

Kashmir Convener



Dharmendra Pradhan
Chairs Global Young
Scientists Conference at
IIT Hyderabad

P/02



Faith meets
conservation
in Mawphlang sacred
forest of Meghalaya

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Dr. Jitendra Singh Anchors
Global Blue Economy Vision
at UN Ocean Conference

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...Reservation Policy Review

CSC Report Ready For Cabinet Nod

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: The cabinet sub-committee (CSC) constituted by Omar Abdullah-led government to review the existing reservation policy has finalised its report, Minister for Social Welfare Sakina Masood Itoo said on Tuesday.

In a post on X, formerly twitter, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the minister, who is also head of the CSC, said that they have drafted the report and it will be placed before the cabinet. “The Cabinet Sub-Committee constituted to examine the issue of reservations has drafted its report within the stipulated timeframe of six months. The report will be placed before the Cabinet when it meets,” Itoo said. The minister made these claims a day after the panel completed its six-month time-frame. The six-month deadline for the committee came to



end on Monday.

The panel was formally constituted on December 10, 2024, almost 18 days after the cabinet approved its constitution.

The existing reservation policy, introduced during central rule in Jammu and Kashmir, has become a focal point of political discourse, with

candidates from the general category alleging that it disproportionately benefits reserved categories beyond their population share.

The issue also prominently featured in the 2024 Assembly election manifestos of all major political parties. The ruling

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**CSC report must
echo students' aspirations:
MP Aga Syed Ruhullah**

Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: While the Cabinet Sub-Committee, formed to examine grievances related to the Union Territory's revised reservation policy, has completed its report and is set to present it before the Cabinet in its upcoming meeting, member of Parliament from Srinagar and National Conference leader Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi has asserted that the recommendations must reflect the concerns raised by students.

Speaking exclusively to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Ruhullah—who has been at the forefront of the demand to roll back the revised reservation policy—said he is scheduled to meet with students on June 11 to discuss the issues leading up to the sub-committee's report.

“I expect what the students expect—that their demands, concerns, and grievances are addressed with

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PM Modi completes 11 years in office

“Happy to see people's resolve about making India stronger”

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Asserting that last 11 years of his government have marked significant changes in the defence sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that it's gladdening to see how the people of India have come together with the resolve of making India stronger.

PM Modi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) wrote on X: “The last 11 years have marked significant changes in our defence sector, with a clear focus on both modernisation and becoming self-reliant when it comes to defence production. It is gladdening to see how the people of India have come together with the resolve of making India stronger.”

PM Modi shared a thread from a government's citizen engagement platform, which highlighted the changes in different areas as the Prime Minister completed 11 years



in office on Tuesday.

The thread on the social media said, “In just 11 years under Modi's visionary leadership, India has revolutionised its defence capabilities, deepened strategic global partnerships, and achieved historic milestones in space exploration.”

“Guided by his (PM Modi's) resolve for ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’, the nation has embraced self-reliant innovation and expanded its influence in trade and

technology,” it added.

“India's Rise in 11 Years: Power, Partnerships, and Progress,” it said, putting out the government's initiatives and subsequent changes in different fields.

India's defence exports have soared to Rs 23,622 crore in 2024-25 from Rs 1,940 crore in 2014-15, the post said, noting the country also unveiled its first indigenous aircraft carrier

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India Ready To Strike Deep In Pak, If Provoked: EAM

KC News Network

BELGIUM: India would strike deep into Pakistan if provoked by terrorist attacks, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has warned, asserting that there will be retribution against the terrorist



outfits and their leaders in case of barbaric acts like the Pahalgam attack.

Jaishankar, who is travelling to Europe a month after India launched Operation Sindoor in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, also said that Pakistan was training “thousands” of terrorists “in the open” and “unleashing” them on India.

“We are not going to live with it. So our message to them is that if you continue to do the kind of barbaric acts which they did in April, then there is going to be retribution, and that retribution will be against the terrorist organisations and the terrorist leadership,” he told Politico on Monday.

“We don't care where they are. If they are deep in Pakistan, we will go deep into Pakistan,”

he added.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 which claimed 26 lives. India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on May 7.

The on-ground hostilities from the Indian and Pakistan sides that lasted for four days ended with an understanding of stopping the military actions following talks between the directors general of military operations of both sides on May 10. Jaishankar warned that the root causes of the conflict remain unchanged.

“It (Pakistan) is a country very steeped in its use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy. That is the whole issue,” he was quoted as saying by the Politico.

When asked if the conditions that led to the outbreak of war last month were still in place, he said: “If you call the commitment to terrorism a source of tension, absolutely, it is.” When asked about losses, Jaishankar said the relevant authorities would communicate on the matter when they were ready.

He said that India's fighter aircraft and missiles had inflicted far more extensive damage on the Pakistani Air Force than vice versa, forcing Pakistan to sue for peace.

“As far I'm concerned, how effective the Rafale was or frankly, how effective other systems were—to me the proof of the pudding are the destroyed and disabled airfields on the Pakistani side,” he said.

“The fighting stopped on the 10th for one reason and one reason only, which was that on the 10th morning, we hit these eight Pakistani, the main eight Pakistani airfields and disabled them,” he said, adding

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Govt constitutes committee for Earthquake Risk Reduction & Management for UT of J&K

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The government on Tuesday constituted a Committee for Earthquake Risk Reduction and Man-

agement for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, with Administrative Secretary, Disaster Management Relief Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Department as its chairperson.

The Administrative Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Committee; Srinagar Municipal Committee; Director, School Education, Jammu/Kashmir; Director, Rural Development, Jammu/Kashmir;

Dr. O P Mishra, Director National Centre for Seismology; Prof. Bikram Singh Bali, HoD School of Earth Sciences, University of Kashmir; Prof. G M Bhat, Department of Geology (Retd.); Deputy Secretary to the Government, Disaster Management Relief Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Department; Dr. Ajay Chaurasia, Chief Scientist & Professor CBRI; Dr. Rakesh Chandra, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of

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Locals Are the Real Guardians of Amarnath Yatra: Mehbooba



KC News Network

PAHALGAM: In a bid to revive tourism and restore communal harmony in Kashmir, former Chief Minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday held a key interaction with stakeholders in the scenic resort town of Pahalgam.

Speaking to hoteliers, ponywalas, and workers along the Amarnath Yatra route, Mehbooba Mufti underscored the critical role of locals in facilitating the annual pilgrimage. “The Army may provide security, but it is the people of Pahalgam who are the true protectors of the Yatra. They've

braved storms and snowfall for years to support pilgrims. That spirit must be revived,” she said in an interview with KNS.

Calling the Yatra a living symbol of Kashmir's age-old communal harmony, she praised the role Kashmiri Muslims have played in assisting Hindu pilgrims throughout history.

In a sharp critique of the current political leadership, Mufti questioned the effectiveness of the National Conference

-led alliance. “What is the use of 50 MLAs and 3 Members of Parliament if they can't address the problems of the people? All they do is issue statements—something we too do when in opposition,” she said, in a clear reference to Omar Abdullah's party.

Mehbooba appealed to the people of Pahalgam to continue their tradition of hospitality, make proper arrangements for pilgrims, and help restore confidence in Kashmir's tourism sector. “Let's work together to heal past wounds and rebuild the social fabric that once united communities,” she urged. Describing Pahalgam as her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's favorite destination, she concluded on a hopeful

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Airline Body Seeks User Charges Waiver At Srinagar Airport

KC News Network

MUMBAI: Airline industry body FIA has sought waivers on user development fee and aviation security fee for a year at Srinagar Airport to boost air travel demand to and from Kashmir, which has taken a hit in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack.

The Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), which has Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet also said that financial incentives play an important role in rebuilding traffic apart from other safety and security measures, which the government is already taking.

Currently every departing passenger shells out Rs 1,050 as UDF and Rs 200 as Aviation ASF plus GST, as per FIA.

Seeking the support required to boost air travel demand at Srinagar airport, FIA said, “

May we request, if the government can waive both UDF and ASF for every departing passenger from Srinagar airport for a period of one year with immediate effect. It will boost air travel demand to and from Srinagar airport.” Airlines in India, have been playing a key role in connecting India and in nation building with its high economic and employment multiplier. Airlines have played a vital role in substantial growth of tourism in the Kashmir region over years, it said.

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Farooq Gets Emotional After Boarding Vande Bharat Train

KC News Network

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday took his maiden ride in the recently inaugurated Vande Bharat train from Srinagar to Katra township and said he was overwhelmed to see Kashmir finally getting connected to the country's rail network.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said he hopes the intended Amarnath pilgrims will use the train and come in large numbers to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine.

The annual yatra is scheduled to commence in the Kashmir Himalayas on July 3. On June 6, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off two Vande Bharat trains from Katra to Srinagar and Srinagar to Katra, marking the completion of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country.

Abdullah, wearing a round sun-visor hat, boarded the train at Nowgam Railway Station in Srinagar this morning and was received by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and Jammu NC president, Rattan Lal Gupta, in Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine.

“My heart is overwhelmed and my eyes filled with tears on seeing Kashmir finally getting connected with the country's rail network. I congratulate the

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Heatwave grips J&K as temp settles above normal

Sgr seethes at 33.5°C

Yogesh

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir is reeling under an intense heatwave, with temperatures soaring significantly above normal, the Meteorological data revealed on Tuesday.

The blistering conditions have disrupted daily life, prompting authorities to issue advisories for residents to stay hydrated and avoid direct sun exposure.

As per officials, the record-breaking temperatures were recorded across Jammu region, with maximum temperatures in key areas of the region highlighting the severity of the heat wave.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Jammu recorded the hottest day of the season 44.4°C, which is 5.6°C above normal, while



Banihal recorded 33.6°C, which is 5.2°C above normal.

Similarly, Batote recorded 33.3°C, which is 5.5°C above normal. Bhaderwah's maximum temperature settled at 33.4°C, which was 3.6°C above normal, and Katra recorded at 40.6°C, which was 4.9°C above normal.

Moreover, Kashmir division also witnessed the above normal

temperature on Tuesday with Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recording 33.5°C, which was 5.5°C above normal. Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded 7.3°C above normal temperatures, while Pahalgam's maximum temperature settled at 29.2°C.

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Op Sindoor is proof govt transformed India's security apparatus: Rajnath Singh

KC News Network

DEHRADUN (UTTARAKHAND): Stressing that Rs 1.75 lakh crore defence production & Rs 30,000 crore defence exports targets are set for this year, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Tuesday, emphasised that in the last 11 years, the Government has transformed India's security apparatus by changing the attitude towards every issue related to national security.

Addressing a dialogue on the topic ‘National Security & Terrorism’, organised in Dehradun, Uttarakhand today, Singh said, “In the last 11 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government has transformed India's security apparatus by changing the attitude and the way of action towards every issue related to national security, and the world witnessed this shift during Operation Sindoor.”

He described Operation Sindoor as the biggest action taken against terrorism in Indian history, which was carried out in response to the cowardly terror attack on innocent people in Pahalgam.

“Following the abrogation of Article 370, J-K heralded into the era of peace and progress. Our neighbours could not tolerate this and executed the terror attack in Pahalgam. Despite Pakistan's best



efforts, it has not been able to stop development in Kashmir. Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway link is a shining example of the Government's relentless pursuit of progress in J&K. Soon, PoK will join us and say ‘I, too, am Bharat.’” Rajnath Singh asserted.

Rajnath Singh asserted that while the Indian Armed Forces have given a befitting reply to terrorists, it is imperative to prevent terror incidents such as the one in Pahalgam

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Faith meets conservation in Mawphlang sacred forest of Meghalaya

Khasi tribals believe their deity Labasa will punish those who try to remove anything from the grove

Sayantani Deb

SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA: Twenty-five km from Meghalaya's capital city Shillong lies the pristine forest of Hima Mawphlang (Kingdom of Mawphlang), where over 450 species of trees, herbs and wildlife, including clouded leopard, monkeys, deer and frogs of the genus Rana, thrive. This is no ordinary forest, but a sacred grove, where belief and conservation go hand in hand.

