

# Kashmir Convener



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## Ensure Safe, Incident Free SANJY: Union Home Secy

Finalizes security plan for annual pilgrimage in Srinagar

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR :** Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Tuesday directed the security top brass to ensure safe and incident free forthcoming Amarnath Yatra, slated to commence on July 3.

Chairing a high-level review meeting here to finalize the security plan for the upcoming 38-day annual pilgrimage, the Union Home Secretary, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), called on the officers to put foolproof security measures in place for the safety of the pilgrims.

Sources told KNO that senior officials from J&K Police, Army, paramilitary forces, including CRPF, SSB, ITBP BSF, and intelligence agencies attended the meeting.

The participants included J&K Chief Secretary, Atal Duloo, Director General of J&K Police, Nalin Prabhat, Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA), Director Generals of Border Security Force (BSF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Railway



Protection Force (RPF), Additional Director Generals of Central Reserve Police Force and BSF, Joint Director Intelligence Bureau, Principal Home Secretary Kashmir, Northern Command GOC 15 Corps, GOCs pf 16 and 9 Corps, Additional Director General (ADG) CID, Special Director Intelligence Bureau, Chairman Railway Board, IG BSF Jammu, Joint Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Ladakh,

ADG ITBP, Special DG Coordination, GM Northern Railway, IG NIA, IG CRPF, CEO Shrine Board, IGP Kashmir, IGP Jammu, Div Com Kashmir and Div Com Jammu.

Sources told KNO that the Union Home Secretary reviewed the security preparedness and held deliberations about the prevailing security scenario in J&K. The meeting discussed detailed security and

logistical assessment for the pilgrimage, which attracts lakhs of devotees from across the country.

The meeting, sources said, dwelt upon every aspect – from route security, communication systems, to medical and disaster preparedness. “Emphasis was laid on ensuring that all necessary arrangements should be put in place in close coordination with the J&K administration and security forces. The officials discussed multi-tier security, enhanced intelligence coordination, and uninterrupted logistical support, they added.

Sources said that the Union Home Secretary was informed that a close monitoring mechanism has been activated to respond swiftly to any emerging situation and the intelligence grid is functioning proactively, and the joint security drills, surveillance along the yatra routes have already begun. “The vulnerable points have been identified. Drone surveillance, night patrolling,

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## Need Joint Efforts To Restore, Revive J&K Tourism: CM Omar

Highlights adventure tourism, infra boost, new destinations



KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today held an interactive session with a visiting delegation of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) and acknowledged their continued interest and efforts in promoting Jammu and Kashmir as a premier tourist destination.

The interaction was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob Farooq, President IATO Ravi Gosain, senior officials, key tourism stakeholders and IATO office bearers.

“We are very grateful to IATO for coming here

and organizing this visit, because trust works both ways. Your presence assures us that we are on the right path,” the Chief Minister remarked while addressing the gathering.

Referring to the tragic incident in earlier this year, the Chief Minister said, “To call it unfortunate would be an understatement. It impacted not just 26 families directly but affected the confidence of many more. Just when the season had begun to look promising, the downturn by mid-June was quite telling.” Highlighting the resilience of the tourism sector, Omar Abdullah expressed optimism about the revival. “Since the 2022 season, we’ve seen a

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## First batch of Hajj pilgrims return to Srinagar



Rehan Qayoom Mir

**SRINAGAR:** The first batch of 178 Hajj pilgrims returned

to Srinagar from Jeddah this evening, officials said, adding that the flight

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## CM Omar welcomes Hajj Pilgrims

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 17:** Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, received the first batch of Hajj pilgrims this evening at the Srinagar International Airport, marking the beginning of the return phase for pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir who

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## “Union Minister Shekhawat To Visit J&K On June 18-19”

KC News Network

**NEW DELHI:** Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will pay a two-day official visit to Jammu and Kashmir beginning Wednesday, during which he is scheduled to meet Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, official sources said.

Shekhawat is also scheduled to visit many ancient temples located in the Union Territory such as Kheer Bhawani Temple, Martand Surya Temple, as well as Pahalgam and Betaab Valley in Anantnag district, they said.

His official visit comes nearly two months after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22. A day after the terror attack, Shekhawat had said that he and his

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## Tourists, Locals Welcome Opening Of Parks At Tourist Destinations

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Several parks in Jammu and Kashmir's tourist places, including some in Pahalgam, that were closed in the aftermath of the April 22 terror attack were reopened on Tuesday, officials said.

The reopening of the parks has been welcomed by the tourists and local visitors

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## MHA To Handle 'Progression' Of Ex-Agniveers

KC NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Home Ministry has been tasked to “co-ordinate activities for further progression” of ex-Agniveers after their term with the armed forces ends, according to a government notification.

The government had amended the Allocation of Business Rules, 1961, by inserting a new point in the second schedule under the Department of States of the Union Home Ministry “coordinating activities for

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## J&K Govt to review Sgr Master Plan-2035

Rehan Qayoom Mir

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday constituted a seven-member panel led by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir to undertake short term review of Srinagar Master Plan-2035.

According to an order issued by Commissioner Secretary to the Government, M Raju, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the committee has been constituted to examine the feasibility of TPS areas, and identify any

TPS area, if necessary for the removal of the precondition with respect to issuing of building permissions in such areas.

The committee comprises Divisional

Commissioner, Kashmir as Chairman, Vice Chairman, Srinagar development Authority as Member Secretary.

The members include Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Vice-Chairman J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority, Chief Town Planner Town Planning Organization, Kashmir and representatives of Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (not below the rank of Additional Secretary).

The panel has been tasked to examine the orders and directions issued by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh from time to time, and on the basis of court orders, in case of buffer zones of Dal and Nigeen lakes, and to accordingly propose amendments

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## MP Aga Ruhullah urges optimum utilization of resources

KC News Network

**GANDERBAL:** Member Parliament from Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, today chaired the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting in Ganderbal to review the implementation status and progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) across the district.

The meeting witnessed a comprehensive review of development works and



government schemes being implemented in various sectors.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, gave a detailed presentation highlighting achievements under different

sectors including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, NRLM, Urban Livelihoods Mission, Rural Development, R&B, Handicrafts & Handlooms, Social Welfare, Education, Health, Jal Shakti, Power, and Labour & Employment.

The meeting was apprised of the physical and financial progress achieved under flagship schemes like MGNREGA, PMAY-G/U, SBM-G/U, RGSA, PMGSY, JJM, and CSS funding,

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## Iran Israel Conflict ● Evacuation process of Indian students begins

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Amid escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, at least 110 medical students of India studying in Iran are

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## ● 90 Kashmiri students being evacuated

KC NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR :** Amid escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, at least 90 students of Kashmir studying in

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## Amarnath Yatra Route Declared ‘No Flying Zone’ from July 01



KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday declared the Amarnath yatra routes as ‘No Flying Zone’ as part of beefed up security measures for the annual pilgrimage.

The Amarnath yatra has two routes – the traditional Pahalgam route and the shorter Baltal route.

The declaration issued by Jammu and Kashmir Home Department on the orders of Lieutenant

Governor Manoj Sinha said flying of any kind of aviation platforms and devices, including UAVs, drones, balloons, is prohibited from July 1 to August 10.

However, the restrictions will not be applicable in the cases

of medical evacuation, disaster management and for surveillance by security forces. A detailed SOP for such exceptions will be issued subsequently.

The order said in view of the Shri Amarnathji Yatra, which is scheduled from July 3, various security arrangements are being undertaken for smooth and peaceful conduct of the yatra.

“All stakeholders have discussed the prevailing security scenario in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and have proposed additional logistics provisions,” the order said.

It said the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has also advised that the entire route of Shri Amarnathji Yatra may be declared as ‘No Flying Zone’ from July 1 to August 10.

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## In a first, consignment of cherries from J&K arrives in Saudi Arabia



Rehan Qayoom Mir

**SRINAGAR:** In a first, a premium consignment of cherries from Jammu and Kashmir has successfully made its way to Saudi Arabia, marking a new milestone in agricultural exports from the Union Territory. As per the Embassy of India in Riyadh, the cherries are now available for consumers in the Kingdom to enjoy.

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## Will establish J&K as emerging Industrial destination: Dy CM

KC News Network

**SRINAGAR:** The government, under the stewardship of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, is embarking on ambitious plans to establish Jammu and Kashmir as an emerging industrial destination with proper mounting of new vision for business growth in the current fiscal.

This was stated by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, while addressing the “New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS): Implementation Conference and Strategy Workshop 2025” at Sanat Ghar, Bemina

The conference was organised by the Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Kashmir, with an aim to bring together the key stakeholders from across J&K to celebrate the achievements under the NCSS-2021 and chart the course for the coming financial year. Commissioner Secretary I&C, Vikramjit Singh, was the Guest of Honour while Director I&C Kashmir, Khalid Majeed, senior officials and General Manager besides other concerned officials from District Industries Centres (DICs) were present in the Conference.



The Deputy Chief Minister was informed that the scheme NCSS-2021, which will be operational till 31st March 2027, offers robust incentives for new units, existing units and those undergoing substantial expansion across manufacturing and service sectors.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the transformative role of NCSS-2021 with a total financial outlay of 28,400 crore. He asserted that the momentum should be maintained throughout the scheme

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# Dr. Jitendra Singh Reviews S&T Progress in Northeast, Calls Region Key to India’s Growth Story



**Wokha (Nagaland) (PIB):** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh, chaired a high-level review meeting of all science and technology institutes working in the Northeast today. Held in Wokha district, Nagaland, the meeting was also attended by senior officials of the Nagaland government and representatives of key S&T departments.

Dr. Singh highlighted the untapped potential of the Northeast and asserted that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the region is fast emerging as a hub of innovation, opportunity, and inclusive development. "The Prime Minister has visited the Northeast over 70 times since 2014, with a clear intent

to break physical and psychological barriers. Today, we see the outcomes – from recruitment in aviation to new startups," he said.

Emphasising the critical role of the region in India's ascent to the top three global economies, the Minister noted, "From agriculture to technology and tourism, the Northeast will be a major growth engine for a Viksit Bharat by 2047."

He praised Wokha's successful implementation of the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme through large-scale banana cultivation, suggesting it as a replicable model for commercial success.

He further stated that the government's inclusive S&T policies have enabled the expansion of science beyond core centres. "Our focus is to take research

and innovation to the peripheries," he said.

Dr. Singh hailed the leadership role of women in the Northeast, saying, "Women here have always led from the front – be it managing fish markets or running households. Now, they must lead in self-help groups, entrepreneurship, and scientific fields."

Referring to women scientists who led national space missions like Chandrayaan and Aditya-L1, he added that the cultural foundation of women-led development already exists in the region.

He also made an emotional reference to the tragic air crash in Ahmedabad, which claimed the lives of two young girls from Manipur. "It is a somber reminder of how far the region has come – youth from Manipur and Nagaland now shine in aviation and hospitality sectors," he said.

Dr. Singh announced that a 15-day nationwide saturation campaign would soon be launched to expand the reach of flagship central government schemes, ensuring deeper coverage in remote areas.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Chumben Murry, MLA and Advisor to the Chief Minister of Nagaland, along with top officials from institutions under the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, and the Survey of India.

In conclusion, Dr. Singh reiterated the government's commitment to making the Northeast a cornerstone of India's scientific, economic, and cultural rise, driven by local strengths, youth innovation, and women empowerment.

