reports to the PWD and biweekly to his office for regular monitoring of these vital projects for completion on time.

He enjoined upon these agencies to ensure that those responsible for delays should also be pointed out in these reports as the lackadaisical approach on anybody's part would be viewed seriously and action initiated against the non-performers.

Dulloo asked for working in double shifts wherever necessary and assured of all possible assistance on part of the district and divisional administration.

The Chief Secretary directed the Department of Mining to ensure that short term permits for mining of material to complete these highways are used exclusively for this purpose. He asked for marking all the vehicles carrying such material with RFID tags so that their monitoring becomes easy and efficient to curb its illegal use. The Chief Secretary had a project wise appraisal of

progress made, so Shubham far. He enquired about the possible date of completion of work on each phase of these projects along with the current scenario of physical progress

Makarkot-Sher bibi viaduct and different phases of Ring Road Srinagar. The road projects of NHIDCL included completion of Zojila Tunnel, Jammu-Akhnoor



registered in each of them.

Principal Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, while speaking in the meeting, impressed upon the concerned Deputy Commissioners to assist the agencies in identification of blocks for regular supply of the mining material required for completion of these vital road projects.

He asked these agencies to deploy more men and machinery in these sites and add as many working hours as possible to meet the set deadlines. He made out that only regular monitoring of the projects would fructify into their completion on time.

Some of the reviewed projects of NHAI included different phases of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, work on the tunnel being constructed on Ring Road Jammu, Ramban-Banihal section of NH-44, Marog-Digdol and Digdol-Khuni Make Nallah tunnels,

Road, Chenani-Sudhmahadev Road, Gohakhellani, Khellani-Khanabal Highway and Singhpora-Vailoo tunnel.

The projects executed by BRO under project Beacon and Sampark which came up for discussion included Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Highway, Rafiabadd-Kupwara-Tangdhar Highway, Surankot-Narbal Highway, Khanabal-Baltal Highway, Akhnoor-Poonch Highway, Shopian-Surankot, Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankot, Budhal-Mahore-Gul Road along with others.

The assessed R&B projects included construction of Flyover Sanat Nagar, Srinagar-Budgam-Pulwama-Shopian-Kulgam-Qazigund (NH-444) road, construction of by-passes for three main towns of Pulwama, Kulgam and Shopian besides other road safety and strengthening works currently going on in different parts of the UT.

## Rs.33k fine imposed on erring FBOs under FS&SA at Handwara

**KUPWARA:** Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, who is also Adjudicating officer Handwara today imposed a fine of Rs.33,000 on various erring Food Business operators (FBOs) for violations of various

provisions of Food Safety and Standard Act (FS&SA) 2006. The fine was imposed on the erring traders (for miss branded and sub standard food) during the proceeding of cases related to the FS&SA Act 2006 which were listed before the Adjudicating officer.

The Adjudicating officer warned them to abide by the legal regulations adding that non-compliance of Food Safety and Standards Act-2006 and rules there under by the food business operators will be dealt with more strictness in coming time.

## DC Ganderbal for timely completion of preparations for SANJY-2025

**GANDERBAL:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today presided over a significant preparatory meeting at the VC Room, Mini Secretariat Ganderbal, for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 (SANJY).

The meeting focused on reviewing the progress of ongoing works of various departments involved in the arrangements for the Yatra via Baltal route. A comprehensive review of department-wise action plans, covering key aspects such as sanitation, flood protection measures, lighting arrangements, mobile network connectivity, issuance of RFID cards, registration of service providers and infrastructure development was held.

Heads of departments presented detailed updates on the progress of work and preparations underway.

DC stressed the importance of timely completion of works well before the commencement of the yatra to ensure a seamless SANJY-2025. Labour Department was directed to accelerate the registration process of service providers involved in Yatra-related activities. Telecom companies were instructed to ensure complete network connectivity by the end of this month to facilitate communication and digital services during the Yatra.

# Rana calls for community driven conservation, biodiversity management in J&K

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, today exhorted the people to contribute vigorously towards preserving the natural habitats, reducing pollution and promoting sustainable living to ensure a thriving planet for future generations.

He called for community driven conservation and biodiversity management in J&K, ensuring harmony with nature and sustainable development.

The Minister stated this while speaking as chief guest during an event organised by the J&K Biodiversity Council at Tagore Memorial Hall Srinagar.

The event was held to mark celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity, 2025 under the theme "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development", that featured exhibitions, documentary screening and felicitation of competition winners.

Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda, also attended the event as the guest of honour.



Javed Rana emphasised the government's commitment to conserve the rich biodiversity of the region through community-based conservation initiatives, scientific research and inter-departmental collaboration. He lauded the Council's efforts in engaging youth and educational institutions to become future stewards of biodiversity.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) and Chairman, JKUTBC, Suresh Kumar Gupta, termed IDB 2025 an opportunity to reconnect with nature and renew commitments towards conservation.

He stressed the importance of

Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and community-driven efforts in sustaining ecosystems, assuring continued institutional support at the grassroots level.

Chaturbhuj Behera, Member Secretary, JKUTBC, in his welcome address, underscored the need to integrate biodiversity concerns with planning and education.

