

Kashmir Convener



Rajnath Singh Releases
Second Volume of President
Murmu's Speeches

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HM Amit Shah to Chair
25th Central Zonal Council
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J&K Gets Major Infra Boost

Centre approves Mughal Road and Karnah tunnel projects; 19 projects worth Rs 10637 cr sanctioned



KC News Network

JAMMU: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has approved 19 mega road and tunnel projects worth 10,637 crore with length of 296 kms for J&K UT.

According to a statement issued by Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has approved the Action plan of 2025-26 in respect of National Highways of

J&K and sanctioned major projects include construction of Peer-Ki-Gali tunnel on NH-701A (Rs 3830 Cr), Construction of Sadhana tunnel on NH-701 (Rs 3330 Cr), Construction of Zaznar-Shopian section of NH-701A (Rs 852 Cr), 4-L flyover from Lal Chowk to Parimpora (Rs 700 Cr), Construction of Trehgam Chamkote section of NH-701 (Rs 966 Cr), Construction of 4-Lane Magam Flyover on Narbal-Gulmarg section of NH

>>SEEONP-7

LG Manoj Sinha expresses gratitude to PM Modi, Gadkari

Projects will improve Infra in UT: LG Sinha

KC News Network

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari for giving approval to 19 mega road and tunnel projects worth 10,637 crore with length of 296 kms for J&K UT.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has approved the Action plan of 2025-26 in respect of National



Highways of J&K and sanctioned major

>>SEEONP-7

Pahalgam Terror Attack Some reportage speculative, misleading: NIA

Convener News Desk

NEW DELHI : A day after arresting two accused charged for harbouring the terrorists who carried out April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday said that it has taken a note of media coverage, and has seen some reportage is speculative and therefore of misleading nature.

In a statement issued to Media, NIA spokesman said, "Such reports circulating in sections of the media and on social media platforms are regarding the sketches and identities of the terrorists involved in the terror attack at Pahalgam."

He said, "It is reiterated that,



as stated in the official press release dated 22 June 2025, two accused persons have been arrested in connection with the attack. During their interrogation, they have disclosed details about the identities of the three armed terrorists involved."

"The NIA has gathered a substantial body of evidence regarding the identities of the terrorists. This includes eyewitness accounts from victims, video footage, technical evidence, and the

>>SEEONP-7

Amid heatwave, J&K braces for light to moderate rains from Wednesday

Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: The weatherman here has predicted a major relief from the scorching heat, saying there is a forecast of intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places of Kashmir from Wednesday.

According to the forecast details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), hot and humid weather conditions are expected to continue tomorrow with the possibility of brief spells of rain and thundershower at scattered places.

As per an Independent Weather Forecaster, Aadil Maqbool, the hottest day of the season

is expected tomorrow as Srinagar City may touch 36 degrees Celsius.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower are expected at many places with the possibility of heavy rain at isolated places of Jammu division from June 25 to June 27. He added that between June 28 to 30, there is a possibility of intermittent rain and thundershower at scattered places while from July 01 to 02, there is a possibility of intermittent rain and thundershower at scattered places. In this regard, the MeT has issued an advisory, stating

>>SEEONP-7

Operationalisation of new industries offering youth better exposure: LG Sinha

Addresses Cluster University Jammu's Mega Job Fair-2025 at Jammu



KC News Network

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today addressed Mega Job Fair-2025 organised by Cluster University of Jammu in

collaboration with Desh Bhagat University Punjab, at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government PG College for Women Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

In his address, Govt

spokesperson said the Lieutenant Governor

commended the significant initiative by Cluster University Jammu and Desh Bhagat University

Punjab for bringing together a wide array of reputed national companies, offering employment opportunities to youth of J&K UT.

According to a statement issued by DIPR, LG Sinha also extended his felicitations to the companies that participated in Mega Job Fair and conveyed his best wishes to the selected candidates.

>>SEEONP-7

Reservation Policy

Govt committed to ensure fair implementation: Sakina Itoo

'Subcommittee formed for public welfare, not political pressure'

Waris Fayaz

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet Minister Sakina Itoo on Monday reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring fair implementation of the reservation policy and introducing wide-ranging reforms in the education sector.

Talking to reporters during her visit to Tangmarg, Itoo, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), strongly defended the formation of the subcommittee on reservations, stating that it was constituted with serious intent and not in response to any social media

trend or political pressure. "The reservation policy is for the people, and that's why the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah formed a subcommittee with a six-month mandate. It's not like someone tweeted and it was formed, absolutely not", Itoo said, indirectly referring to criticism from the opposition.

She said that the committee submitted its report a day before the deadline, which has now been forwarded to the law department for legal vetting. "The Chief Minister himself is deeply concerned about this issue. We are very much serious about it", she added.

>>SEEONP-7

Operation Sindoor Injects Fear In Minds Of Terrorists: Rajnath Singh

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday that India's Operation Sindoor achieved all objectives and succeeded in "injecting fear" in the minds of terrorists.

He was addressing a gathering at an event held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan complex.

Singh released a curated collection of 51 speeches by President Droupadi Murmu delivered by her during her second year in office.

In his address, Singh lauded Murmu and said he considered this book — 'Wings to Our Hopes, Volume 2' — a "document for scripting India's future".

This volume follows its predecessor in chronicling the evolving discourse on governance, inclusivity and national aspirations, officials said.

Singh in his address also made a reference to Operation Sindoor launched by India in May in retaliation against the Pahalgam terror attack.

Operation Sindoor achieved all objectives, he said.

PM Modi honoured SP Mookerjee's sacrifice by abrogating Article 370: Union Minister Pradhan

KC News Network

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi honoured Syama Prasad Mookerjee's sacrifice by abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution, which had granted a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday.

BJP leaders, including Pradhan and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, paid floral tributes at the late leader's statue during a memorial meet organised by the Delhi unit of the party at the SP Mookerjee Park here on the occasion of his death anniversary.

Pradhan said for Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Jana Sangh workers, Mookerjee was not merely a person or a leader, but a living ideology.

"Seventy two years ago, he entered Jammu and Kashmir opposing the concept of 'two systems in one country', which made history. His sacrifice was honoured when Prime Minister Narendra Modi abrogated Article 370 in 2019," Pradhan said.

He noted that the country had diverse



ideological groups after Independence — communalists, communists and nationalists — and Mookerjee, often disagreeing with prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's policies, chose to resign from the cabinet.

"This critical moment led him to join hands with the RSS and establish an alternative political ideology in the form of Jana Sangh," Pradhan said.

He recalled that once Nehru reportedly told Mookerjee, "I will crush you," to which the latter replied, "I will crush this crushing mentality."

Stressing that India is now close to being free from Naxalism, confined to just a few districts, Pradhan said Modi has steadfastly ensured national security and sovereignty over the last 10 years.

"The foundation of this governance is rooted in Dr Mookerjee's ideas," he said.

Mookerjee offered original and alternative views on education, language, small industries, national security, foreign policy and the Constitution, Pradhan noted.

"Today, the essence of governance is reaching the last person in the society, inspired by the philosophy of integral humanism of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Together, Dr Mookerjee and Pandit Upadhyaya are considered the two wheels of the party, which has now completed 11 years of governance focussed on service and welfare," he added.

>>SEEONP-7

Business Rules to be approved once sent properly to LG: BJP's Koul

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary (Organisation), Ashok Koul on Monday said the Business Rules can be accepted by the Lieutenant Governor only after the document is framed properly.

He added that the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir will be given at the "appropriate" time.

On the sidelines of the function organised on the anniversary of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Koul, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "The Business Rules that our government sends to the LG should be sent properly, and he will approve them."

Asked about the CM's statement on Business Rules, he reiterated that the rules shall be accepted only after they are



sent properly to the Lieutenant Governor.

The BJP leader further said that there was no question of conducting polls again. "The elections have been held for five years and will take place only after

the present government's term is completed," he said.

Responding to the query on reports about statehood to be restored on terms and conditions, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister

Amit Shah have promised that the statehood will be restored at the appropriate time.

On Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's rejection of providing water to Punjab for a project, Koul said, "Nobody other than Pakistan wants our water. Why should we provide water to them? Punjab doesn't need our water. Jammu people have been facing a severe water crisis. We need to ensure the drinking water supply to them first."

He added that the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty by the central government has been appreciated by the people.

About the US attack on Iran, the BJP leader said, "They don't want Iran to become a nuclear power and thus have been attacking the country."

>>SEEONP-7

Rajnath Singh Releases Second Volume of President Murmu’s Speeches

NEW DELHI (PIB): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Monday released Wings to Our Hopes (Volume-II), a compilation of 51 key speeches delivered by President Smt Droupadi Murmu in Hindi and English during her second year in office (August 2023 – July 2024).

The book, along with its e-version, was unveiled at an event held at Rashtrapati Bhavan and attended by Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and Minister of State Shri L Murugan.

In his address, Rajnath Singh described the collection as a reflection of the Government’s vision for building a Viksit Bharat by 2047. He said the compilation highlights the President’s progressive ideas on a range of themes—nation-building, innovation, women’s empowerment, equality, heritage, and inclusive governance.

“This book will be a guiding light in shaping the future of India while preserving our glorious traditions. It encapsulates the President’s thoughts that resonate with the values of diversity, equity, and national progress,” he said.

Rajnath Singh added that the book is the modern world-system. Singh described President Droupadi Murmu as the best example of women-led development in India, adding that under the leadership of the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Indian soldiers carried out the historic Operation Sindoor, achieving all objectives and instilling fear in the minds of terrorists. He commended her for constantly encouraging the Armed Forces personnel, while also working relentlessly for the empowerment of the deprived sections of society. “Through her own life, President Murmu has set an inspiring example for everyone to have access to education and equal rights & opportunities. The ideals of courage, hard work, public service & spirituality are visible in her life and these can be read in her speeches as well,” he added. Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw described the ‘Wings to Our Hopes (Volume-II)’ as a medium to understand contemporary issues from the point of view of the ‘First Citizen’ of the country and hoped that it will introduce public welfare ideas of the President to the future generations.



an amalgamation of the knowledge and ideas of President Smt Droupadi Murmu on diverse fields - from civilisation to culture, religion to science, art to literature, education to health and past to future. He termed this inclusiveness as a reflection of the character of India, which can prove to be beneficial for future generations. Minister made special mention of some of the President’s thoughts, dubbing them as national priorities of the Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. These

include Development along with heritage is the identity of our culture and civilisation. Morality is the pillar of our personal and public life. Everyone, especially public servants and officers, must possess the spirit of selfless service and philanthropy, the justice system and administration need to be sensitive towards common people. Innovation needs to be encouraged in all dimensions of development and India is playing a leading role with the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in improving

HM Amit Shah to Chair 25th Central Zonal Council Meeting in Varanasi Today

VARANASI, (PIB): Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, will chair the 25th meeting of the Central Zonal Council in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, on Tuesday, June 24. The high-level meeting will bring together Chief Ministers of the member states—Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh—along with two senior ministers from each state, Chief Secretaries, and top officials from both the Centre and the states.

Organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat under the Ministry of Home Affairs, in collaboration with the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the meeting underscores the Union Government’s commitment to strengthening federal cooperation and addressing inter-state matters through structured dialogue.