## Sanatan Pride Rebuilding, Education Must Be Service, Not Business: Vice President Dhankhar at Pondicherry University

**PUDUCHERRY:** Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, on Monday said that Sanatan pride is rebuilding and urged the nation to rediscover its ancient wisdom with renewed determination.

Speaking at Pondicherry University, where he addressed students and faculty as the ex-officio Chancellor, the Vice-President called for a collective national mindset shift, emphasizing the importance of civilizational values, constructive dialogue in politics, and a rethinking of education as a service rather than a business.

"Sanatan pride is rebuilding. What was lost is being rebuilt – with stronger determination," Shri Dhankhar declared, recalling India's ancient institutions of learning like Nalanda, Takshashila, Mithila, and Vallabhi. He noted that these centers once defined India's intellectual geography and attracted scholars from across the world.

Describing the brutal destruction of Nalanda University by Bakhtiyar Khilji in the 12th century, the Vice-President lamented the loss of nine million manuscripts and the slaying of monks, saying the soul of India

was attacked, but never destroyed. "Nalanda was not just a university; it was a temple of knowledge. The fire that consumed it burned for months, but the wisdom of Bharat remained indestructible," he said.

Addressing the contemporary political climate, Shri Dhankhar

and disturbance are not what the framers of our Constitution envisioned," he said, urging leaders to put national interest above political differences.

The Vice-President also voiced concern over the increasing commercialization of education,



urged moderation in political discourse and respect for dialogue. "We are too keen to raise the political temperature. Climate change is doing that for us already. Why should we melt the glaciers of our patience?" he asked.

Press Information Bureau (PIB) reported that Vice President emphasized the need to move away from confrontation and called upon political leaders to return to India's traditions of debate and dialogue rooted in Vedic philosophy. "Disruption

stating, "There was a time when education and health were seen as noble services to society, not profit-making ventures. Today, education as a service stands in conflict with the fast-emerging commercial model." He appealed to corporate leaders to reimagine their role in education by pooling CSR resources to build institutions of global eminence. "India has a proud tradition of philanthropy. Let us return to it by investing in education that builds character and not just careers," he said.

## India's Cities Embrace Electric Vehicles for Waste Collection under Swachh Bharat Mission

**NEW DELHI (PIB) –** In a significant step toward sustainable urban development, cities across India are integrating electric vehicles (EVs) into household waste collection under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U).

An official spokesperson said the move aims to curb carbon emissions, reduce noise pollution, and enhance the efficiency of daily sanitation operations. Officials say the deployment of zero-emission vehicles aligns with the mission's long-term vision of achieving garbage-free cities.

He said the integration of electric vehicles (EVs) into household waste collection marks a transformative step under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U). These zero-emission vehicles represent the future of sustainable urban sanitation—reducing air and noise pollution while efficiently managing daily waste.

By replacing traditional fuel-powered garbage trucks, EVs not only cut down on carbon emissions but also align perfectly with the mission's goal of Garbage Free Cities. This innovative synergy between clean mobility and solid waste management is paving the way for a more environmentally responsible future.

Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, has embraced an eco-friendly transformation in waste management by deploying over 200 electric autos for door-to-door garbage collection. This

initiative, backed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) under the Sustainable Cities Integrated Pilot Approach (SCIAP), replaces conventional diesel-powered trucks with a



greener alternative. These electric autos, each equipped with GPS tracking for real-time monitoring, efficiently cover the city's 159.46 square kms.

By eliminating the need for over 71,000 litres of diesel annually, the project significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions—an estimated 21,000 tonnes over a decade—helping to combat climate change and enhance air quality. With lower maintenance costs and a longer operational lifespan than traditional garbage trucks, these vehicles offer a cost-effective solution for municipal waste management. Moreover, the initiative generates employment opportunities and improves service reliability, contributing to overall urban sustainability.

The Greater Chennai

Corporation (GCC) has deployed battery-operated electric rickshaws for waste collection across the city. This initiative not only aligns with the vision of eco-friendly development but also addresses critical urban challenges such as air and noise pollution.

servicing all 15 zones and covering 24,621 streets and over 2.1 million households. This comprehensive system brings multiple advantages: significant environmental gains through zero emissions, reduction in fossil fuel dependency, and lower operation and maintenance costs. The initiative also creates employment for over 6,000 individuals. The integration of audio systems in the E-rickshaws further helps spread awareness about waste segregation through dedicated songs and public information campaigns.

Indore Municipal Corporation has taken a transformative step toward environmental sustainability and operational efficiency by introducing 100 electric vehicles (e-vehicles) for door-to-door waste collection, replacing traditional diesel-powered trucks. This initiative, focuses on core city areas like Rajwada, helps in reduction annual carbon emissions by approximately 24,918 tons and cut down significantly on fuel and maintenance costs. Equipped with real-time GPS tracking through the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC), these vehicles will enhance service transparency and monitoring.

The switch from diesel vehicles is expected to save the corporation around 5.97 crore annually, factoring in fuel, servicing, engine oil, and clutch replacement costs.

By replacing diesel-powered vehicles with E-rickshaws that travel approximately 40 kms daily, the city effectively reduces around 41 tons of carbon emissions each day - amounting to an annual reduction of 15,160 tons.

These electric vehicles are specifically designed for door-to-door waste collection from households, commercial spaces, and non-residential areas. Equipped with separate bins for segregating wet, dry, and hazardous waste, the E-rickshaws also promote source-level segregation, instilling environmentally conscious practices among the public and enhancing the efficiency and timeliness of garbage collection.

Currently, the GCC operates a robust fleet of 5,478 E-rickshaws,

## Office of the Zonal Education Officer Soibugh

*Government of UT Jammu & Kashmir*  
Email: zeosoibugh777@gmail.com  
The Deputy Director Information, Srinager.  
Subject: Re-advertisement of post for the Engagement of AAYA/Helper under ECCE for the year 2024-25 for Government Primary School Dandoosa Zone Soibugh Budgam.  
Reference: Order No: 07 of CHIRAG 2023 dated: 09/01/2023.  
CEOB/SS/24/5275 Dated: 02/02/2024.  
ZEO/S/25/90-91 Dated: 21/05/2025 & ZEO/S/25/124 Dated: 29/05/2025

### Public Notice

Due to poor response from the eligible female candidates for the engagement of AAYA/Helper in Govt Primary School Dandoosa Zone Soibugh Budgam, the post is hereby re-advertised and hence fresh applications on prescribed format are invited from desirous female candidates from revenue village Dandoosa Budgam. The application form along with the below mentioned documents shall be submitted in the office of the u/sd by or before 28/06/2025.

- 1 Domicile Certificate
- 2 Age proof (10th/8th) pass certificate.
- 3 Qualification Certificate.
- 4 Xerox copy of BPL ration card (E-ticket of CAPD)
- 5 Present Residence Certificate (Domicile Certificate)
- 6 Death certificate of father/ mother /husband (if applicable)
- 7 Divorce papers (if any) from competent authority.
- 8 Physical Fitness Certificate from CMO concerned.

Note: All other terms and conditions mentioned in the previous advertisement notice shall remain unchanged.  
No: ZEO/S/Estt/25/194-96

**Sd/-**  
**Zonal Education Officer**  
**Soibugh**

**DIPK-2629/25**

Date: Jun 17 2025

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL

### Notice Inviting Tender

e-NIT No.18/EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl of 2025-26 under Endorsement No.:2177-82  
Dated: 16-06-2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders (In Single Cover) are being invited on a Percentage basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)			Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees )	E/Money (in rupees)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
		Construction Cost	Maintenance Cost	Total Cost				
1.	Construction/Upgradation of Road from Dar Mohalla Watalbagh to Dangerpora including allied links under NABARD RIDF-XXX. (Length=2.50 Kms)	171.43	17.14	188.57	2600	3,77,140	03-years	AAY
2.	Upgradation of Shajinag link roads and Khatjinag roads at Urpash Ganderbal under NABARD RIDF-XXX. (Length=2.00 Kms)	202.53	20.25	222.78	5500	4,45,560	03-years	AAY

Position of AAA: Accorded  
Position of TS: Accorded  
Major Head: NABARD RIDF-XXX  
Project Authority: R&B Department  
1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16-06-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17-06-2025 from 12:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	18-06-2025 from 02.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	09-07-2025 from 04.00PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	10-07-2025 from 11:00 AM in the office of Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document. (The name of the Work along with NIT No. and Serial No. must be written on the Treasury Challan).

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal (Dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date).

4. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Allotted Cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal within 03 days before Fixation of contract and shall be released after completion of DLP and the 2% EMD shall be released in favour of successful bidder only after the receipt of 5% Performance Security. (Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Central Kashmir's Circular No.: CE-CK/WS/6458-79 of 2024-25 Dated: 19-08-2024).

**DIPK-2602/25**

Date: Jun 17 2025

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

## Railway Minister Inaugurates India's Largest Automobile Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal



**Manesar, Haryana (PIB):** Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, today inaugurated India's largest automobile Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal at the Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) plant in Manesar, Haryana. The facility, developed as part of the Gati Shakti National Master Plan, marks a major step in boosting the logistics efficiency of automobile transportation

across the country. An official spokesperson told Press Information Bureau (PIB) that the terminal is connected to the Patli railway station through a 10-kilometre dedicated rail link, which is part of the 121.7 km Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor (HORC) being executed by the Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation (HRIDC). Built with a total investment of 800 crore – including 684 crore from HRIDC and the rest from Maruti Suzuki – the terminal boasts

an annual loading capacity of 4.5 lakh vehicles, making it the highest in India for a single cargo terminal. Highlighting the transformative journey of Indian Railways over the past decade, Shri Vaishnaw said, "Before 2014, the annual railway budget hovered around 24,000– 25,000 crore. Today, it stands at 2.5 lakh crore. This enhanced investment has enabled improvements in basic passenger amenities, such as clean toilets in stations and coaches, and the expansion of general class facilities. More than 1,200 General Coaches were added in just the past year." He further noted that in a significant move to boost short-distance commuter services, over 100 MEMU trains are being upgraded from 8–12 coaches to 16–20 coaches. A new MEMU production facility has also been established at Kazipet, Andhra Pradesh.

## Indian Army Taps Former Chiefs' Wisdom Post Operation-Sindoor

**NEW DELHI (PIB):** In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening institutional memory and strategic continuity, the Indian Army today commenced a two-day high-level interaction titled 'Chiefs' Chintan', bringing together the current Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi, and former Chiefs of the Army Staff (CsoAS) in New Delhi. The conclave comes in the backdrop of the recently concluded Operation SINDOOR, and seeks to leverage the vast operational experience and leadership insights of the Army's former top commanders. Welcoming the former Chiefs, General Dwivedi emphasised the enduring value of their guidance in shaping the Army's transformation roadmap and aligning with national objectives like Viksit Bharat @2047. A central feature of Day One was a detailed operational briefing on Operation SINDOOR, covering the strategic rationale, coordinated execution with the Indian Air Force and Navy, and its wider impact on national security. The jointmanship model adopted during the operation was presented as a case study for effective inter-services synergy, sparking a productive exchange of views among the senior military leadership.