Labasa, the deity that governs the law-kyntang (the Khasi equivalent of sacred grove), can both protect and punish. Take a twig or pluck a leaf, and you are inviting the deity's wrath and bad luck. This belief in itself has thrown a ring of protection around the nearly 800-year-old forest spread across 193 acres.

Located in East Khasi Hills district, the forest belongs to the native Khasi tribe, an indigenous ethnic group found in the Northeast. Its residents still identify themselves with the ancient Kingdom of Mawphlang and even now have a king elected democratically. The present king belongs to the Lyngdoh clan.

The Office of Hima Mawphlang decides on all matters related to the sacred grove. The responsibility to protect it lies with the men of 12 clans — Lyngdoh, Blah, Kharshiing, Kharsohliya, Kharhunai, Kharnarbi, Kharsahkar, Kharmawphlang, Kharmaram, Kharlangnuih, Kharphyrnap and Kharkalong — living in villages in the vicinity.

The forest is divided into three parts: phiephandi, the central portion where all rituals take place; Laitytkhang located near the hamlet; law nongkyrnih, an extension opposite the main forest. Though an ecotourism hotspot, tourist entry is restricted to only certain portions of the forest.

Appeasing the deity is of utmost importance to Philarihun Lyngdoh (28), a local guide. Every morning, upon reaching the forest entry point, she chants in Khasi seeking permission and protection. She also pleads forgiveness, if she has wronged unknowingly.

Since time immemorial, villagers have been performing ritualistic worship of the forest deity in

the presence of an important elder or the King, before taking any major community decisions, before a major event, or during disease outbreaks. Such events used to happen inside the sacred forest, before it was shifted to a nearby hill.

Bulls were sacrificed in the last known ritual held inside the forest during a massive famine in 1959. Nowadays, only hens and roosters are sacrificed in an annual ritual held before the monoliths that dot the landscape, which also serve as route markers.

It is believed that the deity used to appear as a clouded leopard or a snake when the elders sought permission during the sacrificial ritual, standing in front of the monoliths.

"Leopards and snakes are highly regarded here. Leopard will come to the rescue in times of danger, while the snake is a mediator that shows up when something is wrong," noted ecologist Tambor Lyngdoh told 101Reporters.

Sharing some anecdotes on grove desecration, Tambor said stories about those who were punished by turning their heads backwards (shah khyrwait basa) still do the rounds in the region.

"In the 1970s, some Army personnel from Shillong went to Mawphlang to gather wood from the grove. When loaded in trucks, the engines did not start. While checking the truck's condition, the drivers began to feel uneasy and weak. Soon, they returned to the headquarters empty-handed."

"The next morning, the brigadier reached Mawphlang on inspection and met the chief of the clan, who suggested unloading of wood in the grove itself. Once his advice was heeded, the engines miraculously started functioning again."

In the distant past, the people of Mawphlang were mostly dependent on the forest for basic essentials. Even before there was a religious system, people believed in one god: Mother Nature. This practice continues even today. Residents believe that in the sacred grove resides the wisdom of their forefathers and a way to carry forward their heritage and establish a legacy.



82-year-old Banis Kharshiing (left) in a traditional house in Mawphlang and the local guide Philarihun Lyngdoh (right) in the forest



Memorable monolith at the hilltop

"Nature is given the highest regard in our community. Before starting anything auspicious, we pray to nature. We know we cannot survive without nature. No one is allowed to collect even firewood from the forest. We grow everything we need, including vegetables, fruits and trees for firewood, in our farmlands," Tambor elaborated.

Philarihun said every household in this place used the water from the forest springs for cooking and drinking purposes as "we think its sacred quality can cure health problems."

There are certain taboos linked to the sacred grove that the society here follows without fail. Women in Mawphlang cannot directly participate in the rituals, though the society is matrilineal in nature. Even the dorbar council meetings have only men above 18 years of age in attendance.

However, Tambor claimed that everyone, from a young child to an elderly person, was responsible for protecting the grove. Iemonleng Kharshiing, a

school teacher, said this responsibility is imbibed into the minds of residents at a young age both through education and environment-themed competitions.

Mawphlang village consists of five sub-villages — Nogrum Mawphlang, Dongiewrim Mawphlang, Mawkohmom Mawphlang, Mission Mawphlang and Lad-Umisain Mawphlang. In all, there are 800 households, where agriculture was once the primary occupation. The area saw a shift towards ecotourism when Tambor, in his role as the secretary of the Office of Hima Mawphlang, introduced ecotourism to the area in 1996.

Tourist influx has since opened up new avenues of income for the local youth. Most of them now earn around Rs 20,000 per month. For instance, John Starfield, who used to work as a tourist guide, has recently opened his own homestay on the forest outskirts of Nogrum.

"This sacred forest is everything to me. As a guide, I got the opportunity to meet new people and learn new things. Most importantly, I see it as a way to

showcase our rich Khasi culture and tradition in front of the world," shared Starfield. Philarihun echoed him when she said, "Many youth shift to metro cities for better opportunities. But for me, this forest is heaven."

A set of rules is in place to manage guesthouses in the area. For building homestays, permission from the village headman is necessary. Tourists should not roam around the village late in the night, or visit houses in the locality without the headman's permission.

"Conservation is not a one-person's job. Therefore, the village panchayat actively works with the Office of Lyngdoh. An annual or half-yearly general public meeting is held, where attendance of at least one person from every household is mandatory. Executive committee meetings are held frequently," said Auspicious I. Mawphlang, the headman of Nogrum.

Taking note of the ecotourism activities in the area, Meghalaya Tourism has proposed to develop the David Scott Trail, a 16-km-long trekking route that starts near the sacred grove in Mawphlang.

"We plan to start a tourist information centre and ticketing counter here. Cafes, rain shelters, washrooms for travellers and signages along the trail are all part of the plan, proposed to be funded under the Meghalaya Ecotourism Infrastructure Development," CVD Diengdoh, Director of Tourism, Government of Meghalaya, told 101Reporters. He added that the government has no role in the maintenance and development of the sacred forest as "it is completely owned by the kingdom."

Diengdoh informed that the Meghalaya government has implemented the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme to push tourism-driven entrepreneurship. Under this, young entrepreneurs can claim a subsidy of up to Rs 7 lakh for a project worth Rs 10 lakh.

Mawphlang's love for nature has set an example for the rest of Meghalaya, with Umket and Mawtneng in Ri Bhoi district and Baghmara in South Garo Hills following suit. (Photo- Nayanijyoti Medhi; 101Reporters/ This News article is a part of 101Reporters' series The Promise Of Commons.)

Dr. Jitendra Singh Anchors Global Blue Economy Vision at UN Ocean Conference

PIB News

NEW DELHI: India called for urgent global action on ocean health at the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, with Union Minister of Earth Sciences (Independent Charge), Dr. Jitendra Singh pushing for global ocean pact and unveiling major strides in deep-sea exploration, marine plastic clean-up, and sustainable fisheries.

Representing India, Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted progress on the Deep Ocean Mission's upcoming manned submersible, a nationwide single-use plastic ban, and over \$80 billion worth of Blue Economy projects. India also backed the swift ratification of the BBNJ Agreement, advocated for a legally binding Global Plastics Treaty, and launched the 'SAHAV' digital ocean data portal, underscoring its growing leadership in global marine governance.

According to a statement issued by Press Information Bureau, an official spokesperson said while addressing the

conference, which is co-hosted by France and Costa Rica under the theme "Accelerating Action and Mobilizing All Actors to Conserve and Sustainably Use the Ocean," Dr. Jitendra Singh reaffirmed India's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water.

He outlined how India's initiatives are aimed at reversing ocean degradation through science, innovation, and inclusive partnerships.

A key highlight was the progress on the Deep Ocean Mission's 'Samudrayaan' project, which is expected to deploy India's first manned submersible by 2026. The project aims to explore ocean depths up to 6,000 meters and is seen as a major leap in India's scientific capability.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also spoke of expanding India's Marine Protected Areas, which now cover 6.6% of the Exclusive Economic Zone, contributing to global biodiversity goals.

On marine pollution, the Minister pointed to tangible outcomes from the Swachh Sagr,



Surakshit Sagr' campaign, which has cleaned over 1,000 km of India's coastline and removed more than 50,000 tonnes of plastic waste since 2022. The draft marine litter policy has been prepared, and India continues to support negotiations on a Global Plastics Treaty aimed at a legally binding international framework.

India's Blue Economy efforts, led by the Sagarmala Programme and the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), were also showcased. Over 600 port-led infrastructure projects worth \$80 billion have been operationalized, and investments of \$2.5 billion

have gone into modernizing the fisheries sector. The government reported a 10% rise in fish production and the creation of over 1,000 fish farmer producer organizations since the last UN Ocean Conference in 2022.

Emphasizing climate resilience, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted the restoration of over 10,000 hectares of mangroves and the implementation of shoreline management plans using nature-based solutions. India has also integrated ocean-based climate actions into its Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

India's growing role in global ocean governance was evident through its co-leadership in 'Blue Talks' with France and Costa Rica, and its active participation in high-level events such as the India-Norway side session on Marine Spatial Planning. The launch of the 'SAHAV' portal during the conference further adds to its credentials in promoting transparent, science-based ocean management.

Calling for a robust 'Nice Ocean Action Plan', Dr. Jitendra Singh urged the international community to invest in innovation, ratify the BBNJ Agreement, and finalize the plastics treaty. "The ocean is our shared heritage and responsibility," he said, expressing India's readiness to work with all stakeholders—governments, private sector, civil society, and indigenous communities—to ensure a sustainable ocean future.

The Indian delegation's participation at UNOC3 signals a clear message: India is positioning itself not just as a coastal nation but as a proactive player in shaping global ocean policy. (PIB)

Dharmendra Pradhan Chairs Global Young Scientists Conference at IIT Hyderabad

PIB News

HYDERABAD: Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan chaired the Global Young Scientists Conference and the Annual General

Meeting of the Global Young Academy (GYA) at IIT Hyderabad on Tuesday.

According to a statement issued by Press Information Bureau (PIB) the event, hosted for the first time in India, brought together over 200 delegates from 60 countries and India, reaffirming India's growing global leadership in science diplomacy and innovation.

Congratulating the 30 new members inducted into the GYA during the event, Shri Pradhan praised the platform as more than a mere congregation of scientists, describing it as a forum of shared hope, purpose, and a collective future.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER—CHANDANWARI TEHSIL BONIYAR, DISTRICT BARAMULLA, PO MOHURA – 193122 Extension Of Auction Notice

This Office has published a auction notice for of fire gutted Five Roomed School Building BMS Bagna in Village Bagna Tehsil Boniyar falling under the jurisdiction of Educational Zone Chandanwari, District Baramulla which was earlier scheduled to be auctioned on 31st of May 2025 at 11:00 A.M which was extended and rescheduled on 12/06/2025 due to administrative reasons. The auction detail of the same was published on the daily Leading newspapers, Kashmir Horizon, JK Newspoint, Roya-i-Insaf Dated 23/05/2025.

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that due to administrative reasons, the auction under Auction Order No: ZEOC/2025/521 dated: 07/05/2025, which was earlier rescheduled to be held on 12/06/2025, has been extended.

New Auction Date: 18/06/2025

Time: 11:00 AM

Venue: BMS Bagna, Village Bagna, Tehsil Boniyar, District Baramulla

All other terms and conditions of the auction shall remain the same. Interested bidders are requested to take note of the revised schedule and participate accordingly.

NO: ZEOC/2025/538

Dated: 10/06/2025

**Sd/-
Zonal Education Officer
Chandanwari**

DIPK-2367/25

Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION LOLAB

Sh. Mohd Sadiq Ganie
S/o. Mam Din Ganie

NO: EEL/787
Dated: 04.06.2025

R/O. Dilberabad Kalaroch.