Zonal Councils were set up under Sections 15 to 22 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, to promote cooperation among states and between the Centre and states. Each of the five Zonal Councils is chaired by the Union Home Minister, while one Chief Minister from the member states serves as the vice-chairperson on a rotational basis. Each council also has a permanent committee, headed by the Chief

Secretaries of the member states, where proposed issues are first discussed before being escalated to the full Council.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister



Shri Narendra Modi, the role of Zonal Councils has expanded significantly, moving beyond their original advisory nature to become vital platforms for resolving regional issues and fostering cooperative and competitive federalism. “Strong states make a strong nation,” has been the guiding principle behind this transformation, with 61 meetings of Zonal Councils and their permanent committees convened over the past eleven years.

Education Must Build Minds That Can Take on the Impossible: VP at AIU Meet

GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, (PIB): Vice-President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday paid rich tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his Balidan Diwas, recalling his historic call for “Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Pradhan” and reiterating the importance of his contribution to India’s unity.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the 99th Annual Meet and National Conference of Vice Chancellors (2024–2025) organised by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) in Uttar Pradesh, Dhankhar said, “We suffered from Article 370 for too long. It bled us and the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Article 370 and the draconian

Article 35A deprived people of their basic human and constitutional rights.”

According to a statement issued by Press Information Bureau (PIB), he credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for abrogating the provisions on August 5, 2019, and said the Supreme Court’s dismissal of legal challenges in 2023 further cemented the nation’s constitutional integrity.

In his detailed address to Vice Chancellors and academicians from across the country, the Vice-President emphasized the transformative power of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He said the policy is rooted in India’s civilizational

ethos and seeks to redefine education not merely as a skill-building exercise, but as a means of self-awakening and national development.

“Education is a great equalizer. It decimates inequities and strengthens democracy,” he noted, adding that the time had come for universities to become crucibles of innovation and sanctuaries of thought.

Dhankhar stressed that institutions must allow space for disagreement, dialogue, and critical thinking, saying that Abhivyaakti, Vaad-Vivada and Anant Vaad are essential components of Indian democracy.

ECI Inaugurates Capacity Building Programme for BLO Supervisors

NEW DELHI (PIB): The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday inaugurated a two-day capacity-building programme for 379 Booth Level Officers (BLO) Supervisors from five states and Union Territories at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM) in New Delhi.

In a statement issued by Press Information Bureau, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar formally inaugurated the 13th batch of



the training programme, which includes participants from Uttar Pradesh (111), Madhya Pradesh (128), Nagaland (67), Meghalaya (66), and Chandigarh (7). Over 5,000 BLOs and Supervisors have already been trained in the last three months as part of the ECI’s nationwide initiative to strengthen electoral management at the grassroots.

In his address, CEC Gyanesh Kumar stressed the importance of such training programmes in ensuring that all electoral processes—including the preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections—are carried out in full compliance with the Representation of the People Acts, 1950 and 1951, as well as the Registration of Electors Rules (1960) and Conduct of Election Rules (1961).

“There can be nothing more transparent than law in any democracy. Elections in India are conducted strictly as per law, ensuring transparency and integrity,” said Kumar. He also emphasized the critical role of BLO Supervisors in spreading awareness among electors about provisions for first and second appeals under Section 24(a) and 24(b) of the RP Act, 1950. Interestingly, no appeals were filed from the participating states and UTs—Meghalaya, Nagaland, Madhya Pradesh, Chandigarh, and Uttar Pradesh—after the completion of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) exercise between January 6 and 10, 2025.

REC Limited Bags ASSOCHAM CSR Award 2024 for Excellence in Healthcare Support

HYDERABAD (PIB): REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, has been conferred with the prestigious ASSOCHAM CSR & Sustainability Award 2024 in the category of ‘Excellence in Providing Support to Healthcare’.

An official spokesperson said the award was presented during the 6th edition of the ASSOCHAM CSR and Sustainability Conference and Awards held in Hyderabad. Shri Anjan Lahiri, Senior General Manager and Head of Department at REC Foundation, received the award on behalf of REC from the Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana, Shri Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka.

He said this recognition marks a significant milestone in REC’s efforts to uplift the healthcare infrastructure in India through its robust Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, executed by its dedicated CSR arm—REC Foundation.

In recent years, REC’s CSR interventions have contributed to strengthening healthcare services in underserved regions, ensuring greater accessibility to quality medical care and infrastructure for vulnerable communities. Notably, this is not the first time REC



has been acknowledged for its impactful CSR efforts. Last year, it was similarly recognized by ASSOCHAM for its exceptional work in India’s Aspirational Districts, with a particular emphasis on initiatives for Divyangjan (persons with disabilities). Further cementing its leadership in the CSR space, REC was ranked 4th among all Central PSUs in India for CSR Contribution, as per the Public Enterprise Survey Report 2023–24 published by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Government of India. Driven by its core values of inclusivity and empowerment, REC continues to create meaningful social impact across the country through projects that support healthcare, education, sanitation, and sustainable development.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (JALSHAKTI)PHE,MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION,SGR. GIST fore-Tender.

Short Term E-N.I.T.No.-PHE/MRD/TS/22of06/2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Short term e-tenders are invited in two cover system from approved and eligible Contractors having GST registration/registered with J&K Govt., Railways and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work :-

Sr.	Nature of Work	Location	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.	Time of Completion	Programme
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Urgent Electric works to be carried out at WSS	Padshahi Bagh	0.76	50/=	03 days	M&R

Critical Dates/Information.

1.	Publishing Date	23-06-2025 (5:00 PM)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	23-06-2025 (5:00 PM) to 30-06-2025 (11:00 AM)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	23-06-2025 (5:00 PM) to 30-06-2025 (11:00 AM)
4.	Date of opening of Tender/Timing	23-06-2025 (5:00 PM) 30-06-2025 at (12:00 P.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar	
6.	Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt shall be deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the e-NIT No. & name of work for which applied)	
7.	Bid Validity Period: 90Days	
8.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www. Jktenders.gov.in	
9	Instead of EMD the firm has to furnish “Bid Security Declaration”, format of the declaration is enclosed in the Bid Document	

Note:- The tenderer who is declared as L1 after opening of price bid will deposit 5% of the Estimated cost of the work in shape of CDR/FDR before allotment is issued in his favour.

No.- PHE/MRD/TS/1002-06

DIPK-2839/25 Dated: 23/06/2024 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Rural**

Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION BARAMULLA

Email: midbaramulla@gmail.com

Corrigendum No 1 for this office e-NIT No: 10 of 2025-26 Dated:17-06-2025

Tender ID No. 2025_JFC_278988

Due to typographical error to this Office e-NIT No.10 of 2025-26 work no.01 (Repairs to 250 suction line, foot valve and pump and at electrical work at Lift Irrigation Scheme Uniso new of MISD Handwara.) Tender ID No.2025_JFC_278988_1 please read Adv. Cost as 0.303 against 0.212 accordingly the following time extension is being given to ensure healthy competition competitive bidding.

- Tender Submission date Ends = 27/06/2025 upto 06.55 pm
 - Date of Opening = 28/06/2025 at 01:00 pm, in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla
- All other terms/conditions and stipulation as contained in the eNIT shall remain unaltered/unmodified.

No. MIDB/CC-02/937-40

DIPK-2856/25

Dated: 23/06/2024

Sd/-Executive Engineer Mechanical Irrigation Division Baramulla

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (for Road

work/Bridges/Buildings)

TWO COVER SYSTEM (above Rs. 2.50 crores)

NIT No. 7 of R&B/Dooru/2025-26/ 1076-81 Dated 23-06-2025 (E-tendering)

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors

S. No	Name of Work	E/Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	E/Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Overall Development of Lukbhawan Shrine at Larkipora Anantnag	294.97 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 250.42 + (18% GST Amount 44.55)	5500/=	589940/-	02 Years	AAY Class Only

registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:

Project Authority = Director Archives, Archaeology.. and museum

Major Head of Account = Archives, Archaeology.. and museum.

Position of AAA = Accorded

Position of TS = Accorded

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q). Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23/06/2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 24/06/2025, 9.00 A.M to 14/07/2025, 6.00 P.M
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	25/06/2025 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Anantnag H.Q Khanabal
4	Bid submission Start Date	26-06-2025 From 11.00 A.M
5	Bid Submission End Date	14-07-2025 upto 6.00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	15-07-2025 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engin(R&B) Circle Anantnag H.Q Khanabal.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Under MH-0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Dooru (Tender Inviting Authority) (NIT No. and Item No/Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M.No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challans should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Anantnag H.Q Khanabal (Tender receiving Authority).

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/ Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

3. The 1" lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Anantnag H.Q Khanabal (Tender receiving authority) within 07 Days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond bid validity.

4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance Security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

5. The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding GST. GST @18 Percent shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment.

6. Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.

7. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) circle Anantnag H.Q Khanabal. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

9. The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, If:-

a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter on intent.

c) In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

10. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

10.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

10.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

10.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

10.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para -1.

10.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

11. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

12. Scanned copy of Cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Dooru (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Anantnag HQ Khanabal (Tender Receiving Authority) must be uploaded with the Technical bid documents for the work. After opening of financial bids, the lowest bidder shall submit the Performance Security in the form of CDR/BG/FDR within 07 Days in the Office of the Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Anantnag HQ Khanabal. Failure to do so shall render the first lowest successful bidder non-responsive. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD (earnest money) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

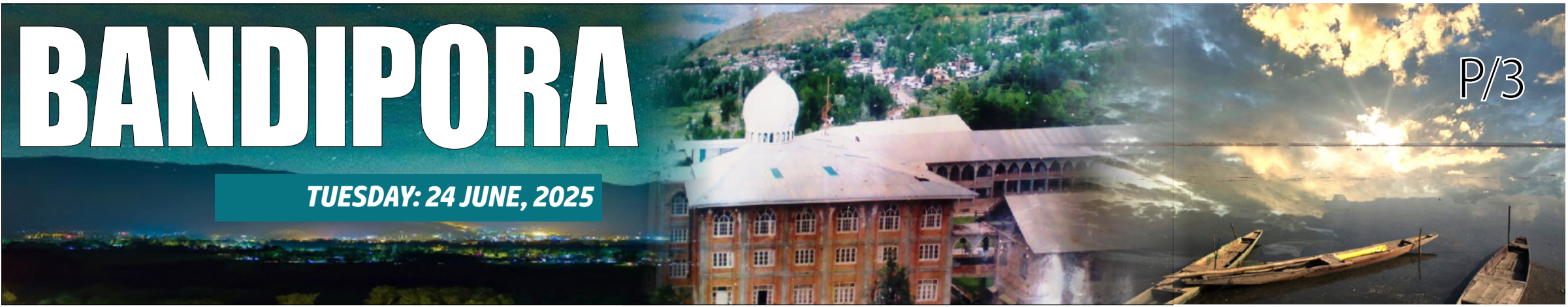
13. Instruction to bidder (ITB)

No: 1076-81

DIPK-2818/25

Dated: 23/06/2024

Sd/-Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Dooru



Bandipora Admin Steps Up Anti-Drug Campaign Across Panchayats

CONVENER NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan (NMJKA), the District Administration Bandipora on Monday organised a series of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes across various panchayats in the district to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a collective resolve for a drug-free society.

According to a statement issued by District Information Centre Bandipora the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, presided over an IEC event at Garoora-B and addressed participants on the importance of community participation in tackling substance abuse. He emphasized that the menace of drug addiction can only be defeated through united efforts at the grassroots level.

The DC urged parents, teachers, youth, and civil society members to remain vigilant and proactive in guiding the younger generation away from the trap of addiction.