# Bandipora Secures Rs11.05 Crore Under Samagra Shiksha for Education Reform: MLA Nizamuddin Bhat

79 New Works Planned for 2025–26; 44 Projects Already Underway

CONVENER NEWS DESK

**BANDIPORA:** Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat on Tuesday said that Bandipora district has secured a whopping amount of Rs 11.05 Crores under Samagra Shiksha for Education reforms in the district.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, Bhat said the district secured the funding under the centrally sponsored Samagra Shiksha Plan with an aim to revamp the education sector in the district. He said this major allocation aims to breathe new life into the constituency's academic institutions by addressing long-pending infrastructural gaps and pushing for overall educational upliftment.

He said Of the total amount, Rs 5.97 crore has been sanctioned for 79 new works in the upcoming financial year 2025–26, while 5.08 crore is already being utilized for 44 works cur-



rently underway as part of the 2024–25 plan. "Together, this combined investment of over eleven crore rupees is set to improve the educational landscape across the Bandipora constituency".

Bhat said the funds will be directed towards critical areas such as the construction of additional classrooms, the establishment of separate toilet blocks for boys and girls, the building of protective boundary walls, and the repair and maintenance of existing school infrastructure. "These interventions are in-

tended not just to improve physical spaces but to create an environment where learning can thrive," he told Kashmir Convener.

An official spokesperson of the legislator said MLA Nizamuddin Bhat, along with other dignitaries, has been visiting schools and colleges across Bandipora to closely inspect facilities, interact with students and faculty and understand the specific needs of each institution. "These visits reflect a rare sense of accountability and a sincere commitment to building a better future for the children of Bandipora".

He said this initiative marks the beginning of a new chapter—one where education is prioritized not in slogans but in action, and where the promise of opportunity reaches every student, regardless of location or background.

"With determination on the ground and robust planning at the top, Bandipora is preparing to set an example for educational reform in the Jammu and Kashmir".

## Middle School Bala Malangam Lacks Adequate Staff, Say Locals

WAHID RAFIQI

**BANDIPORA:** The Middle School Bala in Malangam area of Bandipora is grappling with serious infrastructure and staffing issues, with residents voicing concern over the absence of a sports ground and an acute shortage of teaching staff.

According to locals, the school is situated adjacent to a busy roadside, raising constant safety concerns for the students.

The school, which currently accommodates nearly 280 students, is reportedly operating without any designated space for outdoor activities, denying children the opportunity for physical education. Residents said that the lack of adequate teaching staff is directly affecting the quality of education being imparted at the institution.

Locals further alleged that despite repeatedly raising the issue with the concerned authorities—including Education Minister Ms. Sa-keena Itoo—no tangible action has been taken so far.

They are now urging the administration to consider shifting the school to a safer location where land is available for developing proper infrastructure, including classrooms and playgrounds, to ensure the overall safety and well-being of the students.



## Nowgam Block Delegation Seeks Inclusive Muharram Meeting

BHAT ZAHOOR

**BANDIPORA:** A delegation from Nowgam Block in the Sonawari subdivision has voiced dissatisfaction over being excluded from a recently held preparatory meeting for Muharram arrangements.

The members of the delegation alleged that the meeting was limited to a selective group, sidelining key stakeholders and representatives from several villages in the area.

Terming the exclusion unfair, the delegation said that such selective participation undermines the very purpose of community consultations, which should be inclusive and representative. "Many important voices from Nowgam and adjoining villages were not given a chance to participate or raise concerns. Without everyone's input, the planning remains incomplete and ineffective," the members said.

The delegation has appealed to the Deputy Commissioner of Bandipora to hold a fresh, comprehensive meeting in which representatives from all villages are invited. They emphasised that inclusive public consultations are essential for effective planning, smooth conduct of religious events, and timely redressal of grievances. "Only an all-inclusive meeting will help us present our issues and suggestions before the administration," they added.

## DAJGUA Camp Held in Bonakoot's Chandaji Village

CONVENER NEWS DESK

**BANDIPORA:** Continuing the momentum under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), the district administration Bandipora on Monday organised a special awareness and outreach camp at Chandaji Kralpora in Bonakoot Block.

An official spokesperson said the initiative is part of a broader effort to empower tribal communities by connecting them with key government welfare schemes and developmental services.

Officials from various departments including Health, Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, and Animal and Sheep Husbandry participated in the event. They provided on-the-spot awareness, guidance, and registration support to the local population, ensuring direct benefits to eligible individuals.

The camp witnessed an enthusiastic response from residents, with people turning out in large numbers to understand and avail themselves of the schemes. The growing participation reflects a positive shift toward self-reliance and developmental awareness among tribal communities in the region.

The DAJGUA campaign has been instrumental in taking governance to the grassroots level and promoting inclusive development across Bandipora district. As part of the ongoing campaign, 31 identified tribal villages are being targeted to ensure saturation of benefits and greater community participation in local development.



## Training session on 'Pension Suvidha' Portal for Electronic Pension Processing conducted at Bandipora

CONVENER NEWS DESK

**BANDIPORA:** In a major push towards digital governance and in line with the directions of the Director General Accounts & Treasuries J&K, District Treasury Office Bandipora today conducted a comprehensive training programme on the newly launched Pension Suvidha portal for Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The training programme was held to facilitate the transition to electronic processing of pension cases of retiring government employees through the Pension Suvidha software application, developed by the Jammu & Kashmir Government in collaboration with the Accountant General (A&E) and NIC.

District Treasury Officer Bandipora, briefed the participants about the key features and benefits of the new system. He emphasized the importance of timely and error-free pension case processing and urged all DDOs to ensure full compliance with the new digital procedure.

During the session, the officers were guided on various aspects of the portal including login procedures, uploading of documents, digital verification, and submission of pension cases through the online platform.

District Treasury Officer informed that the implementation of the Pension Suvidha Portal will bring greater transparency, efficiency, and speed in pension-related matters and will benefit both departments and retiring employees alike. He also stressed that similar follow-up training and support sessions will be organized to address technical queries from field offices.

## Adv. Zameer Farooq Urges Immediate Govt Action Over Irrigation Crisis in Pampore

BILAL HABIB

**Pampore:** Congress leader Advocate Zameer Farooq Joo on Tuesday visited paddy fields in Lethpora, Pampore, to assess the irrigation water crisis that is severely affecting farming communities across Pampore, Kakapora, and Awantipora.

During his visit, Advocate Zameer interacted with local farmers and listened to their concerns about the shortage of irrigation water. He called for urgent government intervention to restore water supply and provide timely relief to the affected farmers.

"Over the past five years, this region has seen continuous dry spells with low rainfall and insufficient snowfall," he told Kashmir Convener. "This has led to a drastic fall in Jhelum River's water level, directly impacting paddy cultivation."

He added that while the region has faced dry spells before, this year's crisis has hit farmers just as the paddy sowing season began, leaving fields dry across areas including Shar Shali, Ladhoo, Khrew, and Wuyan.

"Farmers are extremely distressed. If this situation continues, the future of agriculture in these areas will be at stake," Zameer warned.

He appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, local MLA, and Tehsildar Pampore to take immediate steps to ensure uninterrupted irrigation supply during the crucial farming months of June to September.

"The government must act now to ensure that farmers' efforts are not wasted, and that they receive the support they deserve," he said.

## Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari To Organise Kashmiri Essay Competition on June 29

CONVENER NEWS DESK

**BANDIPORA:** Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari (HAS), a noted literary organisation in Bandipora, is set to conduct a district-wide Kashmiri Essay Writing Competition on June 29, 2025. In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, an official spokesperson of the organisation said the aim to promote Kashmiri language and literature among school students.

He said competition will be held across all High and Higher Secondary Schools of Bandipora district, except those in Zone Gurez, in collaboration with the Department of School Education, Bandipora.

"This initiative underscores the importance of nurturing mother tongue appreciation among young students, fostering linguistic pride and literary creativity," said the President of HAS, in a statement issued on Monday.

To ensure maximum participation, the Chief Education Officer (CEO), Bandipora, has issued instructions to all school heads, urging them to extend full cooperation for the smooth con-

duct of the event.

Interested students can register for the competition by June 22, 2025, through a dedicated link to be shared

category will be felicitated during the Annual Day celebrations of Halqa-e-Adab Sonawari, scheduled for September 2025.



shortly by the organising body. The syllabus for the essay competition will be released once the registration process concludes.

The top three winners in each

The event marks a significant step in reviving and popularising Kashmiri language learning at the grassroots, particularly among youth.

## MC Handwara Holds Awareness Programme under "Nasha Mukh Bharat" Campaign

CONVENER NEWS DESK

**HANDWARA:** The Municipal Committee Handwara, in collaboration with various stakeholders, organized a comprehensive awareness program today at Town Hall Handwara under the nationwide "Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan".

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of senior citizens, students, officials, healthcare professionals, and members of civil society.

An official spokesperson said the primary objective of the program was to raise awareness about the alarming consequences of drug addiction and to mobilize community support for a drug-free society.

Students from multiple schools actively engaged in thought-provoking discussions, sharing their views on the social and psychological impacts of substance abuse and highlighting the significance of youth-led awareness.

Tehsildar Handwara, Zeeshan Khan Executive Officer, Arshid Qadir Bhat, and SHO Handwara, Kaifiyat Hussain addressed the gathering, underlining the collective responsibility of parents, educational institutions, law enforcement agencies, and the district administration in combating the menace of drug abuse.

They stressed on the need for community vigilance, early intervention, and rehabilitation support.

Medical professionals from GMC Handwara provided valuable insights into the health hazards associated with drug addiction and offered guidance on treatment and support mechanisms.

Representatives from the Traders' Federation, Transport Unions, and various civil society organizations also participated in the event, pledging their full support towards the vision of a drug-free Handwara.

The program concluded with a strong message of unity and commitment to continue spreading awareness and strengthening preventive measures at the grassroots level.

## Indian Army Participates in Urs Celebration at Masoom Shah Ziarat in Mendhar's Chhajla

CONVENER NEWS DESK

**POONCH:** In a heartening display of communal harmony and civil-military cooperation, the Indian Army joined hands with local residents to celebrate the annual Urs of Masoom Shah Ziarat in Chhajla, Mendhar. The three-day event, attended by over 500 devotees, featured traditional rituals, soulful Qawwali performances, and communal feasting (Langar), fostering a deep sense of unity and spiritual devotion.

As part of its outreach under Operation SADBHAVNA, the Indian Army extended logistical support and helped ensure a peaceful, secure environment throughout the celebration. The presence and active participation of Army personnel were widely appreciated by the locals, who praised the Army's consistent support for cultural and religious occasions across the region.

The event was not only a spiritual gathering but also a powerful reminder of the importance of interfaith cooperation and social cohesion. Local elders and religious leaders acknowledged the Indian Army's efforts in strengthening community bonds and promoting peace and development in Mendhar.

By taking part in the Urs at Masoom Shah Ziarat, the Indian Army once again reaffirmed its commitment to working hand-in-hand with the people of Jammu and Kashmir to uphold shared values of harmony, respect, and progress.