FINAL NOTICE

Subject: - Immediate dismantling of damaged bridge at Khumriyal.

In continuation to Executive Engineer R&B Division Lolab's final notice served to you under No. EEL/726-28 Dated. 29.05.2025 where under you were directed to complete the work within two days but despite considerable time period you have failed to resume the said work till date.

Action as per SBD clause of contract/agreement shall be initiated against you and work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk and cost which may please be noted.

1. You will be held personally responsible for any untoward incident that may occur at the site.

2. Strict punitive action under contract rules shall be initiated without further notice, including but not limited to.

a. Blacklisting of registration card.

b. Forfeiture of security deposit.

c. Debar from participating in tendering process for a period of 02 years i.e 2025-26 and 2026-27 which may be noted.

Dated: 10/06/2025

**Sd/-Executive Engineer
R&B Division Lolab**

DIPK-2357/25

Celebrities, Influencers Come forward to Promote International Day of Yoga 2025

PIB News

NEW DELHI: As the International Day of Yoga- 2025 (IDY-2025) approaches, familiar faces from film, music, and public service are joining the momentum, reinforcing yoga's place in everyday life. What began as a national observance has grown into a people's movement, and now, celebrated names from across the country are becoming a part of it.

Former Governor of Puducherry and Retired IPS Officer, Dr. Kiran Bedi also expressed support, stating, "Yoga is another word for self-care and social care." These messages, rooted in authenticity and lived experience, are motivating youngsters to rediscover India's rich wellness traditions.

Eminent actor Anupam Kher shared a video message encouraging everyone to "Celebrate Yoga".

Veteran actor Anil Kapoor took to the social media platform 'X' to share his thoughts, saying, "Yoga inspires, heals, and unites. Let's embrace a healthier today and tomorrow through the spirit of Yoga Mahotsav."

Wrestler and motivational speaker Sangram Singh added, "Yoga means union — the connection of the soul with the Supreme. It aligns us with nature and bridges the gap between our physical and inner selves. By integrating body, mind, and spirit, yoga helps us stay free from stress, anxiety, and depression."

Cultural luminaries also lent their voices wherein Kailash Kher reflected, "Among the many transformations in India, the world has acknowledged and embraced the timeless gift of Yoga," while globally renowned classical dancer Sonal Mansingh noted, "Yoga has been a path to deep insight and spiritual elevation throughout my life's journey."

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

M/S Mr. Delawar Mir
S/o. Mohd Khalil Mir
R/o. Madmadov Kalarooch

NO: EEL/720-25
Dated: 29.05.2025

(FINAL NOTICE)

Subject:- Upgradation of Lastiyal Madmadave road and construction of road from Lastiyal Potpora to shalyn including road from Lastiyal Jamia Masjid to Malipora and Madmadave Randora and construction of link road from Masjid Shareef wani Mohalla to GPS Madmadave.

i.	Whereas the above noted work stands allotted to you vide Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Kupwara's Allotment No. 6351-54 dated. 16.09.2023.
ii.	Whereas date of start of work was reckoned from 16.09.2023 and the work was to be completed in 45 days.
iii.	Whereas various notices for resumption of work were served to you vide Assistant Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Machil vide his letter NO: SD-MCL-92 dt. 07.03.2024
iv.	Whereas notice for resumption of work were served to you vide Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Lolab letter NO: 1750-51 Dated. 11.03.2024 and final notice served to you vide this office No. EEL/578-82 Dated. 11.06.2024
v.	Whereas once again Assistant Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Machil served to you a notice vide his NO. SD-MCL-425 dated. 27.05.2025 to resume this work without any further delay within two days. Failure to do so will result in severe penalties, including potential termination of contract
vi.	Whereas you have wasted the time of the department and this clearly shows you are not interested in the execution of the work.
vii.	Whereas the work is approved under UT Sector and higher ups are pressing hard for the completion of the work.
viii.	Keeping in view the above facts you are finally notified through print media to complete the work within 03 days from the date of issuance of this notice failing which the balance work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk and cost besides other penal action as per the conditions of the contract.
ix.	In case of failure, the action will be initiated against your firm as per the relevant SBD Clause and your registration card will be recommended for black listing and you are also debarred from participating in tendering process for a period of 02 years.

Dated: 10/06/2025

**SD/- Executive Engineer
R&B Division Lolab**

DIPK-2358/25

DSEK Proposes, CEO Bandipora Disposes

Teachers Defy DSEK’s Transfer Order; CEO Accused of Providing Cover

ReT staff used as stopgaps while GLTs refuse to comply with official postings

CONVENER NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA: The Chief Education Officer (CEO) Bandipora has come under fire yet again for allegedly defying transfer orders issued under the Directorate of School Education Kashmir's (DSEK) Annual Transfer Drive (ATD), leaving several remote schools—especially in Gurez and Bandipora zone—critically understaffed.

According to official data, About 27 teachers were transferred to remote zones, including Gurez, under the ATD order dated May 26, 2025. However, only 2 to 3 teachers have reportedly joined their new postings. The remaining teachers—many believed to be enjoying political or bureaucratic patronage—have stayed back at their preferred schools with impunity, despite clear orders.

While those transferred from far-flung areas to more accessible locations were quick to assume their new roles, those posted in reverse—especially to tribal belts—have largely resisted. Zonal Education Offices and the CEO Bandipora have failed to enforce the transfer directives,

effectively defeating the purpose of the ATD initiative by DSEK Dr GN Itoo, aimed at rationalizing staffing and ensuring equitable education delivery across the district.



A glaring example includes a teacher transferred a mere five kilometers from Higher Secondary School Nadihal to Middle School Kudara.

Despite a relieving order being issued, the same was inexplicably put in abeyance within a day. CEO Office have since been scrambling to find a substitute for the Kudara posting instead of enforcing the original order.

In another incident, a Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT)

teacher was forcibly asked to join MS Kudara as a stopgap measure. The teacher resisted, stating, “Why should I go there when the teacher officially posted under ATD is refusing to join? I’m not responsible for covering someone else’s transfer obligations.” His attendance was subsequently restored at his original post, further exposing the CEOs lack of writ over the department.

Same is the case with teachers who were transferred from BMS Gurdal to HSS Bdugaam Tulail, from GHS Nadihal to HSS Purana Tulail, BMS Gamroo to HS Kudara, from HS plan to HS kanzalwan, from BMS lankreshipora to MS Checkbahar, from GMS Watrina to HS Buduaab, from GMS Sogamiwudar to BMS Dawar, from BMS Nathpora to GMS Badwan, from Gps Panzigam to GHS wanpora but have not joined the new places of postings. However CEO Office, instead of Implementing Director’s Orders are in search of scapegoats to fill the gaps.

Teachers allege that “blue-eyed” staff within the CEO office, who were themselves subject to

transfer under ATD, have refused to comply with the DSEK’s directives and are being protected. In what many see as a diversion tactic, the CEO office on June 1 circulated a Google Sheet to schools seeking details of General Line teachers’ tenures—presumably to identify replacements under the guise of rationalization.

On June 11, CEO Bandipora is scheduled to hold a meeting at Government High School Bagh to discuss staff rationalization on the instructions of the Joint Director of School Education (North). Teachers fear this will be another move to quietly fill vacancies created by ATD defiance, thereby “hoodwinking” the higher authorities.

“ATD was meant to ensure justice and equity, particularly for underserved zones like Gurez. But it’s being manipulated to shield those with influence,” said a senior teacher. “This selective compliance is deeply demoralizing.”

When Kashmir Convener takes up the matter with CEO Bandipora, he said it is not a reality. However when Kashmir Convener rebutted with the list of Teachers who have not joined new postings, CEO Bandipora refused to respond.

Road Woes Deepen Across Kashmir, No Sign of Macadamisation Work Yet

SRINAGAR: With summer already underway, locals across the Kashmir Valley are expressing growing anger and frustration over the dismal condition of roads, as the government fails to kickstart the annual macadamisation and repair work traditionally carried out during this season.

From Kupwara to Anantnag and Bandipora to Pulwama, people in almost every district are complaining about potholed roads, dusty stretches, and broken pavements, with no machinery or road crews in sight.

“This is the season when we used to see blacktopping work in full swing. But this year, it’s all silence. Not a single patch has been repaired,” said Ghulam Nabi, a shopkeeper from Baramulla. “We have just four workable months left, and still, no action.”

In Budgam, commuters say the roads have become nearly undrivable, resembling craters more than highways. “We are not driving on roads anymore. These are ditches stitched together,” a teacher told the news agency Kashmir News Trust. “Even ambulances struggle to pass through. Is this the development we were promised?”

Locals blame the administration for turning a blind eye to basic infrastructure needs. “It seems the authorities are in deep slumber. Every year they claim macadamisation will be done in time, and every year the promises vanish into thin air.”

In Srinagar’s outskirts and peripheral areas, the situation is equally grim. Roads that were damaged during the winter remain untouched, with no signs of tendering, labor, or machinery.

People have been demanding immediate intervention from higher authorities and transparency regarding the delay in the annual road restoration process. [KNT]



Bandipora Admin Gears Up for Intensive DAJGUA Implementation in Tribal Villages

CONVENER NEWS DESK

Bandipora: The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, today held a press conference to brief media and the general public about the implementation of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) in the district.



The Deputy Commissioner informed that the initiative aims to ensure saturation of government schemes across 31 tribal villages in the district. He detailed how the administration is working to bridge developmental gaps through

coordinated efforts of all departments.

On the occasion, the DC highlighted the upcoming 15-day awareness campaign (June 15–30) that will educate tribal communities about various welfare schemes. The campaign will be formally launched on June 15 at Higher Secondary School Aragam, where all concerned officers will participate and ensure empowerment of tribal communities through this ambitious program.

The DC also shared details of various events scheduled from June 15 to June 30 under the campaign, aimed at raising awareness among tribal populations so they can avail themselves of maximum benefits from government welfare schemes.

Senior officers including Chief Planning Officer Bandipora Mohammed Maqbool Lone and District Information Officer Bandipora Adil Manzoor Wani were present during the press conference.

DC Bandipora Calls for Proactive Steps For Tribal Development

CONVENER NEWS DESK

Bandipora : To review the progress under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri Friday convened a review meeting on Monday here in the VC Room, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.



According to an official spokesperson, the meeting focused on the implementation status, preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), and conducting gap analysis in 31 notified tribal villages of the district.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the need for timely and result-oriented actions to ensure that the objectives of the Abhiyan are met effectively.

During the meeting, the DDC emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination for addressing developmental gaps in tribal villages. He urged the concerned officers to ensure accurate data collection and proactive planning for the preparation of village-specific DPRs.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC assured that the district administration is committed to upliftment and inclusive development of tribal communities through focused initiatives under the DAJGUA framework.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Bandipora Shabir Ahmad wani; Chief Planning Officer Bandipora Mohammed Maqbool Lone;

District Programme Officer Bandipora, Chief Medical Officer, Assistant Director CAPD, and Executive Engineers from R&B, PHE, PDD, and PMGSY Bandipora.

Court Slams Delay in Appointment of Advocate General, Stays Takeover of Reasi Temple

Srinagar, June 10, KNT: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has expressed serious concern over the prolonged vacancy in the post of Advocate General for the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh, observing that the absence of this statutory position has rendered a key legal provision ineffective.

Justice Rahul Bharti, while hearing a petition filed by the Nav Durga Jhaleri Mata Trust, questioned how long the UTs could function without an Advocate General. The post has remained unfilled since October 2024 after former Advocate General DC Raina stepped down following the formation of the National Conference-led government. Reports suggest the delay stems from a standoff between the Lieutenant Governor’s office and the new administration headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The court emphasized that in the absence of an Advocate General, Section 92 of the Code of Civil Procedure,

which enables civil suits for the better management of religious and charitable trusts, has become defunct.



