

Kashmir Convener



India Now Leads with Vision, Values, and Solutions": VP Dhankhar's Message to Youth

P/02



INS Tegu Docks at Seychelles to Strengthen Defence, Maritime Ties

P/02



MWCD Organises Cyber Security Awareness Workshop to Strengthen Digital Resilience

P/02

LG Calls NCC Bridge Between Admin And Youth Aspirations

Addresses Special National Integration Camp at Srinagar

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacted with National Cadet Corps (NCC) Cadets at the Special National Integration Camp, today at Chinar Auditorium, Badami Bagh Cantt, Srinagar. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor commended the NCC Directorate, J&K and Ladakh, Headquarters 15 Corps and Headquarters 31 Sub Area for organising Special National Integration Camp to provide an opportunity to expose youth from various parts of the country to the rich culture and traditions of J&K and present inspiring example of unity in diversity. "National Cadet Corps shapes young minds and proudly serves society and



the nation. NCC cadets have displayed courage and novel approach to challenges

to societal progress. Priceless values like discipline, team work, leadership and

dedication have helped the NCC cadets to build a better future," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the invaluable contribution of National Cadet Corps, one of the largest and most dynamic youth organizations in the country, to strengthening national unity. He said, the NCC has preserved and promoted nation's cultural values and traditions. "I see the talented young men and women of the NCC as the custodians of India's ancient civilization.

Also, the NCC cadets from across the country, participating in this Special National Integration Camp, will become brand ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

>>>SEONP-7

Developing nine new tourist destinations in Kashmir and Jammu: CM Omar Abdullah Addresses FICCI's 'Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Revival Dialogue at SKICC



KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today outlined efforts to broaden the tourism footprint in J&K.

"We are working on a project called SPREAD, aimed at developing nine new tourist destinations in both Kashmir and Jammu, with expected support from multilateral funding agencies," he said.

He added it is the collective duty of the government and tourism stakeholders to restore Jammu and Kashmir's position as the country's pre-eminent tourist destination and ensure it remains so, spokesperson said in a statement.

The Chief Minister was addressing the 'Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Revival Dialogue' organized jointly by FICCI and the Department of Tourism, J&K at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar.

"It is binding on us that we do everything in our power to ensure that Jammu and Kashmir goes back to its position as the pre-eminent tourist destination in the country and then stays there," the Chief Minister said in his

address, highlighting that the government is working on new initiatives focused primarily on improving the overall tourist experience.

Reflecting on the recent challenges, the Chief Minister recounted the sharp contrast between the optimism of April 21 and the downturn of April 22, referring to a sudden drop in tourist footfall following the unfortunate incident. "From flying over Dal Lake and seeing hundreds of shikaras to seeing none just days later—it was a brutal reminder that the past can intrude into our present and, God forbid, our future," he said.

He acknowledged the volatility that tourism in J&K has witnessed over the decades and emphasized the importance of resilience. "Unlike most other places where tourism planning can be done for years ahead, here we plan week to week. But still—we plan, and we persist," he said.

He expressed gratitude to FICCI and the larger tourism fraternity for standing by Jammu & Kashmir in both good and challenging times.

The event was attended by Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam

>>>SEONP-7

GOC 16 Corps lauds troops for aggressive counter-terrorism operations

Yogesh

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the White Knight Corps (16 Corps), Lieutenant General P K Mishra on Friday commended the troops for their



sustained and aggressive counter-terrorism operations in Poonch and Rajouri districts.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), ahead of forthcoming

Amamath Yatra, slated to commence on July 3, GOC Mishra visited Rajouri and Poonch today and reviewed operational preparedness in these frontier areas.

An official while sharing the details said that the GOC visited the headquarters of the Counter Insurgency Force (Romeo) in Rajouri and praised the troops for their professionalism, grit, and dedication in maintaining a high state of readiness to dominate the operational environment and counter potential threats.

The General Officer Commanding assessed the operational readiness of the Romeo Force, which is responsible for guarding the LoC and conducting counter-insurgency operations in the hinterland. He emphasized the need for seamless domination of the operational environment, leveraging advanced surveillance infrastructure, rapid response capabilities, and close coordination with paramilitary forces and Jammu and Kashmir Police.

>>>SEONP-7

Operation BIHALI enters second day

Yogesh

Jammu: The anti-terror operation BIHALI, which resulted in the killing of a Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist in the forested region of Basantgarh, Udhampur district, has entered its second day. Security forces have

intensified their search and cordon efforts to apprehend or eliminate remaining terrorists believed to be hiding in the area.

Launched after specific intelligence inputs, the operation targeted a group of four JeM terrorists under surveillance for over a year. The ongoing operation aims to neutralise the remaining three terrorists, who are believed to be trapped within the dense forested terrain.

