

Kashmir Convener



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Post 'Operation Sindoor, Amit Shah arrives in Jammu

Chairs security review meeting, assesses SANJY preparation

KC News Network

JAMMU: Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived here on Thursday evening on a two-day Jammu and Kashmir visit.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Shah would review J&K's security situation ahead of Amaranth Yatra, which is commencing from first week of July and reach out to shelling-hit people in Poonch.

He would also meet personnel of Border Security Force (BSF) in Poonch and "pat their backs" for thwarting the designs of the enemy, said an official.

This marks Amit Shah's first visit to the Union Territory since the launch of "Operation Sindoor" on May 7, a decisive military response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives, mostly tourists.

Upon arrival, Shah was received



by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and other senior officials at technical airport Jammu and proceeded to Raj Bhawan, Jammu where he is currently chairing a high-level security review meeting.

"Top officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force

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Security beefed up in Poonch

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Security has been beefed up in Jammu and Poonch districts ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's arrival on a two-day visit beginning Friday evening, officials said.

Shah will review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and visit people affected by Pakistani shelling in Poonch during his first visit to the Union Territory after Operation Sindoor.

During his two-day stay in the Jammu region, Shah will also visit religious places and meet shelling-hit people and BSF personnel in the district, which recorded the highest number of 14 civilian deaths among the total 28 lives lost in the Pakistani shelling and drone attacks during the skirmishes between May 7 and 10.

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Pahalgam terror attackers intended to divide nation: PM Modi

"Terrorism, mass murders core operations of Pak Army"

Sajid Raina

ALIPURDUAR/NEW DELHI : Terming April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians dead, as assault on the soul of humanity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that terrorists intended to divide the people of the country, but India stood united and fought with full determination to foil their nefarious designs.

Speaking at public rally in Alipurdwar, West Bengal PM Modi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The attack was an attempt to tear apart India's social fabric and unity. In Pahalgam, terrorists did not just target India, they attacked the soul of humanity and brotherhood. They tried to divide Indians."

"They had the audacity to wipe away the Sindoor of our sisters, but our armed forces showed them the strength of that Sindoor," he added.

Referring to the pain and outrage the attack triggered across the country, the Prime Minister said that West Bengal, too, felt deep anger and grief. "I could see the anger in Bengal. I could feel it. I am here to say, on behalf of 140 crore Indians, that Operation Sindoor is not yet over," he said.

PM Modi said India had responded to Pakistan and the terrorists with a strong and direct answer. "We have given a decisive response" he said. "We didn't just retaliate, we entered their territory



and destroyed terror infrastructure they never thought could be touched." He said that Pakistan's frustration was evident and that India had already struck it three times on its own soil. While the Prime Minister did not name specific missions, his remarks were widely interpreted as a reference to the 2016 surgical strikes, the 2019 Balakot airstrikes, and the recent cross-border operations that were a part of Operation Sindoor. "Our army went into their home and struck. We have destroyed their airbases, their terror camps, and sent a message they will never forget," PM Modi said.

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Day not far when PoK will rejoin India voluntarily: Rajnath

"We will silence every gun raised against our soil"



Sajid Raina

NEW DELHI : Asserting that the day is not far when Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) will rejoin India voluntarily, without any conflict or force, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said

that terrorism can't survive for long and India will silence every gun raised against its soil.

Speaking at the Inaugural Plenary of the CII Annual Business Summit-2025, Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Most people in PoK feel a strong connection with India and that it is only a matter of time before they rejoin the national mainstream."

"I am India, I have come back," he said, describing how PoK will one day reclaim its Indian identity. Singh said that India's stance has always been to unite, not divide.

"India talks about connecting hearts, not breaking them," he said. Referring to historical and cultural ties, he said that PoK people are no different from those in the rest of India and compared their situation to that of Maharana Pratap's younger brother Shakti Singh, connected by blood, separated by fate.

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India rejects US govt claim on ceasefire with Pakistan



KC News Network

NEW DELHI: India has strongly denied a claim made by the United States government in a federal court that a trade offer from President Donald Trump helped stop a war between India and Pakistan earlier this month.

In a court filing submitted on May 23 in the US Court of International Trade, US officials claimed that the May 10 ceasefire between the two countries was possible "only after" President Trump offered

trade access to both India and Pakistan, reports international and regional media. The filing was made as part of a legal case against the Trump administration's tariff policies as reported by the media.

India has dismissed this version of events. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal rejected the claim at a media briefing on Thursday in New Delhi saying there was no mention of trade in any discussions between Indian and US officials during the period of heightened tensions.

"I would refer you to our position that was made clear on 13 May. From the time Operation Sindoor commenced on 7 May till the understanding on cessation of firing and military action on 10 May, there were conversations between Indian and US leaders on the evolving military situation. The issue of trade or tariff did not come up in any of those discussions. The External Affairs Minister has also made it clear that

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BSF DG visits Poonch to assess impact of recent Pak shelling

KC News Network

JAMMU: Ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit, Border Security Force (BSF) Director General Daljit Singh Chaudhary visited the shelling-hit areas of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday and reviewed the prevailing security situation.

Shah will during his two-day stay in the Jammu region



beginning Friday visit religious places and meet the shelling-hit people and the BSF personnel in Poonch district, which recorded the highest number of 14 civilian deaths among the total 28 lives lost in the indiscriminate Pakistani shelling and drone attacks during the skirmishes between May 7 and 10, officials said.

Chaudhary visited Poonch to assess the impact of the recent Pakistani shelling. Flanked by senior police officers, the DG visited the shelling-hit Gurdwara Singh Sabha and Geeta Bhawan, and inspected the damage caused to religious places and civilian areas.

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Centre Sanctions 581 CAPF Companies For Amarnath Yatra

KC NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Centre has ordered deployment of a total 581 companies, comprising about 42,000 on-ground personnel, of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) for the annual Amarnath

Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said on Thursday.

While 424 companies are being sent to the Union Territory (UT), the rest, including about 80 companies that moved to the UT during Operation Sindoor, will be "relocated" to secure the yatra route, the pilgrims and other areas, including Srinagar, they said.

The Union home ministry, officials said, has directed that these forces move "immediately" and take position in Jammu and Kashmir by the second week of June.

The Amarnath Yatra will begin on July 3 and

end on August 9. The security deployment plan for the pilgrimage is being prepared keeping in mind the challenges emerging from the April 22 Pahalgam terrorist attack in which 26 persons, mostly tourists, were killed, they said.

"The Union home ministry has decided to deploy a total of 581 CAPF companies for the Amarnath Yatra this time. This includes about 150-160 units already present in the UT," a senior officer said.

The companies are drawn from five CAPFs of CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB. Each of these companies have an operational strength of about 70-75 personnel, he said.

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Weatherman predicts stormy weather for next 2 days



KC News Network

SRINAGAR: The light rains lashed the plains while the hailstorm wreaked havoc in northern parts of Kashmir on Thursday with the weatherman predicting unstable weather conditions until Saturday.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, and other adjacent areas received fresh rainfall today while the hailstorm has wreaked havoc in multiple areas in north Kashmir, causing losses to the farmers.

Director Meteorological department,

possibility of spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower at most places with heavy rain accompanied with intense showers and gusty winds at few places for the next two days.

However, he said that a brief spell of light rain and thundershower is expected at isolated places from June 01 to June 03, adding that generally dry weather is expected with brief spell of rain and showers towards late afternoon at isolated places from June 04 to 06.

In its advisory, the MeT has stated that there is a possibility of moderate to heavy rain, thunder and gusty winds at scattered

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Kashmir reports first two cases

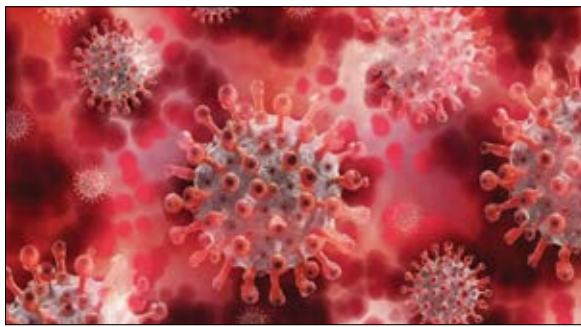
Jahangeer Ganaie

SRINAGAR: Kashmir has reported its first COVID-19 cases in the current wave, with two female MDS students from Government Dental College (GDC) Srinagar testing positive for the virus. Health officials, however, have assured the public that the current strain is behaving mildly and does not pose a serious threat.

The two students, both dentists and residents of Kerala, had recently returned to Srinagar after visiting their hometowns. Upon feeling unwell, they were advised to undergo testing at the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, where they tested positive for COVID-19.

"They have been isolated as per the protocol," a health official said, adding that both are asymptomatic or experiencing only mild symptoms and do not require hospitalisation.

Professor (Dr) Sandeep Kour Bali, Principal of GDC Srinagar, told



Observer (KNO) that the students are isolated in the college hostel, with a separate washroom facility arranged for them.

She said all staff and students at the college have already received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, including the booster shot. "There is no need to panic. COVID-19, in its current form, is manifesting as a mild infection in many parts of the country and around the world," she added.

Dr Bali said one student is experiencing mild symptoms while

all. Both are reported to be in good health, and there is no cause for alarm.

Health experts have urged the public to remain vigilant but not alarmed, saying the present strain typically results in mild illness or no symptoms at all. They reassured that facilities have been upgraded since the first wave of COVID-19, and everything is in place to handle any potential escalation.

"Most positive cases recover on their own, and only a few may need hospital

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Defence Diplomacy

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan to represent India at Shangri-La Dialogue 2025

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan will be on a three-day official visit to Singapore from May 30 to June 1, 2025, to participate in the 22nd Shangri-La Dialogue, the Ministry of Defence said.

Hosted annually by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), the Shangri-La Dialogue is regarded as Asia's premier defence and security summit. This year's edition will convene defence ministers, military chiefs, policy makers, and strategic thinkers from around the world to address regional security challenges, particularly in the Indo-Pacific.

During the summit, General Chauhan is scheduled to engage in a series of bilateral meetings with

his counterparts and senior military leadership from a wide spectrum of nations including Australia, the European Union, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

"These engagements will provide a platform to strengthen defence cooperation, discuss mutual security interests and enhance India's strategic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region," the Ministry of Defence said in a press release.

In addition to high-level military engagements, General Chauhan will deliver a keynote address to academics, strategic think tanks, and defence researchers on the theme 'Future Wars and Warfare'. He will also speak in a

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No funds diverted from other departments for Ladki Bahin, read budget rules: Fadnavis

PARBHANI: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday clarified no funds have been diverted from other departments for the government's flagship scheme for women Ladki Bahin and said those who do not understand budget are making unsubstantiated claims.

Money disbursed for the scheme, which under eligible poor women get a monthly stipend of Rs 1,500, through Tribal Affairs and Social Justice Departments was as per budgetary norms, he insisted.

Talking to reporters here in central Maharashtra, Fadnavis explained budgetary rules stipulate funds should be reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Maximum funds should be earmarked for personal benefit schemes and some kept aside for infrastructure development.

"The charges (by opposition that funds were diverted from other departments for Ladki Bahin Yojana) are wrong. Only those who don't understand the budget can make such a charge. Rules say funds should be reserved for SCs/STs. Maximum



funds should be reserved for personal benefit schemes and some for infrastructure development.

"Ladki Bahin Yojana falls under the category of giving personal benefit to beneficiaries. So, if you give money to this scheme, then as per budgetary rules, it has to be shown under the Tribal Affairs Department and the Social Justice Department," the CM stated.

He emphasised Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who holds the finance portfolio, has already clarified in this matter.

Fadnavis noted the budget of Tribal Affairs and Social Justice departments has been hiked nearly 1.45 times in 2025-26.

"This (Ladki Bahin funds disbursed through other departments) is a type of accounting. No money has been diverted. There is no wrongdoing in this," the CM

asserted.

The state Women and Child Development Department runs the scheme, which is credited with playing a key role in the BJP-led Mahayuti's massive assembly election win in November last year.

Under the yojana, women in the 21-65 years age group with an annual family income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh are eligible for the monthly stipend.