Editorial

### Skilling Blueprint

With the unveiling of the Holistic Skill Development Plan (HSDP), Jammu and Kashmir has taken a landmark step toward reshaping the region's economic and social landscape. In an era defined by rapid technological change, volatile job markets, and growing youth aspirations, this comprehensive, age-stratified skilling strategy reflects visionary governance with grassroots focus.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo rightly noted during the plan's presentation, its true value lies in effective implementation. For too long, skill development efforts in J&K have struggled with fragmented delivery, outdated curricula, and weak industry linkages. The HSDP addresses these bottlenecks with a forward-looking, 4E-based engine — Establish, Enrich, Execute, and Empower — placing institutional coordination, market relevance, and technology at the heart of the process. Significantly, HSDP is not a one-size-fits-all approach. It recognizes the unique needs of every age group seeking re-skilling. Such segmentation ensures inclusivity and lifelong learning opportunities in a region where unemployment, underemployment, and migration remain pressing challenges. Equally praiseworthy is the plan's focus on outcome over optics. While previous skilling schemes often stopped at training, HSDP integrates crucial elements like credit linkages, toolkit distribution, experiential learning, and structured placement support. The roadmap to link skill-building with livelihood is well-defined — from mobilizing village-level "YUVA Saathis" to promoting Mission Artisan 2047, a pioneering initiative to preserve and modernize local crafts.

With over 12,600 enrollments in 54 ITIs and a growing network of polytechnics, the groundwork has been laid. But success will now depend on consistent coordination among departments, industry partnerships, and real-time feedback loops. Setting up a J&K Skills University, as proposed, could become a game-changer — not only streamlining the delivery but also standardizing credentials and creating global pathways for local youth.

The Holistic Skill Development Plan's strength lies in its recognition that skilling is not merely an economic tool — it is a social equalizer, a source of dignity, and a driver of innovation. As the National Education Policy 2020 provides the ideological framework, HSDP translates that vision into measurable actions — aligned with the aspirations of a youthful population hungry for opportunity and relevance. Jammu and Kashmir's journey from a conflict-affected economy to one powered by entrepreneurship, technology, and skilled human capital is both ambitious and achievable. The HSDP might just be the blueprint that makes this transformation real, scalable, and sustainable.

# Beyond the Threshold: What Breaching 1.5°C Means for India — and for Kashmir

SEMRAH PARVAIZ

## Part-I

dire new prediction by the World Meteorological Organization and the UK Met Office, that red line is perilously close to being crossed. There is a 70% possibility of the global temperatures momentarily crossing the 1.5°C threshold in the next five years. No longer is this some future eventuality — it is the climate reality at India's doorstep, and pummelling the delicate ecosystems of Kashmir.

This violation, temporary or not, is more than a statistical occurrence. It is an interruption of stability, of climate predictability, and of the assumptions on which entire economies, cultures, and nations, such as India, have built their futures. The science is clear: exceeding 1.5°C entails intensifying droughts, floods, crop failures, glacier melting, biodiversity breakdown, and social instability. But the moral and political issues are more ambiguous — who suffers most? Who gets to respond? And who gets left behind?

India, with its billion-strong population, agrarian backbone, and developmental aspirations, stands at a crossroads. And within India, Kashmir — a Himalayan region already vulnerable to ecological fragility and political uncertainty — is particularly exposed. To breach 1.5°C is to breach the limits of what many mountain communities can adapt to.

But amid the gloom, there remains a glimmer of hope — if we treat this forecast not as a prophecy, but as a final warning. If we dare to act — not with token climate diplomacy or delayed mitigation plans, but with urgent, just, and deeply localised responses — India can still turn this crisis into a reckoning, and Kashmir can still be saved.

**What This Means for the World**

For years, global leaders have spoken of the 1.5°C threshold as a line we must not cross. Now, they are preparing us for its breach. That shift in tone — from prevention to resignation — is one of the most chilling aspects of the WMO and UK Met Office's report. It signals that the global climate regime has failed to hold the line. Fossil fuel consumption remains high, global emissions have plateaued at dangerous levels, and climate diplomacy has become a game of watered-down compromises and broken promises.

What the world is now confronting is not just more heatwaves or rising seas — it is the collapse of climate certainty. Systems we once believed were gradual and predictable — like monsoons, glacier melt, or ocean currents — are now increasingly erratic, with feedback loops that can spiral out of control. Scientists warn of "tipping points" in the Earth system — irreversible changes such as the thawing of permafrost or the collapse of polar ice sheets — that may be triggered sooner than we thought.

But this is not just a climate emergency. It is an emergency of justice. The richest nations, which have caused most of the past emissions, are continuing to open up oil fields and greenlight new pipelines, while the poorest and most vulnerable people, in low-lying atolls, river deltas, parched savannahs, and Himalayan valleys, are made to bear the brunt.

In this world tale of failure, hope must instead come from elsewhere — from those countries and peoples who have been least to blame for the prob-

lem but now most urgently stand at the frontlines of its solutions. India is one such place. And Kashmir, perhaps surprisingly, could be one of its most critical climate frontlines.

**What This Means for India**

India doesn't require a scientific report to be informed that the climate has changed. The nation has been experiencing the crisis firsthand. Scorching heatwaves, unpredictable monsoons, devastating cyclones, flash floods, and persistent air pollution are no longer exceptions — they have become the new means that the country's greatest assets — its monsoon, its glaciers, its rivers, its fertile plains — are all under siege. It means that food and water security will become the defining issues of the next decade. It means that the Indian state will be tested not only by natural disasters but by human ones: mass migrations, public health crises, political discontent, and climate-induced inequality.

But it also means that India now has a choice. A hard one — but a powerful one. It can either treat climate action as a burden imposed by the West or

Part-I

# Listening, Not Lecturing: A New Model for Public-Centered Journalism

Mattia Peretti

If you work in journalism, you might recognize that 2024 was a year of reckoning for our industry. I certainly do.

At the start of the year, I embarked on a Knight Fellowship with ICFJ to explore how generative AI can be used to improve the way we serve information to our audiences. I was determined to do something meaningful.

**But something sounded off-key.**

I wanted to make sure I knew what I was doing and why I was doing it. Imagine how stupid I felt when I realized I had embarked on the fellowship with a bag full of assumptions, failing to reflect on what the industry actually needed, and the arrogance to assume that since I had become some sort of AI expert over the previous years, obviously AI had to be part of the solution I was going to bring to the table. It took me a while to understand how that was not even the main flaw of my problem statement. Only after a few months of deep conversations within the News Alchemists community I was able to understand that "serving information to audiences" is a deeply flawed way to describe the mission of journalism, and one that actively hinders our ability to play a meaningful role in people's lives.

And it appears that many other people across the industry had the same realization.

**Why do we, as journalists, do what we do?**

Take the predictions for 2025 that Nieman Lab published in December. Analyzing the main themes covered in them, Florent Daudens noticed something interesting: "Plenty of AI and U.S. politics (surprise!), but there's also this horizontal axis spanning industry strategies to deep reflections on how to engage with the public".

The predictions that Florent is referring to (the blue dots on the map) talk about "rebuilding the bonds between communities and newsrooms" (Sarabeth Berman), "sustaining meaningful relationships" (Adam Thomas), "ensur[ing] we can be helpful to our communities" (Jennifer Brandel), and asking fundamental questions such as "Why do we, as journalists, do what we do? What's our fundamental value?" (Anita Li).

That these reflections are so prominent in what people across the industry have on their minds at the dawn of 2025 is an incredibly encouraging sign. The reason I believe that we must stop thinking of our mission as "serving information to audiences" is exactly in line with what all these predictions are getting at: it's time to fundamentally rethink and redefine our relationship with audiences and our role in society.

no support in understanding why the information they've been provided should matter for their lives.

In response to the cat videos argument, let's get this out of the way: listening to your audience does not mean abdicating your responsibility as a journalist; it does not mean just doing what they want you to do. Listening means making sure that your audience feels heard in your editorial decisions. It doesn't mean losing track of your values or of your journalistic mission: helping people navigate their lives and providing them with the information and the context they need to meaningfully participate in their communities.

Think of your journalism organization as a restaurant. People can't just walk in and ask for whatever they want to eat. You are in charge of the menu — which you can change, but not too often or your customers won't know what you're about anymore. You can combine healthy options that are good for them with yummy treats that might have too many needs of audiences with our journalistic mission is represented by how Schibsted Media Group approaches personalization. Homepages are highly personalized, with most spots optimized for engagement by showing stories that are relevant for the individual user. But Schibsted aims to "strike a balance between the stories everyone should know and ones that are of particular interest to specific users," so they reserve some of the top spots for "stories that help promote Schibsted's journalistic mission, and put those up despite how they perform."

TO BE CONTINUED...

TO BE CONTINUED...



# The Bibi–Sisi Rift: Threat to Camp David Accords



Adil Rasheed

President Sisi's rejection of US–Israeli plan to relocate Gazans to Egypt, controversy over the Ben Gurion Canal project to bypass Suez Canal and Egypt's shift towards Russia, China and Turkiye threatens to derail the 1978 Camp David Accords.

Egypt, once celebrated as the socio-political nerve centre of the Arab world, seems to be witnessing a decline in its geo-political stature even in its immediate neighbourhood in recent decades, owing to its economic hardships and the rise of Islamist movements in the region.[1] This steady marginalisation of Egypt came into sharp focus when it did not feature in US President Donald Trump's recent tour of Arab countries. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi was also not invited to the US–Gulf summit in Riyadh held in May 2025.

It might be argued that Trump was not on a grand tour of West Asia but was mainly visiting GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) states in May 2025. It is also speculated that the US president avoided visiting Cairo as Sisi had recently turned down the US–Israeli plan to relocate Gazans to Egypt and Jordan,[2] rejected Trump's demand for free passage of US ships through the Suez Canal[3] and even refused military assistance to US–Israeli operations against the Houthis.[4]

In fact, Sisi had himself cancelled a planned visit to Washington



*Israeli prime minister even clarified that IDF forces shall not withdraw from the corridor until the smuggling is effectively stopped.[11] Thus, Netanyahu implicitly dismissed Egypt's demand for giving a clear timeline about Israeli troop withdrawal from the Philadelphi corridor.[12] For their part, Egyptian officials insisted that there remained no existing tunnels in the Philadelphi corridor as their forces had destroyed hundreds of them on their side of the border years ago. To further allay US–Israeli concerns, Sisi even hailed the 1978 Camp David Accords as “a model for lasting peace” at the Arab Summit on 4 March 2025.*



earlier in order to supposedly avoid discussing the US–Israeli Gaza plan with Trump. In any case, US–Egypt relations have hit a new low amid reports that the Washington plans to reduce Egypt's US\$ 1.3 million annual military aid[5]—linked to the 1978 Camp David Accords and the 1979 Israel–Egypt peace treaty[6]—on account of Cairo's growing military ties with Beijing.[7] In fact, Egypt's increasing antipathy towards the US is viewed with respect to its growing acrimony with the Netanyahu government over the ongoing Gaza war, and the alleged build-up of its military across the 200 km border with Israel.

In late March 2025, members of the Israeli Knesset expressed concerns over the build-up of Egyptian military forces in the Sinai, which Israeli officials claim exceed the limits set by the 1979 peace treaty between the two countries.[8] Writing in the Jerusalem Post in late May, Brigadier General Yitzhak Brik of the IDF (Reserve) wrote:

As per the peace treaty, Egypt can have one mechanized division and a tank brigade in the Sinai Peninsula, totalling 47 battalions and 300 tanks. However, Egypt now has approximately 180 battalions in Sinai—nearly four times the treaty's limit.[9]

The Camp David Accords of 1978 are often seen as the cornerstone of Israeli–Arab relations, which has withstood several regional challenges and clashes between Palestinian factions and Israel. However, it is for the first time that Egyptian government officials have started threatening to scrap the treaty following Israel's war in Gaza triggered by the Hamas-led 7 October terror attacks.