>>>SEONP-7

SANJY-2025 Travel in convoys, follow cut off timings: IGP Birdi to pilgrims

Raja Syed Rather

GANDERBAL: Urging Amarnath Yatis to travel in convoys for their safety and convenience, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V K Birdi on Friday said that all the arrangements have been put in place for the safe and smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage slated to commence on July 3.

Talking to reporters here, IGP Birdi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Police have strengthened security arrangements along Baltal and Pahalgam tracks to ensure smooth movement of pilgrims."

He said, "Proper security

arrangements have been made at both tracks, as they are both essential. The Baltal Axis has detailed measures in place to make the journey safe and smooth for devotees," he said.

The IGP also advised pilgrims to travel in convoys for added safety and convenience. "Travellers should come in convoys so their journey can be simple and easy," he said.

To help manage traffic during the yatra, the traffic police will issue regular advisories, including cut-off timings for travel. These are aimed at ensuring all movement takes place within safe time windows. "I urge all

India rejects Arbitration Court ruling on J&K hydroelectric projects

Sajid Raina

SRINAGAR: Rejecting the ruling by a Court of Arbitration that issued a "supplemental award" regarding the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir, India on Friday said that the tribunal has no legal authority to intervene.

Both the hydel projects, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) are situated on tributaries of the Indus river system and have been a longstanding point of contention between India and Pakistan.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that the



tribunal has no legal authority and that its establishment was inconsistent with the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) signed in 1960.

The MEA said the ruling referred to as a "supplemental

award" relates to questions of jurisdiction over the two hydroelectric projects. "India maintains that the tribunal was set up in violation of the treaty and that any findings or awards made by it are not valid," the

MEA said.

It said that India does not recognise the legitimacy of the tribunal or any outcomes from its proceedings.

In a statement issued by the MEA, India accused Pakistan of misusing international mechanisms to raise objections that are political in nature.

It described the arbitration process as being initiated unilaterally by Pakistan and as lacking any binding foundation in treaty law.

India also pointed to recent security developments, including a terrorist attack in Pahalgam in April, as part

NIA court grants 10-day remand of Pahalgam terror accused

KC NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday granted a 10-day remand of the two accused who were arrested for harbouring Pakistani terrorists behind the deadly Pahalgam terror attack in April, officials said.

A local court had earlier granted the NIA a five-day remand of the two accused on Monday, which expired on Friday.

The NIA produced the duo before the special NIA court, which granted a further 10-day remand, they said.

The two men — Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar of Batkote, Pahalgam; and Bashir Ahmad Jothar of Hill Park, Pahalgam — were arrested by the NIA on Sunday in the first major breakthrough in the investigation into the April 22 attack that left 26 people, mostly

>>>SEONP-7

CS calls gap analysis to ensure smooth rollout of VVP

KC News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, reviewed implementation of the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) in the selected blocks of Jammu & Kashmir.

This centrally funded initiative aims to



uplift and integrate strategically important border villages into the national development narrative, spokesperson said.

Besides the Secretary PD&MD the meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Secretary, Revenue; Secretary, IT; representatives from BSNL and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary called this scheme

pivotal in upgrading the connectivity projects across these blocks. He impressed upon the concerned Deputy Commissioners in identifying the gaps found in key 4 verticals of this scheme so that action plans for the whole scheme period are framed by the concerned departments in a convergence mode.

Dulloo also asked for identification of all the relevant schemes having potential to make interventions under the identified areas under this scheme. He also enjoined upon all of them to frame an activity calendar for creating awareness and necessary momentum to successfully implement this scheme across districts of the UT.

Secretary PD&MD, Talat Parvez Rohella,

while throwing light on the nature and implementation of this scheme, mentioned that VVP envisages holistic border area development across 15 States and 2 Union Territories.

In Jammu & Kashmir, he added that the program will strategically target 124 identified villages across 43 blocks in various border districts, addressing the region's unique developmental needs.

The program's core focus is on saturating four critical thematic areas in these villages by leveraging the existing Government of India schemes. These included all-weather road connectivity, 4G Telecom Connectivity, Television Connectivity and On-Grid Electrification of all such villages.

The all-weather road connectivity is proposed to be ensured through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV (PMGSY-IV) to establish robust road infrastructure, enhance accessibility and economic integration. Currently, 118 out of 124 identified villages in J&K are already connected.

>>>SEONP-7

Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: A report compiled by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has revealed that the glaciers globally have lost a significant amount of ice in the past over seven decades.

The WMO report accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) states the glaciers monitored by World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS) are losing sheer at a rapid pace.

The figures reveal that the value has reduced to +5.392 in 1950 to -27.123 in 2024. "The shift from +5.392 to -27.123 Meters Water Equivalent (MWE) indicates that the glaciers worldwide have lost about 32.5 MWE thickness on average during the last 74 years," the report states.

As per the WGMS, the period 2022 to 2024 represents the most

Glaciers worldwide lose 32.5 MWE thickness in 74 years



negative three-year glaciers mass balance on record. "Since 2022, the value of glaciers has shifted from -24.794 to -27.123 in 2024," the report reveals.