The IEC programmes were simultaneously held across various blocks including Naidkhai, Hajin, Tulail, Bonakoot, Arin, Aloosa, and Bandipora, covering locations such as Shahgund-A, Gundi Preng, Zadigay-B, Kralpora, Kudara, Kema, and Garoora-B. These awareness events witnessed active participation from local communities including youth, women, and elders.

Resource persons from departments such as Health, Education, Police, Social Welfare, Youth Services & Sports, Excise & Taxation,



and JKNRLM conducted engaging sessions highlighting the psychological, social, and economic consequences of drug abuse. They also informed participants about available rehabilitation services, helpline support, and government initiatives aimed at prevention and recovery.

The District Administration reiterated its commitment to carry the anti-drug awareness campaign to every corner of the district as part of a mission-mode approach under Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan, ensuring that every individual becomes a stakeholder in building a drug-free society.

Bandipora Admin Launches Joint Action Against Child Labour in Aloosa

CONVENER NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA: As part of the ongoing PAN INDIA Child Labour Eradication Drive, and on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, the District Administration Bandipora Monday conducted a

employing children. Emphasis was placed on sensitizing the public to the provisions of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, urging them to prioritize Child Right to education and a safe environment.

Beyond awareness, the campaign involved meticulous inspections aimed at identifying instances of child labour. The participating departments leveraged their respective expertise to ensure a thorough sweep, with a clear mandate to take legal action against anyone found violating child labour laws.

This drive in Aloosa is a crucial component of District Administration Bandipora's broader commitment to eradicating child labour, aligning with the national directive for intensified efforts.

Spokesperson said the District Administration Bandipora, has been actively promoting a child-friendly environment, recognizing that child labour deprives children of their fundamental rights and perpetuates cycles of poverty.

Chairperson CWC Bandipora, Dr Asima Hassan highlighted their role in ensuring the rehabilitation and reintegration of rescued children, providing them with access to education, healthcare, and a nurturing environment.

Spokesperson said the DCPU, as the focal point for child protection activities at the district level, emphasized the importance of community vigilance and prompt reporting of child labour cases through Child Helpline 1098. The Labour Department underscored its commitment to strict enforcement of labour laws, while the District Police assured robust action against violators.

On the occasion, the officers urged citizens to actively participate in this crucial fight by reporting any instances of child labour and supporting efforts towards a child-labour-free Bandipora.

DC Bandipora Inaugurates Intensified Diarrhoea Control Programme at DH Bandipora

CONVENER NEWS DESK

Bandipora: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Monday launched the Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) campaign at District Hospital Bandipora with an aim to combat water-borne diseases.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora administered a pledge to health officials and field workers, urging them to ensure comprehensive outreach and proactive engagement with communities to minimize the impact of diarrhoeal diseases.

In a statement issued by District Hospital, an official spokesperson said an awareness session marked the beginning of the programme, focusing on hygiene, sanitation, and the effective use of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) and Zinc in managing diarrhoea, particularly among children.

DC Bandipora emphasized the importance of preventive care, timely treatment, and community awareness in reducing the burden of such illnesses in the district and underscored the district administration's commitment to public health, urging greater synergy between field workers and local communities.

"Our priority is that no child should lose life to a preventable disease like diarrhoea," he said, pledging continued support to grassroots health initiatives.

During the programme, free ORS and Zinc supplements were distributed, with special focus on children and the elderly—groups most vulnerable to dehydration and diarrhoeal complications.

Speakers stressed the importance of community engagement, with a collective message: "Public participation is key. With awareness and early intervention, we can drastically reduce complications and prevent deaths

due to diarrhoea."

The IDCF campaign, part of a nationwide initiative, will continue across Bandipora over the next fortnight. Activities will include household visits, health education drives, and distribution of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material across



rural and urban areas.

The inaugural event witnessed the presence of Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Maqbool Lone, Medical Superintendent DH Bandipora, Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani, District Health Officer, Dr. Tahira, along with other senior medical professionals and health workers.

"This campaign is not just about treating diarrhoea, but about preventing it through awareness and preparedness. Our aim is to reach every household with key messages about hygiene and the correct use of ORS and Zinc," said Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani.

The IDCF campaign, observed across the country, will continue in Bandipora district over the coming weeks, with intensified activities including door-to-door visits, community education drives, and distribution of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material.

Usman Majid Raises Concern Over Absentee Lecturer, Slams Edu Deptt for Negligence

CONVENER NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA: Former legislator Usman Majid has expressed serious concern over what he described as "gross negligence" in the Education Department, following the non-joining of a transferred Biotechnology lecturer at the Government Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Nadihal in Bandipora district.

In a strongly worded tweet on Sunday, Majid highlighted that Nisar Ahmad, a Biotechnology lecturer who was officially transferred from BHSS Ganderbal to BHSS Nadihal after serving 14 years at his previous post, has failed to join his new place of posting. The former MLA said that despite the transfer order, the lecturer has not reported for duty at BHSS Nadihal to date.

"This gross negligence has left the poor students of BHSS Nadihal without a subject teacher, directly affecting their education and academic progress," Majid tweeted.

He further questioned the lack of accountability in the Education Department, asking, "How long will the future of these students be held hostage to such blatant irresponsibility?"

The tweet has sparked fresh debate on transparency and enforcement of transfer orders in the education sector, especially in rural areas where students already face a shortage of specialized teaching staff.

Local residents and parents have echoed Majid's concerns, urging the authorities to take immediate steps to ensure the lecturer joins his assigned post without further delay. Several students, preparing for competitive exams, have reportedly been left without proper guidance in the subject due to the lecturer's absence.

Officials from the Education Department have not issued any statement on the matter so far.

Pensioners Demand DA Benefits of 8th Pay Commission

WAHID RAFIQ

BANDIPORA: Members of the Pensioners United Front, District Bandipora, on Sunday organised a peaceful protest at Mini Secretariat Bandipora to demanding inclusion of pensioners in proposed benefits in 8th pay commission.

The member also submitted a memorandum at the office of Deputy Commissioner Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, urging the administration to take up their demand for inclusion in the proposed benefits of the 8th Pay Commission.

The delegation, comprising retired employees from various government departments, emphasized that despite their years of dedicated service, pensioners are being left out of the expected Dearness Allowance (DA) revisions under the upcoming pay commission framework. They appealed for immediate redressal of the issue and highlighted that a similar memorandum had already been submitted earlier to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

The district-level memorandum was formally submitted by Rafiq Ahmed Paray and Ghulam Muhammad Lone, who represented the Front during the meeting. Deputy Commissioner Qadri gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them that the matter would be taken up with the concerned authorities at the appropriate level.

The Pensioners United Front expressed gratitude to the district administration for its cooperation and support, and reiterated their hope that the voices of retired public servants will be acknowledged and addressed in policy decisions concerning financial welfare.

B'pora Admin Pledges to strengthen fight against drug abuse

CONVENER NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA: As part of the ongoing campaign under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), district administration Bandipora on Monday organised a mass pledge-taking ceremony at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora to reaffirm commitment towards a drug-free society.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, administered a pledge to the participants, urging all government functionaries to lead by example in spreading awareness against substance abuse. Senior officers of the district administration also participated in the pledge taking ceremony along with their subordinate staff.

The event was conducted as a significant activity under the month-long awareness calendar initiated by the district administration from June 2 to June 26, aimed at reinforcing public resolve against drug addiction.

On the occasion, DC reaffirmed the administration's commitment to support this mission by involving all sections of society in the fight against drug abuse. The campaign underscored the importance of a united and community-driven response to combat the growing menace of substance abuse.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan pledge emphasized the role of youth in nation-building and their responsibility in shaping a drug-free society. It highlighted the importance of individual commitment alongside community, family and peer efforts to combat substance abuse.

The pledge called upon all citizens to unite in the mission of making our district and Jammu and Kashmir UT, free from drug addiction. It reinforced the idea that change must begin from within and urged everyone to contribute their best efforts to eliminate drug abuse and create a healthier, empowered nation.

Similar functions were organised at Sumbal and Gurez sub-divisions of the district with full fervor and enthusiasm, witnessing active participation from officials and staff at all levels.

Water Diversion for Power Dries Athwatto Stream, Endangers Fish and Livelihoods

CONVENER NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA: In a serious ecological and economic fallout in Athwatto area of Bandipora district, nearly one kilometre stretch of the Madhumati Nala has dried up almost completely after water diverted by a private mini hydroelectric project operating in the Bankoot.

Locals said the depletion in water flow has caused extensive damage to the aquatic ecosystem and left local fish pond owners staring at devastating losses. "Water level was already low and that too has been completely diverted to feed mini hydel project athwatto," locals informed Kashmir Convener.

Experts warn of a mass mortality of fish in the area due to a sharp increase in water temperature and the consequent depletion in oxygen levels, that can result from the reduced inflow of fresh water. The conditions, they say, have turned fatal for trout and other sensitive aquatic species that require a cold and well-oxygenated environment to thrive.

Among the worst-hit is Basharat Hameed, a postgraduate and unemployed youth who invested his savings into developing a trout fish pond as a means of livelihood.

Speaking to reporters, Hameed said he is facing immense losses as fish continue to die in large numbers daily.

He blamed the hydroelectric project authorities for not releasing sufficient water back into the stream. "I started this project with hope and hard work. But every day is heart-breaking. Despite reaching out to the Director of Fisheries, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, and even the Lieutenant Governor's office, no remedial steps have been taken so far," he said, warning that if the situation persists, he will have no option but to approach the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for justice.

He said the situation has sparked alarm among environmentalists, who warn of irreversible damage to the natural ecology of

Madhumati Nala. "The stream, once known for its rich aquatic life, has witnessed a drastic decline in biodiversity due to the near absence of flowing water".

Locals have expressed anger over what they call a reckless and unregulated operation of the hydel project, which they allege is compromising the ecological integrity of the region for power generation.

"It's extremely unfortunate that a pristine natural resource is being pushed to destruction in the name of development. The government must ensure that such projects adhere to strict environmental norms and ensure not all water is diverted but leave some eater for aquatic life," said a local resident.

People in the area have urged the administration to take immediate corrective measures and ensure the release of adequate ecological flow in the stream to restore both aquatic life and the livelihoods that depend on it. As the silence from relevant authorities continues, pressure is mounting for a full-fledged review of the mini hydel project's operational protocols and its compliance with environmental safeguards.



Editorial



Connectivity Revolution

In a resounding reaffirmation of its commitment to the development of Jammu and Kashmir, the Centre has approved 19 transformative road and tunnel infrastructure projects worth ₹10,637 crore, covering nearly 296 kilometers. These projects, sanctioned under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' (MoRTH) 2025–26 action plan, are more than engineering marvels—they are blueprints for strategic strength, economic upliftment, and regional integration.

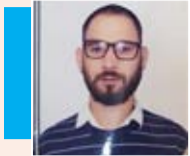
Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was right in calling it a “momentous push” for the Union Territory. From strategically vital tunnels like Peer Ki Gali and Sadhana to ambitious urban flyovers and bypasses, the bouquet of projects reflects a comprehensive vision—to connect remote terrains, improve road safety, and enhance tourism circuits.

The Peer Ki Gali tunnel (₹3830 crore) and the Sadhana tunnel (₹3330 crore), located along sensitive and weather-prone corridors, will ensure all-weather access to areas often cut off during winters. These projects are not just about better roads—they're about saving lives, improving accessibility, and boosting local economies. In a region where roads often dictate economic rhythm, such infrastructure will be a game-changer for horticulture, handicrafts, and tourism—the three pillars of J&K's economy.