The first indication of the threat to Israel–Egypt peace treaty of 1979 came in January 2024, when the Egyptian government warned Israel that any planned occupation of the Philadelphi Corridor (a 100 metre wide and 14 km long strip of land between Gaza and Egypt) by Israeli forces would be a violation of the 1978 Camp David Accords.

Later in February 2024, when the Netanyahu government informed Egypt that it had planned to launch a ground operation in Gaza's southern city of Rafah, Egyptian officials reportedly warned that “if even one Palestinian refugee crosses over (into Egypt)—the peace agreement (of 1979) will be nullified.”[10]

if crossed, would “liquidate the Palestinian cause”. On the one hand, Egypt does not want to be seen in the Arab world as party to Israel in supporting the so-called “ethnic cleansing” of Gazans.

At the same time, Egypt also fears that by giving Gazans asylum, elements of Hamas (an offshoot of Muslim Brotherhood that is

posed linking up of Eilat port to Ashkelon on the Mediterranean by diverting the canal route through northern Gaza in order to shorten it. Thus, Sarah Khalil writes in The New Arab news portal:

With Gaza razed to the ground, there have been alleged plans to literally cut corners and reduce costs by diverting the



Tensions between the two sides rose in September last year, when Israel eventually took control of the Philadelphi Corridor and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (popularly known as Bibi) said that Hamas had been using tunnels under the border to smuggle arms and rebuild its military machine.

Israeli prime minister even clarified that IDF forces shall not withdraw from the corridor until the smuggling is effectively stopped.[11] Thus, Netanyahu implicitly dismissed Egypt's demand for giving a clear timeline about Israeli troop withdrawal from the Philadelphi corridor.[12] For their part, Egyptian officials insisted that there remained no existing tunnels in the Philadelphi corridor as their forces had destroyed hundreds of them on their side of the border years ago. To further allay US–Israeli concerns, Sisi even hailed the 1978 Camp David Accords as “a model for lasting peace” at the Arab Summit on 4 March 2025.

Yet, that assurance was soon offset by a lawsuit filed by a human rights advocate Mahmoud Hassanein at Egypt's Administrative Court in late April 2024, which demands the Egyptian President to call for a national referendum on the continuance of the 1978 Camp David Accords. The filing of such a lawsuit that challenges the policies of the ruling Egyptian president is rare in Egypt and the development shows growing disquiet within Egyptian society and political circles against the ongoing Gaza war and the simmering resentment towards the country's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.[13]

Although Egypt is the only country aside from Israel that has a border with Gaza, yet President Sisi has refused to give Palestinian refugees displaced by Israel asylum in his country, by calling the US–Israeli suggestion to this effect a “red line” that,

banned in Egypt) could set up a new base inside its territory for launching terrorist operations against Israel. This would provide Israel the justification to conduct military strikes inside Egyptian territory, in the name of counter-terrorism operations. In fact, President Sisi has only recently achieved success in clamping down on Islamist insurgents in northern Sinai region after several years, and does not want the victory to go to waste by bringing in Hamas elements along with Gazan refugees into Sinai.[14]

Egypt also opposes Israel's alleged plan to permanently expel Palestinians from Gaza in light of the news that Netanyahu government is planning to dig up a channel (named as the Ben Gurion Canal) as an alternative to the Suez Canal, which would join the Red Sea through the Israeli port city of Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba to Ashkelon coast on the Mediterranean Sea.[15] It has been reported that Israel on 2 April 2021 had announced plans to begin work on the Ben Gurion Canal.[16]

In order to understand Egypt's unease over the building of an alternate waterway bypassing the Suez Canal, it is noteworthy that the Red Sea forks into two gulfs—the western Gulf of Suez leading to the Suez Canal and then the northeastern arm of Red Sea, called the Gulf of Aqaba, east of Sinai Peninsula and the west of the Arabian Peninsula. Its coastline is divided among four countries—Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. It is on the northernmost tip of the Gulf of Aqaba that Israel has its only port on the Red Sea, the Port of Eilat, which has recently been the target of many Houthi missiles.[17]

Arab media is replete with conspiracy theories that Israel wants to shorten the route of the highly expensive Ben Gurion Canal project (first conceived in late 1960s), by diverting the pro-

canal straight through the middle of the Palestinian enclave.[18]

Notwithstanding Arab media allegations that Gaza is being evacuated to use the territory for shortening the route of a highly expensive Israeli canal project, the bypassing of the Suez Canal by Israel's own waterway would itself deal a body blow to Egypt's vital economic and strategic interests. These apprehensions recently peaked when it was alleged by Arab media commentators that Saudi Arabia is forcing Egypt into accepting the presence of military bases on the two strategically important islands of Tiran and Sanafir, which lie at the southern entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba, where Israel's Eilat port is located.[19]

It is important to note here that in 2016, Egypt ceded the two islands of Tiran and Sanafir to Saudi Arabia, in spite of massive public protests within the country against the decision, in exchange for Riyadh's promised aid and investment. That controversy has revived again with a group of 57 lawyers filing a petition in an Egyptian court over their government's 2016 decision to transfer the sovereignty of the Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia.[20]

In the wake of such public unrest, Egypt appears to be gradually moving away from its erstwhile allies—the US and Israel—and is forging important economic and defence-related deals with China, Russia and a more Islamist Turkiye. Thus, Egypt has been steadily expanding its trade and investment ties with Russia, and is reportedly reducing its reliance on US dollar transactions.[21] Russia is helping Egypt build on its soil a joint industrial zone named Sun City, which will provide for special incentives to Russian companies.[22] Again, Russia is a significant supplier of defence equipment and weapons to Egypt and is also constructing a nuclear power plant for the Arab state.[23] Russian tourists throng Egyptian tourism sites and have reported an increase by 45 per cent this summer.[24]

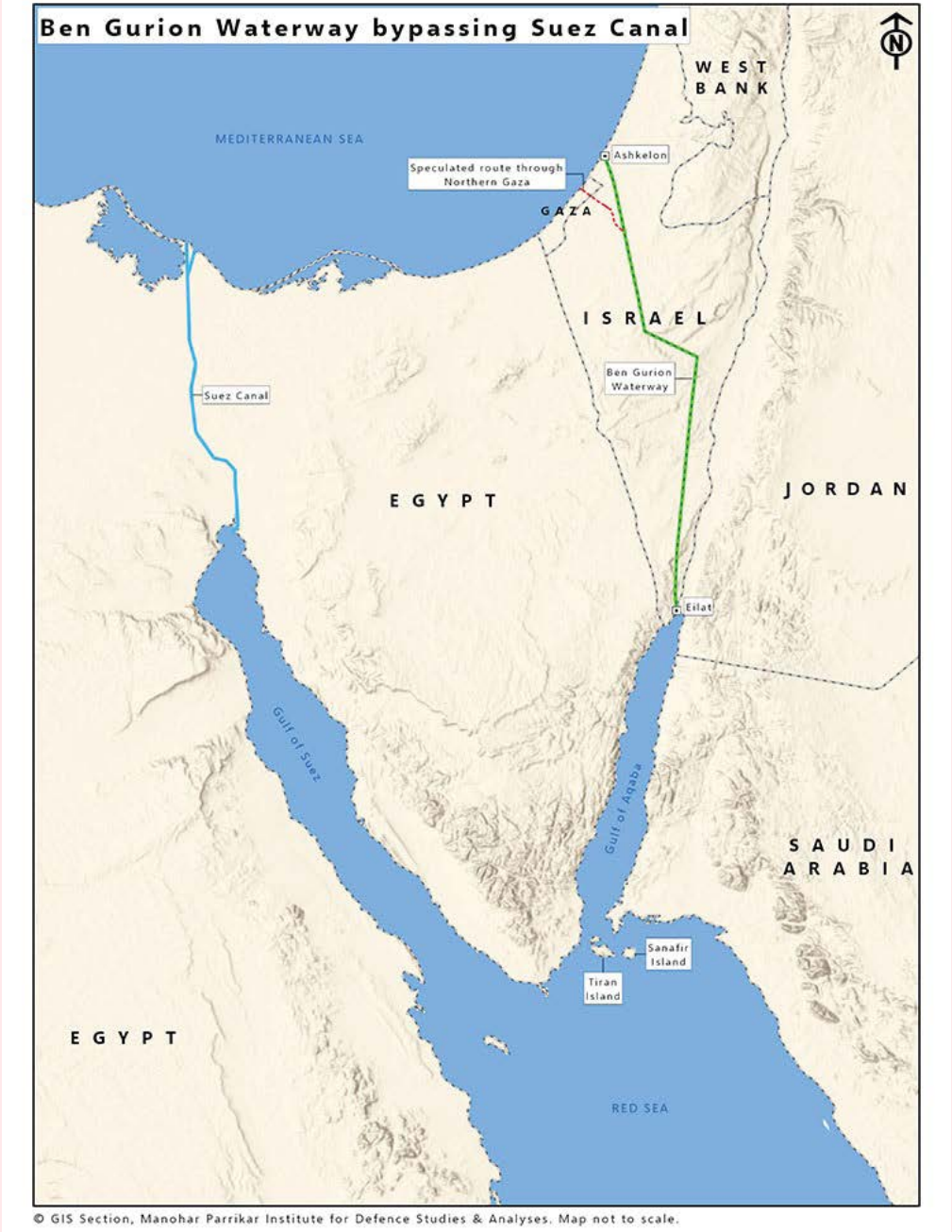
However, the US is particularly disturbed by Egypt's growing relations with China, which expands to multiple domains, including economics, diplomacy and defence. In fact, China has been Egypt's largest trading partner for several years[25] and the two countries recently celebrated their “golden decade” of comprehensive strategic partnership.[26] China's rising investment and industrial collaboration is particularly noteworthy in the Suez Canal Economic Zone.[27] On 22 April, Egypt and China conducted their first joint air force drills dubbed “Eagles of Civilization 2025”.[28] Egypt is reportedly also evincing interest in acquiring China's J-35 fifth generation stealth fighter, indicating a potential shift in its military procurement away from the United States.[29]

In a dramatic turnaround, Sisi has also made friends with one of his worst critics in Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Egypt–Turkey relations had deteriorated after the ousting of Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi in 2013 in a coup by the then General Sisi. In fact, Erdogan had sworn never to meet Sisi and had called his takeover a coup, which resulted in the two countries expelling each other's ambassadors.

However, Qatar played a significant role in recent years to bring the two sides together and relations have vastly improved in the wake of their growing anti-Israeli stance over the Gaza crisis. Egypt and Turkiye may still have differences over Libya, but they seem to stand together when it comes to Ethiopia over the GERD (Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam) project on the Blue Nile.[30] Ankara is also not averse to Cairo backing the Islamist Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), which is opposed to US allies like the UAE that back the rival Rapid Support Forces (RSF).[31]

Egypt's rapprochement with Turkiye and initial stages of a prospective thaw with even Iran[32] is happening when Shia and Sunni terrorist groups, namely the Houthis and Salafi-jihadist Al-Shabaab, are increasing their collaboration across the Red Sea, and have entered into a pact on intelligence and security matters. [33] Thus, Egypt, Turkiye and Iran are increasing their combined influence around the Horn of Africa that could potentially have significant impact on the security of the globe's vital maritime and naval chokepoints.