He highlighted the importance of local action aligned with global sustainability goals. The event featured an exhibition of student paintings, posters and biodiversity documentation organized by JKFRJ, JK Forest Department and local eco-clubs.

A forest publication highlighting J&K's rich biodiversity was also released, along with the felicitation of winners from inter-school and inter-college competitions.

The celebration drew enthusiastic participation from the students, teachers, forest officials, researchers and NGOs, all united in their commitment to environmental awareness and action.

## DC Srinagar felicitates JKBOSE class 10th, 12th toppers



**SRINAGAR:** To encourage and honour the hard work of meritorious students and boost the morale of students, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat felicitated the district's top-performing students in the JK Board of School Education (JKBOSE) Class 10th and 12th examinations for the academic year 2024-25.

The felicitation ceremony was organized by the District Administration Srinagar under Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Office at Kothibagh Higher Secondary School to honour the meritorious students for their outstanding academic achievements.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar who was the chief guest on the occasion felicitated the students who had qualified JK Board Class 10th and 12th examinations with meritorious performance.

Dr. Bilal congratulated the students on their success and commended their dedication. He also lauded the guidance provided by their teachers and the unwavering support of their families.

He said the exceptional performance is a testament of hard work, dedication and academic ability of these students and is a proud moment not just for them but also for District Administration Srinagar and the community as a whole. He expressed hope that the success achieved by the students would inspire other students also to work hard to excel in their studies and future academic careers.

# Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan: Distt Admin Pulwama begins school outreach initiative

**PULWAMA:** Continuing its intensified Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, District Administration Pulwama in collaboration with District Social Welfare Office Pulwama today started a dedicated school outreach initiative.

The outreach is aimed at sensitising young students about the ill effects of drug abuse and nurturing a culture of awareness, resilience and positive change among the youth.

Awareness sessions were held simultaneously in various government and private schools across different zones of the district, with active participation from students, teachers, school heads, and officials from departments including Education, Health, and Social Welfare.

Resource persons engaged students through interactive lectures and real-life case discussions highlighting the psychological and social consequences of drug abuse.

Special emphasis was placed on the importance of preventive education, developing a positive mindset, and the role of youth in acting as change-makers within their peer groups and families.

Medical experts from the Health Department explained the early signs of addiction and the importance of timely



intervention, while school counsellors and educators encouraged students to adopt healthy coping mechanisms; stay focused on their goals and seek help whenever needed.

Students enthusiastically participated in discussions and took a collective pledge to lead a drug-free life and to spread the message within their

communities.

The outreach initiative is a crucial component of the district's broader strategy to extend the reach of the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan to every segment of society.

With a large number of awareness activities already conducted at the Panchayat and Municipal levels, the school campaign marks a significant step towards involving youth in building a drug-free Pulwama.

The campaign will continue in the coming days with more educational institutions being covered, ensuring that the message of prevention, awareness, and support reaches every student in the district.

## DC Budgam reviews progress of works under District Mineral Fund

**BUDGAM:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting of District Mineral Fund (DMF) and reviewed the status of works approved under Pradhan Mantri Kshetra Kalyan Yojna (PMKKKY) in the district.

DC reviewed in detail the status of works approved under DMF in the areas with high priority and other priority sectors.

Series of developmental works are approved which cover vital sectors including health, education, power development, and Jal Shakti, all aiming at strengthening public infrastructure and improving service delivery across the district.

Key works approved under the health sector include the provision of hotline connectivity at CHC Kremshore, CHC Chattergam, PHC Soibugh, PHC Ompora, PHC Khag and CHC Pakherpora, of which Hotline at CHC Pakherpora stands completed.

In addition, procurement of critical medical equipment such as digital X-ray cassettes,

biochemistry analysers, deep freezers, plasma expressers, autoclaves and microscopes has been sanctioned and allotted for

allotted a buffer stock of 15 (100 KVA) transformers which will be dedicated to the public in the upcoming week.



procurement for District Hospital Budgam.

Under the Jal Shakti department, the procurement of water tankers of 9000 ltr and 6000 ltr capacities will address water supply needs in the district.

In the Education sector, the approved works including construction of a toilet facility at Primary School Gopalpora is nearing completion and provision of electricity at Government schools in Khan Mohalla Kuzwera and Dounkal Bagh Sali are also under progress.

The Power Development Department (KPDCL) has been

This will strengthen power infrastructure and ensure timely replacements during exigencies.

The DC, while reviewing the status of approved works, emphasized that all the projects are completed well on time.

He directed the concerned departments to ensure immediate allotment of tenders if pending and initiate procurement processes, with strict adherence to timelines.

He stressed that there must be no delays at any stage of execution and that timely completion of these works is critical to ensuring outcomes on the ground on time.