“The office of Advocate General is in vacancy... leaving a live provision a dead letter of law,” Justice Bharti observed.

The remarks came during proceedings in a case where the temple trust challenged the administration’s decision to hand over management of the Nav Durga Jhaleri Mata Shrine in Reasi to the Shiv Khori Shrine Board. The government’s move was made pending the enactment of a law to

govern religious institutions in the Union Territory.

The Court stayed the transfer of control and appointed the CEO of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board as interim administrator of the shrine. It directed that all offerings and donations be collected and accounted for by the CEO, with no expenditures allowed without the Court’s approval.

Justice Bharti held that the case raised significant constitutional concerns over executive overreach in the absence of enabling legislation, and called on the J&K government to update the court on the status of Advocate General’s appointment. The matter has been listed for the next hearing on July 16.

Advocate GS Thakur represented the petitioner trust, while Senior Additional Advocate General Monika Kohli, and Advocates Aseem Kumar Sawhney and Mohd Kashif Malik appeared for the government. [KNT]

'Airlines Exploit People When Roads Close, Train Will End That': Farooq Abdullah

Srinagar, June 10, KNT: National Conference (NC) President Dr Farooq Abdullah expressed

I feel fortunate to be traveling on it myself,” he said. The former Chief Minister un-

ference to our growers who suffer losses because of delays in transport,” he remarked.



delight over the newly-inaugurated train service to Kashmir, describing it as a significant step that will ease the lives of locals, improve connectivity, and boost multiple sectors, including tourism and horticulture.

Speaking to reporters before boarding the inaugural train to Katra, Abdullah, flanked by senior party leaders, said the launch of this train service marks a transformative moment for the Valley. “Today is a big day for us. This rail connection will provide immense relief to the people, and

derlined the challenges faced by residents due to the frequent closures of the Jammu-Srinagar highway. “Whenever the highway gets blocked due to weather or landslides, airfares shoot up and become unaffordable for common people. This train will end that exploitation,” he noted.

Highlighting its economic potential, Dr Abdullah said the rail route would help Kashmiri horticulturists by ensuring quicker transportation of fruits and other perishable items to outside markets. “This will make a huge dif-

He also pointed out that tourists would greatly benefit from the improved accessibility to the Valley. “With faster, cheaper, and safer travel now possible, more people will be encouraged to visit Kashmir,” he added.

Farooq Abdullah’s remarks came as he joined the first official journey of the train, which was recently flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, connecting Kashmir to the rest of the country through the railway network for the first time. [KNT]

Sagar asks party cadre to prepare for ULB, Panchayat Polls

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir National Conference General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, today asked party office bearers and key functionaries to intensify efforts in preparation for the upcoming Urban Local Bodies (ULB) and Panchayat elections.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, Spokesperson said while addressing the meeting, Sagar urged the party workers to stay connected to the public, reinforcing their role as a vital bridge between the people, the administration, and the leadership. “You are the eyes, ears, and voice of the party on the ground. It is imperative that we stay engaged with the pulse of the people,” Sagar emphasized.

Highlighting the urgency of organizational preparedness, he instructed the party workers to immediately shift into campaign mode. “These elections are more than just contests; they are opportunities to reaffirm our commitment to public service and democratic values,” he said.

Prominent leaders present at the meeting included Provincial President Showkat Mir, Provincial Secretary Syed Tawqeer Ahmad, District President Peer Afaq Ahmad, JZ Azad, among others. The meeting concluded with a renewed pledge to bolster the party structure at all levels and mobilize public support in the lead-up to the polls.

J&K Students Association Demands Immediate Release of Reservation Report

CONVENER NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association on Tuesday issued a strong appeal to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Education Minister Sakina Itoo, demanding that the Cabinet Subcommittee’s report on the rationalization of reservations be made public without further delay.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, the Association’s National Spokesperson Farhat Riyaz criticized the government’s continued inaction, saying, “The lack of fixed timelines for the Cabinet meeting raises serious concerns about the government’s intent. The ‘tareekh pe tareekh’ approach has now become the hallmark of this administration.”

Calling for an emergency Cabinet meeting to discuss the report and implement its recommendations, Riyaz warned that the delay was causing distress among thousands of students. “The ongoing uncertainty is jeopardizing student futures and creating widespread anxiety,” she said. “The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve clarity and commitment, not vague assurances.”

Echoing the same sentiment, Association Media Coordinator Krishna Sapru pointed out that the government had initially promised to resolve the issue within six months. “That timeline has expired, and yet we see no transparency, no accountability, and no public disclosure of the report,” he said.

“Job notifications are being issued daily, but without clarity on reservation rationalization—especially affecting the general category—students are left in limbo,” Sapru said, accusing the government of using “backdoor cabinet meetings” as an excuse to delay.

He further added, “The Cabinet meeting should have coincided with the six-month deadline. Instead, it feels like a deliberate stalling tactic. We ask: What is the government hiding? Why the secrecy? The youth of J&K deserve better, and their future cannot be bartered away for bureaucratic convenience.”

The Association has called for immediate action and complete transparency, asserting that students will not remain silent. “We will continue to raise our voice until justice and clarity are delivered. The government must prioritize student welfare and uphold its promises,” the statement concluded.

Editorial



Tribal Empowerment through Janbhagidari

As India celebrates Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh, a nationwide tribute to the heritage, resilience, and rights of its tribal communities, the upcoming ‘Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan’ stands out as a powerful and practical initiative that moves beyond symbolism and into meaningful action.

From June 15 to June 30, 2025, the District Administrations across Jammu and Kashmir will conduct awareness and benefit saturation camps in tribal-dominated villages. These camps aim to ensure last-mile delivery of critical welfare and development schemes—directly at the doorsteps of communities that have historically remained on the margins of India’s growth story.

What makes this initiative particularly significant is its focus on convergence—a single-window model that brings together services across a spectrum of departments. From Aadhaar enrolment to Ayushman Bharat health cards, from bank account openings under Jan Dhan Yojana to access to drinking water and electricity connections, these camps promise comprehensive coverage and on-the-spot resolutions. In tribal regions where bureaucracy often feels distant and systems hard to access, such doorstep governance could be highlight beneficial and transformative. Moreover, by integrating services like forest rights, education access, agriculture welfare, youth empowerment, and food security, the campaign recognizes that tribal welfare cannot be achieved through isolated schemes—it requires a holistic, inclusive approach.

Deputy Commissioners across districts, while briefing the media, rightly emphasized the principle of Janbhagidari (public participation). Effective governance is not about merely announcing schemes; it’s about making people active stakeholders in their own development. The call for involvement of community leaders, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), civil society, and youth is vital for ensuring that awareness spreads, and that no eligible beneficiary is left behind.

For the ‘Abhiyan’ to succeed, it must go beyond the ceremonial things. Departments need to ensure logistical preparedness, sufficient manpower, mobile infrastructure, and grievance redress mechanisms. More importantly, the baseline data must be accurate, and camps should be accessible even in the remotest pockets.

This campaign offers the opportunity to shift tribal development from a policy document to a lived reality. It is a test of our commitment to inclusion and dignity. If implemented earnestly, Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan could set a replicable model for participatory governance and benefit saturation—a model where India’s tribal citizens are not just beneficiaries but active partners in the nation’s progress.

Dharamvir Singh: The Visionary Behind Doordarshan’s Rise

ER. PRABHAT KISHORE

Communication has always been of prime importance. With the advent of television in 1927, Indians also dreamed for this service and after independence television service was started in Delhi as a part of All India Radio (AIR) in 1959. For its expansion across the country, its management was separated from AIR and independent new body named “Doordarshan (DD)” was constituted. One of the architects of the ambitious Doordarshan service was - Shri Dharamvir Singh.

Dharamvir Singh was born on 10 June 1932 in Barh in Patna district. His native village is Simra Bilgawan on the banks of Son river under Bhojpur district. His father Shri Devsharan Singh (Former Chairman, Bihar Legislative Council) was a renowned Congress leader and freedom fighter at the national level and was an advocate at Barh Sub-Divisional Court. Dharamvir Singh graduated from Bihar National College, Patna under Patna University. He was a meritorious student from the very beginning and along with studies, he also had special interest in journalism, sports and social works. He was selected by Sarat Chandra Bose as a member of the “International Brigade” to go for the independence of Indonesia in 1947. He was a member of Bihar Lawn Tennis Council in 1952 and Secretary of Bihar Table Tennis Association from 1954-67. He was also associated with New Patna Club, Delhi Golf Club and Delhi Gymkhana for a long time.

In the company of his father, Dharamvir Singh inclined towards active politics. In 1967, he was elected for the first time from the 193-Bakhtiarpur Vidhan Sabha constituency in Patna district and became the secretary of the Congress Legislature Party. In the election held on 21 February 1967, Dharamvir Singh (20772 votes) contesting on Indian National Congress ticket defeated Independent Shri Ramlakhan Rai (18221 votes) and Shri R.S. Singh (15317 votes) of Jan Kranti Dal in a tough contest. Again in 1969, he was elected from the 193-Bakhtiarpur Assembly Constituency and became the Chief Whip of the Congress Legislature Party. In this election held on 9 February 1969, Indian National Congress candidate Dharamvir Singh (19578 votes) defeated Ram Lakhan Rai (17896 votes) of Samyukta Socialist Party and Ramchandra Singh Chouhan (15364 votes) independent. In 1970, he was inducted for the first time in the Bihar Cabinet as Minister of State for Labor, Information and Tourism.

On the special initiative of the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi, Dharamvir Singh contested for the Fifth Lok Sabha in 1971 on Indian National Congress (R) ticket from the 34-Barh Lok Sabha constituency. Outgoing MP and former Union Minister Smt.

Tarkeshwari Sinha was contesting against him as an Indian National Congress (Organization) candidate. The Fire-brand stalwart Smt. Tarkeshwari Sinha had won four consecutive elections namely- the First Lok Sabha (3-Patna East constituency in 1951), the Second Lok Sabha (28-Barh constituency in 1957), the Third



Lok Sabha (34-Barh constituency in 1962) and the fourth Lok Sabha (34-Barh constituency in 1967). Dharamvir Singh (184484 votes) created a new history in this area by securing 48.10 percent votes defeating an invincible MP like Smt. Sinha.

After being elected to the Lok Sabha, he resigned from the membership of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, on which the flamboyant socialist leader Bhola Prasad Singh was elected in the by-election. Mrs. Gandhi was highly impressed with Dharamvir Singh and he was inducted into the Union Cabinet in 1971 as Deputy Minister of Information and Broadcasting, in his first inning as a Member of Parliament, a position he held till 1977.

Several remarkable works have been performed in the Ministry during his tenure, the most notable event was the formation of “Doordarshan”. On 1 April 1976, television broadcasting was separated from the radio network and replaced by the name “Doordarshan”. In 1972, television service was started in the second city of the country, Mumbai. Prior to this, the service of television broadcasting was available only in the national capital Delhi. By the year 1975, television service had expanded to seven cities of Bharatvarsha. During his tenure, he made a lot of efforts to promote artistic films as well as commercial and devotional films like “Jai Santoshi Maa”. All India Radio Annual Awards were started in 1974. He led several Indian delegations abroad.

During the election of the Sixth Lok Sabha in

1977, there was a wave of Janata Party due to the student movement in the whole country. Bihar was the center of this movement. Congress could not get a single seat in Bihar due to the anger of the people stricken by the Emergency. On Indian National Congress ticket, Dharamvir Singh got only 101945 votes and lost to a newcomer Shyam Sundar Gupta (372227 votes), the Mayor of Kolkata Municipal Corporation. In 1979, a separate political party named Congress (I) was formed by Smt. Indira Gandhi, but Dharamvir Singh decided to remain in the original party.