Equally crucial is the sanction of urban infrastructure, including the four-lane flyover from Lal Chowk to Parimpora and the Magam Flyover on the Narbal–Gulmarg section. These will ease congestion, improve last-mile connectivity to tourist hubs, and transform the commuter experience in Srinagar and beyond.

Importantly, these aren't just projects for today—they are investments in tomorrow. Such initiatives do not happen in isolation. They stem from political will, administrative coordination, and strategic foresight. It is heartening to see Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari championing connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir, with a clear understanding of the region's geopolitical, economic, and cultural needs. As we applaud this major infra push, it is equally essential to ensure timely execution, environmental safeguards, and community engagement in the implementation phase. The gains of these roads and tunnels must reach the last household in the remotest village. In a land carved by mountains but bound by aspirations, these new arteries of development promise mobility, dignity, and opportunity. The tunnels being built today are not just cutting through rock—they are opening pathways to peace, prosperity, and progress.

Hypercentrality of English language in the world of Globalization



DR. SUHEEL RASOOL MIR

The Enlightenment and its avatars like modernity, postmodernity and globalization have 'invaded' all arenas of the world known to man. It has affected all arenas of society differently. Like everyone else, languages which are considered to be one of the components that constitute the identity too have been caught up in the effects of what we call globalization. In this borderless world, indigenous languages have been confronted by many post-enlightenment challenges. Even indigenous languages are no longer immune to globalization.

The processes of globalization thereby erode the social foundations of socio-linguistic fabric. It poses threats in the wake of a strong emphasis on economic values inherent in globalization processes, and through the dominance of certain languages and cultural practices, implying an accelerated trend towards a loss of languages (especially among indigenous communities), and the extinction of certain practices. All these trends favour the emergence of a uniformity of expressions (but not necessarily of identities) and approaches, impinging on (especially the more intangible aspects of) cultural diversity.

Does globalization heighten or diminish “our aesthetic awareness or are we drowning in a tidal wave of superficial, global pop culture easily sold and instantly digestible everywhere”? (Richard Tomkins, Financial Times, 23 April 2004) Globalization is increasing rapidly in the contemporary world; this increase in globalization has affected language. This impact in turn affects the culture of the language. One way through which globalization has affected language is by spreading one language globally, where that language is considered as the dominant language, it tends to overshadow other native languages.

The English language has emerged as the dominant language due to the onslaught of globalization which has connected every part of the world into a global village. As a result, this dominant language has penetrated into the indigenous cultures of the various societies thus threatening the very existence of native languages of indigenous people and by implication their social fabric because language is an important component of any social system. With the rapid advancement of science and technology,

the world is gradually losing its diversity. It is getting globalized. People's attitudes, the way they dress, their foods, the way they eat, the way they do their daily chores, the way they travel, the way they enjoy and get entertained etc are getting globalized .

The diversity, the traditions, rituals, customs are getting drifted away. Does this not impact language and communication? Of course it does, language too is getting globalized gradually. Language is changing into a simpler, faster communication mode that fits



with the electronic communication methods and dissemination of information. Facebook English, SMS English are getting popularized among the new generation, especially because it is free of many complicated grammar rules and spelling rules, thereby people can easily grasp it and they will like it absolutely.

Language reflects culture, and in this case the power of English reflects the power of certain countries. Until relatively recently, the United Kingdom held the reins to the world's largest empire, with colonies scattered across the globe . Their superior industrial capacity meant that they were able to conquer new territories and impose their own cultural norms, laws, religion and language. As a result, English found its way into nearly every corner of the earth (Matthew, 2004).

Although some are arguing that globalization is positive for language and people, there are some that are arguing it will have negative effects on language. The biggest argument is that globalization and the dominance of a few languages will force some languages into extinction (Malloy & Thomas, 2006). The Endangered Languages Project reports that 40% of the world's languages will disappear, directly related to globalization and its effects. To elaborate more, Ethnologies suggests that 25 percent of the world's languages are in danger of permanently disappearing in the near future, Indigenous people's today stand at the crossroads of globalization (Richard, 2006).

In many ways, indigenous peoples challenge the fundamental assumptions of globalization. They do not accept the assumption that humanity will benefit from the construction of a world culture of consumerism. Indigenous peoples are acutely aware, from their own tragic experience over the past 500 years, that consumer societies grow and prosper at

the expense of other peoples and the environment.

Today, with the rapid advance of globalization, the loss of intangible cultural heritage once seen in Japan can now be observed throughout the world. The threat of extinction to intangible cultural heritage is particularly noticeable in developing countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, today. Therefore, while modernization and industrialization remain urgent issues, it is at the same time essential to preserve and transmit these traditional cultures. The various ways in which intangible cultural heritage is being preserved and transmitted require special attention.

The disappearance of languages as a result of the impact of globalization is bound to have negative effects, both direct and indirect, on identities and intangible cultural heritage – especially as these languages are vectors of traditional manifestations and celebrations of community life. The term globalization of languages is also defined by Steger (2003) as “the process of the spread of some languages that are used as international languages, and the disappearance of other languages that lack speakers”

Man has been using language as a medium of communication for ages, today due to Globalization English language has become the most prized possession of communication. In this Global village, the English language acts as a repository of wisdom and wit. The English language is a propeller for advancement of career and a machine to mint money. And it is a telescope to view the vision of the future (Aliester, 1994).

In this Global world, communication in English is now recognized as an inseparable part rather than the life blood of every activity which occurs in our day to day life. Nowadays every organization functions through a communication process, wherein mutually independent persons create and exchange messages to articulate and achieve commonly held objectives and goals. Frankly speaking, globalization is nothing but another form of colonization. I state this fact because it is true as far as indigenous peoples are concerned (Wallerstein, 1989). In general, the relationship of indigenous peoples to their ancestral lands forms the basis for culture, social institutions, and the daily work practices in indigenous economies. It goes almost without saying that the notion of globalization is neither value-free nor clinical, as we witness the shrinking of ancestral lands and territories worldwide (Peter, 1996).

World languages through colonization, more powerful, industrialized countries were able to force their languages on weaker populations (Alastair, 1994). Since these countries were dictating the terms of any potential economic exchange, it was necessary for

traders in other less-powerful regions to learn more widely-spoken languages like English or French in order to communicate and participate in this exchange. While this inevitably led to the loss of much smaller, regional dialects, colonization kicked off the start of the globalization process (Malcom, 1993).

On a global scale it has led to extinction of other languages and culture, thus endangering them. Endangered languages are no longer spoken by children. Only few elders speak it and extinction occurs when the language is no longer spoken as a result of globalization. It is evident from the secondary sources that almost 5000-6000 languages have been endangered due to globalization (Kachru & Nelson, 1996). In today's globalized world English is perceived as an advantaged language and many parents push their children to learn English over their native language in order to bring them at par with global developments.

When a culture dies along with a language, the connection between perception and action is forever changed. Using our native language is a very important way to protect it from extermination. But usage of the language is not only about speaking it. There is no doubt that Globalization has changed the life style of human beings altogether, the English language has given a new life to the modern man. Because of Globalization Communication in English is the major requirement in the day-to-day selection process.

“English” is a language before Globalization and “English” is the language after globalization. English and Globalization are inseparable, living one on another in the present day world like the body and soul of a human being. To make the richness of the language survive, it must be used in literature such as poetry, dramas, films and so on. In Greenlandic society, as well as in many other indigenous societies, many words in the language are related to the way people lived traditionally, and therefore, the language is in danger of diminishing in modern society.

Globalization phenomena will continue to stride into the future; it is our urgent task to examine the checks and balances of the globalization process, and find a way to promote both regional cultures and global values. Today, globalization has had and will continue to have effects on many aspects of society, including language. As globalization has increased the spread of world languages like English, and another consequence is that many other languages are becoming endangered and ultimately extinct.

(Suheel Rasool Mir is a sociologist working on the borderlands of Kashmir and Ladakh, the sociology of Ethnicity and sociology at the margins. He is the author of the Cultural Encyclopedia of Dard Tribe. The author can be contacted at mirsuhaisholar@gmail.com)

Chalk, Kindness, and Dreams: How One Teacher Shaped a Generation



DANISH ASHRAF KHAN

Teachers are not just people who teach from books. They are the foundation builders of society. They are the silent architects who shape lives, guide dreams, and nurture the future with patience, care, and love. In my journey through life, I have been fortunate to learn from many educators who helped shape the person I am today. But among them, one name stands apart. Not just for his teaching but for the kind of human being he is. A mentor, a friend, and an eternal inspiration. Mr. Tariq Ahmad Mir.

This is not just a story about a teacher. It is a tribute to a man who chose to teach not only with his mind, but with his heart. He never walked ahead of us like a leader or behind us like a watcher. He walked beside us like a friend. His presence in our lives answers a question I often reflect upon. Can a true friend be the best teacher in your life?

The answer is a wholehearted yes. When a teacher connects with your soul, they leave a deeper impact than any textbook ever could.

Mr. Tariq Ahmad Mir began his teaching journey in 2004. His spirit still remains youthful and committed, just as it was on the first day he entered a classroom. His first posting was in the same modest village where I was raised. The school had no proper classrooms, desks, or enough books. We often studied under the open sky or inside broken rooms. There were no smart tools or modern teaching aids. But what we had was something far more powerful. We had Mr. Mir.

With just a piece of chalk, a blackboard, and an endless supply of love and dedication, he transformed that small village school into a space filled with learning, laughter, and dreams. He taught with simplicity, yet his words carried depth. His examples came from daily life. His lessons stayed with us long after the day ended. He never raised his voice. He never made us feel small. His tone was calm, yet his words held power.

What made Mr. Mir truly special was the way he looked at his students. He never saw us as numbers or grades. He saw us as children with dreams, fears, questions, and potential. He treated everyone with kindness and respect. He encouraged our strengths and supported us through our weaknesses. Even when we failed, he made sure we knew that failure was just a stepping stone, not the end.

His connection with students was always personal. He

remembered our names, our stories, our challenges, and our hopes. He never let anyone feel unseen. He was not just a teacher in our lives. He was a constant presence. A friend. A guide.

Mr. Mir still lives a simple life in a remote place called Bathnoor Tral. It is around nine kilometers from the main town. Yet, the distance has never been an obstacle to his devotion.

I am proud to be one of them. But more than our professions, what matters is who we became. He taught us more than facts. He taught us values.

Even after twenty-two years of teaching, his dedication remains strong. He walks into every classroom with the same energy and love. He listens with patience. He teaches with hope.



Each day, he walks his path with commitment and purpose. His journey to school is not just a routine. It is a reflection of his passion.

His views on education are something every parent and teacher should think about. According to him, every child is unique and deserves respect and honour. He believes no child is born intelligent or dull. It is the environment, love, and early learning that shape who the child becomes. He often says that the first eight years of a child's life are the most important. That is the time when a child learns how to think, how to feel, and how to dream.

Over the years, Mr. Mir has taught hundreds of students. Many of them were first-generation learners. Children who were the first in their families to attend school. Today, many of his students are teachers, officers, and responsible citizens.

He still believes that education can change lives.

For me, he is still the same teacher who once welcomed a shy village boy like a friend. He is still the person I turn to for advice. He is still the light that helps me move forward. There are teachers who leave a mark. And then there are those who leave a legacy. Mr. Tariq Ahmad Mir is one of them. He planted the seeds of belief in us when no one else did. He gave wings to our dreams before we even knew how to fly.