## Door to door awareness programme on NALSA scheme-2010 held at Pulwama

**PULWAMA:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Pulwama in

collaboration with TLSC Pamore organized a door to door awareness

programme on 'Legal Services to Disaster Victims' through Legal

Services Authorities scheme 2010' at Ladhu Pamore. The programme was organized under the Chairmanship of Malik Shabir Ahmad, Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge), Pulwama and under the supervision of Mudasar Farooq, Secretary

DLSA Pulwama. Team from the downtrodden, tribal people and weaker sections of the society, and raised awareness about various government schemes available for them especially free legal aid and latest NALSA

schemes especially for downtrodden people. A similar awareness programme was also organized by TLSC Trial at Guru Nanak School Trial in which a handsome gathering of students, faculty members, and PLVs of DLSA Pulwama participated.



PART-I

Why Religious Tolerance and Acceptance Matters?



SHABEER AHMAD LONE

"The most honoured of you with Allah is the one who is the most pious, performs righteous good deeds and is a true believer. Allah has in deed excellent provision for them"; "Whoever is granted wisdom has indeed been granted greatest good"(Quran 49:13, 65:11, 2: 269).



The Qur'an calls for timeless tolerance: "There is no compulsion in religion" (2:256), and "To you your religion, and to me mine" (109:6). It honors diversity: "We made you into nations and tribes so you may know one another" (49:13), affirms freedom of belief (10:99), and invites moral striving across faiths: "So compete in goodness" (5:48). Even disagreement demands respect: "Do not insult those they invoke besides Allah" (6:108). Islam thus champions conscience, coexistence, and compassion. "...What determines the differences among forms of Truth is the difference among human receptacles. For thousand of years already humanity has been divided into several fundamentally different branches, which constitute so many complete humanities, more or less closed in on themselves; the existence of spiritual receptacles, so different and so original demands differentiated refractions of one truth..." F. Schuon.

"The difference between creatures comes from outward form: When the meaning (literally the Spirit) is reached there is peace." Rumi

"We do not need a universal religion but we do require a deep understanding and a living experience of the universal that constitute the reality, truth and the supreme value of every religion. Every great religion is the religion in its depth and a religion in its externals. The individual can attain peace of mind and integration of his being, to the super-conscious dimension of his existence that lie within him. This constitutes the perennial message of religion"-R. S Misra

Religious tolerance and acceptance are not mere social niceties or political slogans-they are among the deepest moral imperatives and civilizational achievements of humanity. From the dawn of human consciousness, religious diversity has been both a mirror of the human soul's vast landscape and a testament to its unquenchable longing for meaning, transcendence, and connection. In recognizing the legitimacy and sanctity of diverse faith traditions, we are not simply accommodating difference-we are affirming the sacred plurality of the human quest itself. Various ancient civilisations and cultures like Mesopotamia, Egyptian, Indus Valley, Chinese, Minoan, Greek, Persian, Roman, Maya, Byzantine, Ethiopian, Islamic Caliphates etc. thrived across the globe and contributed significantly to the development of human societies and shaped them in various areas and left legacies in human history for modern and postmodern societies and testify that the flowering of culture, science, spirituality, and justice is inseparable from the cultivation of interreligious respect and cooperation. The diversity of religious beliefs is not merely a social characteristic; it is a fundamental aspect of the human experience that has shaped civilizations across the globe, from the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Indus Valley to the Islamic Caliphates and beyond.

In the contemporary world, religious tolerance and acceptance are more crucial than ever. Globalization has brought people from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds into increasingly close contact. This interconnectedness necessitates a commitment to mutual respect and understanding to foster peaceful

coexistence. The failure to embrace religious diversity has led to devastating consequences in many regions, as intolerance and discrimination fuel conflict, division, and violence. As evidenced by historical and modern-day conflicts, religious intolerance often arises from fear, ignorance, and misinformation. Left unchecked, it perpetuates stereotypes, deepens societal divides, and undermines the social fabric that binds us together.

Religious tolerance, while important, must be seen as the starting point for fostering genuine acceptance. Tolerance allows diverse beliefs to coexist, but acceptance goes a step further by valuing and honoring the contributions each religion makes to the broader society. It creates a space where individuals can freely practice

their faith without fear of discrimination, violence, or repression. More importantly, acceptance acknowledges the shared values of compassion, kindness, and justice that are common across many religious traditions. By focusing on these universal ethical principles, societies can build bridges across religious divides, fostering understanding and cooperation rather than animosity.

Across cultures and ages, religious tolerance has marked enlightened societies from the Rigveda's "Truth is one," to the Qur'an's "No compulsion in religion" (2:256), Ashoka's edicts, and Andalusian convivencia. The Bible teaches, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18), and Jesus exemplified compassion beyond creed. The Talmud affirms, "The righteous of all nations have a share in the world to come." Thinkers like Erasmus and Spinoza upheld conscience over coercion. Traditions thus converge on a timeless truth: peace begins with honoring the sacred in the other.

Philosophers like Locke, Spinoza, and Voltaire championed freedom of conscience and opposed religious fanaticism. Kant and Erasmus emphasized respect and peaceful coexistence, while Mill defended liberty of belief. Mystics like Rumi taught universal love, and modern thinkers such as, Buber, and Kung advanced interfaith respect and dialogue, laying the foundation for enduring religious tolerance. Contemporary philosophers-Hick, Knitter, Eck, Armstrong, Nasr, Nussbaum, Taylor, Smith, and Swinburne-champion religious tolerance through pluralism, compassion, freedom, and rational engagement. Together, they affirm that true acceptance lies in recognizing shared humanity, respecting difference, and honoring the sacred across all traditions.