Due to mutual tussle and personal arrogance, the Janata Party government could not survive for its full term. In the mid-term elections to the Seventh Lok Sabha in 1980, Dharamvir Singh contested from the 18-Barh Lok Sabha constituency as a candidate of the Indian National Congress (Urs) led by Shri Devraj Urs, the then Chief Minister of Karnataka. He defeated Smt. Kamla Devi (160801 votes) of Janata Party and Ramraj Pd. Singh (102566 votes) of Indian National Congress (Indira) by securing 192407 votes on his own capacity. He held many important positions in the National and Parliamentary Party of the Congress. He later aligned himself with Sharad Pawar-led Congress (S) and became the party’s national general secretary. After Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav left the party to join Congress (I), Dharamvir Babu was also given the responsibility of the post of President of Bihar unit of Congress (S).

In 1984, for the Eighth Lok Sabha, Dharamvir Singh contested again from the 18-Barh Lok Sabha constituency on Indian National Congress (S) ticket. In the election, he got full support of socialists like Karpoori Thakur. But he again fell victim to the sympathy wave triggered by the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and lost the election to a controversial figure like Prakash Chandra alias Baby, son of Ram Lakhan Singh Yadav, who was contesting on Indian National Congress (Indira) ticket. Shri Prakash Chandra got 384719 votes out of total cast of 610745, while Shri Singh had to be satisfied with only 161983 votes. The people of the Barh area continued to repent of his defeat till the end. In 1986, at the National Convention of Congress (S) in Mumbai, Dharamvir Singh proposed the merger of Congress (S) with Congress (I) in his capacity as General Secretary, which was accepted unanimously.

The entire life of Dharamvir Singh was dedicated to the nation. He wanted to see India as a great nation. The only goal of his life was to make the country self-sufficient and prosperous and to bring harmony in the society. He was constantly striving to achieve his goal. He was an articulate and fighting man. He

was a strong supporter of the politics of honesty and remained unmarried throughout his life for the fulfillment of this motto. He was a skilled politician and a strong orator. His charitable life inspired him to travel to European countries. Dharamvir Singh was no match in the field of journalism. The editorials and articles written by him on various national as well as international burning issues in newspapers and magazines like Weekly Dinaman etc. had fascinated

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Several remarkable works have been performed in the Ministry during his tenure, the most notable event was the formation of “Doordarshan”. On 1 April 1976, television broadcasting was separated from the radio network and replaced by the name “Doordarshan”. In 1972, television service was started in the second city of the country, Mumbai. Prior to this, the service of television broadcasting was available only in the national capital Delhi...

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the public. He was the flagbearer of the communication revolution in India.

On 5 April 1989, in the midst of the discussion on his election to the Rajya Sabha from Maharashtra, Dharamvir Singh went to Mumbai where he held detailed talks with the then Chief Minister Sharad Pawar on various issues. But on 06 April 1989, he suddenly passed away in a suspicious condition in Mumbai. A wave of mourning ran across Bihar and this shining star of Indian politics disappeared from the national horizon forever.

(The Author is a technocrat and educationist)

Embracing the Other: A Civilizational Path to Self-Discovery



SHABEER AHMAD LONE

In a world increasingly defined by boundaries-ethnic, religious, cultural, linguist, geographic, ideological, spiritual, political etc a civilizational imperative and re-awakening to embrace the Other emerges not merely as a moral gesture but

transcending itself through the experience of relationality. This perspective challenges the static and essentialist conceptions of identity and reclaims the notion that we become fully human only through sincere and courageous encounters with those who are not like us. The encounter with the Other is not the endangerment of identity but the occasion for its awakening and enrichment. It is in this space of tension and tenderness, of difference and dialogue, that we discover the most enduring truth: our capacity to grow into the fullness of being is intricately tied to how we meet what is unfamiliar, uncomfortable, and other.

Across civilizations, the prophets, poets, mystics, and philosophers have echoed a perennial truth: the self is not born in isolation but revealed in relation. Iqbal envisioned khudi as a

against “narrow domestic walls” dissolve boundaries that imprison the soul.

Confucius teaches that the ethical self is formed through relational virtue (ren); Ubuntu declares, “I am because we are.” Ricoeur sees identity as a storied dialogue, not a sealed monologue. Cornel West calls us to prophetic love, to suffer with the Other; Morrison bears witness to wounded histories demanding recognition. Abhishiktananda shows that identity expands through surrender across traditions, not by defending rigid boundaries. Bonhoeffer insists that faith without responsibility to the oppressed is betrayal. Taylor affirms the moral need for recognition, Arendt finds dignity in plurality, and Nasr and Chittick warn: without metaphysical vision, reverence for the Other is lost. From Spivak to Said, Dostoevsky to Chittick,

of identity to one that is relational and ethical, implying that identity achieves its most authentic articulation not in isolation but in responsibility to the Other. The self, in this view, is not annihilated by the Other-it is awakened by the Other.

This reawakening finds historical resonance in the lives of those who encountered civilizational multiplicity without losing themselves. The Persian poet Rumi, deeply rooted in Islamic mysticism, found inspiration in Christian, Greek, and Hindu ideas without feeling his faith diminished. Similarly, the Indian philosopher Swami Vivekananda, while firmly grounded in Vedantic Hinduism, addressed the World Parliament of Religions in 1893 with an embrace of all faiths, stating, “We believe not only in universal tolerance but we accept all religions as true.” These exemplars show that identity, when anchored in depth and spirit, is not threatened by plurality but enriched by it.

Psychological research affirms that individuals with bicultural or multicultural exposure are often more cognitively flexible and emotionally resilient. Far from suffering an identity crisis, such individuals demonstrate a more layered and complex sense of self. The phenomenon of “cultural frame-switching”-the ability to navigate and integrate different cultural schemas-reflects the profound adaptability and growth of the self when it is open to difference. Erik Erikson’s work on identity development underscores that the process of individuation necessarily includes encounters with alterity-be it cultural, religious, or interpersonal.

In contemporary geopolitical contexts, where the clash-of-civilizations narrative continues to rear its divisive head, it becomes crucial to recall that identity is not a monolith but a dialogical process. The tragic persistence of cultural essentialism-where cultures are viewed as sealed containers-undermines the truth of historical interpenetrations. The Abbasid Caliphate translated Greek philosophy into Arabic; medieval Jewish thought was shaped by Islamic Kalam; Andalusian Spain gave birth to cross-cultural symphonies of music, science, and architecture. Each example is a testament that civilizations, like individuals, do not lose their soul by sharing it.

This understanding holds critical relevance in our increasingly interconnected yet polarized world. The fear that embracing the Other implies self-erasure is a projection of insecurity rather than a reflection of reality. The true threat to identity is not openness but superficiality-when identity is constructed around reaction, resentment, or ideological fixity, rather than deep self-understanding. In contrast, traditions that are rooted yet expansive-such as Confucianism’s ideal of ren, or the Qur’anic vision of human diversity as a divine sign (“We have created you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another”-Surah al-Hujurat 49:13)-invite us to embrace the Other without anxiety over self-loss.

TO BE CONTINUED...



as a perennial civilizational necessity and a metaphysical truth. Against the prevailing narratives of cultural defensiveness, identity politics, and exclusivist ideologies, this humble attempt contends that engaging with the Other does not dissolve the self but rather deepens/enriches and refines it. Contrary to the fears of cultural dilution or existential erosion, authentic encounters with the Other offer the possibility of rediscovering the self through the mirror of difference. Identity, when grounded in philosophical, spiritual, and historical depth, is not a brittle possession to be guarded from contact, but a generative process-capable of expanding, evolving, and

moral and creative self, fulfilled through love and struggle with the Other. Mulla Sadra’s metaphysics of becoming reminds us that identity itself is a dynamic unfolding-deepened in communion with difference. Ibn Arabi saw every being as a unique tajalli, a face of God; to refuse the Other is to refuse the Divine. Buber’s I-Thou encounter grounds the soul in reciprocity, and Levinas makes the face of the Other the very origin of ethics. Ghalib’s philosophical melancholy unveils the complexity of existence, cautioning against narrow certainties, while Nazir Akbarabadi celebrates the divine in every life, high or humble. Rumi’s call-“Come, come, whoever you are”-and Tagore’s plea

the truth resounds: exclusion shrinks the soul-encounter re-deems it. The Other is no threat-it is the mirror, the challenge, the bridge. Only a self porous to love, and capacious enough for the world, is fully human.

Philosopher Emmanuel Levinas offers a foundational insight into this phenomenon by grounding ethics in the face of the Other. For Levinas, the encounter with the Other is not a threat but the beginning of responsibility. It is through the recognition of the irreducible otherness of another human being that we are truly called into our own humanity. This view shifts the framework from a possessive or defensive understanding

PART-I

After Trump Cut Funding For Energy Transitions Overseas, Could China Step In?



ZHOU XIAOZHU

On the day he became president again, Donald Trump signed an executive order to take the US out of the Paris Agreement on climate change. That was followed by a termination of US funding pledged during the Biden administration to programmes that support South Africa, Indonesia and Vietnam to shift their economies away from coal dependence.



The move brings uncertainty to the renewables transition in those countries. The US had committed USD 4 billion, according to funding documents for the programmes, which are known as Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP). This accounted for 12% of South Africa's initial JETP funding, 18% of Indonesia's and 13% of Vietnam's – more than any other state funder. The loss has already caused the cancellation of projects and exacerbated funding gaps.

It is worth noting, however, that the three countries are all key partners in China's Belt and Road Initiative, and so have plenty of experience in working with China on infrastructure and energy. China's expertise in energy planning, market investment

“The United States had pledged USD 4 billion for Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETPs) in South Africa, Indonesia, and Vietnam — more than any other single country. Its abrupt withdrawal under President Trump has already triggered project cancellations and widened financing gaps across all three nations.”

and clean-energy technology could help them redraw their plans and roadmaps for the energy transition and economic development, and in doing so deepen China's cooperation with Africa and the Southeast Asian nations.

In March, South Africa's government announced the cancellation of US-funded projects that were in the planning or implementation stages. It also said that, along with its partners, it would “evaluate the implications” of the US withdrawal. Shortly afterwards, the other main JETP funders – the UK, Germany, France, the EU, Denmark and the Netherlands – which together are known as the International Partners Group, issued their own statement. It reiterated full support for South Africa's energy transition and pointed out that South Africa's JETP now has USD 12.8 billion in funding pledges from non-US donors – higher than the USD 8.5 billion originally pledged in 2022.

Still, the US moves rocked confidence in global climate governance. Argentina was the first to say it might not stick with the Paris Agreement. Indonesia's climate envoy, meanwhile, suggested that if the world's second-largest emitter was pulling out of the agreement, it would be unfair to expect countries like Indonesia to stay; although the country's environment ministry later said it would continue to contribute to the fight against global warming. In any case, the loss of USD 2 billion in funding from the US is likely to further hamper Indonesia's already delayed JETP programme.

South Africa and Indonesia have seen some progress since their JETPs began, though. As of November 2024, South Africa's programme had spent about USD 2 billion, with specific plans for a further USD 7.3 billion. Its Just Energy Transition Investment Plan, published in 2022, had listed six priorities: electricity, green hydrogen, new energy vehicles, transitional justice, skills and capacity building, and municipal energy transitions. The International Partners Group decided to spend 27% of the USD 9.3 billion pledged so far on the electricity sector, as this would

empower work in all other fields. However, the group has not yet made any concrete plans for funding new-energy-vehicle projects, and coal phase-out plans are also behind schedule: South Africa's national electricity company Eskom has delayed the planned decommissioning of three coal power plants until March 2030, citing energy security concerns.

As of June 2024, Indonesia had only published details of how approximately USD 300 million in donations and technical assistance was to be used. This makes up just 2.6% of its total JETP funding and even that is now under threat because it included a USD 60 million commitment from the US. There is also uncertainty around the remaining 97.4% of the funding, the majority of which is made up of concessional loans, which Indonesia may struggle to pay back.