Earlier this month, Maharashtra Social Justice Minister Sanjay Shirsat had expressed displeasure and accused the Ajit Pawar-led Finance

Department of high-handedness in what he termed as illegal diversion of funds from his department without his knowledge.

He had acknowledged that the state was facing financial constraints due to the women-centric welfare scheme launched last year ahead of the assembly polls.

The Shiv Sena minister had said the state government should better "shut" the Social Justice Department instead of periodic diversion of the allocated funds.

Congress Claims Special Parliament Session Being Considered To Mark 50th Emergency Anniversary

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Thursday claimed that a special session of Parliament is being considered next month to mark the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, and said this will be yet another classic exercise in "diversion and distraction" from real and more urgent issues by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said that from the night of April 22nd itself, the Indian National Congress has been calling for an all-party meeting on the Pahalagam terror attack and its fallout to be chaired by the PM himself.

That has yet to take place, he said.

"On May 10th, both the LoP in the Lok Sabha and the LoP in the Rajya Sabha wrote to the PM requesting for a special session of Parliament to be convened and to demonstrate the nation's collective resolve through a resolution. The PM has NOT accepted that suggestion as well," Ramesh said in a post on X.

"Now it appears that a special session of Parliament is being considered for June 25-26 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Emergency," Ramesh claimed.

There was no immediate response from the government

or the BJP.

The Congress leaders said, "This will be yet another classic exercise in diversion and distraction from real and more urgent issues by the PM -? the man who has placed the nation under an undeclared Emergency for 11 years and the

and Pakistan.

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

Following the Indian action,



man who refuses to answer why the Pahalagam terrorists are still absconding, why he allowed President Trump to broker a ceasefire, and why he gave a clean chit to China publicly on June 19th, 2020?"

The Congress has been asking Prime Minister Modi to break his "silence" on the Trump administration's repeated claims on how the India-Pakistan "ceasefire" was brought about.

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

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, US President Donald Trump had claimed that India and Pakistan agreed to a full and immediate ceasefire after a long night of talks "mediated" by Washington.

Nagpur woman who crossed over to Pakistan, brought back; sent to police custody till June 2

NAGPUR: Police in Maharashtra's Nagpur have brought back the city-based woman, who crossed over to Pakistan from Kargil earlier this month before being repatriated by the neighbouring country, officials said.

The woman, Sunita Jamgade (43), was brought to Nagpur late Wednesday night, following which she was formally placed under arrest. She was then produced before a special court during the intervening night and was remanded in police



custody till June 2. "A four-member team of the Nagpur police took custody of Jamgade from their counterparts in Amritsar. The team travelled with her from Amritsar to Delhi by train on Tuesday night and reached Nagpur late Wednesday night," an official said. Police in Punjab's Amritsar had registered a Zero FIR against Jamgade after

she was repatriated by Pakistani authorities through the Attari-Wagah border on Saturday. "Jamgade was arrested based on the Zero FIR filed in Amritsar and transferred to Kapil Nagar police station here," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 5) Niketan Kadam said. The police authorities intend to interrogate her regarding her connections with individuals residing in Pakistan, with whom she had reportedly been in contact for several months.

ANI

CBI Busts 2 Illegal Call Centres, Arrests 6 For Scamming Japanese Citizens

NEW DELHI: The CBI arrested six people and dismantled two illegal call centres for allegedly cheating Japanese citizens using tech support scams, officials said Thursday.

After registering the case as part of its crackdown on cybercriminals in Operation Chakra V, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) worked closely with the Japan National Police Agency and Microsoft to identify the syndicate members and their locations.

"This collaborative international engagement proved critical in identifying the perpetrators and tracing the operational structure of the syndicates, ultimately leading to the successful crackdown in India," the CBI said in a statement.

Once the locations were identified, the CBI teams swooped down on 19 locations in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday during which six alleged gang members were arrested and two illegal call centres were dismantled.

The arrested were identified as Ashu Singh from Delhi, Kapil Ghakhar from Panipat, Rohit Maurya from Ayodhya, Shubham Jaiswal, Vivek Raj and Adarsh Kumar from Varanasi.



"The syndicate operated call centres designed to appear as legitimate customer service centres, through which victims were deceived into believing that their electronic devices were compromised," the CBI said, adding that under this pretext, victims were coerced into transferring funds into mule accounts. The searches resulted in the seizure of a trove of digital evidence, devices and documents "indicative of the large-scale operations of the syndicate." Preliminary analysis confirms that the scam leveraged advanced social engineering techniques and technical subterfuge to manipulate victims and extract money under false pretences.

Heat Waves To Last Longer And Affect More Areas In India, Warn Scientists

NEW DELHI: Heat waves in India are expected to last longer and affect larger regions, scientists have warned, as climate change continues to intensify extreme weather events.

Climate models show that the area and duration of heat waves in India would increase, said Krishna Achuta Rao, Head, Centre for Atmospheric Sciences at Delhi's Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

Speaking at the India Heat Summit 2025, organ-

ised by research group Climate Trends, Rao said "this means the northern plains and several states across the southern peninsula will experience heat waves that last longer and cover larger areas".

"What might have been a week-long event could turn into a month-and-a-half or two-month-long event. Our future looks very stark," he added.

The scientist said the models also suggest that heat waves may occur during the monsoon months which could be more dangerous.

"This is especially worrying because it will be hot and humid, with temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius," added Rao.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) sixth assessment report and recent scientific

papers have warned of more frequent and intense heat waves in South Asia even during monsoon months.

Farooq Azam, senior cryosphere specialist at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), said the rising temperatures are melting glaciers faster, affecting water availability in India's rivers.

Azam said the country depends heavily on water from glaciers for agriculture and electricity generation.

At present, there is more water because of warming-driven glacier melt, but there is a threshold beyond which glaciers will start contributing less water, called peak water. Some models project that

peak water could occur around 2050 in the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra river basins, while some studies suggest it may have already been reached in the Brahmaputra system, he added.

Azam warned that this could mean "more floods until 2050" and water shortages afterwards.

He said that 2022 saw the most negative glacier mass balance — more ice was lost than gained — although annual temperatures were higher in 2023 and 2024.

"This is because early heat waves in March 2022 led to early melting of glaciers, resulting in high river flows when water was not needed. The early heat waves and early monsoon contributed to the devastating floods in Pakistan that year,"

Land-for-jobs 'scam': Former rail minister Lalu Prasad moves Delhi to quash CBI FIR

NEW DELHI: Former rail minister Lalu Prasad on Thursday sought in the Delhi High Court the quashing of the FIR filed by the CBI in the land-for-jobs "scam".

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal appeared in the court on behalf of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo and argued that the enquiry and the FIR as well as the investigation and the subsequent chargesheets in the matter could not be legally sustained as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had failed to obtain prior sanction under section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The sanction under section 17A is a mandatory requirement of law to launch any enquiry or investigation against a public servant, he said.

Submitting that the trial court is slated to hear arguments on charge on June 2, Sibal urged the court to pass directions to defer the same.

He said even after an initial closure report, the FIR was registered by the CBI in 2022 for offences allegedly committed from 2004 to 2009 and the trial court took cognisance and "merged" three chargesheets on February 25.

"What will I do if the charge is framed? Please wait for a month. We will argue the matter. For 14 years, you have waited (to register the FIR). This is only mala fide," Sibal submitted.

Justice Ravinder Dubeja heard Sibal as well as senior advocate D P Singh, who appeared in the court for the CBI, and said he

would pass an order.

Singh opposed the petition and said the necessary sanction under section 19 of the anti-graft law has been obtained.



Section 19 pertains to the requirement of a prior sanction from the competent authority for a court to take cognisance of an offence.

Sibal, however, said the sanction under section 17A "preceded" any sanction under section 19.

Singh said the issue of any mandatory compliance with section 17A is pending before a larger bench of the Supreme Court on account of differing views and in any event, a stay on the proceedings could not be ordered for any irregularity.

"It is a case where public servants were told by the cronies for the minister to do these selections and land was given in lieu. Therefore, it is called the

land-for-jobs case. The minister was misusing his position," Singh said.

During the hearing, the court suggested that the legal question



of requisite prior sanction could also be raised by the petitioner before the trial court.

Sibal said the trial court has already taken cognisance in the matter and is unlikely to "change its mind".

The case is related to Group-D appointments made in the West Central Zone of the Indian Railway based in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, during Prasad's tenure as the rail minister between 2004 and 2009 allegedly in return for land parcels gifted or transferred by the recruits in the name of the RJD supremo's family members or associates, officials said.

The case was registered on May 18, 2022 against Prasad and others, including his wife, two daughters, unidentified public

officials and private persons.

In his petition in the high court, Prasad has sought the quashing of the FIR as well as the three chargesheets filed in 2022, 2023 and 2024 and the consequential orders of cognisance.

The plea has said the FIR was lodged in 2022, that is, almost after a delay of 14 years, despite the CBI's initial enquiries and investigations being closed after the filing of the closure report before the competent court.

"Initiation of the fresh investigation in concealment of the previous investigations and its closure reports is nothing but an abuse of the process of law. The petitioner is being made to suffer through an illegal, motivated investigation, in clear violation of his fundamental right to a fair investigation. Both the initiation of the present enquiries and investigations are non est as both have been initiated without a mandatory approval under section 17A of the PC Act," the petition says.

"Without such approval, any enquiry/inquiry/investigation undertaken would be void ab initio. Section 17A of the PC Act provides a filter from vexatious litigation.

The present scenario of regime revenge and political vendetta is exactly what section 17A seeks to restrict by protecting innocent persons.

The initiation of investigation without such approval vitiates the entire proceedings since inception and the same is a jurisdictional error," it says.

UNI

Chinese students call measure 'Chinese Exclusion Act' after Rubio vows to revoke visas

HONG KONG: Chinese students studying in the US are scrambling to figure out their futures after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced Wednesday that some students would have their visas revoked.

The US will begin revoking the visas of some Chinese students, including those studying in "critical fields", and those with connections to the Chinese Communist Party," according to the announcement.

China is the second-largest country of origin for international students in the United States, behind only India. In the 2023-2024 school year, more than 270,000 international students were from China, making up roughly a quarter of all foreign students in the US.

This is a "new version of Chinese Exclusion Act," said Linjin, a Chinese student at Johns Hopkins University, who asked to be identified only by his first name out of fear of retaliation. He said Wednesday was the first time he thought about leaving the US after spending one third of his life here.

Chinese international students are point of tension between US and China.

The issue of Chinese students studying overseas has long been a point of tension in the bilateral relationship. During Trump's first term, in 2019, China's Ministry of Education warned students about visa issues in the US, with rising rejection rates and shortening of visas.

Last year, the Chinese Foreign

Ministry protested that a number of Chinese students have been unfairly interrogated and sent home upon arrival at US airports.

Chinese state media has long hyped gun violence in the US and violent protests during the pandemic, and portrayed the US

international students. Hong Kong's leader John Lee told lawmakers on Thursday that the city would welcome any students who have been discriminated against by American policies to study in the city.

"The students who face unfair



as a dangerous place that wasn't safe for its citizens. The tense bilateral relationship has also meant that some Chinese students are opting to study in the UK or other countries over the US after the pandemic.

Zou Renge, a 27-year-old public policy master's student at the University of Chicago, said she had planned to take sometime off and work in humanitarian aid programmes abroad after graduating at the end of this year.

But now, she will refrain from leaving the US and will look for jobs in the meantime. "In a very uncertain environment, I'll try my best to find myself a solution," she said.

Hong Kong seeks to draw in Chinese talent amid uncertainty on the uncertainty facing

treatment can come from different countries beyond the US. I think this is an opportunity for Hong Kong," he said. "We will work with our universities to provide the best support and assistance."

That followed a widely shared post by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology offering to smooth the process for any Harvard University students to transfer after Trump had said he would revoke the university's ability to accept international students.

Hong Kong, a former British colony that returned to China in 1997, is a popular destination for mainland Chinese students to pursue their university degrees because of its international image and relative freedoms. The city in 2022 already had launched a new visa scheme to counter

the exodus of expatriates and local professionals that occurred after Beijing imposed a national security law to quell dissent and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kitty Wu, director of education consultancy Litz USA Student Service in Hong Kong, said that some students who planned to apply to American universities in the future are now also considering the University of Hong Kong, the city's top university and an option because of its high ranking — something that had not happened before.