The paper was published by Manohar Parrikar IDSA. Views expressed are of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Kashmir Convener, Manohar Parrikar IDSA or of the Government of India. Author Dr Adil Rasheed is Research Fellow (Selection Scale) and Coordinator of the Counter Terrorism Centre at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Strategic Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA).





# Jal Shakti Minister Flags Delays, Pushes for WSS Completion in Pir Panjal

**Srinagar:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday conducted a comprehensive review of the functioning of Water Supply Schemes in the Pir Panjal Region.

An official spokesperson said the meeting, which was attended by Director Finance, Director Planning, Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, aimed to assess the current status of water supply infrastructure and identify areas for improvement.

During the review, the Minister emphasized the importance of meticulous planning for the ensuing year to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the residents of the region.

He directed the concerned departments to prepare detailed plans, taking into account the region's specific needs and challenges. The Minister also stressed the need for regular water quality tests to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to the public.

He directed the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) officials to prioritize water quality monitoring and take corrective measures wherever necessary. The meeting also reviewed

the progress of ongoing projects of Water Supply Scheme in the region.

participation and involvement in ensuring the sustainability of water supply schemes. The Minister reaffirmed the



Rana expressed concern over delays and directed the concerned officers to fast-track the completion of these projects, ensuring high-quality workmanship.

The Minister also reviewed the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the Pir Panjal Region.

He emphasized the importance of community commitment of J&K Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to providing safe and reliable drinking water to the residents of J&K including the Pir Panjal Region. He assured that his department would work tirelessly to address the region's water supply challenges and ensure the well-being of its residents.

# Speaker Legislative Assembly visits Kargoom, Palpora in Charar-i-Sharief

**BUDGAM:** Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Tuesday conducted an extensive tour of Charar-i-Sharief constituency in Budgam district.

The Speaker reviewed the progress on various ongoing developmental projects and had a first-hand appraisal of the pace and quality of work. He emphasized the importance of expediting the execution of these projects to ensure their timely completion.

As part of his outreach efforts, the Speaker held public interaction programmes at Kargoom and Palpora, where he met with the local residents and listened to their concerns and demands.

The locals expressed appreciation for the visit and raised issues related to infrastructure, public services and basic amenities.

The Speaker directed the concerned officers and departmental heads to ensure prompt service delivery and effective grievance redressal mechanism. He stressed the need for responsive

governance that reaches the people at grassroots level.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker stated,



“The government is committed to reach the people at their doorsteps. Along with the district administration, we aim to understand the needs of the community directly and work together to address them.”

He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards inclusive development and citizen-centric governance, highlighting the importance of on-ground engagement for effective administration.

## SDD unveils HSDP for mega skilling of JK populace

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir is all set to embark on a transformative journey in skill development with the unveiling of Holistic Skill Development Plan (HSDP), a comprehensive strategy aimed at creating a future-ready workforce and fostering sustainable economic growth.

The plan was presented to Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, which outlines the ambitious goals and strategic interventions across various sectors.

Present on the occasion were ACS, Higher Education Department; Principal Secretary, School Education; Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD); MD, Skill Development Mission besides Director, Skill Development along with other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that the true impact of the plan lies in its effective implementation at the grassroots level. He underscored the need for seamless coordination between the Education and Skill Development department, terming it essential for the plan's successful execution.

Highlighting the significance of skill development, Dulloo stated that it is a cornerstone for securing sustainable livelihoods for the people. He further noted that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 offers a clear roadmap to guide this transformative mission.

Reviewing the Department's progress under schemes like PM Vishwakarma and PMKVY, the Chief Secretary asked the officials to go beyond basic training. He stressed the importance of complementing skill-building efforts with distribution of toolkits and access to credit linkages to truly empower the beneficiaries and enhance their livelihood opportunities.

ACS, Higher Education Department, Shantmanu, in his remarks, made out that a lot of transformative work had been done to link the education sector with the vocational courses to enhance employability of the students. He acknowledged that the department has a greater role to play in view of the objectives set under NEP-2020 and this skilling plan as well.

Principal Secretary, SED, Ram Niwas Sharma, also gave his inputs about the time bound implementation of the skilling plan besides ensuring about the seamless coordination with SDD in making the strategy to achieve these goals without facing any hindrance.

Secretary, SDD, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, while highlighting the plan informed that J&K has strengthened its skilling infrastructure to a larger extent in the past few years. He revealed that there are currently 54 Government ITIs offering 71 trades with enrolment of 12,600 admissions taken against a capacity of 12,832 students. Similarly, the region has 22 Government Polytechnics offering 18 trades with an intake capacity of 3,275 students and corresponding enrolment of 3,200 admissions in 2024, he added.

The main focal point of this meeting was the discussion on the Holistic Skill Development Plan (HSDP) created by the department, envisioning empowerment of every individual with relevant skills, entrepreneurial mindset and livelihood opportunities, leading to sustainable employment and enterprise creation.

The plan delineates four tracks of skilling program-Skilling for School Explorer (Age 14-18) which focuses on early vocational exposure and foundational skills. This is followed by Skilling for Career Launch-Pad (Age 18-22) which envisages equipping the students with job-ready certifications and entrepreneurial orientation.

The 3rd path comprises of 'Skilling for Job & Entrepreneurship Accelerator' (Age 22-35) enabling youth to choose between employment, entrepreneurship or competitive exams. The fourth one is 'Skilling for Livelihood Enabler' (Age 35-59) which would support re-skilling for sustainable livelihoods and promote home-based/self employment.

The key challenges identified in HSDP implementation were set in the shape of the skilling ecosystem in J&K facing weak placement linkages, lack of upskilling pathways, limited access to skilling, poor delivery, outdated curriculum and lack of industry feedback.

The plan simultaneously proposed interventions propelled by the force of 4 E's engine constituting the Establish, Enrich, Execute and Empower strategy. The first engine aims at establishing institutional support by strengthening the J&K Skill Development Mission, industry engagements, district skill planning and establishing a J&K Skills University as a central hub with model ITIs/Polytechnics as nodes.

The Enrich part focuses on curriculum upgradation, aligning the training content with market demand. It also encompasses adopting model curricula, introducing priority sector tracks for new-age skills (AI, ML, Green Economy) and building 21st-century life skills and digital competencies. The Execute part focuses on efficient delivery by improving trainee mobilization, manpower management (trainer identification and capacity building), enhancing experiential learning through apprenticeships and dual system of training and providing structured offline placement support.

The whole strategy is envisaged to empower by building the enabling ecosystem throughout J&K. This pillar of the strategy also features developing the Mission YUVA App as a one-stop platform, implementing a Skills Passport system and facilitating the financing for skilling through loan schemes and vouchers.

Other focused initiatives constitute engaging Village-Level Skill Mitras/YUVA Saathis, who are trained volunteers at the Panchayat level to mobilize youth and link them with the schemes. For artisans and weavers, it envisions 'Mission Artisan 2047', a dedicated vertical to preserve and modernize traditional crafts.

About the implementation, it was set out that the strategy will involve a multi-tier approach at Block, District and Divisional levels, ensuring convergence of UT and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The plan also emphasizes diverse training modes, including satellite campuses, online skilling, classroom training and mandatory on-the-job training.

# Minister Satish Sharma Inaugurates Key Road Projects in Akhnoor

**JAMMU:** In a significant step towards infrastructure development and community welfare, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science and Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and ARI & Training, Satish Sharma today inaugurated key road macadamization works under the PMGSY and PWD schemes in the Akhnoor region.

As part of the developmental initiatives, the Minister inaugurated the PMGSY road from Chowki-Choura to Ghar Major village, covering a length of 8.150 km, constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.40 crore. Additionally, he flagged off the macadamization of the PWD road from Panya to

Bindigala, a project approved

disturbances. The initiative was



at an estimated cost of Rs. 4.67 crore, with an allotted cost of Rs. 3.30 crore, spanning 3.5 km.

In a compassionate outreach effort, free ration kits were distributed among residents of Panchayat Gigrial, Block Khour, who were recently affected by border firing and

executed in collaboration with the Impact Guru Foundation (IGF), a reputed NGO actively working in conflict-affected areas.

On the occasion, a special felicitation ceremony was organized at Kohinoor Restaurant, Akhnoor, to honour

meritorious students of the Chamb Constituency who scored above 90% in recent board examinations.

The Minister presented appreciation certificates and mementoes to the achievers, acknowledging their hard work and motivating them to continue excelling in academics.

During his visit, the Minister also interacted with various local deputations, who brought forth issues related to damaged roads, drinking water shortages, and other civic concerns.

Minister Sharma patiently listened to the grievances and assured timely redressal through active coordination with the concerned departments, emphasizing that public welfare remains a top priority.

## Pulwama Admin organizes mega awareness, benefit saturation camp at Nargistan

**PULWAMA:** In line with the national vision of tribal welfare and inclusive development, district administration Pulwama today organized a mega Awareness and Benefit Saturation

Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Industries, Forest and others participated in the camp and set up dedicated stalls to deliver on-spot services

Certificate and register for various digital services and Government initiatives.

On the occasion, Rural Development department had set up a dedicated desk that facilitated on-the-spot registration of Job Cards under MGNREGA, assistance with claims under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), and saturation of eligible households under PMAY (G).

Officials also sensitised the public about rural infrastructure development initiatives and livelihood convergence schemes tailored for tribal communities. The stall attracted a significant number of tribal beneficiaries seeking assistance and clarity on entitlements and application procedures.

A significant highlight of the event was the health camp organized by the Health department where residents availed free consultation and medical services provided by a team of doctors and paramedics.

Special focus was laid on awareness regarding sickle cell disease and water-borne illnesses, with health experts educating the community about preventive healthcare, safe drinking practices, and early detection protocols.



Camp at Nargistan Panchayat of Arpal Block under the banner of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

The camp marked the third day of the fifteen-day long campaign aimed at ensuring 100 percent saturation of all eligible tribal beneficiaries under various Central and UT Government schemes.

The initiative envisions holistic upliftment of tribal communities through focused interventions in infrastructure, healthcare, education, livelihoods, and digital inclusion.

Departments including Health, Education, Social Welfare,

and scheme benefits.

Each departmental stall facilitated real-time support through on-the-spot registrations, beneficiary enrolments, scheme consultations, and awareness dissemination. Brochures, booklets and pamphlets were also provided to enhance informed participation.

To promote digital inclusion, a Common Service Centre (CSC) was established at the venue. The CSC enabled beneficiaries to enroll, correct, or update various important documents such as Aadhar Card, PAN Card, Kisan Credit Card, Driving License, Ayushman Bharat Card, Domicile

## DC Kupwara Calls for Intensified Anti-Drug Awareness Campaigns

**Kupwara:** In an ongoing effort to combat drug abuse in the district, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Narco Coordination (NCORD) Committee at the DC Office Complex to review the progress made under various anti-drug initiatives.

During the meeting, the DC took a comprehensive review of the current drug-related challenges in the district, seeking inputs from enforcement agencies, health and education departments, and other key stakeholders. She emphasized the urgent need for enhanced coordination, robust monitoring of vulnerable areas, and sustained rehabilitation measures to curb the menace.