Conclusion
A true friend understands your silence. A true teacher shapes your soul. When both qualities are found in one person, their impact becomes eternal. Mr. Mir is that rare person. A teacher who healed with his kindness. A friend who lifted us with his wisdom. His lessons were not just about books. They were about life.

To every teacher who teaches with love, and to every friend who guides with honesty, you are the true heroes. You may never be seen on television or praised in headlines. But your influence lives forever in the hearts you touch.

And to Mr. Tariq Ahmad Mir, thank you. Thank you for believing in us. Thank you for choosing the path of truth and



love. Thank you for showing us how to write our names and how to write our own stories.

You did not just teach us lessons. You gave us direction. You did not just shape our minds. You shaped our hearts. And we, your students, will always carry your legacy with pride.

Your friendship was your method. Your kindness was your subject. And we are forever your grateful chapters.

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The late pope and the Paris Agreement



XIAO HEI

On the final Saturday of April 2025, the 266th pope was given a “low-key” funeral and laid to rest in Rome. That it be low-key was one of Francis’ last wishes. He wanted a simpler process incurring lower costs, with The Holy See’s coffers untroubled. The choice of final resting place as the Basilica Santa Maria Magiore in Rome, rather than Saint Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican, also reflected the man’s modesty.

Of course, a truly low-key funeral may be unrealistic for any pontiff. Around 250,000 people attended the funeral mass, amongst them delegations from 130 countries, 50 of which were led by heads of state. We saw President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy sitting knee-to-knee with his United States counter-

“Pope Francis didn’t just call for action—he made climate a moral issue. His 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si*, broke new ground by framing global warming as not only an environmental but a human and spiritual crisis.”

part, Donald Trump, in St Peter’s Basilica, followed by Trump shaking hands outside with the French president, Emmanuel Macron. In the front row sat President Milei of Argentina, Pope Francis’ homeland.

In the Chinese-language world, coverage of the pope’s death and funeral was muted – certainly low-key. But as we prepare to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Paris Agreement and hail the importance of continued multilateralism, I think we in the Chinese-language world must remember the vital contribution that Pope Francis made to that deal.

Pope Francis became head of the Catholic church in 2013. In May 2015, he published an encyclical (a papal letter to the church’s bishops) titled *Laudato Si* (Praise be to you). Its subtitle, “On care for our common home”, signalled its environmental focus. That year was an important one for climate negotiations. By the end of it, the world was due to agree on new climate change cooperation arrangements “applicable to all parties”. Though this was the pope’s second encyclical, his first had primarily continued his predecessor’s work. The 2015 encyclical was not only the first to represent Pope Francis’ own views, but the first ever to focus on the planet rather than just humanity. This decision made a big impact.

Responses came in from around the world. Scientists were particularly welcoming. In October of that year, the scientific journal *Nature Climate Change* paid tribute to the pope in a special issue. Science and religion, as the pope had advocated, set aside their differences and started to talk.

The encyclical, which is 184 pages long, gets stuck into the environmental crisis immediately after the preamble. It also covers air and water pollution and biodiversity loss, but gives the climate crisis a special focus. The letter does not reference the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) by name, but paragraphs 23 and 24 mention the “very solid scientific consensus” that the climate is changing unnaturally

quickly, primarily due to human activity. This alludes to the IPCC’s Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) published a few months prior. The encyclical goes on to look at the impacts and risks of global heating, and the implications for global justice. It emphasises the disproportionate harms to the poor and the Global South, the risk of forcing people into migrating, and of war over access to resources.

The letter is also clear on the climate being a global common good. There is therefore a moral duty to take strong action in response to climate change, it argues. Let us think back to the 2014 debate over the wording of AR5’s Mitigation of Climate Change

and metrics, the role of culture, social norms and behaviour change, sharing and the circular economy, and policy measures to promote sustainable lifestyles.

2023: Exhortation on climate change

In October 2023, with the climate crisis worsening and the COP28 round of talks about to start in Dubai, Pope Francis spoke out again. His apostolic exhortation, *Laudate Deum* (Praise God) was subtitled “To all people of good will on the climate crisis”. This update on the 2015 encyclical was 17 pages long and focused



Summary for Policymakers. There was fierce disagreement over whether or not the climate could be called a “global commons problem”. In the end, the term was moved from the main text into a footnote, with a clarification that this was unrelated to any “effort-sharing”. The pope, however, does not need to take the opinion of others into account. Francis could say what he thought, directly.

Chapter 2 of the encyclical refers at length to the Bible as it discusses the intrinsic value of all forms of life. And the pope was not entirely unaware of practical concerns: chapters 3 to 6 review the roots of the climate crisis and our response in terms of political economy, technology, society and culture. Much ink is spent criticising the “technocratic paradigm” – a mindset that views technology and human control over nature as the primary means of progress. For the pope, this belief forgets what is essential, and drives endless extraction of the earth’s resources in pursuit of limitless growth.

On the economy, the pope criticised the maximisation of profit driven by instrumental reasoning. On the contrary, the pope recommended “decreased growth in some parts of the world, in order to provide resources for other places to experience healthy growth.” He considered growth without advances in social justice and morality inappropriate. He also criticised the merit of market forces in solving environmental problems, arguing we can never truly know the value of the environment.

On lifestyles, the pope’s headache over the immoderate “buy and throw away” consumption driven by capital and manufacturing – and the associated individualism – can be sensed in every chapter. Not all economists will agree and technological experts may be opposed. But it speaks to me.

Critics said the pope’s hopes of encouraging moral reasoning and cultural transformation to tackle climate change were unrealistic. Huge political and social mobilisation would be necessary, they said. Nor did the encyclical discuss the links between sustainable development and demographic growth.

My own reading found many words of wisdom and a strong philosophical basis, but perhaps a slight hollowness and lack of pragmatism. This gave the document somewhat limited policy-making value. It did, however, go a long way towards bringing morality – something technologists and scientists overlook in their research – back into the debate. That was a huge contribution.

The encyclical, the Paris Agreement and the IPCC In late September 2015, Pope Francis attended the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in New York, giving an important speech that restated the spirit of his encyclical. Humanity’s endless pursuit of power and material pleasures was causing the misuse of natural resources and the exclusion of the poor and the vulnerable, he said, and it was time for us to acknowledge the “rights of nature”.

In December 2015, the UN climate conference COP21 passed the Paris Agreement, which came into effect the following year. This was another milestone for global climate governance. For the first time, the emotive idea of “Mother Earth” appeared in a legal UN text. Pope Francis is said to have acted as a mediator during negotiations on key issues, such as long-term goals. That may or may not be true, but the impact of his encyclical is undeniable. Since then, the post-Paris climate story has been a complex and unpredictable one, but Pope Francis’ voice was always clearly heard.

The encyclical was a powerful part of a growing awareness of the social aspect to climate change mitigation. Its impact on the IPCC’s scientific assessments is also clear to see. From the start of work on the IPCC’s next Assessment Report, AR6, sociological science was embedded into policy research. The AR6 Mitigation of Climate Change report included a whole new chapter, titled “Demand, Services and Social Aspects of Mitigation”. It covers sustainable production and consumption, development models

more particularly on the climate.

After an introduction lamenting the increasing frequency of climate disasters, Pope Francis regretfully pointed out that the “technocratic paradigm” was only worsening – artificial intelligence being the prime example – and there was still no limit to the growth of human power. The point of no return was close. He went on: the existing multilateral mechanisms were not strong enough to tackle climate change and new decision-making and implementation mechanisms were needed.

While the 2015 encyclical did not refer to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the newer message dedicated two chapters (4 and 5) to a review of milestone COPs and an expression of solemn hopes for COP28: that it would see a change of direction (paragraph 54) and in particular act on the energy transition (54 and 59), and encourage parties to make rapid and powerful responses and stick to their commitments.

Pope Francis had intended to be at COP28, but illness prevented his attending. Instead, a message was read out for him. He hoped attendees would move beyond national and business interests and think about the planet and future generations, showing political foresight rather than conservatism.

COP28 successfully completed the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement, with a particular emphasis on the energy transition, where the content was very encouraging.

In July and September 2022, the Vatican ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, respectively. Its first climate action plan, or Nationally Determined Contribution, was to reduce emissions by 20% from its 2011 level by 2030, and to hit net-zero emissions by 2050.

In late 2024, the Vatican and other parties to the Paris Agreement submitted their first biennial transparency reports, as required. According to its report, the city state’s greenhouse gas emissions in 2022 were 15,890 tonnes of CO2-equivalent, a per capita average of 16 tonnes. Down 17.8% on 2011, this was achieved mainly through electrification, big drops in the use of fossil fuels and cleaner air conditioning.

An unusual pope

Pope Francis was known as the “green pope” or the “climate pope”, but the New York Times also described him as a “dividing line”, who made key contributions to modernising the Catholic church. Before becoming pope, he was archbishop of Buenos Aires, where he was known for remaining close to the ordinary people, and often seen on public transport. After becoming a contender for the papacy, his “election” pitch was simple: the Catholic church had to do more than just open doors and windows to let fresh air in – it had to go out to where it was needed.

The papal name he chose was after Saint Francis of Assisi, who was known for his humility. Alongside being a sustained voice on climate change, Pope Francis worked hard to help the poor and migrants, and to end war. He also showed more tolerance and acceptance of homosexuals than previous popes.

He was a reformer too, giving more decision-making power to priests from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Much of this was opposed by traditionalists within the Catholic church, but Pope Francis’s status and influence remained strong. This speaks to his leadership skills. The Catholic church’s hierarchy is an awe-inspiring thing, and those who climb it will be tested. Not all are able to retain their principles during their ascent.

I hope the new Pope will carry on the work of his predecessor and use the voice of the Catholic church to speak out on climate change.

Author Xiao Hei is an experienced climate policy researcher. This article was originally published on Dialogue Earth and republished under the Creative Commons BY NC ND licence.

“He criticised endless consumption and the ‘technocratic paradigm’ that prioritises control and profit over compassion and restraint. For Francis, the climate crisis is rooted not just in emissions—but in ethics.”

Sakeena Itoo visits Gulmarg Constituency

Inaugurates AYUSH Health & Wellness Centre at Chandail, additional accommodation at GMS Chichilora, KGS at Kralweth

TANGMARG: Minister for Health and Medical Education and Social Welfare Department, Sakeena Itoo, today visited several areas of Gulmarg Constituency and inaugurated development projects there.

MLA Gulmarg, Peerzada Farooq Ahmad Shah; Director Social Welfare Kashmir; Director School Education Kashmir; Director Colleges J&K; Director Health Services Kashmir; Director AYUSH; Director Family Welfare and Immunization and other senior officers of district administration Baramulla accompanied the Minister.

The Minister inaugurated AYUSH Health and Wellness Centre at Chandail Wangan, additional accommodation at Government Middle School (GMS) Chichilora and Kinder Garten School (KGS) at Kralweth.

Addressing the locals on these occasions, Sakeena reaffirmed the commitment of the Government towards constructive development and upgrades in health and education sectors.

“Healthcare and Education are pillars of sustainable progress and our government is endeavoring hard to enhance the quality of life for every resident of J&K”, she said.

The Minister advised the locals to take best use of this facility as it will offer a range of alternative medicine services like Ayurveda, Unani and Homeopathy, with an aim that affordable and accessible healthcare options are also available to rural population.