"Things are different every day now, we don't know how things will change in the future, so we don't know the impact for next year," she said.

US was known for diversity and this will hurt it, students say

"Having fewer international exchanges is definitely not good for America's development," said Zhang Qi, a post-doctoral fellow in Beijing. "This could be a positive change for China's development. More talented individuals may choose to stay at Tsinghua or Peking University, or with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and other top institutions in China, which would benefit the development of domestic science and technology." For many, there is little they can do as they now wait for the fallout from the move.

Chen, an incoming Chinese student at Purdue University who only gave his last name out of concern for retaliation by the Trump administration, has been waiting anxiously for his visa approval. UNI

Court Warns ACR Bandipora of Jail for ‘Wilful Contempt’

Slams Admin for Years of Delay in Rs 8.4 Lakh Land Compensation

SHEIKH SALEEM

BANDIPORA: A local court in Bandipora has put Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Bandipora on notice for alleged wilful and deliberate disobedience of court orders in a long-pending land compensation case.

Court has asked ACR to explain he should not be sent to jail for defying court orders and also directed his Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) to withhold ACR's monthly salary until further orders.

The direction was passed by Civil Judge (Senior Division) Bandipora, Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun, in the execution proceedings titled Mohammad Jamal Teli Vs State & Others, where the decree holder, Mohammad Jamal Teli of Pazaipora Mantrigam, is yet to receive compensation despite a court decree passed in his favour in 2019.

Petitioner in 2011 approached court alleging that the department of health took possession of his land measuring 8 marlas for construction of health centre at Mantrigam but had not paid the compensation. Court in 2019 directed the government to pay the land compensation to the petitioner. However the CMO Bandipora and District administration kept on passing the buck to each other and failed to pay the compensation forcing the petitioner to approach court again in 2019.

Taking serious note of the continued non-compliance, the court has directed the ACR

Bandipora to appear in person and explain why he should not be committed to civil prison for contempt of court.

compensation for the land acquired from the decree holder.

The court had on multiple occasions direct-



“The conduct of the Collector Land Acquisition and other judgment debtors reflects a wilful and deliberate disobedience of the orders passed by this Court, amounting to contumacious behaviour, which cannot be tolerated by a court of law,” the court observed.

As per the records, an amount of Rs 8.40 lakh had been secured by the Health Department as

ed the Collector to disburse the amount to Teli, including clear instructions issued on November 30, 2024, and again on March 15, 2025. However, the decree holder submitted that the amount continues to be unlawfully retained in official accounts despite the decree having attained finality over five years ago.

What further agitated the court was the rev-

elation that although the compensation was deposited in the Collector's account as early as December 2024, it had not been released to the rightful recipient till date. Instead, the court was informed that the amount was instead transferred back to the Chief Medical Officer, Bandipora, against the court's express instructions.

“This Court is constrained to take coercive measures under the provisions of Order 21 of the CPC,” Judge Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun ruled, issuing a notice under Order XXI Rule 37 CPC to the ACR Bandipora, calling upon him to show cause why he should not be committed to civil prison.

The court also invoked Rule 48 of the CPC, directing the Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) concerned to withhold the ACR's monthly salary until further orders. The withheld amount is to be deposited in the Nazir's account of the court and appropriated towards the decretal amount.

Copies of the order have been served to the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Collector Land Acquisition Bandipora (ACR Bandipora) and the DDO for immediate compliance.

ACR Bandipora has also been directed to appear in person on next day of hearing on June 2, 2025. Failure to comply with the latest order, the court warned, will invite further penal consequences, including proceedings under Section 151 of the Civil Procedure Code and the Contempt of Courts Act.

SKUAST-K Launches Major Drive to Boost Potato Seed Production in Gurez

BANDIPORA: The Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has launched a major initiative to revitalise potato seed production in the Gurez Valley,



aiming to achieve self-sufficiency in seed supply for the region.

An official spokesperson said the initiative is being spearheaded by Vice Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai.

Unlike previous efforts that focused solely on breeder seeds, the new project will multiply breeder, foundation, and True Potato Seed (TPS) varieties to meet the rising demand across the valley.

In a landmark step, 150 quintals of breeder seed were distributed today among farmers in Badugam, Tulail—a prominent potato-growing belt—through a participatory approach. The initial phase covers 7.5 hectares (150 kanals) of farmland, in addition to over 75% of cultivable land at the Mountain Agriculture Research & Extension Station (MAR&ES) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Gurez.

The ambitious programme is expected to yield around 3,000 quintals of seed potatoes in its first year, with production projected to scale up to 30,000 quintals in the second year. This would meet the seed requirements of both Kashmir and Jammu divisions, drastically reducing dependency on external seed sources.

To mark the launch, a mega event was organised at Badugam, Tulail. It was attended by a team of experts, including Director Research Prof. Haroon Rashid Naik, CEO Shalimar Beej Choudhary Mohammad Iqbal, Head of the Division of Vegetable Science Prof. Ishfaq Abidi, and Principal Investigator AICRP on Potato Prof. Faheema Mushtaq. Scientists from various subject matter divisions and staff from KVK/MAR&ES Gurez were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Hilal, Head of KVK Gurez, expressed gratitude to Vice Chancellor Prof. Ganai and Director Extension Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth for their steadfast support. He also assured Director Research Prof. Naik of full cooperation from local stakeholders to ensure the programme's success.

NALSA Scheme 2024: DLSA Organises Legal awareness program at Bandipora

BANDIPORA: J&K Legal Services Authority, Legal Services Unit for persons with Mental Illness and Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM), Bandipora, under the aegis of District Legal Services Authority, Bandipora in collaboration with Social Welfare Department Bandipora, District Disability Rehabilitation Centre, Bandipora and She HOPE (NGO) Bandipora Thursday organized a Legal awareness program on “NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024” at District Disability Rehabilitation Centre, Bandipora.

The event was held under the supervision of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Bandipora and under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary District Legal Services Authority, Bandipora.

The event was held with the aim to ensure legal services cater to the unique legal and social needs of persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities, provide accessible legal services in all matters, including civil, administrative, and criminal cases, promote equal access to government schemes, programs, facilities, and services and to deliver personalized information about legal rights, considering the mental health and intellectual capabilities of individuals.

During the event, Iqbal Rubbani, Deputy, LADC Bandipora in his speech highlight-

ed the legal rights of persons with mental illness and Intellectual disabilities, their entitlements and protections under the law and NALSA Scheme 2024.



On the occasion, Abid Hussain Malla, Assistant LADC, Bandipora, elaborated on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPWD Act) and Nazia Parveen, Assistant LADC, Bandipora, delivered an insightful lecture on the Mental Health Care Act, 2017, providing valuable perspectives on the legislation.

Among others, the program was attended by Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, Bandipora, Incharge DDRC Bandipora, Officials of DLSA Bandipora & PLVs, Members of LSUM unit Bandipora, persons with Mental Illness and Intellectual Disabilities and other participants.

Girls Plant Trees in Authwatoo to Support Environment and Girl Child

BANDIPORA: In order to promote environmental sustainability and honor and empower the girl child, a mega plantation drive was conducted today at Athwatoo, Bandipora under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme and Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA).

The event was organized by SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti Bandipora, Department of Social Welfare, in collaboration with Star Sports Academy Bandipora.

Under the guidance of the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Bandipora, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from young girls who planted trees across areas affected by deforestation in the Athwatoo area. The initiative aimed to promote environmental awareness while highlighting the importance of protecting and empowering daughters.

The event concluded with a pledge ceremony, followed by an eco walk through the forests of Athwatoo. Participants raised slogans promoting environmental protection and daughters' rights, emphasizing collective responsibility toward building a greener and more equitable future.



NCC Cadets Showcase Courage, Readiness in Specialized Training

JAMMU: Amid ongoing challenges and uncertainty, the NCC cadets of the Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh (JK&L) NCC Directorate continue to set a shining example of courage and readiness. An official spokesperson said to enhance their preparedness and practical skills, the 8 JK&L Girls Battalion NCC, under the guidance of NCC Group Headquarters Jammu and the JK&L Directorate, conducted a comprehensive training session on May 29 for 55 cadets, four Associate NCC Officers (ANOs), 51 college students, and 15 teaching and non-teaching staff of PSPS GCW Gandhinagar.

The event was organized by the Civil Defence Organisation Jammu, operating under the Directorate of Home Guard, Civil Defence & SDRF Jammu. The training involved theoretical instruction on mock drills, followed by hands-on sessions covering mass evacuation procedures, first aid and CPR, and firefighting techniques.

Further exemplifying their commitment, NCC cadets also took part in drills at the Military Hospital Satwari. There, they received training on triage, casualty management, and ward duties. In a remarkable act of service, many cadets also donated blood during the exercise.

MC Sumbal Organises Swachhta Walk to Boost Cleanliness, Environmental Awareness

BHAT ZAHoor

SUMBAL, BANDIPORA: In a concerted effort to promote cleanliness and environmental consciousness, the Municipal Committee Sumbal, in partnership with Government Higher Secondary School Sumbal, conducted a “Swachhta Darshan – Cleanliness Walk” on Thursday.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness among residents about the vital importance of maintaining a clean and green environment.

The walk was led by the Principal of Government Higher Secondary School Sumbal and saw active participation from students, school staff, and Municipal Committee employees. The participants marched through key areas of Sumbal, sharing messages to encourage community engagement in cleanliness initiatives.

After the awareness walk, the group undertook a cleanliness drive, collecting waste and tidying public spaces to reinforce the message of hygiene and environmental protection. The event underscored the significance of collective responsibility in sustaining a healthy and pollution-free environment.

Local residents welcomed the initiative, expressing their support for similar programs aimed at fostering cleanliness and environmental care in the community..



Socialist Party Delegation Calls on Dr. Farooq Abdullah

SRINAGAR: A 17-member delegation from the Socialist Party of India, led by national vice-president Sandeep Pandey, called on Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, to convey their unwavering support to the people and government of Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam.



The meeting, held at Nawa-e-Subah Srinagar, saw the delegation strongly condemn the brutal attack that claimed innocent lives. They

extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and reaffirmed their commitment to stand with Jammu and Kashmir during this difficult period. The Socialist Party reiterated its dedication to peace and unity in the region.

Dr. Abdullah welcomed the delegation's solidarity and underscored the importance of collective resolve in combating terrorism. Both sides emphasized national unity and communal harmony, condemning terrorism as an affront to justice and human dignity.

Addressing the gathering, Sandeep Pandey said, “The Socialist Party stands shoulder to shoulder with the people of Jammu and Kashmir. In tragic moments like these, it is imperative to rise above political and regional differences to support one another as fellow citizens.”

Dr. Abdullah echoed the sentiment, stating, “The people of Jammu and Kashmir have always believed in peace and brotherhood. Such cowardly acts must not divide us or weaken our collective determination.”

The meeting ended with a joint appeal for peace and a promise that democratic forces nationwide will continue to support Jammu and Kashmir's path toward stability, dignity, and inclusive progress.

Later in the day, Dr. Farooq Abdullah inaugurated a state-of-the-art Thyrocare Lab in Chadoora. MLA Chadoora Ali Muhammad Dar, District President Budgam GM Bhat, and youth leaders Imran Pandit and Faisal Bhat were also present on the occasion.

Idara Auqaf Islamia Trust Organises Free Medical Camp in Pampore

BILAL HABIB

PAMPORE: A free mega medical camp was held on Thursday at Khankah Aliya Namlablab in Pampore's Saffron Town area, Pulwama district, organised by the Auqaf Diagnostic Centre, a unit of Idara Auqaf Islamia Trust (IAIT) Pampore.

The camp was conducted in collaboration with Amandeep BR Medicity and saw a large turnout of local residents seeking medical aid.

A team of doctors, including orthopedic specialist Dr. Syed Shehnawaz and general physician Dr. Parvaiz Malik, attended to around 215 patients during the camp. Attendees received free medical consultations, diagnostic tests, and medicines. Blood tests were also conducted on-site. Officials informed Kashmir Convener.