Rumi, Saadi, Hafiz, Ghalib, Iqbal, Bhattai, Faiz, and others from Persian and Urdu traditions championed love, unity, and shared humanity over sectarianism. Through profound poetry and thought, they affirmed that true faith embraces tolerance, compassion, and the sacred in all. Mystics like Rumi, Ibn Arabi, Kabir, Guru Nanak, Lal Ded, Meister Eckhart, and Bulleh Shah taught that all faiths reflect one divine truth. Through love, inner awakening, and compassion, they transcended boundaries, showing that true tolerance springs from recognizing the sacred in all.

Moreover, religious tolerance and acceptance contribute to the protection of fundamental human rights, particularly the right to freedom of religion. Enshrined in international human rights law, this right is critical for ensuring that every individual can freely express their beliefs without facing persecution. Tolerance is essential for upholding this right, while acceptance helps to ensure that individuals are not merely allowed to practice their religion but are also respected for doing so. The safeguarding of religious freedom is crucial not only for the dignity of individuals but also for the broader social and political stability of societies. In nations where religious minorities are marginalized or persecuted, social cohesion breaks down, leading to inequality, unrest, and, at times, violent extremism.

Religious tolerance also plays a pivotal role in fostering intellectual and spiritual growth. Exposure to diverse beliefs and practices challenges individuals to critically examine their own beliefs, expanding their understanding of life, ethics, and spirituality. This intellectual engagement can lead to deeper reflections on one's own faith, encouraging an openness to new ideas and a more profound appreciation of others' worldviews. As a result, tolerance promotes both personal growth

and collective progress, cultivating a society where individuals are not only free to express their own beliefs but are also open to learning from others.

Beyond the personal and intellectual dimensions, religious tolerance is essential for the broader societal good. It encourages cooperation and collaboration among different groups, enabling communities to address common challenges such as poverty, environmental degradation, and social inequality. In societies that embrace religious diversity, individuals are more likely to work together toward shared goals, pooling resources and ideas to tackle pressing issues. Tolerance, by creating a climate of respect, opens the door to these collaborative efforts, helping to build communities that are not only more

harmonious but also more resilient and prosperous.

On a global scale, religious tolerance and acceptance are crucial for the promotion of international peace and cooperation. In an era marked by complex global challenges-such as climate change, migration, and geopolitical conflict-nations must work together across cultural and religious boundaries to find solutions. Tolerant societies are more likely to engage in constructive dialogue and diplomatic efforts, contributing to global stability and the resolution of international disputes. Religious intolerance, on the other hand, fuels divisions between nations, hindering cooperation and perpetuating conflict. By promoting religious tolerance on the global stage, societies can foster an environment of peace that benefits all of humanity.

The negative impact of religious intolerance is particularly evident in the rise of extremism and radicalization. When religious groups feel threatened or marginalized, they may respond by adopting extremist ideologies as a form of self-preservation or retaliation. Religious tolerance, by fostering an atmosphere of respect and inclusion, reduces the appeal of such ideologies, as individuals are less likely to feel isolated or alienated. In this sense, tolerance acts as a preventive measure against radicalization, helping to mitigate the factors that drive people toward violence and extremism.

In multicultural societies, where people of various faiths coexist, religious tolerance and acceptance are essential for maintaining social harmony. In these societies, individuals must navigate complex religious and cultural landscapes. Without tolerance, tensions can arise, leading to discrimination, marginalization, and, in extreme cases, violence. Tolerant societies, by contrast, create an environment where individuals from different religious backgrounds feel valued and respected, regardless of their beliefs. This sense of inclusion strengthens social cohesion, promotes unity, and fosters a collective commitment to the common good.

Additionally, religious tolerance and acceptance are integral to the functioning of democratic societies. In democratic systems, all citizens, regardless of their religion, should have an equal voice in political and social matters. By promoting religious tolerance, societies ensure that minority groups are not excluded from the political process or denied their rights. This fosters a more inclusive and equitable political system, where all individuals, regardless of their faith, can participate fully in the democratic process. Moreover, by embracing religious diversity, democracies are better equipped to address issues of social justice and inequality, as they recognize and respect the rights of all citizens, regardless of their background.

Fostering religious tolerance and acceptance is a prerequisite for long-term social, economic, and cultural prosperity. Societies that embrace religious diversity tend to be more innovative, resilient, and adaptable to change. By welcoming diverse perspectives and practices, these societies are better equipped to tackle the challenges of the modern world. Tolerance creates an environment in which individuals feel safe and respected, allowing them to contribute their talents and ideas to the collective good. In contrast, intolerance stifles creativity and innovation, leading to social and economic stagnation. Therefore, religious tolerance and acceptance are not only moral imperatives but also essential for sustainable development and prosperity. Religious tolerance and acceptance are not passive ideals; they require active

commitment. We each have a role to play in promoting respect for religious differences-whether by learning more about other faiths, participating in interfaith dialogue, or speaking out against religious discrimination. Together, we can create a future where all faiths are celebrated, and all people are valued.