Priority coal decommissioning projects under Indonesia's JETP programme include the 660-megawatt Cirebon-1 plant and Pelabuhan Ratu. Cirebon-1, which belongs to an independent

beneficial and sustainable cooperation in the mining industry; and strengthen global partnerships for the energy transition. China and Indonesia already have a long history of successful cooperation in these fields, with China investing USD 35 billion in Indonesia over the last 17 years, mainly in the energy sector and city transport. There are also joint venture industrial parks and economic cooperation zones.

Thanks to Chinese investments, both Malaysia and Vietnam manufacture solar power components for the global market. In the future, Indonesia's advantages in raw materials and Chinese investment could be leveraged to help the country become a hub as manufacturing across Southeast Asian nations become more integrated.

In November 2023, the Cirata floating-solar power plant, built by PowerChina, was fully connected to Indonesia's power grid, and became the largest such installation in Southeast Asia. In March 2024, Chinese power company Guodian Power Development



South Africa, Indonesia and Vietnam are all part of China's Belt and Road Initiative. China is also their biggest trading partner, and for Indonesia the second biggest source of outside investment. I suggest teams of Chinese experts are dispatched, as soon as possible, to participate in studies of power sector transitions taking place under the JETP framework in these countries. China has valuable experience and support to offer: in power system planning, in energy-efficiency upgrades for coal-power plants, and in low-cost and environmentally friendly renewable technology and investment. It could help these countries make accurate predictions, plan accordingly, and set realistic and achievable transition targets.



Lessons from JETPs for the Belt and Road Initiative

JETPs are multilateral partnerships between governments and therefore a very political undertaking, led by developed nations vying for influence and leadership on global climate change issues. The bulk of JETPs' financial commitment is concessional or commercial loans that fall short of what is needed to match the ambitious targets for coal decommissioning and the wider transition, in countries that lack cheap and efficient electricity infrastructure. If the transition is done too quickly, developing nations already facing electricity shortages could be thrown into even more serious situations.

However, JETPs also offer valuable lessons. In particular, when it comes to market investment risk for coal decommissioning and renewable-energy development, bilateral interventions can reduce risks and barriers. These development plans, jointly produced and agreed upon, create a favourable environment for JETP investments.

China could take this approach when working with other developing countries, drawing up national plans and bilateral

“South Africa suffers from frequent blackouts and an aging power grid. Indonesia faces a different challenge — dozens of small, disconnected power systems across islands. For both, coal decommissioning won't work unless renewables and transmission infrastructure are expanded in tandem.”

cooperation frameworks with its partners, reducing investment and financing risks, and pushing actual projects forward. In Indonesia, for example, there are strict controls on the size of stake overseas investors can have in a renewable-energy project. This limits overseas investment, making it less likely that decommissioned coal-power sites will be repurposed for renewables and so reducing transition outcomes. I recommend China learns from the JETP mechanism and works with host-country governments on measures to protect the legal interests of Chinese firms, while looking for support from multilateral funding organisations, expanding financing channels and undertaking win-win cooperation on energy and electricity in Belt and Road nations.

Zhou Xiaozhu is an analyst with the Rock Institute for Global Decarbonization Progress, working on climate change and energy transition issues. With thanks to Dr. Fuqiang Yang, senior advisor to the Climate Change and Energy Transition Program, Peking University Institute of Energy. This article was published under the Creative Commons BY NC ND licence with the permission of THIRDPole.

power firm, will have its debt paid off using preferential loans and its power-purchase agreement shortened. Pelabuhan Ratu is owned outright by Indonesia's national power company PLN and plans for its decommissioning are still being worked on. At the 2024 G20 summit, Indonesia's president said the country would phase out coal by 2040, earlier than previously planned. However, given the condition of the country's existing grid infrastructure, and progress so far both on renewables and coal decommissioning, this may be overly ambitious.

Energy transitions in South Africa and Indonesia face similar problems: growing demand for electricity, reliance on coal for a large part of that power, and slow development of power networks and renewable generation. While renewables can be ramped up in short order, coal decommissioning can only take place when two conditions are met: that there will be no major impacts on regional power supplies, and that the electricity infrastructure can cope with the renewables coming online. South Africa already suffers from frequent power outages and its grid is aging. Indonesia, being an archipelago, has numerous small power grids. Both are in urgent need of grid expansions and upgrades.

Can China fill the gap?

South Africa, Indonesia and Vietnam are all part of China's Belt and Road Initiative. China is also their biggest trading partner, and for Indonesia the second biggest source of outside investment. I suggest teams of Chinese experts are dispatched, as soon as possible, to participate in studies of power sector transitions taking place under the JETP framework in these countries. China has valuable experience and support to offer: in power system planning, in energy-efficiency upgrades for coal-power plants, and in low-cost and environmentally friendly renewable technology and investment. It could help these countries make accurate predictions, plan accordingly, and set realistic and achievable transition targets.

Teboho Makhabane, the head of ESG (environment, social and governance) at Sanlam Investments in South Africa, said China may plug some of the gaps left by the US, which in both South Africa and Indonesia was focusing on renewable-energy development, hybrid-financing mechanisms, rail transport, energy planning, demand-side management and energy saving, and a just transition.

What is demand-side management?

China could use the BRICS group, South-South cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative to provide assistance in those fields, as well as in the electric-vehicle and critical-minerals sectors.

The 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, held in Beijing, set up a CNY 5 billion (USD 690 million) “China-Africa Green Supply Chains Fund” as part of China Development Bank's China-Africa Development Fund. Work on its first project, South Africa's TFC solar farm, started in November 2024.

The China-Africa Development Fund states that as of the end of 2024 it had committed to USD 7.6 billion of investment across 39 African countries, leveraging over USD 32 billion of Chinese private investment. Almost USD 1.2 billion of that money has gone to South Africa, it added. And South Africa is just one example of China's cooperation with Africa in green sectors: by 2027, China plans to have set up 30 clean-energy and green-development projects on the continent.

As a major coal producer and exporter, and the largest economy in Southeast Asia, Indonesia is at the heart of the region's energy transition, and China is already set to play a crucial role in its transition. In November, the two countries published a joint statement agreeing to cooperate on new-energy vehicles, lithium batteries and PV solar; strengthen mutually

CS for giving solar power push to energy sector through PM Surya Ghar Yojana scheme

Convener News Desk

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a high level meeting to review the progress achieved under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSMBY), a flagship initiative aimed at promoting solar energy through rooftop installations for the households and solarization of government buildings across the country.

Taking stock of the rooftop solar installations across the districts, the Chief Secretary emphasised the need for time-bound implementation. He directed the DISCOMs, JPDCL and KPDCCL, to ensure that the vendors complete installations in the shortest possible time.

Dulloo impressed upon the Deputy Commissioners to personally monitor the progress on rooftop solar projects in their respective districts and ensure timely completion, enabling the consumers to experience minimal delays.

He also reviewed the status of applications and installations district-wise and sought a strategy from each DC to fast-track execution.

To maintain quality and efficiency, he instructed the senior officers of JPDCL and KPDCCL to undertake field visits to inspect the ongoing installations.

He stressed the importance of institutional leadership while encouraging the DISCOM employees to set an example by adopting

seriousness. He directed the Deputy Commissioners to verify the functionality of each installed rooftop system and submit building-



rooftop solar: systems themselves.

The Chief Secretary also directed that Common Service Centre (CSC) operators be empanelled to facilitate the consumer registrations at the grassroots level, ensuring ease of access for the rural and remote households.

Reviewing the solarization of government buildings, another critical component of the PMSMBY, the Chief Secretary described it as a prestigious initiative that must be executed with utmost

wise status reports by June 30, after coordinating with the JAKEDA for the requisite data.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, stressed the need to involve the local contractors in solarisation drive by registering them as vendors and incentivising their participation.

He underlined that the scheme's momentum hinges on the proactive involvement of local players, both from a developmental

and entrepreneurial standpoint besides ensuring its completion on time.

Principal Secretary, PDD, Rajesh Prasad, highlighted that consumer response to the scheme has been overwhelming in recent months, with a significant uptick in applications.

He noted that the focus must now shift to enhance the vendor capacity and on-ground execution, for which the department is actively engaging empanelled vendors.

Providing an update on the implementation status, MD JPDCL, Choudhary Yasin, reported that 6,121 Solar Rooftop Systems (SRTs) with a combined capacity of 22.51 MW have already been installed across the UT. So far, 12,206 consumers under JPDCL and 8,108 under JPDCL have selected their vendors, while 802 (JPDCL) and 690 (KPDCCL) consumers have completed payments also.

He added that the cumulative application load received stands at approximately 78.51 MW (JPDCL) and 103.35 MW (KPDCCL), indicating the strong public interest and demand.

Under Capex mode, 5,220 buildings (43.40 MW) have already been taken up, with work orders issued for 3,403 more buildings, expected to add another 34.39 MW into the power system of the UT. Under RESCO mode, 1,500 buildings (35 MW) will be completed by NHPC and and 8,000 buildings (175 MW) by JAKEDA itself, the meeting was informed. (DIPR)

PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana lights homes in frontier Kupwara district

KUPWARA: In the remote and often challenging terrains of the far flung border district Kupwara, a quiet revolution is

electricity costs for households, has made a noticeable impact in this district. Through government subsidies and the installation



underway—one that doesn't arrive with noise or fanfare but with rays of sunlight, captured and transformed into power. Thanks to the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, hundreds of homes in this once energy-starved region now shine brightly with solar-powered electricity.

The scheme, launched to promote clean energy and reduce

of rooftop solar panels, many families have benefited under the scheme.

For Ghulam Mohiddin Peer, a resident of village Drugmulla, the transformation has been life-changing.

"Earlier, my electricity bill used to be huge but now it has reduced drastically," said Peer adding, "The scheme provides

a good subsidy component and I have also got the subsidy."

Another resident, Haji Farooq Ahmad Malik while appreciating the benefits of the scheme said "I have installed a 3 kv project at home, besides, we have installed the solar system in the local masjid also."

Kupwara, due to its remote location and harsh weather conditions, often faces electricity shortages and erratic supply during winter season.

However, under this centrally sponsored scheme, households are provided support for panel installation besides also for maintenance and training, enabling locals to manage their systems efficiently.

AEE KPDCCL Kupwara, while highlighting the features and benefits of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, appealed the people to come forward to take benefit of free electricity under the scheme. (DIPR)

DC Baramulla finalizes IEC campaign action plan to empower tribal communities

BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting at the DC Office and finalized the action plan for the upcoming IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) campaign for implementation of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

The IEC campaign will be kick-started with a mega camp at Dakbungalow Baramulla on the 15th, in the presence of the elected representatives from the tribal areas.

During the camp, concerned departments will install stalls to provide information on the schemes and on-the-spot service delivery to the invited eligible beneficiaries from all the tribal villages of Baramulla.

The campaign, which will last 15 days, aims to saturate 25 schemes across 17 central ministries in all

identified tribal villages of Baramulla. These flagship initiatives aim to empower tribal communities, including Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), by ensuring comprehensive awareness and delivery of government services at the grassroots level.

During the meeting, DC directed widespread distribution of IEC materials regarding 25 different centrally sponsored schemes as part of DAJGUA in multiple tribal and regional languages to ensure effective outreach.

Meanwhile, strict directions were passed for holding Benefit Saturation Camps at all 8 tribal villages to provide essential services such as issuance of Aadhaar cards, ration cards, caste certificates, and Ayushman health cards directly to eligible tribal beneficiaries.

DC also called for active involvement of youth, NGOs

and community leaders through engagement activities, including Gram Sabhas, street plays, and awareness drives for the widespread outreach.