At Government Middle School Chichilora, the Minister remarked that the people have trusted the present government led by Omar Abdullah and therefore we are committed to uphold this trust by all types of welfare

measures.

She called upon the people to make best utilisation of social welfare schemes and other initiatives of the government.

The Minister also spoke in length about the achievements of the government in recent



months. She assured the general public that their genuine issues and problems will be addressed promptly.

On the occasion, MLA Gulmarg, Peerzada Farooq Ahmad expressed gratitude to the Minister for fulfilling the demand of local population regarding operationalization of Ayush centre.

Later, Sakeena visited the Government Degree College Tangmarg and felicitated several students who had excelled in various disciplines.

The Minister, on the occasion, also interacted with the staff and students of the college and took on-spot feedback from them about the quality of education being imparted at the institute.

Meanwhile, the Minister visited the Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Kunzer and participated in interaction with

the teachers.

The Minister emphasized on quality education and student empowerment so that they can excel in their future aspects of life across different fields.

Highlighting various developmental and educational initiatives of the government, Sakeena spoke in length about recent reforms in the education sector and enhanced digital infrastructure in schools.

She also highlighted the progressive scholarship schemes aimed at bridging the gap between urban and rural education.

“As we move towards a more inclusive and empowered society, education remains the most powerful tool for transformation. The government remains committed towards empowering our youth through quality education and holistic support,” she remarked.

She also lauded the tireless efforts of teachers in shaping the future generation and emphasized the need for continued collaboration between educational institutions and the government to uplift academic standards across the region.

Earlier, the Minister inspected various stalls set up by the science club of the institution showcasing various innovative products developed by the students.

Interacting with the students on the occasion, the Minister advised them to keep following their ambitions and the government will ensure you support in every means to achieve those goals.

On the occasion, the Minister felicitated the meritorious students of Classes 10 and 12, commending their hard work and perseverance.

DC Budgam convenes 36th NCORD meeting, reviews measures against drug menace

Calls for awareness camps in district hotspots to combat drug menace

30 NDPS, 10 PIT-NDPS cases lodged in FY 2025-26; poppy cultivation on 3 kanals and 3.5 marlas of land also destroyed

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat on Monday conducted the 36th meeting of District Level Committee of Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) at the DC Office Complex here to review the action taken by the concerned departments with regard to decisions held in previous meetings.

During the meeting, a future course of action to uproot the drug menace and destruction of Narco crops was also formulated.

At the outset, DC took detailed feedback from each concerned department regarding the measures taken for combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and its consumption in the district to save youth from the dangerous effects of the drugs.

He said that drug abuse is a serious problem that not only affects individuals, but also their families and communities. He stated that it is essential to tackle the issue from multiple perspectives, including deterrence, treatment and enforcement.

DC reiterated that the district administration is committed to create a drug-free environment in the district and will continue to take all necessary steps to achieve this goal.

On the occasion, DC directed Assistant Drug Controller Budgam to get CCTV cameras installed in all the drug stores and achieve 100% saturation.

He directed the Excise officer to ensure coordination with Revenue and police departments at subdivision level for imposing

greater deterrence to combat dangerous trade of drug-trafficking, destruction of poppy and cannabis cultivation in the district.

The chair was apprised by the Excise department that during the current financial year 2025-26, a total of 3 kanals and 3.5 marla's of poppy cultivation was destroyed.



DC said that efforts with cooperation, coordination and collaboration are vital to contain the drug peddling and break the supply chain, besides taking stringent action against the culprits involved in the hazardous trade of drugs, and cultivation of narco crops.

DC directed DSWO to complete all the formalities with regard to functioning of drug de-addiction centre Budgam so that the same is used for proper counselling and rehabilitation of individuals struggling with addiction.

He said pro-active awareness needs to be initiated on wider levels at schools, colleges, markets, and at all busy public

places to sensitize students and common masses about ill effects of drugs, as well as encouraging healthy activities and hobbies to discourage drug abuse.

DC directed all SDMs and SDPOs to involve religious scholars and imams of masjid to deliver sermons against drug

abuse during prayers.

With regard to enforcement efforts, DC said district administration will ensure a zero tolerance policy against drug abuse and serious action will be taken against those involved in drug trafficking and smuggling.

During the meeting, ASP Budgam Syed Sajjad Bukhari informed that 30 FIRs have been lodged under NDPS, 10 under PIT-NDPS, besides 44 drug peddlers have been arrested during this fiscal year.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, ASP Budgam, CEO, CMO, all SDMs, Assistant Drug Controller, Excise officer, Tehsildar Hq. EO of all MCs and other stakeholders concerned.

Distt admin Pulwama intensifies awareness campaign under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan

PULWAMA: Continuing its mission to combat the menace of drug abuse, district administration Pulwama today organised a series of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) camps at various panchayats across all the blocks of the district.

During the sessions, resource persons sensitised participants, especially the youth, about the harmful physical, psychological, and social impacts of substance abuse.

The sessions focused on key areas such as early detection of drug addiction, importance of community vigilance, and the supportive role of families in rehabilitation. Special emphasis was placed on educating participants about the availability of local counselling and de-addiction services.

To enhance outreach, a wide range of IEC materials, including brochures, posters, and pamphlets with key messages on prevention, support systems, and helpline numbers, were also distributed among the participants. Participants were also encouraged to become ambassadors of change within their communities.

The programmes witnessed active participation from officials of Health, Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, and Police. Representatives from Panchayats, Self Help Groups (SHGs), civil society, students, and local youth also took part in the events with enthusiasm.

The campaign will continue in the coming days with similar initiatives planned across educational institutions, panchayats, and urban areas of the district, aiming to strengthen awareness and ensure community-level engagement in the fight against drug addiction.

Javid Dar inaugurates model panchayat ghars, road upgradation works in Baramulla

BARAMULLA, JUNE 23: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated the macadamization work at the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi, Sopore.

The project, being executed at an estimated cost of 200.24 lakh, aims to significantly upgrade the market infrastructure, boost the horticulture economy and streamline transportation and business operations in one of North Kashmir's key trade hubs.

The Minister also inaugurated the upgradation work on Rawoocha Hatchipora Pazzalpura Hamam Markote road, an important connectivity project aimed at improving access for local residents and facilitating smoother

movement of goods and services across the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Javid Dar said, "These critical



infrastructure projects are part of a broader strategy to catalyze economic activity, improve quality of life and empower local businesses through better connectivity and modernized facilities."

Later in the day, the Minister laid foundation stones for Model Panchayat

Gharas at Daniwagha, Chatloora and Drussu in the Rafiabad constituency. Each Panchayat Gharas is being developed at a cost

of 35 lakh under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSa). The initiative is designed to enhance grassroots governance and promote inclusive and sustainable rural development.

Highlighting the vision behind these interventions, Javid Dar stated, "The aim of the Omar Abdullah-led government

is to empower the rural areas, improve local governance and promote social justice and participatory development at the grassroots level."

Addressing a public gathering at Governance Higher Secondary School, Dangiawacha, the Minister underscored the government's commitment to youth empowerment. He urged the younger generation to make full use of various welfare and development schemes related to agriculture, horticulture, animal and sheep husbandry, skill development and entrepreneurship.

"The future of Jammu & Kashmir lies in the hands of its youth. We are investing in their education, skills and aspirations so that they can lead the region towards self-reliance and prosperity," he said.

Secretary RDD reviews progress on JKRLM initiatives

94,000 SHGs formed; over 1.84 lakh women become Lakhpati Didis in 6 months

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), assessing the implementation status and progress on various key initiatives under the Mission.

The meeting focused on financial progress, recruitment, capacity building, institutional strengthening and the ongoing implementation of flagship Lakhpati Didi initiative.

Mission Director, JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma, Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma and State Programme Managers were present during the deliberations.

The Secretary was informed that the Mission has successfully formed 94,000 Self-Help Groups (SHGs), covering 7.55 lakh rural households across the Union Territory. Notably, J&K ranks among the top-performing States/UTs in key parameters such as LOKOS profile capturing and Cluster Level Federation (CLF) transactions, securing 1st position in CLF profiling, 2nd in Village Organization profiling and 4th in SHG profile capturing.

Commending the progress made, the Secretary urged the Mission team to intensify efforts in lagging areas and leverage the full potential of SHGs to improve rural livelihoods. He stressed the importance of strong linkages between SHGs and financial institutions to enhance access to gainful employment and sustainable income opportunities for women.

Under the Lakhpati Didi initiative, the

Secretary noted that over 1.84 lakh women have already achieved the Lakhpati Didi



status in the past six months. He stated that efforts are underway to support a cumulative total of 2.3 lakh women in achieving this milestone by the end of the current month.

These women are engaged in diverse sectors including agriculture, animal husbandry, manufacturing, services and trade, with support from convergence departments such as Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and MSME.

The Secretary also enquired about the additional interventions, beyond routine SHG-bank linkages, being undertaken to enable sustainable income generation for rural women.

The meeting further reviewed the functioning of Community Managed Training Centres (CMTCs). It was informed that six CMTCs have been established to serve as integrated district-level hubs for training and thematic awareness. For FY 2025-26, plans are in place to establish CMTCs in 14 districts. The Secretary directed the officials

to coordinate with the concerned Deputy Commissioners to identify and allocate suitable government buildings for these centres. He also asked to ensure timely provisioning of essential infrastructure, including training halls, kitchens and laboratories.

Recognizing the role of Digi Sakhis and Bank Sakhis, the Secretary appreciated their contribution in enhancing the financial inclusion by acting as banking correspondents in rural areas.

The Secretary also called for a detailed analysis of self-sustaining SHGs and underlined the need to increase their share across the UT. He reviewed the performance of both farm and non-farm livelihood interventions under JKRLM.

It was noted that the Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) surpassed expectations, covering 123% of targeted women farmers and 140% in livestock interventions during FY 2024-25. In the non-farm sector, initiatives such as the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) and Micro Enterprise Development (MED) achieved 100% target coverage, with significant utilization of funds.

Emphasizing the importance of real-time data tracking, field-level monitoring and impact assessment, the Secretary called for sustained efforts to ensure that the mission continues to deliver measurable and transformative outcomes.

Mission Director, JKRLM, also presented a comprehensive overview of the ongoing initiatives and achievements of the Mission.

Deputy CM reviews Mission YUVA; emphasizes expanded collaboration

SRINAGAR: A high level review meeting of Mission YUVA, the flagship youth entrepreneurship initiative of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Administrative Secretary, Skill Development Department, Rajeev Ranjan; Secretary, Information Technology Department, Piyush Singla; Director, Skill Development Department and Mission Director, Mission YUVA, Shahzad Alam; Director, J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Khalid Jahangir; Director Finance, Labour & Employment, Imtiyaz Ahmad Wani; Additional Secretary, Labour & Employment, Shahid Mehmood besides senior officials of the concerned department were present during the meeting.

The Mission Director presented a comprehensive progress report, highlighting the outreach efforts, institutional tie-ups and the financial disbursement.



status across all the districts. He apprised that the Mission YUVA has been designed on four pillars including Culture, Capital, Capacity Building and Connectivity.

It envisaged creating more than 1.37 lakh new enterprises and 4.25 lakh employment opportunities across J&K, he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while appreciating the achievements recorded, so far, issued key directions to further strengthen the implementation

framework of the Mission. He directed the concerned to involve all major nationalized banks, in addition to J&K Bank, to enhance the credit access

and widen financial outreach for the aspiring entrepreneurs. He also suggested enhancing the incentives and financial support being provided under Mission YUVA schemes to make entrepreneurship a more viable and attractive option.