Mohammad Sultan Shah, Secretary of Idara Auqaf Islamia Trust Pampore, told Kashmir Convener that the primary goal of the camp was to extend essential medical and diagnostic services to underprivileged sections of society who cannot afford healthcare. He noted that the camp was specially organised to support poor families by providing free check-ups and medicines.

The day-long camp was staffed by the two doctors and other medical personnel who ensured comprehensive medical attention. Shah added that IAIT Pampore regularly organises such free medical initiatives. Recently, the Trust conducted a free eye camp, and after Eid, plans are underway to hold a blood donation camp in Pampore.

The Trust reaffirmed its commitment to the welfare of the community and expressed its resolve to continue offering such services in the future.



Editorial



India’s Global Health commitment

India addressed the plenary session of the 78th World Health Assembly Earlier this year, reaffirming its commitment to global health equity under the theme “One World for Health.” India’s reaffirmation of its commitment to equitable, inclusive, and globally coordinated healthcare at the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA) not only showcases its domestic achievements but also its rising stature as a global health leader. At the heart of India’s presentation was the transformative success of Ayushman Bharat, a program that is fast becoming a global case study in universal health coverage. By expanding access to healthcare, enhancing medical infrastructure, and providing financial protection for millions, Ayushman Bharat indeed represents an unprecedented step toward ensuring that quality healthcare is not a privilege but a right. Extending its benefits to all citizens above the age of 70, regardless of economic status, further cements India’s approach to health as a pillar of social justice. Perhaps the most globally resonant part of India’s address was its emphasis on a just and equitable Pandemic Agreement. The scars of COVID-19—felt most deeply by nations with limited resources—have revealed the urgent need for technology sharing, transparent pathogen data exchange, and timely access to diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics. India’s call for a legally binding global framework that protects sovereignty while ensuring solidarity, especially for the Global South, reflects a principled stand at the intersection of pragmatism and equity. As a leading voice for the developing world, India’s stance reminds the global community that pandemic preparedness cannot be a privilege of the few. It must be a shared endeavour—grounded in fairness, inclusivity, and mutual respect. In a world that remains vulnerable to emerging health threats, India’s leadership at WHA 2025 sends a clear signal: the future of global health depends not on isolated excellence, but on cooperative resilience. And India, with its experience, infrastructure, and ethical conviction, is ready to lead from the front.

Eating Your Brother’s Flesh: The Sin We Normalized

DANISH ASHRAF KHAN

In an age driven by social media, gossip groups, and casual conversations, one of the gravest moral sins has quietly found a seat at our daily tables—backbiting. We speak of others in their absence under the illusion of sounding well-informed, intellectual, or morally

of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? You would detest it!" This verse does not simply condemn backbiting—it evokes a haunting image of cannibalism, showing how vile and grotesque this act is in the eyes of God. This comparison is not metaphorical hyperbole; it is a wake-up call to understand the deep moral rot that backbiting represents.

This Hadith unequivocally defines the boundary: even if what we say is true, if it would hurt the person in question, it is backbiting. And if it's false, it is an even greater sin—slander.

Yet despite these clear moral and religious boundaries, backbiting has become so normalized that it now masquerades as casual talk. In our living rooms,

planting the seeds of hypocrisy. A person who indulges in it may temporarily gain attention or admiration, but in time, their credibility erodes. People begin to notice the pattern and wonder: if this is what they say about others, what must they say about me?

Even worse, backbiting is spiritually self-destructive. Islamic teachings state that on the Day of Judgment, when a person opens their book of deeds, they may find their good actions missing. Shocked, they will learn that those deeds were transferred to the very individuals they spoke against. It's a divine justice that reflects not only the weight of our words but also the sanctity of another's honor.

True character lies not in exposing others, but in protecting them. A person of integrity does not exploit someone's flaws for conversation or criticism. Instead, they cover those flaws, offer support in times of difficulty, and pray for others in their absence. Such individuals rise in both the sight of people and the sight of God.

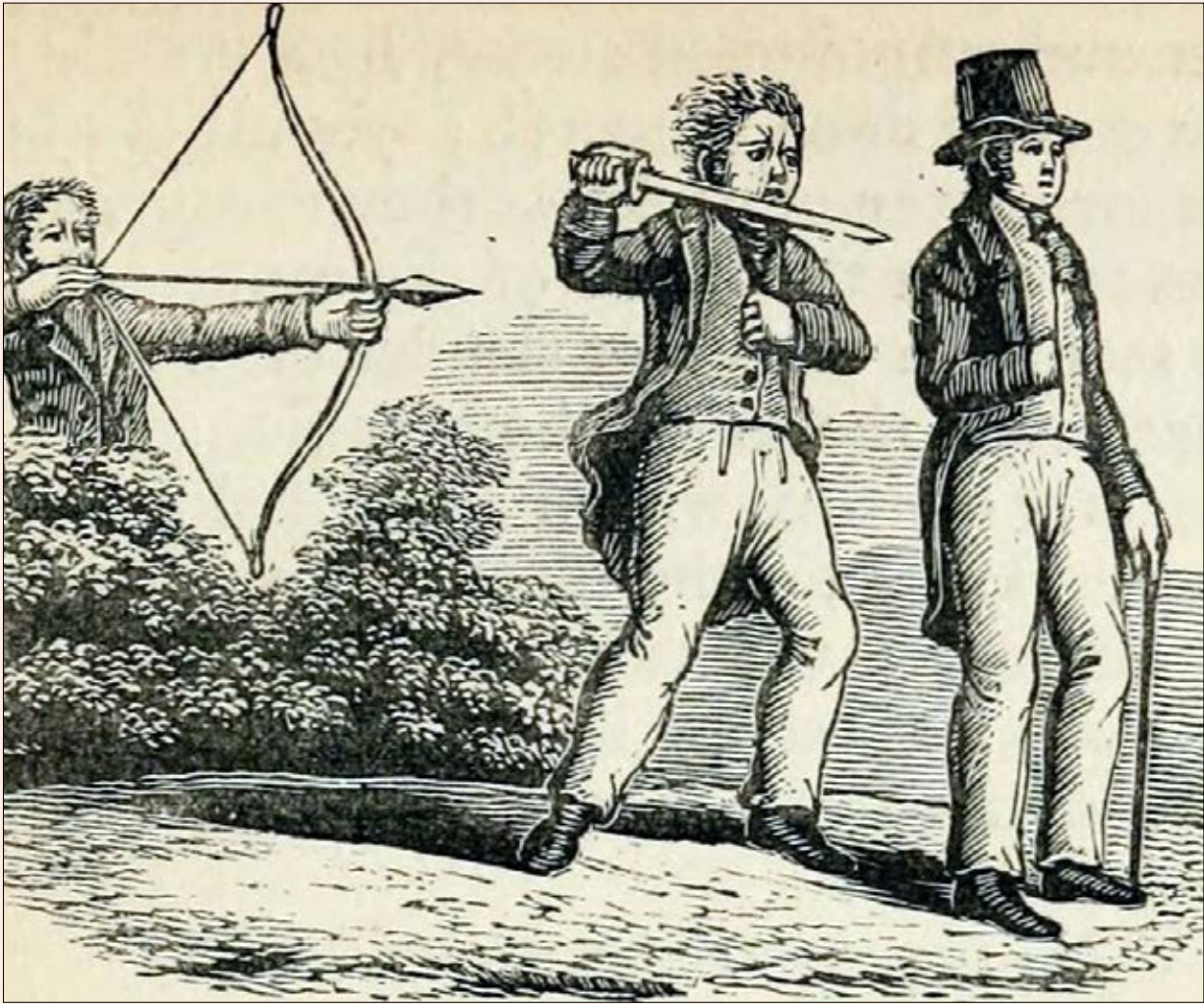
Moreover, we must be conscious of the moral legacy we are leaving for our children. When children grow up in environments where mocking, ridiculing, or discussing others is normalized, they begin to mirror these behaviors. We must teach them that to honor someone's dignity—even when they're not around—is the true measure of strength and civility. We must demonstrate through our own example that respecting others' reputations is a non-negotiable virtue.

Change begins at the most basic level—our words. Let us be mindful that every sentence we utter either adds light or spreads darkness. Our tongues have the power to either build or break, to elevate or humiliate, to purify or poison.

In conclusion, backbiting is a quiet epidemic of character erosion that we can no longer afford to ignore. It masquerades as harmless conversation but ultimately leads to spiritual decay, fractured relationships, and social mistrust. Let us remember that true power lies not in how sharply we speak of others, but in how compassionately we protect their honor. Let us strive to be people who speak with wisdom, act with integrity, and remember that silence, when it guards someone's dignity, is a sign of strength—not weakness.

The next time you're tempted to talk about someone behind their back, ask yourself: Would I eat my brother's flesh? If the answer repulses you—as it should—then choose silence, and save your soul.

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superior. But in truth, such speech strips us of the very dignity we claim to uphold. Backbiting, known as ghibah in Islam, is more than a minor fault—it is a spiritual disease and a corrosive act that diminishes not just the subject, but more devastatingly, the speaker.

The Holy Qur'an leaves no ambiguity about the seriousness of backbiting. In Surah Al-Hujurat (49:12), Allah warns: "Do not backbite one another. Would any

Equally clear are the words of the Prophet Muhammad , who said, "Do you know what backbiting is?" They said, "Allah and His Messenger know best." He said, "It is to mention about your brother that he dislikes." Someone asked, "What if what I said about my brother is true?" The Prophet replied, "If what you said is true, you have backbitten him, and if it is not true, you have slandered him." (Sahih Muslim)

offices, markets, and digital groups, conversations routinely revolve around dissecting others' lives, mocking their choices, exposing their weaknesses, and sharing their personal matters—all without their presence or consent.

The damage, however, is not just social. Backbiting is a corrosive act that hardens the heart and pollutes the soul. It creates an illusion of superiority while

Wealth Inequality Through the Ages: A Dive into the Forces of Economic Division



SHABEER AHMAD LONE

Wealth inequality, a theme as old as human civilization, reflects the inherent tensions between the forces of capitalism, labor, governance, and culture across time. Its evolution offers profound insights into the mechanisms of economic

revealing not only the consequences of such disparities but also the transformative potential for change. In examining these historical shifts, we must recognize the interplay of global and local factors—political, economic, and social—that have driven the evolution of wealth distribution.

In ancient and medieval societies, wealth was primarily grounded in land ownership, a central pillar around which the power dynamics were built. This period, marked by feudalism and agrarian economies, often saw large portions of the population laboring for minimal wages under the control of landowning elites. The feudal system entrenched power in the hands of a few while marginalizing the majority. However, while wealth disparity was evident, the absence of industrial and financial innovations meant that economic inequality

the emerging capitalist class and the working poor, whose labor powered the industrial engines while offering them limited economic mobility. The riches of industrial magnates such as Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, and others were amassed in stark contrast to the harsh conditions faced by factory workers and the urban poor. This period underscored how economic systems, while spurring progress, can also magnify inequality when wealth becomes concentrated in the hands of a few.

The twentieth century was marked by significant upheavals and a response to these stark disparities, especially in the wake of the Great Depression and the two World Wars. The first half of the century saw the implementation of progressive policies aimed at curbing the extremes of wealth inequality. In the United States, for example, the New Deal era brought about social safety nets, labor protections, and progressive taxation policies that sought to redistribute wealth and enhance economic mobility. The post-World War II economic boom, accompanied by welfare state expansions in Europe and North America, resulted in the rise of the middle class and a temporary reduction in wealth inequality. The growth of the global economy in the mid-20th century coincided with efforts to rebuild nations, regulate markets, and provide basic services to populations. This period saw a significant shift toward social democracy in many nations, as the costs of inequality and social unrest became increasingly evident.

However, this relatively equitable period began to unravel in the late 20th century. The neoliberal economic policies of the 1980s, with their emphasis on free-market capitalism, deregulation, and tax cuts for the wealthy, laid the foundation for the growing wealth inequality observed today. Globalization, technological advancements, and financialization of economies facilitated the accumulation of wealth at the top, leaving the majority of people with stagnant wages and diminishing opportunities. The consequences of this trend are now widely recognized: extreme wealth concentration contributes to the destabilization of democracies, the erosion of social safety nets, and the creation of systems that perpetuate inequality.