Furthermore, Minga Sherpa called for daily real-time reporting of campaign progress via geo-tagged photographs, attendance records, and event reports on a centralized dashboard managed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Additionally, DC instructed the heads of all the concerned departments to work in tandem and effective collaboration to ensure that the benefits reach the deserving beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Joint Director Planning, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Superintending Engineer JKPDCCL, and other concerned officers.

Arrangements finalized for smooth conduct of Urs Haji Murad Bukhari (RA)

BARAMULLA: In a bid to ensure the seamless and spiritually enriching observance of the annual Urs of Hazrat Haji Murad Bukhari (RA), Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi chaired a meeting at Kreeri to finalize arrangements for the upcoming event.

ADC emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination to facilitate smooth conduct of the Urs.

He directed all concerned officials to remain proactive and ensure timely execution of their responsibilities, keeping in mind the large number of devotees expected to attend.

Detailed discussions were held around essential services such as traffic regulation, security deployment, health care, sanitation, and power supply.

The ADC stressed the need for clear traffic flow plans, functional medical aid stations, uninterrupted electricity, and enhanced cleanliness measures around the shrine and congregation areas.

Officers were instructed to ensure the comfort and safety of devotees at all stages.

Special attention will be given to crowd management and emergency response systems, with adequate deployment of police personnel, medical teams, and fire services. Drinking water and sanitation facilities will be made readily available throughout the duration of the event.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Tehsildar, Block Development Officer, Block Medical Officer along with officers from the Police, PHE, PDD, R&B, Fire and Emergency Services, and other concerned departments. (DIPR)

Month-long Entrepreneurship and Skill development Program concludes at ITI Pampore

Convener News Desk

PULWAMA: Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP), organized under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme by the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Pulwama, concluded today with a valedictory ceremony at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Pampore.

Speakers at the event praised the initiative, highlighting the crucial role of skill development and entrepreneurship in empowering the youth and driving sustainable economic growth.

They urged the trainees to use the knowledge and skills gained through the program to pursue entrepreneurial ventures and support the local economy.

Participants shared their learning experiences and expressed their gratitude to JKEDI and ITI Pampore for hosting the training, which included a range of hands-on sessions and interactive activities. (DIPR)

Shopian gears up for Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan- Awareness

Convener News Desk

SHOPIAN: In line with the Government of India's upcoming campaign under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh, District Administration Shopian is preparing to roll out 'Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan' awareness and benefit saturation camps from June 15 to June 30, 2025.

These camps will be held in two tribal-dominated villages Kathohallan (15th June to 22nd June, 2025) and Pahlipora (23th June to 30th June, 2025) in Block Kella of the district, to ensure last-mile delivery of government schemes and bridge critical socio-economic and development gaps.

Though the official launch is scheduled for June 15, 2025, across 549 tribal districts and 207 PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group) dominated districts in India, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta during a press briefing, urged the people of Shopian to actively participate in the forthcoming camps.

"These camps are aimed to fulfill the gaps in service delivery by identifying

eligible beneficiaries and covering them on the spot. I appeal to the public to come forward, participate wholeheartedly, and ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left



behind," DC Said.

Gupta emphasized that the camps will serve as a single-window platform for the saturation of benefits across critical sectors, including Aadhaar services, PM-

JAY / Ayushman Bharat health cards, Jan Dhan Yojana/ Bank account openings, Agriculture & allied welfare schemes, Har Ghar Nal Se Jal (drinking water supply), Electricity connections, Health services & mobilisation, Education gap reduction, Skill development and training, Food security (ration and nutrition schemes), RDD schemes, Youth Services & Sports, Forest rights and other support initiatives.

All concerned departments have been instructed to prepare baseline data while designated officers will be present during the camps to resolve issues on the spot.

This initiative forms part of a larger national effort to honor tribal heritage and empower tribal communities, ensuring they receive the full benefits of government development and welfare schemes.

DC highlighted the importance of Janbhagidari (public participation) and called on community leaders, PRI representatives, youth and civil society organizations to assist in spreading awareness and ensuring full community engagement. (DIPR)

Drugs Free J&K: Distt admin Srinagar organizes district-wide Anti Drugs awareness programmes

SRINAGAR: In order to educate masses about the ill effects of drug abuse, district administration on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat conducted a series of anti drugs awareness programmes and action-oriented activities under the banner of 'Drugs Free Jammu and Kashmir' across all eight physical education zones of the district.

District Youth Services & Sports Office (DYSSO), Srinagar conducted the awareness campaign, in collaboration with the District Social Welfare department and under the overall supervision of the district administration Srinagar.

The campaign aimed to encourage positive lifestyle choices through fitness, sports, and community participation to engage students, youth volunteers, field staff, educators and community members.

Different types of activities were held including a marathon/ walkathon/ run against

drug abuse. Awareness rallies and runs were organized to mobilize public opinion against substance abuse, with participants actively



promoting the message of a drug-free society.

Similarly, sports events themed 'Play for Drug-Free Srinagar' and various other sporting

activities were held to channelize youth energy into healthy recreational pursuits, paired with briefings on the dangers of addiction.

Yoga displays and fitness awareness camps and fitness drills were also organized alongside motivational talks by field experts and educators, focusing on holistic well-being and drug resistance.

Moreover, the Drug-Free pledge was also administered to all participants during each activity, reaffirming their commitment to live a life free from substance abuse and to promote the same within their communities.

The campaign witnessed enthusiastic participation and strong community involvement, reflecting a shared resolve among youth and civil society to combat the drug menace collectively. District Youth Services & Sports Office Srinagar supervised the awareness campaign with active support of Zonal Officers, field staff, volunteers, and the District Administration Srinagar.

Continued From P1...

CSC Report

National Conference (NC), in its electoral agenda, pledged to rationalize the reservation policy to address concerns raised by various sections of society.

On November 22, the Cabinet decided to establish a sub-committee to review grievances, particularly those raised by students regarding the policy.

A month later, NC's MP from Srinagar, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, staged a protest outside the Chief Minister's residence, demanding a fair review of the reservation policy.

During a meeting with protesting students on the same day, CM Omar Abdullah assured that the cabinet sub-committee would finalize its report within six months.

The issue was widely discussed during the last Assembly session in Jammu, with PC president Sajad Gani strongly advocating for rationalization of existing reservation policy. (KNO)

CSC report

fairness and transparency. There is a clear call for rationalization of the reservation regime and it must be carried out in line with what the students have articulated," Ruhullah told KNO.

He added that a delegation of student leaders and reservation rights activists is scheduled to meet him on June 11 at 10:30 AM to discuss the issue in detail.

Earlier on Tuesday, Minister Sakina Itoo, who chaired the sub-committee, provided an update on the progress. "The Cabinet Sub-Committee constituted to examine the issue of reservations has drafted its report within the stipulated time frame of six months. The report will be placed before the Cabinet when it meets," Itoo said in a post on X.

The committee was constituted in response to widespread concerns following a March 2024 amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004, under the administration of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The amendment increased reservations in government jobs from 43% to 70%, largely due to the inclusion of the Pahari community under the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category.

The policy sparked protests and opposition from several quarters, prompting then-Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to establish the Cabinet Sub-Committee to reassess the implications of the move. The panel was given six months to complete its review. (KNO)

PM Modi

in INS Vikrant. It said, "This is the story of India's rise as a confident, decisive, and respected global leader driven by PM Modi's bold vision and unwavering commitment to a stronger Bharat."

India's missile power had its precision and reach elevated, it said, mentioning Brahmos extended range version, which was successfully test-fired from Su-30 MKI, among others.

The thread also highlighted India's robust ties with other countries, noting the inking of its "historic" trade deal with the UK and comprehensive economic power agreement with the UAE.

Highlighting India's commitment to global peace, it said the country stands as a leading force in UN peacekeeping, with over 2.9 lakh troops deployed across 50 missions worldwide.

During the pandemic, India also provided two lakh COVID-19 vaccine doses to UN peacekeepers, supporting health and safety on the frontlines of peace, it added. (KNO)

Govt constitutes

Earth Sciences, University of Kashmir; Dr. Irfan Maqbool Bhat, Assistant Professor, Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction, Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Awantipora; Dr. Mehreen Quraishi, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Awantipora; Dr. Falak Manzoor, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering Department, National Institute of Technology (NIT)

Srinagar; Dr. Mir Faizan ul Haq, Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jammu have been nominated as its members.

According to the notification, the chairperson may Co-opt any member(s) to obtain required technical and inter-disciplinary input(s) for the committee. The committee shall be assisted by the concerned Department(s) in their field studies/observations.

The Committee has been tasked to devise a comprehensive roadmap for earthquake risk management and risk reduction in the UT of J&K; to identify and define J&K's vulnerabilities to earthquakes, conducting detailed risk assessments to prioritize mitigation efforts and develop resilient sustainable strategies for earthquake preparedness and mitigation; to chart out strategies for the screening and safety assessments of buildings for better insight into structural stability and safety in the wake of Earthquake risks.

Further the committee has to strengthen Earthquake preparedness through safety guidelines and key policy initiatives; to develop earthquake risk management strategies and focus on assessing the current state and challenges faced by J&K in earthquake preparedness and mitigation efforts; to suggest the measures for earthquake preparedness and mitigation within the region; to suggest on the measures for ensuring the safety of the population through measures like Public awareness, community engagement, capacity building and training;.

The committee shall also to develop and implement earthquake-specific disaster management strategies at the UT and district levels, ensuring coordination among different departments, agencies and coordinating with other stakeholders; to suggest measures to prevent and mitigate the effects of earthquakes, such as building code enforcement, public awareness campaigns and earthquake resilient infrastructure; and to develop strategies for swift and effective response to earthquake events and Training & equipping government officials, emergency responders and community members with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively manage earthquake disasters. (KNS)

Airline Body

"After the Pahalgam incident, tourists are terrified and no one is travelling to Kashmir region for tourism purposes. There is no demand for air travel to and from Kashmir. Hotels are empty there," the FIA said.

"In view of the above, we request the MoCA's urgent intervention with the Finance Ministry to have these requirements removed altogether and to align with APIS information already submitted to the Bureau of Immigration," the airlines body said in the communication. (UNI)

Locals Are

note: "InshaAllah, the Yatra will pass peacefully and tourism will flourish once again." (KNS)

India Ready

that images are available in Google showing runways and those hangars which have taken the hit.

During his week-long visit to Europe, Jaishankar will also hold talks with leaders of the European Union, Belgium and France to boost bilateral ties and reaffirm India's policy of zero-tolerance against terrorism. (PTI)

Farooq Gets

engineers and the workers for making it happen," Abdullah told reporters after disembarking.

He called the train the biggest victory for the people as it will ease travel, boost trade and tourism, and also strengthen "love and friendship" between the two regions.

"We hope that the yatris from across the country will use the facility to turn up in large numbers for darshan at Amarnath cave shrine during the upcoming pilgrimage," Abdullah said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's sons, Zamir and Zahir, J-K minister Satish Sharma, chief minister's

advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, and National Conference chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq also accompanied Abdullah on his train ride.

"Took our first train ride from Srinagar to Katra truly impressed! The journey crosses the iconic Anji bridge and weaves through stunning tunnels. A remarkable experience," Sadiq wrote on X, also sharing some pictures of the trip.

Abdullah said the train will help transport horticulture produce from Kashmir to different markets in the country, including the far-off Kanyakumari, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bihar.

Earlier, in Srinagar, the NC chief said, "I am very happy that I am travelling by this train to Katra today. It has been the biggest benefit for us." He said the train would be a reliable transport link for the people of the valley.

"The road (between Srinagar and Jammu) gets closed sometimes and the airlines start fleeing the people by jacking up the prices. With this train, people will be saved from that," he said.

Abdullah said the railway link will also prove to be beneficial to the horticulture sector in Kashmir as the produce will reach the markets faster.