He also asked to involve J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) in preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to ensure quality and viability of projects.

He further asked to ensure provisions for land allocation

to landless youth seeking to set up enterprises, especially under government schemes. Emphasizing on creating startup ecosystems and neo initiative enterprises, the Deputy Chief Minister called for setting up a cross sectoral business support ecosystem for growth of entrepreneurship at all levels with generation of mass employment opportunities through enterprise creation.

The Deputy Chief Minister underscored the importance of timely hand holding, grassroots awareness campaigns and convergence with skilling and digital platforms to unlock the full potential of youth-led development in J&K. Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, while speaking on the occasion, stressed on greater coordination among the departments and institutions to translate the Mission's vision into tangible opportunities on the ground.

Traffic awareness programme held at Laroo Bus Stand

KULGAM: To promote road safety and responsible driving habits among commuters and transporters, Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Kulgam today organized a traffic awareness programme at Laroo Bus Stand. The event witnessed participation from drivers, transport workers and members

of the general public. Programme aimed to educate participants about traffic rules, importance of wearing helmets and seatbelts, avoiding overloading, and the dangers of drunk and rash driving.

Speaking on the occasion, ARTO Kulgam, Dr Showkat Ahmad emphasized the need

for collective responsibility in ensuring road safety. He urged drivers and commuters to strictly adhere to traffic regulations, for their own safety and for the safety of others.

The awareness programme included interactive session and on-spot counseling of drivers regarding safe driving practices.

Continued From P1...

J&K Gets

701-A (Rs 445 Cr), Construction of Qazigund Bypass (Rs 95 Cr), Construction of 2-L bridge over Rambiarā at Shopian on NH-444 (Rs 71 Cr) and various other, including road safety projects.

The Ministry has also sanctioned preparation of DPR/ Feasibility Study for various NH works to be up in next 3 years. These include widening and upgradation of NH-444 from Srinagar to Qazigund (63 kms), Construction of 2L+PS road from Shopian to Magam on NH- 701A (75 kms), Construction of 10.80 Km long Panjtarni tunnel including approach (31 kms), Development of Domail -Katra -Bamla of NH-144 to 4-L specifications (82 kms),

Amid heatwave,

that there is a possibility of moderate to heavy rain with intense showers at a few places, mainly in Jammu division from June 25 to 27. It added that flash floods at a few vulnerable places with landslides, mudslides and shooting stones are expected.

Water logging in low-lying areas of the plains of Jammu division and a rise in water level in rivers and local nallahs are expected, the advisory reads, adding that farmers are advised to suspend irrigation, spraying and fertiliser application from June 25 to June 27.

Meanwhile, the maximum temperature continued to settle above normal in Kashmir while it remained below normal at a few places of Jammu division.

In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, the mercury settled at 34.6 degrees Celsius, while in Jammu, the winter capital of the region, a maximum temperature of 36.6 degrees Celsius was recorded on Monday.

Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded 33.4 degrees Celsius while Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, recorded 28.8 degrees Celsius. In Kupwara, the mercury settled at 33.5 degrees Celsius, and Kokernag and Gulmarg, a famous ski resort, recorded 32.6 degrees Celsius and 25.2 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Banihal in Jammu division recorded 30.5 degrees Celsius while Katra recorded 32.5 degrees Celsius. Batote and Bhaderwah recorded 29.1 degrees Celsius and 32.0 degrees Celsius, respectively—(KNO)

Some reportage

sketches released by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. All this evidence is being carefully analysed and NIA has not reached any conclusions at this stage,” the spokesman said, adding, “The NIA assures that the investigation is being carried out with the highest standards of professionalism, and all aspects of the terror attack are being thoroughly examined. The identities and further details of the terrorists will be made public at an appropriate time.”

CM Omar

Abdullah said that the Jammu and Kashmir government will work in close coordination with the road transport and highways ministry to ensure timely execution of these vital infrastructure projects. (ANI)

Operation Sindoor

.Operation Sindoor achieved all objectives, he said. It also succeeded in injecting fear into the minds of terrorists, the defence minister said. (ANI)

Operation alisation of

“Cluster University’s job fair aims to bridge the gap between education and employment. It will provide an opportunity to our young generation to showcase their skills and empower them to start their careers so they can effectively contribute in building Viksit Jammu Kashmir and Viksit Bharat,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, highlighted the reforms, guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which are shaping the education landscape to align with the needs of the industries and creating robust employment avenues for the youth of Jammu Kashmir.

“Employment generation, self-employment through entrepreneurship and improving employability of the youngsters through educational transformation has been our top priority. Our efforts to attract industries in J&K since 2021 have helped in connecting young job seekers directly with employers,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that the presence of local private companies at today’s Job Fair serves as a testament to the significant strides being made in industrialization and expansion of trade and business activities in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

“The operationalisation of new industries is also offering youth better exposure about diverse roles and positions in industries suited for their skills and experience. The overwhelming response from the private sector to recruit youth from J&K is a positive indicator for our economy,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the progressive Industrial Policy and several key interventions that have attracted private investment in J&K UT over the past few years.

He said the industries had availed the benefits of Rs 28,400 cr worth incentives under New Industrial development scheme in just two and a half years.

“Rs 25,000 crore worth of investment plans are currently at various stages of implementation. Projects worth Rs 10,000 crore have been completed and have commenced production. The remaining Rs 15,000 crore worth of projects, presently at different stages, will start this year.

Nearly, Rs 60,000 cr worth proposals are pending. These have been stalled due to some reasons, and I hope a decision will be made on them in the near future,” the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor also attributed the exponential growth registered in the employment generation and entrepreneurship sector in J&K to the dedicated efforts of all stakeholders.

He highlighted their crucial role in successfully implementing schemes and programs like PM’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), Hausla,

Tejaswini, Mumkin, and Mission Youth, along with other initiatives focused on youth empowerment and livelihood generation.

Interacting with the representatives of the participating companies, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted that efforts are being made to provide youth with employment opportunities. He said the new Industrial policy has emphasised on employment to local youth on priority.

Atomic North Private Limited has established a BPO in a village in Kathua, providing employment to approximately 375 youths. The company has a potential to employ up to 1000 youth. I have urged them to start a BPO in Udhampur. JSW Group is also bringing a BPO to Jammu, he further said.

The Lieutenant Governor distributed job offer letters to selected candidates. He also handed over approval for BBA BCA courses to Cluster University, from AICTE.

Mega Job Fair 2025 is a significant step towards empowering youth and enhancing employment opportunities for the youth. As many as 57 reputed companies from across the country participated and 3759 candidates were registered for the Job Fair.

Prof K.S. Chandraseker, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu; Dr. Sandeep Singh, President, Desh Bhagat University, Punjab; Dr. Geetanjali Andotra, Principal GCW Gandhi Nagar, Heads of various departments and educational institutions, representatives of various reputed companies, youth and people from different walks of life were present.

Govt committed

transfer policy was missing altogether. We face changed that. I congratulate the officers who have worked diligently on this,” Ittoo said.

The Minister also acknowledged the issue of additional charges being held by officers due to a shortage of staff in the Education Department. However, she stressed that wherever possible, duties have been duly assigned.

“Earlier, posts of CEOs, ZEOs, and headmasters remained vacant to a large extent before local government took charge. We have managed to fill most of them, and the remaining few will be addressed at the earliest”, she assured (KNO)

PM Modi honoured S

India has now carved a new identity based on Indian values and emerged as the world’s fourth-largest economy, the Union minister said, adding that governance is no longer for consumption, but based on Indian values, it is a medium for service.

Gupta said Mookerjee started the fight for national unity and integrity.

“Though India became independent in 1947, the battle for unity continued and Dr Mookerjee led it. He declared that ‘two constitutions in one country’ was unacceptable and asserted that Kashmir belonged entirely to India.

“Unfortunately, previous governments only divided the country, giving birth to Pakistan and later, Bangladesh,” the chief minister said.

She said it is unfortunate that the circumstances leading up to Mookerjee’s death remain suspicious and added that Prime Minister Modi is the only one who has truly honoured his sacrifice by abrogating the provisions of Article 370.

The BJP-led Centre abrogated the provisions of Article 370 in August 2019 and bifurcated the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. (PTI)

Business Rules

He said the Prime Minister has already talked to Iran in this regard and conveyed a message of de-escalation. India wants peace and wants resolutions through dialogue, but those who don’t want peace are being given a befitting reply by India, he added.

Koul further said that every Indian stuck in Iran will be brought back to their home country safely—(KNO)

LG Manoj

projects include construction of Peer-Ki-Gali tunnel on NH-701A (Rs 3830 Cr), Construction of Sadhana tunnel on NH-701 (Rs 3330 Cr), Construction of Zaznar Shopian section of NH-701A (Rs 852 Cr), 4-L flyover from Lal Chowk to Parimpora (Rs 700 Cr), Construction of Trehgam Chamkote section of NH-701 (Rs 966 Cr), Construction of 4-Lane Magam Flyover on Narbal-Gulmarg section of NH 701-A (Rs 445 Cr), Construction of Qazigund Bypass (Rs 95 Cr), Construction of 2-L bridge over Rambiarā at Shopian on NH-444 (Rs 71 Cr) and various other, including road safety projects.

“Many strategically important projects will improve logistical support and troops mobility. Projects will improve Infrastructure in the Union Territory and connect various tourist destinations. Construction of tunnels will reduce the travel time, ensure all-weather connectivity and spur economic growth,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Ministry has also sanctioned preparation of DPR/ Feasibility Study for various NH works to be up in next 3 years. These include widening and upgradation of NH-444 from Srinagar to Qazigund (63 kms), Construction of 2L+PS road from Shopian to Magam on NH- 701A (75 kms), Construction of 10.80 Km long Panjtarni tunnel including approach (31 kms), Development of Domail -Katra -Bamla of NH-144 to 4-L specifications (82 kms)

Business Rules to be approved once sent properly to LG: BJP’s Koul Srinagar, Jun 23: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary (Organisation), Ashok Koul on Monday said the Business Rules can be accepted by the Lieutenant Governor only after the document is framed properly. He added that the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir will be given at the “appropriate” time.

On the sidelines of the function organised on the anniversary of Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Koul, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer

(KNO), said, “The Business Rules that our government sends to the LG should be sent properly, and he will approve them.”

Asked about the CM’s statement on Business Rules, he reiterated that the rules shall be accepted only after they are sent properly to the Lieutenant Governor.

The BJP leader further said that there was no question of conducting polls again. “The elections have been held for five years and will take place only after the present government’s term is completed,” he said.

Responding to the query on reports about statehood to be restored on terms and conditions, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have promised that the statehood will be restored at the appropriate time.

On Chief Minister Omar Abdullah’s rejection of providing water to Punjab for a project, Koul said, “Nobody other than Pakistan wants our water. Why should we provide water to them? Punjab doesn’t need our water. Jammu people have been facing a severe water crisis. We need to ensure the drinking water supply to them first.”

He added that the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty by the central government has been appreciated by the people.

About the US attack on Iran, the BJP leader said, “They don’t want Iran to become a nuclear power and thus have been attacking the country.”

He said the Prime Minister has already talked to Iran in this regard and conveyed a message of de-escalation. India wants peace and wants resolutions through dialogue, but those who don’t want peace are being given a befitting reply by India, he added.