Religious tolerance and acceptance must be embraced not as occasional responses to conflict but as enduring orientations of the heart, mind, and society. They require us to listen deeply, to see through the surface of doctrinal differences into the luminous core of shared values that unite the world's spiritual traditions-compassion over cruelty, truth over falsehood, justice over oppression, and love over hatred. In honoring religious diversity, we are called not to relativize the sacred but to recognize that the Infinite speaks through many tongues and touches hearts in many ways. A tolerant and accept-



The negative impact of religious intolerance is particularly evident in the rise of extremism and radicalization. When religious groups feel threatened or marginalized, they may respond by adopting extremist ideologies as a form of self-preservation or retaliation. Religious tolerance, by fostering an atmosphere of respect and inclusion, reduces the appeal of such ideologies, as individuals are less likely to feel isolated or alienated. In this sense, tolerance acts as a preventive measure against radicalization, helping to mitigate the factors that drive people toward violence and extremism.



ing society does not merely allow the other to exist-it actively creates the conditions for mutual flourishing, dialogue, and spiritual cross-pollination. Such a society embodies the highest ideals of civilization: it transforms fear into empathy, ignorance into understanding, and estrangement into communion. In our era-marked by both extraordinary opportunity and existential peril-religious tolerance and acceptance are not only the keys to domestic tranquility and global peace, but also to the inner maturation of humanity itself. They summon us toward a deeper unity that does not erase difference but honors it as the very expression of divine creativity. In this light, fostering religious tolerance and acceptance becomes not only a political necessity or a social virtue, but a sacred duty-one that holds the promise of a world healed, uplifted, and united in its moral and spiritual dignity.

TO BE CONTINUED...



# Continued From P1...

## Playing With

sared by the threat of atom bomb. Thirdly, we will not see the perpetrators of terror and the government patronising the terrorists separately. We will consider them as one," he said, adding these are three "sutras" from Operation Sindoor.

He said the game of Pakistan of state and non-state actors will not work anymore.

Lauding the armed forces for carrying out Operation Sindoor, he said "Our government gave free hand to all three armed forces. Together they created such a trap that Pakistan was forced to go down on its knees".

Noting that Pakistan had tried to target the Nal air base in Bikaner but could not cause any damage to it, he said in contrast "No one knows when Pakistan's Rahimyar Khan air base will open again. It is in ICU. The attack has destroyed it".

"Pakistan can never win a direct fight against India. Whenever there is a direct fight, Pakistan has to face defeat again and again. That is why Pakistan has made terrorism a weapon to fight against India," he said.

Modi recalled his public rally in Rajasthan's Churu after the 2019 Balakot airstrike, and said he had then stated that, "Saugandh mujhe is mitti ki, mein desh nahi jhukne dunga, mein desh nahi mitne dunga (he had taken a vow that he would not let the country down)".

"Today, from the land of Rajasthan, I want to say to the countrymen that those who had set out to erase sindoor have been wiped out. Those who shed the blood of Hindustan have paid for every drop of it. Those who were proud of their weapons are now buried under a pile of rubble," he said.

"This is not a game of vengeance, but this is a new form of justice, this is Operation Sindoor. This is not just anger, this is the fierce form of a capable India. This is the new form of India," he said.

Referring to the 2016 surgical strikes and the Balakote air strike, Modi said earlier India carried out attacks by entering into their houses but now the attack was directly on their chest.

He said Pakistan used to spread terror, kill innocent people and create an atmosphere of fear in India.

"Now, Modi, the servant of 'Maa Bharti', is standing here with his head held high. Modi's mind remains cool but his blood is hot," he said.

He said there will be no trade or talk with Pakistan, there will be talk only about Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

"And if Pakistan continues to export terrorists, it will have to beg for every penny. Pakistan will not get India's rightful share of water. Playing with the blood of Indians will cost Pakistan dearly. This is India's resolve and no power in the world can shake us from this resolve," he said.

The prime minister observed that security and prosperity both are necessary for the creation of a developed India.

"This is possible only when every corner of India becomes strong," he added.

Modi also spoke about the multi-party delegations being sent abroad to to highlight India's resolve to confront state-sponsored terrorism emanating from Pakistan and assert its right to self-defence following Operation Sindoor.

"To expose the truth, our all party delegations are reaching all over the world. The real face of Pakistan will be shown to the whole world," he said.

India carried out precision strikes under Operation Sindoor on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Indian forces launched a fierce counter-attack on several Pakistani military installations.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the military confrontation after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. (Agencies)

## India-Pak Understand

of the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany."The operation continues because there is a clear message in that operation -? that if there are acts of the kind we saw on April 22, there will be a response, that we will hit the terrorists," he said.

"If the terrorists are in Pakistan, we will hit them where they are. So, there is a message in continuing the operation but continuing the operation is not the same as firing on each other," he said.

Under Operation Sindoor, India carried out precision strikes on nine terror infrastructures early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Pakistani attempts were strongly responded to by the Indian side.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on May 10 announced that India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect.

In his remarks, Jaishankar said the arrangement on cessation of hostilities was firmmed up by the Indian and the Pakistani sides.