"It will also benefit tourists visiting Kashmir," he added. (KNO)

Heatwave grips

In Kokernag, the mercury settled at 32.2°C, while in Kupwara and Gulmarg, a maximum temperature of 31.6°C and 23.0°C was recorded, respectively, on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the heat wave is expected to continue for the next four days.

Local authorities urged residents to take precautions, including staying indoors during peak heat hours in the afternoon, drinking plenty of water and avoiding strenuous outdoor activities. (KNO)

Op Sindoor

in future. He emphasised on the need to be alert not just at the level of governments, but also at the public level.

Branding terrorism as an epidemic destined to perish, the Defence Minister stressed that the menace cannot be left to die a natural death as its existence will continue to challenge collective peace, development and prosperity. He underscored the urgent need for a permanent solution to terrorism.

Terrorists are not fighters with a cause. No religious, ideological or political reason can justify terrorism. No human objective can ever be achieved through bloodshed and violence. India and Pakistan attained independence at the same time, but today, India has been recognised as the Mother of Democracy, while Pakistan has emerged as the Father of Global Terrorism. Pakistan has always given shelter to terrorists, trained them on its soil and helped them. It always tries to justify this menace. It is important that we eliminate these terrorists and their entire infrastructure," said Rajnath Singh.

Singh urged the international community to stop foreign funding to Pakistan, saying that a large part of this financial aid is spent on terrorism. "Funding Pakistan means funding the infrastructure of terrorism. Pakistan is a nursery of terrorism. It should not be nourished," he added.

The Defence Minister called upon the global community and organisations such as the United Nations to think on issues like terrorism more seriously, stating that "Only when we are free from terrorism, will we be able to move towards the goal of global peace, progress and prosperity."

Further, Rajnath Singh listed out the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the defence sector, including increasing the defence budget from Rs 2.53 lakh crore in Financial Year (FY) 2013-14 to Rs 6,22 lakh crore in FY 2024-25; reserving 75% of the budget for capital procurement from domestic companies and the issuance of a total of 10 Positive Indigenisation Lists, comprising over 5,500 items.

"Today, Indian Armed Forces use state-of-the-art weapons, missiles, tanks and other systems/platforms manufactured within the country. Our indigenous missiles such as Agni, Prithvi & BrahMos stand ready to give a befitting reply to the enemy. We also have

the strength to build aircraft carriers such as INS Vikrant," he added.

He underlined that the Government's persistent efforts are bearing fruit as the annual defence production, which was around Rs 40,000 crore in 2014, has crossed the record figure of Rs 1.30 lakh crore today, and defence exports, which were Rs 686 crore in 14, has skyrocketed to Rs 23,622 crore in FY 2024-25, adding that Made-in-India defence products are being exported to nearly 100 countries.

"We have set a target of Rs 1.75 lakh crore defence production this year and Rs three lakh crore by 2029. Our defence exports should reach Rs 30,000 crore this year and Rs 50,000 crore by 2029," Singh said.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami was among the dignitaries who attended the event.

Chief Minister Dhami presented the Prasad of the four Dhams to Rajnath Singh at Jolly Grant Airport on his departure from Devbhoomi Uttarakhand. During this, the Chief Minister also presented him millets products of 'House of Himalayas', an umbrella brand of local products of Uttarakhand. (ANI)

Technology Must Enhance Functions Not Replace Decision Making: CJI Gavai

NEW DELHI: Underlining technology's "double-edged sword" nature, Chief Justice of India B R Gavai has said such innovations must enhance judicial functions and not replace the decision making process.

Speaking at the international symposium on "The Role of Technology to Improve Access to Justice" at the University of Cambridge on June 9, the CJI, emphasised the transformative power of technology in enhancing access to justice in a vast, diverse, and complex country like India.

Justice Gavai said judiciary in India readily integrated technology in the quest for making justice more accessible.

"We must also acknowledge that technology can act as a double-edged sword, which may also lead to unparalleled divides. A primary concern is the digital divide, where unequal access to internet connectivity, devices, and digital literacy can lead to the exclusion of marginalised communities who already face barriers to justice. For technology to truly serve justice, accessibility and inclusion must be foundational to its design," he said.

Justice Gavai, however, said no revolution in the justice delivery mechanism could be achieved without policy interventions.

"The governance frameworks that ensure human oversight, algorithmic transparency, and accountability for technology-mediated decisions should be developed," he said.

The CJI continued, "The path forward demands adherence to fundamental principles. Technology must enhance rather than replace judicial functions, particularly reasoned decision-making and individual case assessment. We must ensure that automated systems support rather than supplant judicial judgment." He laid out a comprehensive vision for a more inclusive and responsive legal system, underpinned by digital innovation.

"Access to justice represents the backbone of any fair and equitable legal system. It ensures that all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic status, geographic location, or personal circumstances, can effectively participate in and benefit from legal processes," he said.

He said in a country where more than two-thirds of the population lived in rural areas and over 121 languages were spoken as mother tongues, ensuring equitable access to the courts was both a constitutional obligation and a moral imperative.

He highlighted the foresight of Constitution makers, who enshrined mechanisms to guarantee access to justice, including Articles 32 and 226, which empower citizens to directly approach the Supreme Court and high courts for the protection of their rights.

"Technology has become the bridge between the constitutional promise of justice and the lived experience of citizens," he said.

The CJI referred to several key initiatives that have digitally transformed the Indian judiciary, pointing out video-conferencing had become a permanent fixture in court cases as it enabled lawyers from remote areas to argue cases before the Supreme Court without costly and time-consuming travel.

Barriers to access to justice are now being diluted with the help of technology, he said.

"Video conferencing technology has made the most impact on accessibility to the court. A

lawyer practising in rural Bihar or rural Maharashtra can now appear before the Supreme Court without the expense and time of travelling to Delhi," the CJI said.

With the use of technology, he said, citizens could now track case status, download court orders, and view hearing schedules through the Case Information System, eliminating the need for physical presence.

"It has democratised access to the country's highest court, ensuring that geographical location no longer determines the quality of legal representation available to citizens. Vulnerable witnesses, particularly children, can now testify without being physically present in intimidating courtroom environments," CJI Gavai added.

He also referred to the SUVAS (Supreme Court Vidhik Anuvaad Software) and said the Artificial Intelligence-powered translation tool converts legal documents into nine regional languages, empowering non-English speakers with access to critical information.

CJI Gavai lauded the efforts of the National Legal Services Authority, which leverages technology to extend its services to the most vulnerable. "These innovations are not just conveniences; they are lifelines for those who would otherwise be left outside the judicial system," he said. He hailed the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) as a game-changer in judicial transparency and performance monitoring.

As of early 2025, the NJDG tracks more than 23 crore cases and 22 crore orders from over 18,000 courts, enabling data-backed policymaking and identifying procedural bottlenecks, he said.

The CJI, however, cautioned against technology becoming a new barrier to justice for "the digital divide is real". Without equitable access to internet connectivity, devices, and digital literacy, marginalised communities risk further exclusion, he added. (PIB)

J&K set to celebrate IDY -2025

SRINAGAR: Under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Atal Dooloo, a comprehensive review meeting was held today to assess the preparations for celebrating the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY-2025) on 21 June across the length and breadth of J&K.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, CAD and Information Departments, Secretary, H&ME; Secretary, YS&S; Secretary, RDD; Secretary, Transport; MD, NHM; Director, School Education, Kashmir/Jammu; Project Director, Samagra Shiksha; Director Health, Jammu/Kashmir; Director, Ayush besides other concerned officers. Deputy Commissioners joined the meeting from their respective offices through video conferencing. During this meeting the Chief Secretary observed "Yoga is not merely a physical exercise.", "It is a mind-refreshing discipline that fosters peace of mind, good health, and inclusivity—benefits that transcend age and gender."

NOTICE

1. Fayaz Ahmad Alaie F/O Faizan Ul Fayaz Alaie R/O Goripora Tehsil Awantipora District Pulwama do here by solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under:-
01. That I am a permanent resident of UT of J&K.
02. That my ward namely Faizan Ul Fayaz Alaie was reading in class 7th at Jehlum Public School Goripora under admission No.208.
03. That the DOB of my ward is wrongly mentioned in school records as 05-05-2013 instead of 05-01-2013.
04. That the real and actual particulars of my ward is as under:-
Name:- Faizan Ul Fayaz Alaie
Fathers Name:- Fayaz Ahmad Alaie
Address:- Goripora
05.D.O.B:-05-01-2013
That I solicit this affidavit before the concerned authority for same purpose.
06. That if the statement turns out to be false I shall be personally responsible for the same.

Fayaz Ahmad Alaie
F/O Faizan Ul Fayaz Alaie
R/O Goripora Tehsil Awantipora
District Pulwama

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that in my Aadhaar Card bearing Registration No: 6884 1973 8977, my name and parantege has been Mistakenly Mentioned as Habibullah Kosi Guger, S/O Shareef Ullah kosi Gojer. While as my Actual and correct name and parantege is Habibullah Khan Gojer, S/O Shareef Ullah Khan Gojer. 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 Concern Authorities with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Habibullah Khan Gojer.
S/O Shareef Ullah Khan Gojer
. R/O Aragam Bandipora, District Bandipora, Jammu and Kashmir, pin code: 193502

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that my DOB Certificate has been burned in a fire incident. Now i want to apply for its duplicate in this regard any person having any objection he /she may file the Objections in office the Principal Govt, Higher secondary school Aloosa Bandipora, with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted,

Rehana Bano.
D/O Ghulam Mohammad Bhat.
R/O Aloosa, Bandipora Distric, Bandipora, Jammu and Kashmir, pin code: 193502.

Star West Indies Batter Pooran Announces Shock Retirement At 29

Star West Indies batter Nicholas Pooran on Tuesday stunningly announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 29 without specifying any reasons but insisted that "much thought and reflection" had gone into taking the call.

His decision came days after he opted out of selection for the T20I series against England.

The swashbuckling left-handed batter finished as West Indies' most capped T20I player with 106 matches and also its highest run-getter, with a tally of 2275 at an average of 26.14 and strike rate of 136.39. In 61 ODI appearances, he scored 1983 runs at an average of 39.66 and strike rate of 99.15.

"After much thought and reflection, I've decided to announce my retirement from international cricket," Pooran, a former West Indies white-ball captain, wrote on his social media pages.

"This game we love has given and will continue to give so much - joy, purpose, unforgettable memories, and a chance to represent the people of the West Indies," said the Trinidadian who made his international debut in 2016 in a T20 International match.

He never played Test cricket for his country.

"Wearing that maroon, standing for the anthem, and giving everything I had each time I stepped on the field... it's hard to put into words what that truly means to me. To have led the team as captain is a privilege I will always hold close to my heart," he said.

Pooran had recently opted out of selection for West Indies' T20I series against England after playing the full Indian Premier League (IPL) season for Lucknow Super Giants (LSG).

He hasn't featured in ODIs since West Indies' exit in the 2023 World Cup Qualifiers. His last match for West Indies was against Bangladesh at Kingstown in December 2024.

"To the fans - thank you for your unwavering love. You

lifted me in the tough moments and celebrated the good ones with unmatched passion. To my family, friends and teammates - thank you for walking the journey with me.

He had a magnificent season in 2024, hitting the most sixes in a calendar year (170) before finishing IPL 2025 with 524 runs at a strike rate of 196.25 with five half-centuries.

He was expected to be a key part of West Indies' plans for the T20 World Cup early next year, before Tuesday's shock announcement.

Cricket West Indies lauded Pooran for his outstanding contribution to Caribbean cricket.



"Nicholas officially informed the leadership of his decision to retire from international cricket, bringing to a close a significant chapter in his career," it said.

"A world-class player and a game changer, Nicholas leaves the game as the most capped West Indian... His performances on the field and influence within the team have made a lasting impact on West Indies cricket.

"We salute his achievements and thank him for the moments he has given fans across the region and beyond. We wish him all the very best in the next phase of his journey."


espnricinfo.com


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