The officers presented detailed reports on recent actions taken against drug trafficking and addiction, highlighting areas requiring focused intervention. The DC stressed the identification of drug hotspots, vigil over public places, and surveillance of abandoned buildings that could be misused for drug-related activities.

Reiterating the importance of awareness in prevention, the Deputy Commissioner directed all Tehsildars and concerned officers to intensify IEC (Information,

Education, Communication) campaigns at schools, colleges, and community levels. She called for organizing seminars, rallies, and outreach programs

departments to link them with self-employment schemes to help them regain dignity and stability in society.

“To effectively counter this



to sensitize the youth and the general public about the dangers of drug abuse.

The functioning of the Drug De-addiction Centre Kupwara and Addiction Treatment Facility Centre (ATFC) Handwara was also reviewed in detail. The DC emphasized upscaling therapeutic services and strengthening counseling mechanisms to support drug victims in their recovery journey.

Highlighting the need for social reintegration of recovered addicts, Ms. Sudan directed the

rising social challenge, a multi-pronged strategy involving rehabilitation, counseling, employment, and awareness must be implemented on the ground. This is essential for mitigating the suffering of drug-affected individuals and safeguarding the future of our youth,” the DC said. She further instructed the nodal officer to upload all IEC activities on the designated portal and ensure that “Nasha Mukh Bharat” banners are attractive, visible, and impactful in public spaces.

## IEC campaigns to raise awareness on ill effects of drug abuse continue in Budgam

**BUDGAM:** As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of Information, Education & Communication (IEC) campaigns were today held across multiple panchayats and municipal areas of district Budgam to raise awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and to mobilize communities towards a drug-free society.

The awareness programmes were conducted at Gogipatheri A, Gogipatheri B, Dadompura Payeen, Dadompura Balla, Bonyar, Government Middle School Surnhall, and Panchayat Ghar Choon.

In addition, several municipal wards of Khansahib also witnessed enthusiastic participation in the campaign.

These events marked another step forward in the district administration's commitment to eradicate the growing menace of substance abuse. Organised with the active collaboration of

departments such as Health, Education, Social Welfare, and local bodies including the Municipal Committee Khansahib, the events



drew the involvement of students, teachers, civil society members and

youth volunteers. Resource persons from the concerned departments sensitized the participants on various facets of substance abuse including its psychological, social, and legal consequences.

Focus was placed on early intervention, strengthening community-level support systems, and linking vulnerable individuals with counselling and rehabilitation services.

The programmes featured interactive sessions, anti-drug pledge ceremonies, educational skits, awareness rallies, poster exhibitions, and distribution of IEC materials. Youth participants were encouraged to act as agents of change within their peer groups and localities.

It was emphasized that the fight against drugs requires a united societal response, where schools, families, and communities work hand-in-hand to promote healthy lifestyles, identify red flags early, and provide support without stigma.



Continued From P1...

Ensure Safe

and road-opening parties have increased the vigil,” the Home Secretary was told.

He was informed that the arrangements for RFID tracking of yatris, real-time weather alerts, emergency evacuation protocols, and dedicated health camps have been put in place to ensure the smooth conduct of the yatra. A multi-layer security grid, including both ground forces and aerial surveillance, would be activated ahead of the yatra.

This year’s Amarnath Yatra is taking place in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 persons, mostly tourists dead. The authorities are taking no chances with the security arrangements being put in place for the Yatra.

A multi-layered security manned by the Army, CAPFs and the J&K Police is already in place at the cave shrine, base camps and transit camps in addition to the route right from Bhagwati Nagar Yattri Niwas in Jammu (starting point) for escorted convoys carrying the pilgrims to Baltal and Pahalgam.

Authorities have made arrangements for real-time weather alerts, emergency evacuation protocols, and dedicated health camps to ensure the smooth conduct of the yatra—(KNO)

Need Joint

surge in tourist vehicles. It was encouraging to see Srinagar bustling with activity, taxis with luggage on rooftops heading to Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and beyond.”

He stressed that the goal is not to have tourists visit Kashmir just once. “We want them to return again and again. That’s why your feedback is essential—for improving the experience, enhancing infrastructure and expanding the adventure tourism potential.”

Touching on the progress of developing nine new destinations, the Chief Minister said the government is working closely with the Government of India to develop and operationalize them. “Destinations across both Jammu and Kashmir hold immense tourism potential, and both regions will be equally promoted.”

On infrastructure and connectivity, the Chief Minister noted the popularity of the new train services to Kashmir and promised to take up the issue of capacity constraints with the Ministry of Railways. “The demand is growing, and we will explore increasing train length and frequency.”

He also underscored the importance of reopening destinations that were temporarily shut post-tragedy. “We have begun this process. It’s a matter of restoring confidence—for tourists and for ourselves.”

Addressing the scope for adventure tourism, Omar Abdullah mentioned new ideas being explored in places like Betab Valley in Pahalgam and Gulmarg. “Zip-lining, mountain biking, and summer trekking could redefine these locations. We’re in touch with national-level adventure infrastructure providers to bring these ideas to life.”

He also welcomed IATO’s proposal for a promotional tourism event later this year. “We look forward to sending a sizable delegation from J&K, both government and private stakeholders, to showcase the valley’s offerings.”

President IATO Ravi Gosain, in his address, assured full support from the Association in promoting Kashmir across domestic and international markets. “We are committed to showcasing Kashmir’s beauty and culture to the world,” he said.

The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the visiting delegation and reaffirmed the government’s commitment to elevating Kashmir’s tourism potential through partnership, innovation and sustained promotional efforts.

Earlier during the interaction, the visiting IATO delegation also shared their observations, feedback and valuable suggestions regarding their visit to the Valley and the way forward for tourism revival in the aftermath of the tragic April 22 terror attack at Baisaran that targeted tourists.

They appreciated the efforts of the government in restoring a sense of security and normalcy, while also emphasizing the need for sustained confidence-building measures, better infrastructure and targeted promotional campaigns to reassure both domestic and international travelers. The delegates reiterated their commitment to partner with the government in repositioning Jammu and Kashmir as a safe, premier and vibrant travel destination.

Tourists, Locals

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday

ordered the reopening of 16 parks — eight each in Jammu region and Kashmir Valley. He said the destinations would be reopened in a phased manner.

In the first phase, eight parks were reopened in the Kashmir valley.

Betaab Valley in Pahalgam and the parks near Pahalgam market, Verinag, Kokernag and Achabal gardens in Anantnag district, Badamwari Park, Duck Park near Nigeen, and Taqdeer Park near Hazratbal in Srinagar were reopened on Tuesday.

Similarly, eight destinations were reopened in Jammu region as well including Sarthal and Dhaggar in Kathua, Devipindi, Siyad Baba and Sula Park in Reasi, Guldanda and Jai Valley in Doda, and Pancheri in Udhampur.

A large number of school children welcomed the tourists at Verinag — a famous park in south Kashmir’s Anantnag, the officials said.

“We were already feeling good and happy to have come here, but the reopening of the park and the welcome we got is very nice,” a tourist from Patiali, Punjab, said.

“We are happy that this park opened after so many days. We have come here with our families and we will visit the park to show them beautiful Kashmir,” Barkat Ali, a tourist from Bikaner area of Rajasthan, said.

“It is a wonderful feeling and experience. We heard that the park was reopening today, so we came. But, the welcome we got is truly the best experience which we cannot express in words,” another tourist from Punjab said. They appealed the tourists to come to Kashmir in large numbers.

Tourist police personnel were also deployed to assist the visitors. Local MLA Ghulam Ahmad Mir also welcomed the reopening of the park. (PTI)

Union Minister

office were in “continuous touch” with the chief secretary and the tourism secretary of the UT and keeping an eye on the situation.

He had asserted that his ministry would do the best to “minimise the dent” on tourism in J&K in the wake of the Pahalgam attack.

Some people with nefarious intentions tried to again “incite separatism and terrorism” in the Valley, the tourism minister had said. (ANI)

First batch

landed at the Srinagar airport at around 9:15 pm. Dr Shujaat Qureshi, Executive Officer J&K Haj Committee, told news agency—Kashmir

News Observer (KNO) that all necessary arrangements were made to ensure a smooth and welcoming return for the pilgrims.

The Haj House in Bemina had issued a notification, stating that vehicle passes for those wishing to receive the pilgrims at the airport can be downloaded from the official website two days prior to the flight.

The notification said immigration clearance and baggage collection take approximately one hour after the flight’s arrival, along with the details of the remaining flights which will be notified separately.

Meanwhile, emotional and joyful scenes were witness at the Srinagar airport pilgrims reunited with their families after undertaking the holy journey—(KNO)

MHA To Handle

further progression of Ex-Agniveers”, it said.

In June 2022, the government rolled out the Agnipath recruitment scheme with an aim to bring down the age profile of the three services.

Under the Agnipath scheme, candidates between the age bracket of 17-and-half years and 21 who get selected are enrolled in Army, Air Force and Navy as Agniveers for a period of 4 years with a provision to retain 25 per cent of them for 15 more years.

The government has already reserved 10 per cent of jobs for ex-Agniveers in all future appointments of constables in the 11-lakh-strong Central Armed Police Forces like CRPF, BSF, CISF, SSB etc. The CAPFs recruit around 10-12 thousand personnel in constable ranks.

No physical test would be required for recruitment of the former Agniveers into the paramilitary forces as such tests have already been done by the Army. They will just need a physical fitness certificate, an official had said.

Various central government agencies and departments have also announced plans to recruit former Agniveers. (PTI)

J&K Govt

to the Master Plan-2035 to incorporate the court directions—(KNO)

MP Aga

among others. Progress under MPLADS and awareness initiatives under the Nasha Mukti Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan were also discussed.

Commending the efforts of the District Administration, MP Aga Ruhullah lauded the performance across multiple sectors and emphasized the untapped potential of the Agriculture and Allied sectors in Ganderbal.

He directed the District Officers of Agriculture and allied sectors to adopt modern agricultural practices and technologies to maximize productivity and benefit the local population.

While reviewing the progress under JJM, MP directed the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti to strictly adhere to the stipulated deadlines and expedite the pace of work in all areas where projects are underway to ensure uninterrupted access to safe and clean drinking water to the residents.

Interacting with officers, MP stressed the importance of proactive governance, underlining that the core objective of all government schemes is public service and improved ease of living. He directed for efficient implementation of schemes to ensure benefits reach all eligible beneficiaries.

DDC Chairperson, Nuzhat Ishfaq, Vice-Chairperson and DDC members also participated in the meeting and raised several issues requiring urgent attention, including the completion of pending bridges, road widening projects, MRI facilities at District Hospital Ganderbal, completion of ongoing water supply schemes and early commissioning of the 93 MW Hydro Power Project.

Responding to the concerns, MP assured the members that these issues would be taken up at appropriate forums to ensure timely resolution.

He reiterated that achieving saturation under all schemes is essential to bring about tangible and sustainable improvements in the lives of the people.

Amongst others, the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Chief Planning Officer, CEO SDA and other district and sectoral officers. (DIPR)

Evacuation process

being evacuated from the country.

National Convenor of Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) Nasir Khuehami told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), “Approximately 110 Indian students from Urmia Medical University have safely crossed the border into Armenia.”