Recent reports highlight that wealth inequality has reached levels that mirror, if not exceed, those of earlier historical periods, even during the Gilded Age in the United States. The richest 1% now control a disproportionately large share of the world's wealth, with the top 10% of the global population holding over half of all income. In stark contrast, the bottom 50% of the global population holds only a small fraction of total wealth. This concentration of wealth has wide-ranging implications, from social unrest and political polarization to diminished economic growth and limited opportunities for upward mobility. It challenges the very notion of meritocracy, as opportunities for success become increasingly determined by inherited wealth rather than individual ability or effort.

In the context of developing nations, wealth inequality is exacerbated by historical legacies of colonialism, exploitation, and underdevelopment. Many of these nations struggle

to break free from cycles of poverty and inequality that are often entrenched by global economic systems and political structures that favor the wealthy nations. This global disparity highlights the interconnectedness of wealth inequality across borders and underscores the need for international cooperation to address these challenges. Calls for redistributive policies, fair trade practices, and debt relief have gained momentum as solutions to the systemic inequality perpetuated by historical and contemporary power imbalances.

Despite the alarming rise in wealth inequality, there are signs that the conversation is shifting toward solutions. In recent years, scholars, activists, and policymakers have begun to advocate for transformative economic models that prioritize sustainable development, social justice, and equitable growth. Progressive taxation, universal basic income, affordable healthcare and education, and labor rights are among the policy proposals aimed at addressing the structural roots of inequality. There is also a growing recognition that addressing wealth inequality is not just a matter of economics but of moral and ethical responsibility, as the widening gap between the rich and the poor undermines social cohesion, stifles human potential, and erodes democratic values.

As we look toward the future, the growing concentration of wealth in the hands of a few presents a critical challenge to global equity and social stability. The late 20th and early 21st centuries have witnessed a stark resurgence in inequality, with the richest segments of the population accumulating unprecedented wealth, while large swathes of the global population remain mired in poverty. According to recent studies, the richest 1% now control over 40% of global wealth, while the poorest 50% hold only 2%. This increasing disparity is not only an economic concern but also a profound societal issue, contributing to political polarization, undermining democratic institutions, and eroding social trust. Addressing wealth inequality requires a comprehensive, multifaceted approach that combines policy innovation, social justice, and a deep commitment to redistributing resources more equitably. Solutions such as progressive taxation, universal social programs, and labor reforms have been proposed, but systemic changes will require a shift in global values towards a more just and inclusive society. Ultimately, the challenge of wealth inequality remains one of the most pressing moral and political questions of our time, calling for urgent attention to ensure a more equitable distribution of wealth that fosters social cohesion, economic stability, and human dignity. Through a combination of historical reflection and forward-thinking solutions, humanity can seek to address the systemic roots of inequality and build a future where wealth is more justly shared, benefiting all individuals, regardless of their socio-economic background.

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systems and the political ideologies that have shaped societies. Throughout history, wealth has been a central factor in determining power, social status, and access to opportunities. From the agrarian economies of ancient civilizations to the capitalist structures of the modern global economy, wealth inequality has remained an ever-present issue, though its intensity and scope have fluctuated. At its core, the distribution of wealth is not merely an economic issue; it is deeply entwined with the philosophical, moral, and ethical questions of justice, fairness, and human potential. The historical trajectory of wealth inequality illuminates the multifaceted forces that have perpetuated the divide between the rich and the poor,

remained relatively stable within those rigid structures. This paradigm began to shift dramatically with the onset of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century.

The Industrial Revolution fundamentally altered the landscape of wealth inequality, creating a new class of wealthy industrial magnates who gained vast fortunes through the exploitation of labor and natural resources. The rapid advancement of manufacturing technologies and the birth of large-scale industry fundamentally reshaped society, driving mass urbanization, the rise of capitalism, and the accumulation of wealth on a scale previously unseen. While this era catalyzed economic development, it also intensified the divide between

Minister Satish Sharma Listens to Grievances, Promises Redressal

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, held a series of meetings today with various delegations to address the pressing public concerns. An official spokesperson said the minister reaffirmed the government's commitment towards ensuring timely redressal of issues faced by the people.

A deputation from the Mega Tourist Taxi Association raised objections to private vehicles operating in the commercial sector. They also expressed opposition to the government's plan to introduce electric buses during the upcoming Yatra season, stating that it may adversely impact their livelihoods. The association demanded implementation of a distinct color-coding system to differentiate between aggregator vehicles and registered tourist cabs. Additionally, they appealed for concessions on EMLs to support the taxi operators financially. Another deputation of ex-SRTC employees submitted a memorandum demanding reimbursement of 6th Pay Commission arrears. They also requested a time-bound resolution of their pending dues.

A delegation of Women's Wing of the National Conference (NC) sought upgradation of existing sports infrastructure at the Kulingam Sports Stadium. They emphasized the need for enhanced facilities to promote sports activities, especially for the youth and women in the region. Meanwhile, some other deputations from different areas also called on the Minister and projected several issues related to Food and Civil Supplies, Transport and Upgradation of youth related infrastructure and sports facilities.

The Minister assured all delegations that their demands would be examined and appropriate action will be taken to redress the same in a time bound manner.



Local Interests Must Come First in Water Use: Minister Rana

SURANKOTE: Jal Shakti Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana, today reviewed the Parnai Hydro Power Project in Buffliaz, Surankote, highlighting the importance of prioritising the local communities' interests in water resource management.

An official spokesperson said the Minister emphasized that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have the first right over their water resources, and it is essential to protect and promote their interests. He emphasised the need to prioritise their interests in water management and utilisation.

The Minister highlighted the JK government's focus on hydropower development and energy self-sufficiency in Poonch.

Reviewing the progress on Parnai Hydro Power Project, he emphasized upon the executing agency to ensure timely completion.

The Minister was informed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Phagla Hydro Electric Project has been formulated and is awaiting implementation to harness the region's hydropower potential.

Under Phase-2 of the Parnai Project, initiation has been planned to make various areas of Mendhar adequately irrigated, promoting the local farming development and improving the quality of life for residents.

The Minister emphasized the importance of sustainable utilization of water resources, ensuring that the benefits of hydropower projects are shared equitably among the local communities. He stressed the need for community engagement and participation in decision-making processes related to water resource management.

He said that the JK government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah remains committed towards protecting the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and ensuring that they receive a fair share of benefits from the region's water resources. "Parai Hydro Power Project underscores this commitment, aiming to promote equitable development and protect the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir over their natural resources, he added"

The Parnai Project aims to enhance energy security, promote economic growth and improve living standards in Poonch, he added.

Rana has been advocating for reviewing existing agreements and treaties to ensure that they are fair, equitable and just for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This review, he maintains, will help to identify areas for improvement and ensure that the region's water resources are utilised in a sustainable and equitable manner.



Ahead of Eid Ul Adha: DC Srinagar holds meeting of various Trade Associations



SRINAGAR: Ahead of upcoming Eid-ul-Adha celebrations, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat chaired a meeting with representatives of various Traders Association at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex here today regarding, regulation, quality and availability of food items in the district.

At the outset, DC emphasized on ensuring best quality and hygienic food items at all Food Business establishments across the City. He urged the representatives of the trade associations to ensure self regulations at their respective food establishments by strictly adhering to the laid guidelines with regard to quality, and rates of the food items including bakery, meat, chicken, confectionary, fruits etc, particularly on upcoming Eid-ul Adha.

Dr Bilal asked the representatives of the Trade Associations to sensitize their respective members regarding the self regulation, hygiene and to maintain quality and standard of essential commodities. He further asked them to ensure that all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates.

DC Budgam hands-over 15 new 100 KVA Transformers to KPDCL

BUDGAM: In order to augment power infrastructure in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo today handed-over 15 new 100 KVA Transformers to KPDCL procured under District Mineral Funds.

This dedicated buffer stock of 15 distribution transformers of 100 kVA each shall be put into use by the Electric Division Budgam to improve power availability in the entire district.

The buffer stock, procured under the District Mineral Fund (DMF), will act as a strategic reserve to be deployed swiftly in case of transformer failures, overloads, or emergency scenarios, particularly during winter when power infrastructure is often stressed due to snow accumulation and increased demand.

Speaking on the occasion, DC stated, "This initiative has significantly augmented our winter preparedness. Earlier, the District Administration had provided five Distribution Transformer Assemblies (DTAs) under the Capex Budget. Now, with the addition of 15 more transformers through the DMF, we are better equipped to respond swiftly to any outages. This will greatly help in ensuring reliable and uninterrupted power supply to our citizens especially during the harsh winter season."

He further added, "Our objective is to minimize downtime and reduce public inconvenience during peak load periods. The availability of these transformers as a buffer ensures that any damaged or overloaded unit can be replaced immediately, without waiting for fresh procurement or lengthy logistics."

Labroo said this is part of our ongoing efforts to build resilient infrastructure and improve the quality of essential services. "Reliable power is not just a convenience—it's a critical necessity, especially during winters when people are most vulnerable," he added.

World Environment Day 2025 Awareness program on Plastic Pollution held at GDC Ramgarh

SAMBA: As part of World Environment Day 2025 celebration, the Department of Environmental Science and Eco Club "Amrita" of Government Degree College, Ramgarh, jointly organized an Awareness Programme focused on this year's global theme: "Ending Plastic Pollution."

The event highlighted the severe consequences of plastic waste on the environment and human health, and encouraged sustainable practices among students and staff to combat this growing menace.

The programme was held under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol, Principal of the College and was led by Dr. Shivali Panigotra, Head of the Department of Environmental Science and Convener of Eco Club "Amrita".

Dy CM inspects development works in GMC Udhampur, Bailey

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted an extensive tour of Udhampur to inspect the ongoing construction works on the Government Medical College Udhampur at Bailey, being executed by the Public Works Department.

An official spokesperson said during the visit, Executive Engineer, PWD Udhampur, briefed the Dy CM about the current status and progress on the ongoing construction works.

The Deputy Chief Minister issued necessary directions to the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work and ensure completion of the project within the stipulated timeline of July 2025.

He instructed the executing agencies to deploy additional manpower, introduce double-shift work schedules and improve overall site efficiency. He emphasised the importance

of timely execution without compromising on the quality of construction.

The Dy CM also directed



the Executive Engineer PWD, to monitor progress regularly and conduct joint inspections to ensure seamless and uninterrupted execution. He stressed the importance of rigorous quality checks for construction materials like sand and bricks. He also directed for strict compliance with labour laws and safety protocols for on-site workers.

During the inspection, the Dy

CM reviewed all components of the project including construction status. He called for immediate resolution of any bottlenecks

impeding the project progress.

Surinder Choudhary also directed the executing agencies to mobilize resources efficiently and work with enhanced synergy and commitment to achieve optimal outcomes.

He further instructed the Executive Engineer PWD, to maintain close coordination with the construction agency to ensure accelerated work on the ground.

Javed Rana reviews key infra initiative along Mughal Road

SHOPIAN: Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department is all set to undertake several initiatives aimed at enhancing pilgrim infrastructure at Pir Ki Gali and promoting environmental conservation along the Mughal Road.

As part of these efforts, the department will construct transit camps, build eco-friendly huts and undertake an aggressive and extensive plantation drive.

Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, issued on-spot directions to senior officers of the department in this regard during his visit to Pir Ki Gali today.

The Minister emphasized the importance of these initiatives in creating a sustainable and welcoming environment for the pilgrims while protecting

the scenic splendour of the area. He said that the department will construct transit camps for the pilgrims at Pir Ki Gali, providing them with comfortable and well-equipped resting places, he added. Eco-friendly huts will



be built to cater to the needs of travellers, minimising the environmental impact while ensuring a comfortable stay, he added. The Minister said that an extensive plantation drive will be undertaken along the Mughal

Road to promote greenery and environmental conservation.

During his visit, the Minister also inspected the Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary, where he reviewed Markhor revival efforts. He assessed the impact

of human activities and livestock grazing by the non-traditional migratory herders on Markhor and its habitat.

Javed Rana directed for timely removal of fallen timber in the Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary to

HC holds Full Court Reference to condole demise of Senior Advocates, Advocates

JAMMU: A Full Court reference was held today in the Court room of Chief Justice at Jammu Wing of the High Court to condole the demise of distinguished members of the legal fraternity including Senior Advocates Ashok Vijay Gupta and Prem Saroop Dutta, Advocates Ramesh Chander Arora and Vinod Kumar Bakshi.

Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, in his condolence address, remembered the contribution of departed souls. He said that their firm commitment to the law, hard-working nature and dedication to justice has left a mark on the judicial community and their demise is a big loss to the legal fraternity.

On the occasion, the Senior Additional Advocate General and the President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu in their condolence addresses remembered the contributions

of late Ashok Vijay Gupta and Prem Saroop Dutta, Senior Advocates besides Ramesh Chander Arora and Vinod Kumar

and prayed for peace to the departed souls.

Judges and Members of the Bar at Jammu Wing of the



Bakshi, Advocates.

Monika Kohli, Senior Additional Advocate General, on her behalf and on behalf of the State, Government Advocates and Bar, offered condolences on the demise of the Advocates and strength to the bereaved families.

Nirmal Kotwal, President, J&K High Court Bar Association, also offered condolences on his behalf and on behalf of the Bar executive and other Bar members

High Court participated in the Full Court Reference physically, while Judges and lawyers from Srinagar Bench joined the Full Court Reference proceedings virtually.

The Full Court proceedings ended with observance of one minute silence as a mark of respect for the departed soul. The Court work was suspended for rest of the day. The proceedings of the reference were conducted by Mohinder Kumar Sharma, Registrar General (Officiating).

Groundbreaking Medical procedure EVAR performed at GMC Srinagar

SRINAGAR, MAY 29: Department of Cardiology at SSH Hospital, GMC Srinagar in collaboration with a team of vascular surgeons, led by HOD Cardiology, Prof Dr Khalid Mohi u din successfully performed its first Endovascular Aortic Aneurysm Repair (EVAR) procedure in GMC Srinagar.

This minimally invasive technique is used to treat abdominal aortic aneurysms, a potentially life-threatening condition.

EVAR is a cutting-edge procedure that involves inserting a stent graft through a small incision in the groin to repair the aneurysm. This approach reduces the risk of rupture and promotes faster recovery.

The patient, a 65-year-old male, is doing well and is being discharged in a stable condition.

This achievement marks a significant milestone in the hospital's peripheral vascular service program.

The introduction of EVAR at GMC Srinagar will provide patients with a less invasive and more effective treatment option for abdominal aortic aneurysms. This procedure will likely improve patient outcomes and reduce the risk of complications associated with traditional open surgery.

This achievement demonstrates the hospital's commitment to providing high-quality care and advancing medical services in the region.

Prof Dr. Iffat Hassan Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar congratulated and complimented the team for the successful EVAR procedure.

Javid Dar launches Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan at SKUAST-Kashmir

SRINAGAR: The inaugural ceremony, marking commencement of the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan in Jammu & Kashmir, was held at Convention Centre Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Kashmir today, with Minister for Agriculture Production, Javid Ahmad Dar presiding over the event.

This 15-day Abhiyan aims to educate the farmers about modern, region-specific technologies for major Kharif crops, raise awareness about key government schemes and policies, promote use of Soil Health Cards for crop selection

and balanced fertiliser application and collect grassroots feedback to guide farmer-centric innovations and agricultural research.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister encouraged the farmers to engage directly with the agricultural scientists, assuring them of dedicated support to address their queries and challenges. He highlighted the vast potential of agriculture and allied sectors to enhance productivity through technology-driven practices.

"The government is committed towards supporting the farmers through various Central and UT schemes with the goal of increasing farm

income and making agriculture a viable livelihood for the younger generation, stated the Minister."

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, also addressed the audience, underscoring the department's achievements and the transformative impact of government interventions in improving farmer livelihoods across the region.

As part of the event, a documentary film showcasing agricultural milestones in the Kashmir Division was screened and two publications related to agricultural advancements were formally released.

Nasha Mukt Abhiyan: DIPR, DSEK organize Awareness program

SRINAGAR: Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), today organized a day-long awareness-cum-cultural program under the Nasha Mukt Abhiyan at Pandit Bhajan Sopori Auditorium, DIPR complex, Polo View, Srinagar.

The event aimed to sensitize and educate youth about the devastating effects of drug abuse, a growing concern in Jammu & Kashmir through music, dance and theatre as mediums of communication.

Nitish Rajora, Director Information and Public Relations, presided over the event. Among the dignitaries present were Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director PR Ahsan-ul-Haq Chishti; Cultural Officer Kashmir, Burhan Hussain, along with several other officers of DIPR.

Program featured vibrant cultural performances that captivated the audience and carried strong social messages.

Highlights included Kashmiri Rouf by Yemberzal Cultural Group, Thematic Dance performance by MJ Nasir and Group, a powerful short play by Tulkul Arts and

through such cultural initiatives. He urged continued efforts in engaging youth across the valley.

Cultural Officer Kashmir, Burhan Hussain briefed the



Media Collective, theme-based folk music by Feroz Shah and Party, widely acclaimed by the audience.

A large number of students and teachers from DSEK participated enthusiastically, reflecting the collective concern over the rising drug menace.

In his address, Joint Director Information, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari emphasized the importance of disseminating the powerful messages conveyed

audience on DIPR's ongoing initiatives and strategic efforts to combat drug addiction through impactful outreach.

Proceedings of the event were conducted by AECCO, Syed Shakeel Shan, who called upon educational institutions to collaborate with DIPR in the fight against drug abuse.

The event also featured the screening of a short film on drug abuse, further reinforcing the message of awareness and action.

Long-delayed Noor Jehan Bridge at Qamarwari set to open soon

SRINAGAR: In order to expedite the progress of works on construction of Rs 14.77 crore vital project of Noor Jehan Bridge over River Jhelum at Qamarwari, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat has been monitoring the progress on the long delayed vital project of the bridge on regular basis. In this regard, DC conducted several inspections to the project site to

personally monitor the progress on a regular basis. He has been rigorously pushing for the expeditious completion of the long pending connectivity project in the City. Dr Bilal is actively monitoring the project's progress and has directed the executing agency to expedite the remaining works. Once completed, the Noor Jehan Bridge will serve as a crucial link between Noorbagh and Qamarwari, alleviating

pressure on the existing Cement Bridge and improving connectivity in Srinagar. During his visit, DC was apprised that the 127 meters span vital Noor Jehan bridge is being constructed at cost of Rs 14.77-crore and is finally nearing completion and is set to be thrown open to the public by July 15, 2025, providing huge relief from traffic congestion to the local residents, commuters of the adjoining areas.

MYSTIC THOUGHTS

Reimagining Muslim Women's Role in Social Transformation



Dr Maroof Shah

Muslim Women aren't organized even though a few of them may rise to the highest public posts. Their awareness about their own problems is so little. They are divided against one another even in the space of extended families. Even in small families it is women against women that is the rule. Mothers against daughters in law and the later against sisters in law and similar tangles are running domestic peace. It is rare to find a happy daughter in law. Women in Mohalla or larger levels aren't united. Women aren't educated in the skills of life. Muslim women teachers who are better educated are most pathological consumers spending their resources on such things as clothes, marriages and houses. Muslim women haven't, in general, understood the wisdom of saving and investing or creating wealth. As such they can be classified as poor despite possessing money. Consuming time away in gossiping or plotting against one another, vast number of Muslim women don't seem to know what to do with time especially as various works done in homes for livelihood have disappeared. Muslim women pass-outs from women madrasahs haven't, in general, been able to be of great service to themselves or to community. The virtue of work hasn't been learnt at mass scale by any group of Muslim women. Work and industry haven't been the focus of Muslim women. As such they fail to be great productive force of economy. How do we address this problem is important and its redressal would do a great good do the lives to Muslim women.

Democracy or current political order is premised on the thesis that divergent ideological currents can coexist and work together for common ends and accept the fact of difference without letting it divide unity. Communicative dialogue and ijma of elected representatives coupled with recognition of different legal positions as equally legitimate in certain areas where common stakes/interests aren't hurt as an instrument of consensus could be deployed to resolve certain nagging areas of conflict in the Muslim societies. Women representatives in Parliments need to be proactive in creating consensus on number of issues for implementing justice to women. Universal access to gender justice through special family courts for which some reputed members of civil society could be co-opted as well could be one option. Democracy at grassroots or more radical approaches to democracy could be deployed for evolving consensus and mobilizing resources to achieve needful on concrete problems faced by women.

Let us begin at the beginning. Muslim women begin organizing. Every woman must be connected to a self help group, a credit cooperative, a cooperative society, a community network that would facilitate access to as many services as possible or marketing for the product she is making. Units of fifty to hundred women would help resolve key issues besides providing fellowship or companionship and sharing of certain spaces that give meaning or fulfillment in life. Huge number of psycho-somatic cases – health in general is largely in ruins for most women as we can see most are dependent on daily dose of number of medicines and once a month or two doctor needs to be seen – need to be addressed by comprehensive planning of lives gone awry.

There needs to be an agreement on the outlines of the Women's Manifesto for Duties and Rights and awareness about it needs to be disseminated.

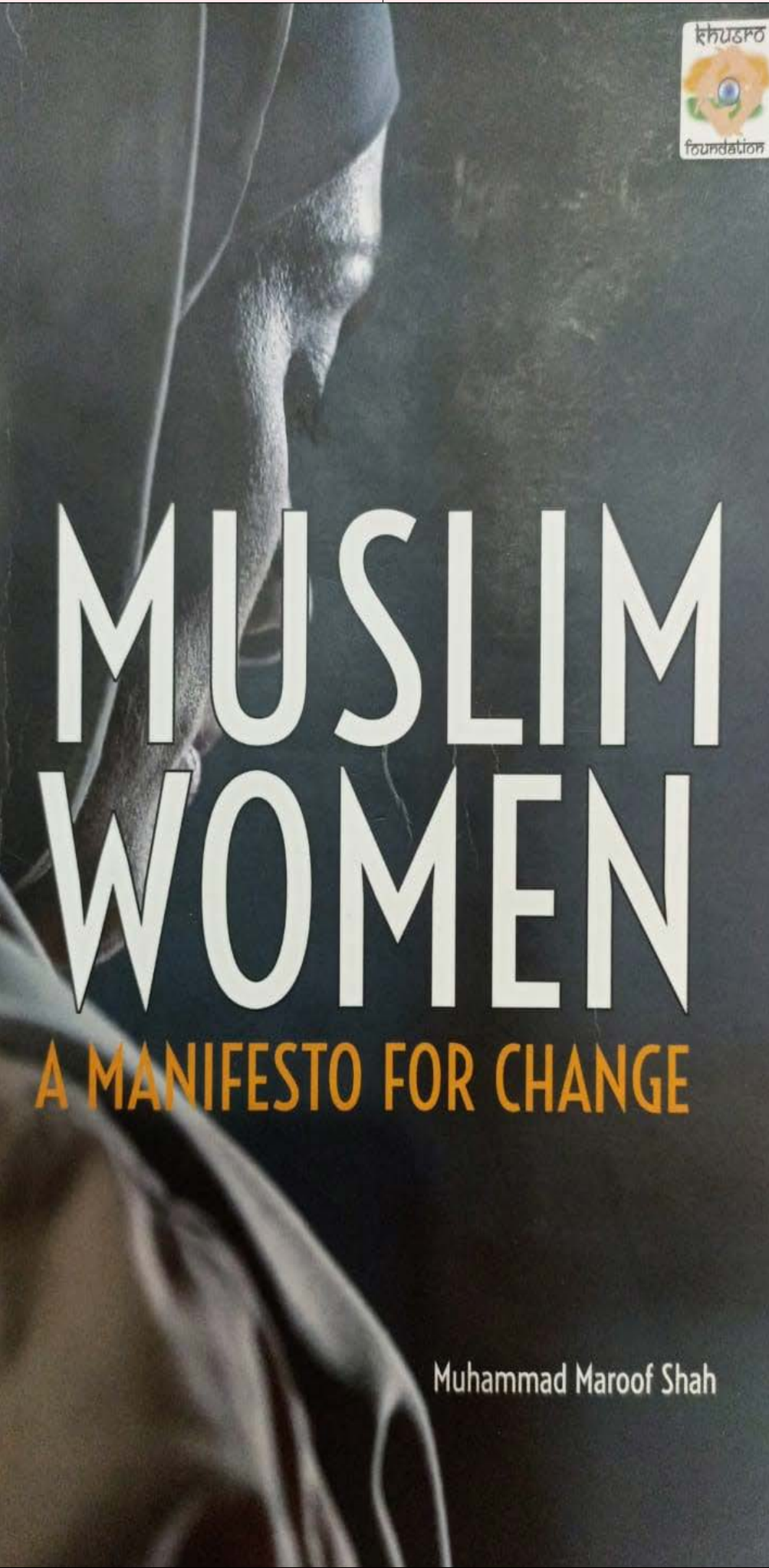
Number of problems of women including their financial ones can be addressed very effectively if women will the change they wish to see and do necessary collaboration with other women – their own friends, relatives, neighbours, colleagues. If nothing every woman can canvases to distribute fifty daily sadaqah boxes and make a unit of fifty and operate it for running certain programmes that would empower all. Annual income from fifty daily sadaqah boxes would be at least 50x10x365=182500 which would be used to link all of them in zero interest based credit cooperatives which would in turn enable them to get interest free loans upto one lac and double this amount as seed capital for business units.