"When two countries are engaged in a conflict, it is natural that countries in the world call up and try to sort of indicate their concern," he said.

Jaishankar added: "But the cessation of firing and military action was something which was negotiated directly between India and Pakistan."

"We made one thing very clear to everybody who spoke to us, not just the US but to everybody, saying if the Pakistanis want to stop fighting, they need to tell us. We need to hear it from them. Their general has to call up our general and say this. And that is what happened."

Following the cessation of hostilities between India and Pakistan, Trump repeatedly claimed credit for it saying that he played a role in brokering the "ceasefire" between the two sides.

In his comments, Jaishankar described the April 22 Pahalgam attack as "barbaric" and said the terrorists "murdered" the innocent civilians in front of their families after ascertaining their "faith" with an aim to to create "religious discord".

"It was imperative that we have a response because the lack of response...was impossible in such a situation," he said.

Jaishankar said India is willing to hold talks with Pakistan on return of the illegally occupied part of Kashmir by that country to New Delhi, and on terrorism.

Asked about security concerns emanating from frontiers along China and Pakistan on India's economic growth, Jaishankar indicated that economic growth and security are part of the same coin.

"Our security challenges were far more threatening than yours (Europe's). So we had to prioritise security. You don't choose between security and economic prosperity. Today, you are realising that they are part of the same coin." (Agencies)

## Fast-track

the progress made as well as pending challenges across departments.

It was informed that several posts remain unadvertised due to delay in submitting of indent by departments and in some cases requiring revision of recruitment rules to reflect current job requirements.

The Board has proposed that all future recruitment examinations

shall be conducted under CCTV surveillance to ensure fairness and transparency.

The meeting also reviewed the status of Class IV recruitment, where delays were flagged as a major concern.

The Chief Minister directed the Board to expedite the selection process and address all procedural bottlenecks.

He also called for improving the facilities in Service Selection Board and strengthening the Board's legal and administrative frameworks.

Emphasizing the government's commitment to transparent governance, the Chief Minister said that Government would do everything possible to ensure fair and transparent recruitment process and to improve efficiency across all departments to enhance public trust, institutional efficiency and to fill up vacant posts which would also result in giving jobs to the qualified youth of J&K.

## CBI Files

The agency has invoked Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of Ranbir Penal Code and provisions of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act as the alleged crime took place before abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019 when these archaic legal provisions in erstwhile state were replaced by Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act.

Soon after the news of the chargesheet flashed, a photo of 79-year-old Malik was posted on his 'X' handle showing him lying in a hospital bed surrounded by an array of medical apparatus, including an intravenous infusion device and a ventilatory support system.

"I am getting calls from many of my well-wishers which I am unable to take. My condition is very bad right now. I am admitted in the hospital and am not in a condition to talk to anyone," the accompanying message read on 'X'.

When contacted, his private secretary Kanwar Singh Rana told PTI that the former governor is in critical condition in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital here.

"He is in RML Nursing Home since May 11 suffering from an infection. For the last three days he is on dialysis and in serious condition," Rana said.

He said the move of the CBI to chargesheet the "complainant (Malik)" is "sheer harassment".

"Last year also when he (Malik) was admitted in Max hospital, the CBI had conducted searches and now when he is admitted in hospital they have filed chargesheet against him. We (Rana and Malik) had told the CBI that we had nothing to do with any corruption," Rana said. The CBI had conducted searches at the premises of Malik and others in connection with the case in February last year.

The case pertains to the alleged malpractices in the award of the contract worth about Rs 2,200 crore of civil works of the Kiru Hydro Electric Power (HEP) Project to a private company in 2019, the CBI had said after the registration of the FIR in 2022.

Malik, who was the governor of Jammu and Kashmir from August 23, 2018 to October 30, 2019, had claimed that he was offered a Rs 300-crore bribe for clearing two files, including the one pertaining to the project.

He had denied allegations of corruption against him after the agency conducted search operation last year.

Malik said his residence was raided by the CBI instead of investigating the people he had complained about and who were involved in corruption.

"They will not get anything except 4-5 kurtas and pyjamas. The dictator is trying to scare me by misusing government agencies. I am a farmer's son, I will neither be afraid nor bow down," he had posted online.

The central agency had filed the FIR against Navin Kumar Choudhary, the then chairman of the Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Limited (CVPPPL), and other officials Babu, Mittal and Mishra, besides construction firm Patel Engineering Limited.

"Though a decision was taken in the 47th board meeting of CVPPPL for re-tender through e-tendering with a reverse auction after the cancellation of the ongoing tendering process, the same was not implemented (according to the decision taken in the 48th board meeting) and the tender was finally awarded to Patel Engineering Limited," the FIR has alleged. (Agencies)

## IWT Will Remain

some years ago," he said.

Jaiswal added: "I would like to underline that any bilateral discussion on Jammu & Kashmir will only be on the vacation of illegally occupied Indian territory by Pakistan." Asked about the Indus Waters Treaty, it will remain in abeyance till Islamabad stops supporting cross-border terrorism.

"It will remain in abeyance until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism. As our prime minister has said, 'Water and blood cannot flow together'," he added.