“We spoke to them, and they are expected to reach the capital, Yerevan, by 12 or 1 PM,” he said.

JKSA further said, “They will arrive at their designated location within the next two hours and their flight from Armenia to Delhi is scheduled for tomorrow.” (KNO)

90 Kashmiri

Iran are being evacuated through Armenia border.

National Convenor of Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) Nasir Khuehami told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), “At least 90-95 students of Kashmir studying in Iran have safely crossed the border into Armenia.”

“We spoke to them, and they are expected to reach the capital, Yerevan, by 12 or 1 PM,” he said. (KNO)

Will establish

implementation period and advised all the General Managers of DICs to ensure resolution of any grievance of the Unit holders and be proactive in disposal of cases.

Emphasizing on rapid industrial growth, the Dy CM exhorted on building a transparent, accountable and growth-oriented industrial ecosystem in the region. He underscored the importance of continuous institutional support, real-time monitoring through the JK NIS Portal and proactive coordination with DPIIT to ensure efficient delivery of scheme incentives.

The workshop also included a felicitation ceremony in honour of the top-performing DICs and Functional Managers/ IPOs and PIU Team from Ernst and Young under NCSS and IDS.

Earlier, a comprehensive presentation was displayed by the Director, Industries & Commerce, Kashmir, on implementation status of NCSS and the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS), showcasing key milestones achieved and outlining targets for FY 2025–26.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, followed

by a networking session and focused discussions on operational challenges. (DIPR)

In a first,

According to the details collected by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the embassy’s commercial team, visited Lulu Supermarket in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to receive and officially launch the consignment.

The Embassy also shared the development through its official handle, stating that this unique product highlights the growing export potential of Indian produce in global markets, especially high-quality fruits from Jammu and Kashmir.

Moreover, the Embassy also shared on Twitter (formerly), X wrote, the first ever consignment of premium cherries from Kashmir has arrived in the Kingdom Saudi Arabia.

“Cherries from Jammu & Kashmir arrive in Saudi Arabia! The first ever consignment of premium cherries from Jammu & Kashmir has arrived in the Kingdom & are available to be savored by all. Embassy Commercial team led by Counsellor (Commerce) Ms Manusmriti visited the Lulu Supermarket and received the consignment and launched this unique product,” reads the tweet—(KNO)

Amarnath Yatra

“Therefore, with a view to ensure strengthened security during the Shri Amarnathji Yatra, 2025, all the routes of Shri Amarnathji Yatra are hereby declared as ‘No Flying Zone’, including both Pahalgam axis & Baltal axis,” the order said.

The beefed up security measures come in the backdrop of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people dead.

The Amarnath yatra attracts thousands of pilgrims from all over the country reach year. (KNO)

CM Omar welcomes

performed the sacred pilgrimage of Hajj-e-Baitullah this year.

The Chief Minister personally welcomed and congratulated the pilgrims on their safe return and smooth performance of the Arkan-e-Haji.

He interacted with the Hajj pilgrims and inquired about their experiences and the facilities provided during the pilgrimage.

The Hujaaj expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister and appreciated the arrangements made for their comfort and convenience throughout the journey.

The Chief Minister expressed his appreciation for the devotion and discipline exhibited by the pilgrims during the course of their spiritual journey.

The first returning batch comprised 178 pilgrims, out of the total 3,606 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir who undertook the pilgrimage this year.

The return of this group heralds the start of the arrival phase, which will continue over the coming days.

The government has made elaborate arrangements to ensure a hassle-free arrival experience for the pilgrims. Necessary logistical and transport facilities have been put in place to facilitate their smooth journey from the airport

to their respective destinations across Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister Javed Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA from Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Executive Officer J&K Haj Committee Dr. Shujhat Qureshi and other concerned officials were also present during the reception of the Hujaaj. (DIPR)

Single MRI machine struggles to meet huge patient influx at GMC Jammu

**JAMMU:** Government hospitals in Jammu region are under severe strain as they contend with an ever-increasing patient load, particularly from remote regions such as Chenab and Pir Panjal.

These hospitals are grappling with acute shortages of medical infrastructure and doctors, raising serious questions about the state of public healthcare in the region.

The situation reached a flashpoint recently during the assembly session, where lawmakers voiced concerns about the poor public health conditions and the chronic shortage of doctors in Jammu’s hilly areas.

The issue sparked several disruptions and protests, underscoring the deep-rooted challenges that persist in these

underserved communities. For the people of these remote regions, accessible and quality medical treatment remains a distant dream.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Correspondent, patients from Chenab and Pir Panjal often travel long distances to Jammu Medical College, clinging to hopes for better care.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement bearing Consumer ID No: 0216020000769, which is Registered in the name of Ali Mohd Sofi, S/O Gh Mohd Sofi. Now i want apply for change this Electricity Agreement in the name of Fida Ali Sofi, S/O Ali Mohd Sofi, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Kaloosa Bandipora with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

**Fida Ali Sofi.**  
**S/O Ali Mohd Sofi.**  
**R/O Qazipora Patushi, District Bandipora.**

NOTICE

Inadvertently the Date of Birth of my ward Maheen Mumtaz has been wrongly mentioned as 06/06/2016 while her correct and actual D.O.B is 20/08/2015. Now I want to rectify the same in the school records (at BMS CB Bala) as per the Birth Certificate. anybody having objection in this regard may file the same before the concerned office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. no objection will be entertained thereafter.

**Mumtaz Ahmad Mir**  
**F/O Maheen Mumtaz**  
**R/O Chittibandi Bandipora**

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL  
DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE BANDIPORA  
Present: Khalil Ahmad Choudhary

In the case of:  
Tanveer Ahmad Lone.  
S/o Ab Rashid Lone  
Simran Fayaz D/o Tanveer Ahmad Lone  
Sahiba Tabban D/o Tanveer Ahmad Lone  
Ayesha Tanveer D/o Tanveer Ahmad lone  
All R/o's of Ayathmullah Bpr. T/o Bpr.

(Applicants)

V/S  
Public at large

In the matter of:  
Petition for grant of Succession Certificate with respect to the amount Rs. 2344403. Whereas the case above titled is sub-judice before this court and through the medium of this newspaper the general public is informed that if any person/persons has/have any objection to the aforementioned case, they are hereby directed to appear before this court on dated fixed, i.e. proceedings will be followed. 24-06-25 failing which appropriate proceedings will be followed.

**Sd/-**  
**Principal Distt. Judge,**  
**Bandipora**

Streax Professional Unveils EVOQUE:  
A Stylish Fusion of Nostalgia and Modernity

**SRINAGAR, INDIA** – – Streax Professional, one of India’s leading hair colour and care brands, proudly unveils its latest hair fashion collection for the year: EVOQUE.

Inspired by eras gone by, yet designed for today’s trend-conscious clientele, EVOQUE is a captivating blend of timeless aesthetics and contemporary style. This collection channels emotions, iconic looks, and nostalgic moments—reimagined with a modern twist. It’s a bold celebration of fashion that bridges the past and the present, resonating emotionally while keeping pace with 2025’s cutting-edge trends.

“Fashion today is more than just style—it’s about storytelling,” said Rochelle Chhabra, Head - Streax Professional. “At Streax Professional, we believe education is the cornerstone of our industry.

That’s why our MEGA SEMINAR stands as our grand event—empowering salon professionals with advanced techniques and the latest international trends, ensuring they can tailor these

global inspirations to suit the unique needs of their clientele.”



The launch of EVOQUE took centre stage at the brand’s MEGA SEMINAR held in Srinagar, where leading stylists, educators, and professionals gathered to experience the vision behind the collection firsthand.

At the Mega Seminar in Srinagar, the runway came alive as models showcased stunning hair colour, cuts, and styled looks, each one reflecting the

latest Evoque look in hair artistry. The highlight of the evening was Bollywood

actress Farhana Bhat gracing the ramp as the Mega Showstopper, captivating the audience with her presence and electrifying the stage. It was nothing short of a fan frenzy as Farhana lit up the event, leaving the crowd in awe and making it an event to remember! Heena Dalvi, Deputy General Manager at Streax Professional, shared

her enthusiasm: “Streax Professional has always led the way in curating trend-forward, customized collections. EVOQUE is a reflection of that legacy—crafted especially for Indian hair and skin tones. We’re proud to introduce this sophisticated,

wearable range alongside a new game-changer in hair care: BotBrazil, our latest smoothing treatment enriched with Hydra Protein Technology that delivers naturally sleek, straight hair.”

Shirin Merchant, Technical Ambassador for Streax Professional, added: “This seminar wasn’t just about creative expression—

it was about skill-building and community. Every year, we raise the bar higher, ensuring South Asia’s salon professionals remain inspired, informed, and empowered to lead the industry.”

With EVOQUE, Streax Professional reaffirms its dedication to innovation, education, and excellence—offering a collection that is emotionally resonant, fashion-forward, and distinctly tailored for today’s evolving beauty landscape.



# Buttler: Gill's captaincy 'a mix of Kohli and Rohit'

Shubman Gill's leadership will combine the "intensity" of Virat Kohli and the "more laid-back" leadership of Rohit Sharma in his first series as India's Test captain against England, according to Jos Buttler.

Buttler played under Gill's captaincy in the IPL this year, with his Gujarat Titans (GT) side qualifying for the playoffs and both men scoring more than 500 runs each in the campaign. Speaking on For the Love of Cricket, his new podcast with Stuart Broad, Buttler said that Gill will be "his own man" while combining the best traits of his two predecessors.

"He's a really impressive player and an impressive young man," Buttler said. "He's pretty calm and measured when he speaks, but [it's] interesting, I feel like on the field he's got a bit of fight about him; a bit of intensity, quite passionate. I think he'll be a mix of Kohli and Rohit. Kohli [was] that sort of real aggressive [character], really transformed the Indian team, in your face, up for the contest. Rohit [was] a bit on the other side, a bit more laid back, very cool, calm, collected customer, but with that sort of fight. I feel like, from my time knowing Shubman so far, he'll be a bit in the middle. He's obviously learned from those two guys... but he'll be very much his own man."

Buttler has spent more time in India than any other England player of his era, and said it is hard for English fans to comprehend the "stardom" of India's best players. He predicted that one of Gill's biggest challenges will be to ensure that he does not let the captaincy affect his batting - as happened with Buttler towards the end of his England's white-ball captaincy.

"He talked about compartmentalising batting and captaining; so when he's batting he just wants to be a batter, and then he will try and work on his captaincy and try and separate the two roles," Butler said. "When you're doing such a big job as being captain of the Indian cricket team, he'll have to try and do that well and have

some good people supporting him.

"I don't think we can quite understand the level of interest and the stardom that these guys have. You see it around the IPL, you're aware of it, but actually living that yourself... I think they say the Indian Test captain is like the third or fourth-most influential person in India, behind the Prime Minister etc. - so you really are put up on that pedestal."

"It's going to be a huge job for him. He's obviously captained two seasons of IPL cricket, which is a big, pressurised job and he's sort of the prince. Kohli is the king, Shubman is the prince; that's the narrative that they spin out there, and I feel that he's the coming man... Stepping into that No. 4, it's big shoes, isn't it? Coming behind Virat, and Sachin Tendulkar before that as well. That's obviously a huge role."


India's tour of England will begin with the first Test in Leeds from June 20.


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