Let us – all organizations speaking in the name of women, Imams, writers, departments for social/women's welfare – target only 0.1 percent of around 9 crore Muslim women in India who would be able to save only Rs one to ten on daily basis and get hundred women in the loop for contributing as their daily charity similar amount, for the cause of women and we are able to get a sort of insurance for healthcare, free legal aid, free food for the needy, education support for the meritorious, platforms for awareness and activism for women's causes at local levels, interest free loans for women entrepreneurs and other numerous institutions of welfare for women. If we count thousands of crores from zakat/ushr and sadaqat al fitr and will of only 0.01 percent women who choose to spend it on poor and needy women or women travelers and students we have enough resources for the key problems faced by women. We can create jobs for thousands even lacs of maids or domestic help for women who have primarily this issue that makes lives hell. Let women organize women to supply materials for needs for State/ community events. Let women operate hotels and restaurants and many other facilities for women and we will see no woman is underpaid or idle in home. We can organize the poor and needy and they will themselves able to solve their problems. Local Imams and baitul amwal could as well be held accountable for resources they extract from community for helping the poor and needy. It is not hard to collect 9 crore on daily basis for interest free loans or one time aid to the poor and needy from sadaqa of

one day per day that Islam enjoins on all.

Resolving economic problems is easy – linking women to professional charity collection and spending platforms and to interest free credit cooperatives and tying them with small local investors who have savings for local businesses they can monitor. Panchayats and local NGOs could chip in here as could local bait al-amwal. Mosque or Mohalla management committees could help execute creation of linkages and associations for access to number of services.

As such it is the task of Muslim scholarship to identify and resist every form of oppression and we need to recall tyat the last sermon of the Prophet emphasized about treating women well and kindness to them and his last words included a clause "Look after the women." Muslim scholarship on women should eternally question every power structure that contravenes justice even though it masquerades as tradition or faith. The rationalist streak in Islamic theology of Mu'tazilites, also called ahl al adl wal tawhid, had ample warrant to extol justice as the heart of Islamic idea of Divine. Dawood Rahbar's work God of Justice:



Legal Interventions

PILs would help kick-start number of little addressed issues including domestic violence, harassment in public places, boss pathologies etc. Legal luminaries or advocates would, on infaq basis, keep institutions on toes for redressing women's problems. Necessary legal support for reimbursing necessary expenses on marriages, support for livelihood till one gets job, access to interest free loans for women entrepreneurs, access to separate basic housing of two rooms and a kitchen in in-laws, right to childcare facilities in offices, right to seat in public transport, guarantee for employment, minimum wages etc. needs to be created. The State and community need to generate awareness on legal rights and development of Apps for easy access to public services for women, home delivery for grocery, medicine and routine use items through women SHGs etc. Free legal support from infaq that may requires just one day free in a year for community would address numerous cases poor women face. The Quran has the idea of justice and God the just as refrain. The task of Muslim theology is to stand for justice and against oppression. As such every form of injustice and oppression is unIslamic.

Study in the Ethical Doctrine of the Quran may be referred for seeing how justice is central to the God of Islam.

In order to counter perception of bias against women in male dominated religious or juristic scholarship, formulate women chapters of Madaris board (there is a chain of Madaris of women already) and fiqh academies that shall cater to women's issues. They shall co-opt women professionals and scholars from other backgrounds who have something important to contribute to the discourse of women's issues. Series of national level seminars and publications of proceedings in a year can give key solid documents for most if not all women to adopt and abide by for resolving their issues. We can propose a community of fifty women to be part of what we may designate a super-fifty group that would resolve key issues and create necessary momentum for change.

This article is an excerpt from a chapter in the book "Muslim Women: A Manifesto for Change". The author can be reached at Maroof123@gmail.com

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“Let us begin at the beginning. Muslim women must begin organizing. Every woman must be connected to a self-help group, a credit cooperative, a cooperative society, or a community network. Units of fifty to hundred women can help resolve key issues, provide companionship, and share meaningful spaces in life.”

”

“If every woman canvasses to distribute fifty daily sadaqah boxes, an annual fund of ₹1.82 lakh can be raised per group. This can be used to link them to zero-interest credit cooperatives, enabling interest-free loans and seed capital for business units—transforming charity into sustainable empowerment.”

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Continued From P1...

Post ‘Operation Sindoor’

(CRPF), Intelligence Bureau (IB), and civil administration are participating in the meeting,” an official told KNO.

“The meeting will focus on the ongoing ‘Operation Sindoor,’ counter-terrorism measures, the anti-infiltration grid, and preparations for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra.”

On May 30, the Union Home Minister will travel to Poonch district, which bore the brunt of Pakistan’s retaliatory shelling between May 7 and 10.

The shelling led to the loss of lives and also damaged nearly 2,000 structures, including residential homes, commercial buildings, and religious sites such as the Singh Sabha Gurdwara.

During his visit to Poonch, the Home Minister will meet families affected by the Pakistan shelling at Dak Bungalow, distribute appointment letters to the next of kin of those killed, and assess the damage to religious sites.

He will also visit a BSF camp at Khanetar, approximately nine kilometers from Poonch town, to interact with jawans and review border security preparedness.

The visit follows Shah’s earlier trips to Jammu and Kashmir on April 6 and April 22, the latter in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

During his April 23 visit to Baisaran meadows, the site of the terror attack, Shah assessed the situation, paid tributes to the victims, and assured their families of the government’s support.

Operation Sindoor, launched on May 7, targeted nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in retaliation for the Pahalgam attack.

Security has been significantly bolstered across Jammu and Poonch for the Home Minister’s visit, with additional checkpoints and personnel deployed to ensure safety.

The government has already disbursed Rs 6 lakh from the MHA and Rs 10 lakh from the UT Government as ex gratia relief to the families of those killed in the shelling, though calls for increased compensation for property damage persist.

The Home Minister’s visit is expected to address both immediate security concerns and long-term strategies to strengthen border management and counter-terrorism efforts in Jammu and Kashmir. Shah is scheduled to return to Delhi on Friday evening after concluding his engagements in Poonch. (KNO)

Security beefed

Security has been beefed up in Jammu and Poonch districts in view of the home minister’s visit, officials said.

Additional security personnel have been deployed around the Raj Bhawan, where Shah will hold a high-level security meeting, they said.

In Poonch, hectic checking of vehicles and frisking of people is taking place, they said, adding that checkpoints have been set up at entry and exit points to keep a vigil on the movement of vehicles.

Ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s visit to Poonch, Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) Daljit Singh Chawdhary on Thursday visited shelling-hit areas of the district and reviewed the prevailing security situation.

Delhi Forest Minister Manjinder Singh on Thursday visited the border town to reach out to people affected by Pakistani shelling and oversaw the arrangements.

After an overnight stay in Jammu, Shah will fly to Poonch on Friday and interact with shelling-hit families during his visit on Friday.

He will also visit damaged religious places, including Singh Sabha Gurudwara, and hold a meeting with officers to assess the damage in the worst-hit district, they said.

The home minister will also visit the BSF camp in Poonch and interact with jawans. He will also address the civilians affected by Pakistani shelling at Dak Bungalow in Poonch and BSF soldiers at their Unit Headquarters in Khanetar.

He is likely to distribute appointment letters to the next of kin of civilians killed in the shelling. He will return to Delhi thereafter, the officials said. (PTI)

Pahalgam terror

He added that India’s approach toward terrorism has fundamentally changed, and any attack would now be met with decisive retaliation.

“Terrorism and mass murder have become the core operations of Pakistan’s army. But whenever there is a war, they are defeated,” he said. “We have made it clear, there is no tolerance for terrorism anymore.”

He also described how the world is watching India’s unity grow stronger in the face of such attacks. “They tried to break us, but today the world sees India standing together, stronger than before,” he said.

The PM said Operation Sindoor will continue and that India’s fight against terrorism is not just a military action but a decision taken by the whole country. “This is not merely a military action; it reflects the nation’s collective resolve,” he said.

He also said that India is committed to its security and warned that anyone who tries to harm the country will face the consequences. “Any future act of terrorism will be met with a severe and uncompromising response,” he said. (KNO)

BSF DG visits

He also interacted with the BSF troops and reviewed the ground situation following Operation Sindoor.

India carried out precision strikes under Operation Sindoor on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) in the early hours of May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack the 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 rejects

cessation of firing was decided through direct contacts between the DGMOs of India and Pakistan,” Jaiswal said.

Operation Sindoor was a military action launched by India in response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam. New Delhi blames Pakistan-based terrorist groups. The operation started on May 7 and concluded on May 10 after both sides agreed to halt military actions.

The US government, however, claimed in court that Trump’s use of trade incentives played a key role in easing tensions. US Secretary of Commerce Howard W. Lutnick, in a sworn declaration, defended the use of tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), a law that allows the president to impose economic restrictions during national emergencies, The Financial Express reported.

Lutnick argued that such tools can influence the actions of foreign governments and cited the India-Pakistan situation as an example. Lutnick stated that a ruling against the government in the tariffs case “would have ripple effects across every domain in which economic instruments are used for strategic effect,” adding that the Trump administration’s offer of trade access helped halt a “potentially devastating war” between India and Pakistan.

The legal filing is part of a broader case in which small businesses are challenging Trump’s tariff decisions, arguing that he exceeded his legal authority.

India has consistently maintained that there was no foreign mediation in the decision to halt Operation Sindoor. The government insists that the ceasefire understanding was reached through direct military-level communication between India and Pakistan.

This is not the first time the Trump administration has claimed credit for defusing tensions between the two South Asian neighbours. However, this is the first instance such a claim has appeared in an official US court filing, rather than a public statement or social media post. Indian officials have reiterated that New Delhi rejects any suggestion of external involvement in its military decisions or diplomacy with Pakistan. (ANI)

Day not far

The Defence Minister added that terrorism has lost its relevance as a geopolitical tool and that countries nurturing it now face international and internal consequences.

“Running the business of terrorism is not cost-effective. Pakistan has realised that it has to pay a heavy price for it,” he said.

Singh also clarified India’s position on future talks with Pakistan, saying, “Now, whenever there will be talks, it will only be on terrorism and PoK.”

He said India remains committed to the vision of “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat”, One India, Great India, and that PoK’s eventual return is part of that national aspiration.

According to him, the emotional, cultural, and historical links between the people of PoK and the rest of India cannot be erased by political borders.

Turning to India’s growing capabilities in defence, Singh said the country has transformed significantly over the last decade. India’s defence exports, which were below 1,000 crore ten years ago, have now crossed 23,500 crore.

He said this development reflects not only growing technological capacity but also a shift in India’s global image.

He said that ‘Operation Sindoor’ demonstrated India’s indigenous defence strength. “During Operation Sindoor, the country saw how our own systems performed on the ground. We destroyed terrorist hideouts, enemy airbases and military positions. We could have done more, but we showed a balance of power and restraint,” he said.

Singh said India is not only manufacturing traditional military equipment like fighter jets and missile systems but is also developing technologies for next-generation warfare. “We are preparing for next-generation warfare,” he added (KNO)

Centre Sanctions

BSF DG Daljit Singh Chawdhary too is expected to hold a review of border security and the yatra in Srinagar.