India on April 23 announced a raft of punitive measures against Pakistan including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.

The measures were announced a day after the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians.

India carried out precision strikes on nine terror infrastructures early on May 7 in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

The Pakistani attempts were strongly responded to by the Indian side by inflicting heavy damages to a number of key Pakistani military installations including air bases, air defence systems, command and control centres and radar sites.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on May 10 announced that India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect. (Agencies)

## Rahul Gandhi

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Indian forces launched a fierce counter-attack on several Pakistani military installations.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the military confrontation after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. (AGENCIES)

## Not a single

"Is this the right time to talk about statehood? You (JKNC) should be visiting the border areas, Arnia, Hiranagar, Akhnoor and other areas. You should be meeting people in Rajouri, Poonch, Tangdhar. If you cannot provide relief, at least ask the Indian government for help," he said.

He claimed that the JKNC, which has ruled J&K for three generations, never cared about the people. "You are concerned about protocol, not people. You want statehood, you want status. But you are silent on the suffering of the people, silent on terrorism, silent on Pakistan," Sharma said.

He said matters of foreign affairs and national security belong to the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister, not to a state-level party. "A constitutional state like Jammu and Kashmir should not be interfering in foreign policy. The central government

has a clear and firm policy," he said

## School Timings

The new timings will come into effect from Monday.

According to an official order issued by the the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), schools located within the Srinagar Municipal limits will now operate from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM, while schools outside the municipal limits of Srinagar district and other areas of the Kashmir province will follow revised timings of 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The order emphasized that the new schedule is binding for all educational institutions and warned that any deviation will be viewed seriously.

The move comes as Kashmir is experiencing unusually high temperatures for this time of the year.

India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Srinagar centre on Thursday said that Kashmir is likely to witness generally hot and dry weather from May 22 to 26, with a brief spell of light rain possible at isolated places during the late afternoon.

The IMD said that from May 27 to 31, hot and dry conditions are expected to continue, accompanied by scattered to widespread thundershowers.

A weather advisory has warned of a rise in maximum temperatures by 1–2°C across parts of Kashmir till May 23, increasing the chances of a heatwave at isolated locations. A slight dip of 2–3°C is expected thereafter.

## Srinagar Braces

Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Srinagar has urged residents to take necessary precautions to safeguard their health and well-being.

People are advised to drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if they don't feel thirsty. The use of ORS, lemon water, buttermilk, and fresh fruit juices with a pinch of salt is recommended to stay hydrated. It is also important to include seasonal fruits and vegetables with high water content like watermelon, cucumber, muskmelon, and oranges in the diet.

Residents should avoid stepping outdoors between 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm, the hottest part of the day. If it is necessary to go out, wearing light-coloured, loose-fitting cotton clothes and covering the head with a cap, scarf, or umbrella is advised. Walking barefoot in the sun should also be avoided.

The advisory discourages the consumption of alcohol, tea, coffee, carbonated, and sugary drinks as these increase the risk of dehydration. Heavy, stale, or high-protein food should also be avoided. Importantly, children and pets should never be left alone in parked vehicles, even for a short time.

For employers and outdoor workers, the DDMA recommends providing cool drinking water and shaded rest areas. Heavy outdoor work should be scheduled during cooler hours of the day, either in the morning or evening. Workers should be trained to identify symptoms of heat stress and encouraged to look out for one another, especially pregnant women and people with existing health conditions.

Organizers of public gatherings and sports events are urged to arrange shaded, well-ventilated spaces and avoid direct sunlight exposure indoors. Outdoor activities should be planned for early mornings or late evenings when temperatures are relatively lower.

Exposure to extreme heat can lead to health risks such as heat rash, cramps, fainting, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. It can also worsen conditions like heart, kidney, and respiratory diseases. Warning signs include dizziness, nausea, headache, rapid heartbeat, shallow breathing, extreme thirst, and dark-coloured urine.

High-risk groups include infants, young children, pregnant women, elderly individuals, people with chronic illnesses, outdoor workers, and those not accustomed to hot climates. In children, symptoms like refusal to eat, irritability, dry mouth, sunken eyes, or seizures require immediate attention.

In case of any heat-related health issues, people should quickly move to a cooler place, drink water or an oral rehydration solution, and seek medical help. If symptoms of heatstroke appear, immediate medical assistance is critical as it is a life-threatening emergency.

For help, residents can contact the District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC) Srinagar at 0194-2483651, 0194-2457552, or 0194-2457543. WhatsApp helplines are also available at 9103998355, 9103998356, and 9103998357. The Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) can be reached at +91 1942502254 or 112.

Authorities have urged everyone to stay alert, remain cool, and take all recommended safety measures during this anticipated heatwave. Stay safe, stay cool.

## Heatwave sweeps

Notably, Director Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad has predicted an isolated heat wave in J&K, saying that generally hot & dry weather is expected with the possibility of a brief spell of light rain at isolated places mainly towards late afternoon till May 26.

Ahmad said that from May 27 to 31, the weather would remain generally hot & dry with the possibility of a brief spell of light rain and thundershower at scattered places.