Koul further said that every Indian stuck in Iran will be brought back to their home country safely—(KNO)

Weekend rush signals hope for revival of tourism in Pahalgam Hotels see decent occupancy

PAHALGAM, Jun 23 : In a welcome turn of events, the renowned tourist destination, Pahalgam in south Kashmir, witnessed a good rush over the weekend—the first such revival since the terror attack in April that had cast a shadow over the region’s tourism prospects.

Tourists from various parts of the valley made their way to the picturesque valley on Saturday and Sunday.

Officials and tourism stakeholders, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the area saw significant footfall, leading to traffic jams in several stretches and a notable uptick in hotel occupancy.

Sunday, in particular, saw the tourist hotspot abuzz with life. Families, picnickers and adventure lovers thronged the Lidder banks, markets and parks, enjoying the cool climate and intermittent drizzle.

“The atmosphere was dull and uncertain over the last few weeks, but this weekend brought a wave of positivity,” said Fayaz Ahmad, a hotelier in Pahalgam. “We had close to 70% occupancy by Sunday evening. With schools on summer break and weather favouring travel, we expect more such weekends ahead.”

Local vendors, too, expressed cautious optimism. “After the attack, people were scared, and the business was hit badly. This weekend felt like a new beginning,” said Asma Jan, who runs a handicraft stall near the park.

The renewed activity even prompted a reaction from political quarters. J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah took to the social media platform X (formerly Twitter) on Sunday to share his observations:

“The last time I was in Pahalgam I cycled through a market that was all but deserted. Today I came back to a Pahalgam that was bustling with activity. Tourists from various parts of the country competed for space with local picnickers who were enjoying the cool climate & rainy weather. It’s very satisfying to see the efforts my colleagues & I have been putting in slowly bearing fruit,” he wrote.

Tourism department officials say they have been working to instil confidence among visitors and promote Kashmir as a safe and vibrant destination.

“Security has been beefed up, and all departments are working in coordination to ensure a smooth tourist experience,” said an official. “This weekend was a good sign, and we expect more such a rush in the coming weeks.”

The Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA) and traffic police were seen actively managing the growing rush, ensuring order despite the sudden spike in visitors.

With stakeholders banking on the upcoming Amarnath Yatra and continued favourable weather, hopes are high that the iconic valley will soon return to its pre-attack tourism numbers. Photos and videos from this bustling weekend went viral on social media—(KNO)

Russian attacks on Ukraine kill at least 10, injure dozens

KYIV: Russian drones and missiles killed at least 10 civilians in Ukraine in nighttime attacks, local officials said Monday, with seven deaths reported in the capital, Kyiv, where emergency crews raced to find people believed trapped under the rubble of a partially collapsed apartment building.

Russia fired 352 drones and decoys overnight, as well as 11 ballistic missiles and five cruise missiles, Ukraine’s air force said. Air defences intercepted or jammed 339 drones and 15 missiles before they could reach their targets, a statement said.

The strikes came nearly a week after a combined Russian attack on Ukraine last Tuesday killed 28 people in Kyiv, 23 of them in a residential building that collapsed after sustaining a direct missile hit.

Russian forces have for several months been trying to drive deeper into Ukraine as part of a renewed summer push along the roughly 1,000-kilometre front line, though the Institute for the Study of War said their progress has been limited.

“Russian forces have failed to make significant gains during this period of intensified offensive operations, however, due in part to the fact that Russian forces are largely relying on poorly trained infantry to make gains in the face of Ukraine’s drone-based defence,” the Washington-based think tank said late Sunday.

At the same time, Russia has pounded civilian areas with long-range strikes in an apparent attempt

to weaken public morale.

Ukrainian leader notes role of Iran, North Korea Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said preliminary data indicated that Russian forces used North Korean missiles in the Kyiv strike. He called Russia, North Korea and Iran, which has provided drones to Russia, a “coalition of murderers” and warned of a potential spread of the “terror” if their alliance continues.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine’s defence and new ways to pressure Russia will be the two main topics in his visit to the United Kingdom on Monday. Zelenskyy was to meet with Prime Minister Keir Starmer in London ahead of this week’s NATO summit in The Hague, Starmer’s office said.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said the latest strikes demonstrated Russia’s “unlimited cruelty,” by deliberately taking aim at civilian targets, and promised more European sanctions on Moscow.

Rescue workers search for survivors Drones and missiles hit residential areas, hospitals and sports infrastructure in numerous districts across Kyiv in the early hours of Monday, emergency services said.

The most severe damage was in the Shevchenkivskyi district of Kyiv, where a section of a five-story apartment building collapsed.

Six people were killed in that district, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. Ten others, including a pregnant woman, were rescued from a nearby high-rise that also sustained heavy damage in the blast.

Dozens of vehicles, some burned out and others mangled by flying debris from the blast, formed a snarl in the courtyard in front of the partly demolished building, which had collapsed down to the second floor.

Onlookers, some wrapped in blankets, watched tearfully as the cleanup operation took place. Dozens of volunteers worked to remove broken glass, downed tree branches and other debris.

Oleksii Pozychaniuk, 29, who lives in the building next to the one struck in the attack, said he heard the whistle of the rocket approaching from inside his apartment and “froze in terror” before feeling the impact.

“Windows burst out, glass was flying everywhere,” he said. “We barely made it downstairs with my child, everything here was on fire. We didn’t see the neighboring building yet because everything was covered in smoke, the cars were smoldering, tires were bursting from the high temperature which was also scary.”

Klitschko told reporters that rescue workers were still searching the collapsed building for survivors.

The Russian attack also damaged the entrance to the Sviatoshyn subway station in Kyiv, slightly injuring two people, said Timur Tkachenko, the head of Kyiv’s military administration. He said more than 30 people were injured across the city.

Since the early days of Russia’s invasion, underground subway stations have served as shelters for those seeking protection from aerial attacks. During almost nightly strikes, stations across Kyiv are often filled with people waiting out the danger. Elsewhere in Ukraine, a Russian short-range drone attack killed two people and wounded 10 more in the Chernihiv region late Sunday night, authorities said. Three children were among the wounded, according to the regional administration head, Viacheslav Chaus. Another person was killed and eight wounded overnight in the city of Bila Tserkva, around 85 kilometers (53 miles) southwest of the capital.

Meanwhile, Russia’s Defence Ministry said its air defences shot down 23 Ukrainian drones overnight into Monday. (The Print)

PM Modi’s dynamism, will- ingness to engage remains ‘prime asset’ for India on global stage: Tharoor

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s energy, dynamism and willingness to engage remains a “prime asset” for India on the global stage but deserves greater backing, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said on Monday, in remarks that are likely to irk his party and widen the growing cracks in his ties with its leadership.

Tharoor’s praise for the prime minister comes at a time when the Congress has been consistently attacking the Modi government over its foreign policy, alleging that Indian diplomacy is being “shattered” and the country stands “isolated” globally.

In an article published in The Hindu, Tharoor said the diplomatic outreach following “Operation Sindoor” was a moment of national resolve and effective communication.

“Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s energy, dynamism and willingness to engage remains a prime asset for India on the global stage but deserves greater backing.

“The diplomatic outreach following ‘Operation Sindoor’ was a moment of national resolve and effective communication. It affirmed that India, when united, can project its voice with clarity and conviction on international platforms,” said the Congress leader, who led a multi-party delegation to the US and four other countries to convey India’s stand following the Pahalgam terror attack and the military operation.

Tharoor said the lessons learned — the power of unity, the efficacy of clear communication, the strategic value of soft power and the imperative of sustained public diplomacy — will undoubtedly serve as guiding principles as India navigates an increasingly complex international landscape, leveraging its three Ts — tech, trade and tradition — and always striving for a more just, secure, and prosperous world.

In his article, Tharoor said the aftermath of the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack and India’s resolute response through ‘Operation Sindoor’

presented a critical juncture for the nation’s foreign policy.

“While the immediate military action was decisive, the subsequent diplomatic outreach was equally, if not more, vital in shaping global perceptions and consolidating international support,” he said.

“Leading one of the seven all-party parliamentary delegations to five countries in the Western Hemisphere — Guyana, Panama, Colombia, Brazil and the United States — offered me a unique vantage point to reflect on the lessons learned from this intensive period of public diplomacy,” Tharoor said.

One of the most striking takeaways is the power of national unity in projecting a strong foreign policy voice, he said.

The very composition of the delegations, featuring Members of Parliament (MPs) from diverse political parties, different states and varied faiths, was a potent message in itself, Tharoor said.

“It underscored that when it comes to national security and confronting terrorism, India speaks with one voice. This transcended domestic political differences, imbuing our message with greater credibility and gravitas in the eyes of our international interlocutors.

“Whether engaging with the President of Guyana or the US Vice-President, the collective resolve of India, represented by its varied political spectrum, resonated deeply,” he asserted.

The delegations’ primary objective was to provide clarity on ‘Operation Sindoor’, its rationale, the targeted nature of India’s initial strikes against terrorist infrastructure, its calibrated and measured nature, and its avoidance of any harm to civilians and even to Pakistani military facilities, he said.

“We meticulously explained that India’s actions were a legitimate exercise of self-defence, a necessary response to persistent cross-border terrorism. (IE

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Bumrah: 'I will keep doing my work, keep trying to take India forward'

Attack leader plays down concerns about workload and past injuries after latest stellar display

Jasprit Bumrah resumed Test cricket from where he had left off in Australia with a stress reaction in the



already operated-on back: carrying the India attack and looking the most threatening bowler on the park. While he was away, there was concern aplenty if Bumrah had been bowled into the ground and how well he would be able to return from the injury.

While Bumrah has kept his medical status close to his and his inner circle's chest, experts felt another such injury could prove to be the last one for his Test career. The headlines haven't impressed Bumrah. "I can't control what people write," he said. "Nor am I trying to teach people what to write and what not to write about me. Everybody is free to write what they want. I understand cricket is very popular in our country, and I understand

that using my name in the headline boosts the viewership. But at the end of the day, it doesn't matter to me. Because if I let it get into my head, I will start believing it. I need my beliefs and my ways to dictate how I go. Not the way others want me to play.

"I always wanted to play for India. I played for India on my belief. I have played every format on my belief. I have always heard 'no' from people. First they said 'you won't be

listening to all this. I have played the IPL for 12-13 years.

"Even now people keep saying this injury will be it. Keep waiting, I will not think about that. I will keep doing my work. Every three-four months there will be headlines but, let's see, I will play till it is in my destiny. I prepare my best, and leave the rest to god. Whatever barkat [abundance or good fortune] god has given me, I try to carry it forward, and try to take Indian cricket forward."

The last injury does seem to have changed his outlook towards how much he should push himself. He has already informed the team management he will not be available for all the Tests this series. That, he says, is why he opted out of captaincy.

Given that it had been announced he would be playing only three Tests, it could increase the sense of urgency around these games - because he will have fewer days to make an impact in. Not for Bumrah. "You don't look at what is going to happen in the future," Bumrah said. "You are there in the ground at that moment. You have to do a job. So at that moment I'm trying to assess the wicket. I'm trying to assess what is happening, what are my options, how is the wicket behaving, who's the batter there, what is he thinking, how do I outsmart him or what do I do? I look at all of those things at that moment. I was not thinking about what will happen or how many games I will play. At this moment, focusing on the Test match. When the match is over, think about all these permutations and combinations."

The expectations, he said, can be extra baggage, which he doesn't want to carry. "I ask myself this question at night, did I give my absolute best?" Bumrah said. "If the answer is yes, I quietly go to sleep."

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