The 38-day yatra leads to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave housing a naturally formed ice-shivling.

The yatra is conducted via two routes – the traditional 48-km route from Pahalgam in the Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in the Ganderbal district. The pilgrims can choose any of these routes. (PTI)

CDS Gen Anil

special session on ‘Defence Innovation Solutions for Future Challenges’, reflecting India’s growing focus on military technology, indigenous capability development, and strategic foresight.

The presence of over 40 nations at the dialogue highlights the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific in global geopolitics. India’s participation, led by its top military commander, comes at a time of shifting power dynamics and emerging security threats across the region. (PIB)

Kashmir reports

visits, which can be managed in OPDs,” they said, adding that there is no need for panic.

Authorities continue to monitor the situation closely and have urged the public to follow safety protocols and stay alert. (KNO)

Weatherman predicts

places during 30-31 May, adding that there is also a possibility of landslides and mudslides at few vulnerable places.

Intense showers may generate flash floods at isolated places, the Advisory reads, appealing people to stay away from loose structures, electric poles, cables and trees etc.

Moreover, an independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng has said that Jammu and Kashmir

is expected to witness unstable weather conditions over the next 72 hours- until Saturday.

“Thundershowers are expected to affect most parts of the UT, with a stronger system expected to move in from Friday night into Saturday. Periods of intense showers, gusty winds, and isolated hailstorms may occur during this time,” Keng said.

He added that persistent cloud cover will likely keep daytime temperatures below seasonal averages.

Meanwhile, Keng said that intense showers may trigger landslides, shooting stones on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

“Cloudbursts and cloud to ground lightning strikes are possible,” he said, adding that the timings and intensity of showers will vary from area to area.

“Intense showers may trigger flash floods in a few spots,” he added. (KNO)

Centre notifies ESZ around Tral wildlife sanctuary

SRINAGAR : The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around Tral Wildlife sanctuary.

In a notification, the Union Ministry notified that an area to an extent of zero to 3.26 kilometers from the boundary of Tral Wildlife Sanctuary as its ESZ.

“The extent of the eco-sensitive zone around the Tral Wildlife Sanctuary ranges from 0 kilometer to 3.26 kilometer from its boundary, encompassing an area of 127.10 square kilometers, which includes 26 villages,” reads the notification.

Historically- parts of the protected area, namely Shikargah and Khangund, previously designated as Conservation Reserves- have the distinction of being among the oldest notified protected areas in the country. Their notification dates back to 1945, when they were governed by the game laws of the Maharajah of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.

In 2019, these conservation reserves, along with the adjoining areas comprising territorial forest compartments, were upgraded to a Wildlife Sanctuary.

The sanctuary came into existence on October 23, 2019 through a notification issued by J&K government.

The Tral Wildlife Sanctuary forms an important corridor for the movement of Hangul.

“The declaration of the eco-sensitive zone shall help in creating a buffer around the sanctuary area leading to a secure, suitable and viable habitat for the lastremnant Hangul population,” reads the notification

The Sanctuary is among the few areas outside Dachigam National Park where critically endangered Kashmiri Red Deer (Hangul), a Schedule I species as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and designated as ‘critically endangered’ in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red Data Book, still survives.

It is also home to other endemic species like Kashmir Musk Deer (Moschus cupreus) and Kashmir Gray Langur (Semnopithecus ajax).

Private ventures are key elements for economic growth, employment in Kashmir: Mir-waiz

SRINAGAR: Digestive health plays a critical role in maintaining overall well-being, according to doctors. They say digestive health has a close connection with the immune system, mental health and energy levels.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the doctors said that a balanced diet, proper hydration and limiting processed foods are essential for preserving gut health and promoting a healthier lifestyle.

Dr Tariq Ahmad, a gastroenterologist based in south Kashmir, said gut health goes beyond digestion and plays a pivotal role in immune function and emotional stability.

“Over 70% of the immune system resides in the gut, making it a key player in defending the body against infections,” he said.

He elaborated, “The gut is home to trillions of microorganisms that are essential for digesting food, producing vitamins, and protecting against pathogens. A disrupted gut microbiome can impair immunity, cause fatigue, and even affect mood and mental clarity.”

Dr Ruqaya Akhter, a psychiatrist, said there is a strong connection between the gut and the brain, often referred to as the “gut-brain axis”.

“Many neurotransmitters like serotonin, which influence mood and sleep, are produced in the gut. An unhealthy digestive system can contribute to anxiety, depression and cognitive issues,” she said.

Doctors recommend staying well-hydrated and avoiding ultra-processed foods high in sugars, preservatives, and artificial additives. These substances can disturb the delicate balance of gut flora, leading to inflammation and sluggish digestion.

“Artificial sweeteners, excessive fat intake, and lack of dietary fibre negatively impact gut bacteria. This can slow digestion and reduce nutrient absorption, directly affecting energy levels and vitality,” they added.

Incorporating more whole foods, fruits, vegetables and fermented items into the diet is encouraged to nourish beneficial gut bacteria, the health experts said, adding that regular physical activity and stress management are also vital components of digestive health.

Digestive health refers to the proper functioning of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, which includes the stomach, intestines, and associated organs. A well-functioning digestive system ensures the body absorbs essential nutrients and eliminates waste efficiently.

“Digestive health is not just about avoiding bloating or constipation,” doctors said. “It is deeply connected to immunity, mental health, energy, and even skin health. The gut houses nearly 70% of the immune system and a vast community of microorganisms known as the gut microbiome, which influences everything from mood to metabolism.”

According to data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), up to 30% of Indians suffer from some form of gastrointestinal disorder. While medications can help manage symptoms, prevention

through healthy lifestyle and dietary habits remains key. (KNO)

Operation Sindoor National Victory: IAF Chief

NEW DELHI: IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh on Thursday hailed Operation Sindoor as a “national victory”, and said all the Indian forces came together to execute it in a very professional manner.

In his address at the CII Business Summit here, he also said, “We were taking the path of truth, I think. God was with us also in this.” “This Operation Sindoor that we’ve been talking about, it’s a national victory. I thank each and every Indian. I am sure, every Indian wanted,....was looking towards this victory,” the IAF chief said.

“Like it has been said again and again that this was an operation that was executed in a very professional manner by everybody, all the agencies, all the forces, we all came together....and when truth is with you, then everything happens on its own,” he said.

Operation Sindoor was launched early May 7 in retaliation to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

All subsequent retaliations to Pakistani offensives were carried out under this operation. (UNI)

Historic first: Maiden batch of 17 female cadets graduates from NDA; Passing Out Parade on May 30

PUNE: Marking a historic moment for women in Indian armed forces, the first batch of 17 female cadets graduated from the National Defence Academy (NDA) here on Thursday and were conferred degrees along with more than 300 male cadets.

The convocation ceremony of 148th NDA course was held at the academy, widely known as the “cradle of leadership”, which provides officers to the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.

NDA Commandant Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh hailed the graduation of the maiden batch of female cadets and expressed hope that they will carve out names for themselves as exemplary leaders.

A total of 339 cadets, including the female cadets, were conferred degrees from the Delhi-based Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). Of them, 84 cadets were awarded with the BSc degree, 85 with Computer Science degree, 59 with Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree and 111 with BTech degree.

Prof Poonam Tandon, Vice Chancellor of the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, who was the chief guest at the event, said, “...I have been informed that over the decade, the NDA has produced more than 40,000 officers who went on to bring glory to India, both in times of war and in peace. They have carved an illustrious path, upheld the highest traditions of the law and service, and written chapters of courage in golden letters.” “Today, I had the privilege of conferring degrees upon the cadets of the 148th course and awarding deserving individuals with honours and trophies,” she said.

She congratulated all the cadets for achieving this significant milestone.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement bearing Consumer ID No: 0216010009169, which is Registered in the name of Mohmmad Syeed Shah, S/O Mohmad Sedieq Shah. Now i want to apply for change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Rafeeqa Begum,D/O Mohd Sultan Lone, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Rafeeqa Begum.
D/O Mohd Sultan Lone.
R/O Chuntimullah Bandipora,
jammu and kashmir.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the Name,DOB and Address of my Son has been Mistakenly Mentioned in his school records as Sharik Ahmad Bhat, DOB 10-05-2011, and Address Ward NO: 03 Bandipora, while as his Actual and correct Name, DOB and Address is Shakir Ahmad Bhat, DOB is 19-01-2010, and Address is Najibut Baramulla. 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 Govt BMS Branch School Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Irshad Ahmad Bhat.
F/O Shakir Ahmad Bhat.
R/O Najibut Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir.

“I hope that this foundation stone will pave the way for a glorious and fulfilling career. I am especially elated to learn that tomorrow marks the passing out of the first batch of female cadets from NDA. Girls, your achievement today is not just your own. It is a breakthrough for thousands of young women across India who look up to you. You are the torchbearers of change, courage, and capability,” Tandon said.

“You have proven that the pursuit of excellence and service knows no gender. Your presence here is historic, and your example will inspire generations to come. I salute your grit, grace, and determination,” she said.

Cadet Lucky Kumar secured the first position in the Science stream.

Battalion Cadet Captain Prince Kumar Singh Kushwah topped the Computer Science stream, while Division Cadet Captain Shreeti Daksh, one of the 17 female cadets, stood first in the Arts stream. Academy Cadet Captain Udayveer Singh Negi emerged as the topper in the BTech stream.

The Passing Out Parade (POP) of the 148th course will be held at the NDA on May 30.

In 2021, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) allowed women to apply to the defence academy following a Supreme Court direction.

Govt Doctor Heard In Audio Clip Telling Colleague To ‘Kill’ Covid-19 Patient; FIR Lodged

LATUR: Police have registered an FIR against a senior doctor of a government hospital in Maharashtra’s Latur district for allegedly instructing a colleague to “kill” a COVID-19 patient during the pandemic in 2021, officials said on Thursday. An audio clip recently surfaced on social media of the purported conversation between the accused, Dr Shashikant Deshpande, who was then additional district surgeon at the Udgir Government Hospital in Latur, and Dr Shashikant Dange, who was posted at a COVID-19 care centre. The clip, now widely circulated on social media, is purportedly of the time during the COVID-19 crisis peak in 2021 when hospitals were crowded with patients and resources were scarce. The patient, Kausar Fatima, wife of Dayami Ajimoddin Gaussouddin (53), had later recovered from the disease.

In the conversation, Dr Deshpande is allegedly heard saying: “Don’t allow anyone to go inside, just kill that Dayami woman.” To this, Dr Dange responds cautiously, noting that oxygen support had already been reduced. Based on a complaint by Gaussouddin, the Udgir city police registered a case against Deshpande on May 24 under legal provisions for deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings and other offences.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that the Name of my Son has been Mistakenly Mentioned in his school records as Haris Hussain Dar, while as his Actual and correct name as per Aadhaar Card and Domicile Certificate is Haris Ashiq Dar. 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 Aloosa District Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Ashiq Hussain Dar.
F/O Haris Ashiq Dar.
R/O Aloosa District Bandipora,
jammu and kashmir.

NOTICE

I am applying for Death certificate of my mother Namely Haseena at Muncipal council Sopore, so if anyone has objection in this regard, he/she may contact the concerned authority within 7 days from the publication of this notice . After that no objection shall be entertained

Umar Mohid Uddin
Teli S/O GH Mohi Uddin Teli
R/o Hanfia colony Sopore

NOTICE

This is to inform general public that my ward namely Seerat Iqbal is studying in Govt. Boys Middle School Humhama whose name, D.O.B and parentage is wrongly entered in the admission record of the school as Seerat D/O. Mohammad Iqbal Gojjar D.O.B. 10-10-2015. Therefore, its correction is to be done as per D.O.B certificate. The correct particulars are Seerat Iqbal Seerat Iqbal D/o. Mohd Iqbal Gojjar Khatana D.O.B 17-01-2014. In this regard if anybody having any objection may file the same to the Headmaster BMS Humhama within 7 days. No objection will be entertained after the said period.

Mohd Iqbal Gojjar Khatana
F/o. Seerat Iqbal
R/o. Arin Dard Pora Bandipora J&K