The MeT in its advisory said that a rise in maximum temperature by 1-2 degrees Celsius is expected with the possibility of a heatwave at scattered places of Kashmir division till May 23 and fall by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius thereafter.

A rise in maximum temperature is expected by 2-3 degrees Celsius, with the possibility of a heatwave over Jammu division till May 26. "Possibility of thunder, gusty winds at isolated places towards late afternoon can't be ruled out," according to the advisory.

## CIK produces

18/2020 U/S 13 Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, read with section 420, 468, 471 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code was registered at Police Station CIK Srinagar for a thorough probe.

"During the course of investigation, it has revealed that the accused was a vendor of 'Airtel Telecom Service', running his shop under the name and style of "MICRO WORLD" at Kulgam. It was established that the accused had manipulated and forged a genuine electoral Identity Card and used the same to issue a SIM card against a non-existent person. The accused as a vendor had also mentioned fictitious and deficient particulars/details in the Customer Application Form (CAF) with an objective to issue the SIM card against a non-existent person and pass on the SIM card to a terrorist for his use," the statement reads. The investigation has established that the subscriber of the SIM card shown in the Customer Application Form was not found existing on ground and the SIM card had actually been issued to a terrorist, it added.

"An appeal is made to the general public especially youth of Kashmir valley to adhere to the advisories in this regard and take every precaution to ensure that their documents are not misused for obtaining SIM cards fraudulently. People are also advised not to share their SIM card with anyone, howsoever, close the person may be," the statement added.

## Army Commander Discusses

## Security Situation with Ladakh LG

**LEH/JAMMU:** Northern Army Commander, Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, met Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Brig B D Mishra (Retd.) in Leh on Thursday and discussed the security situation of the Union Territory.

Lieutenant General Sharma assumed the appointment of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Northern

Command on May 1.

"The GOC-in-C, Northern Command, Lt General Pratik Sharma, along with GOC 14 Corps Lt General Hitesh Bhalla and other officials from the Northern Command, paid a courtesy call on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brig (Dr) B D Mishra (Retd)," the office of the LG of Ladakh said on X.

## Indus Waters Treaty Will

## Remain In Abeyance Till Pak Stops

## Cross-Border Terrorism: India

**NEW DELHI:** India on Thursday once again asserted that the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan will remain in "abeyance" until Islamabad "credibly and irrevocably" abjures support to cross-border terrorism as "water and blood" cannot flow together.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal also said that any bilateral talks with Islamabad will only be on vacation of illegally occupied territories of Kashmir by Pakistan.

"You are well aware of our position that any India-Pakistan engagement has to be bilateral," he said in response to a question on US President Donald Trump showing interest in helping India and Pakistan in resolving the Kashmir issue.

"I would like to remind you that talks and terror don't go together," Jaiswal said.

"On terrorism itself, we are open to discussing the handing over to India of terrorists whose list was provided to Pakistan some years ago," he said.

Jaiswal added: "I would like to underline that any bilateral discussion on Jammu & Kashmir will only be on the vacation of illegally occupied Indian territory by Pakistan." Asked about the Indus Waters Treaty, it will remain in abeyance till Islamabad stops supporting cross-border terrorism.Fine dining reservations

"It will remain in abeyance until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism. As our prime minister has said, 'Water and blood cannot flow together'," he added.

India on April 23 announced a raft of punitive measures against Pakistan including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.

The measures were announced a day after the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians.

India carried out precision strikes on nine terror infrastructures early on May 7 in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

NOTICE

Inadvertently the name of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Yamin Naseer Sofi in the Date of Birth Certificate while his actual name is Yamin Nassir Sofi. Now I want to rectify the same. Anybody having objection in this regard may file the same before the office of BDO Aripal within seven days from date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

**Naseer Ahmad Sofi**  
**F/O Yamin Nassir Sofi**  
**R/O Sofigund- Khangund Tral**

NOTICE

Inadvertently my name has been mentioned as Mohd Arif Khan in Driving licence bearing No JK0520080007773 while my actual name is Aarif Ahmad Khan. Now I want to rectify the same. Anybody having objection in this regard may file the same before the office of ARTO Bandipora within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained thereafter.

**Aarif Ahmad Khan**  
**S/O Ab Aziz Khan**  
**R/O Ahamshreef Bandipora.**

NOTICE

Public Notice. This is an information for general public that the DOB of my Son has been Mistakenly Mentioned in his school records as: 16-10-2015, while as his Actual and correct DOB is 04-03-2016. Now i want to apply for its correction in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Headmaster GOVT Middle school Nadihal Bandipora, with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Nazir Ahmad Lone.**  
**F/O Usman Nazir. R/O Nadihal Bandipora.**  
**Admission NO: 687.**

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement bearing Registration No: 0216020005766, which is Registered in the name of My Father Namely Mohd Sarwar khan, S/O Ab Ahad khan. Now i want to apply for Change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Mudasir Ahmad Khan, S/O Mohammad Sarwar khan, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Kaloosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Mudasir Ahmad Khan.**  
**S/O Mohammad Sarwar khan.**  
**R/O Quilmuqam Tehsil Aloosa District Bandipora.**



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