This net loss of glacier mass is a clear sign that glaciers are melting significantly globally.

The loss of glaciers, according to the experts, is the outcome of climate change, particularly global warming, which increases melting and reduces snowfall accumulation.

The major impact due to the melting of glaciers will be water scarcity in the near future.

Pertinently, KNO has already reported that the melting of glaciers has gained pace in Jammu & Kashmir with the experts asserting that the region has lost nearly "30 percent of glaciers in the past 60 years and warned that 70 percent of them will recede by the end of this century if the prevailing pace continues."

Earlier this year, Prof. Shakil

Ahmad Romshoo, Vice-Chancellor of IUST and Head of the National Cryosphere Lab, University of Kashmir in an event organized by the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Glacial Studies, University of Kashmir, titled & "Himalayan Cryosphere: Major Research Gaps and Shaping the Roadmap Ahead", highlighted the alarming loss of approximately 30% of glacial mass over the past six decades and the significant decline in streamflow since the 1990s.

Prof. Romshoo stated, "The melting of glaciers under a changing climate is not only a scientific challenge but also a pressing policy issue that affects water availability, energy generation,

>>>SEONP-7

INS Teg Docks at Seychelles to Strengthen Defence, Maritime Ties

PORT VICTORIA (SEYCHELLES), (PIB): Indian Naval stealth frigate INS Teg arrived at Port Victoria on Wednesday as part of its ongoing operational deployment to the South West Indian Ocean Region.

An official Defence Spokesperson said the port call, scheduled from June 26 to 30, aims to enhance maritime security cooperation and deepen bilateral defence ties between India and Seychelles.

During the four-day visit, the Commanding Officer of INS Teg is slated to hold key meetings with senior officials from the Seychelles People's Defence Forces (SPDF), including the Chief of Defence Forces, Chief of Staff, and the High Commissioner of India to Seychelles. These engagements will centre around joint operational collaboration, mutual security interests, and furthering India's defence outreach in the region.

As part of her ongoing operational deployment to the South West Indian Ocean Region, INS Teg, a stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, has entered Port Victoria, Seychelles, for a port call scheduled from 26 to 30 Jun 2025 .

Press Information Bureau reported that



the Activities planned during the ship's visit include calls by the Commanding Officer on senior government and military officials of Seychelles, including the Chief of Defence Forces, Chief of Staff of the Seychelles People's Defence Forces (SPDF) and the High Commissioner of India to Seychelles (HCI).

A formal interaction onboard the ship, focusing on collaborative engagement and mutual cooperation between the Indian Navy and SPDF. In addition,

defence equipment and spares ferried from India will be formally handed over by the ship's staff.

As part of cultural outreach, a yoga session, in line with the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025 theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," including participants from the SPDF, members of the Indian diaspora and the ship's crew.

A cultural evening onboard INS Teg is also planned with invitees including the HCI, Chief of

Defence Forces, Seychelles, SPDF officials and other dignitaries.

The ship will also be open to visitors, fostering greater understanding of the Indian Navy's role and capabilities.

A marching contingent from the ship along with the famed

Indian Naval Band will participate in a parade to commemorate the 49th National Day of Seychelles on 29 June 2025 . A flypast will also be undertaken by the ship's integral helicopter during the parade.

On conclusion of the port call, INS Teg will embark Seychelles Coast Guard (SCG) personnel and undertake joint Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance with a SCG ship from 30 Jun to 02 Jul 2025. This initiative reaffirms India's commitment towards safety of the global commons and combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

On completion, the ship will proceed with the next phase of deployment post disembarking the SCG personnel. The visit is aimed to strengthen maritime security cooperation and bilateral relations between the two nations. (PIB)

India Now Leads with Vision, Values, and Solutions”: VP Dhankhar’s Message to Youth

NAINITAL (PIB): In a stirring address to students and faculty members of Sherwood College on the institution's 156th Founders' Day, Vice-President of India Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar urged the youth to aim beyond narrow personal goals and embrace a life of service to society, the nation, and humanity.

“Don't have a narrow or self-centred goal. Have a goal for society, for the nation, for humanity,” the Vice-President said, urging students to draw inspiration from those remembered in history – individuals who “lived and led their lives for society.”

Speaking on the theme of nationalism, Shri Dhankhar emphasised that “nation always comes first” and called for “unrestricted nationalism” rooted in India's 5,000-year-old civilisational ethos. “Bharat deserves no less,” he said.

Highlighting India's economic and global transformation over the past decade, the Vice-President described Bharat as a nation on the rise, no longer just with potential but one that is realising its potential in real-time. “This is not merely a dream. Viksit Bharat is our destination,” he stated, citing exponential infrastructure growth and global recognition of India's emergence as a leading economy. According to Press Information bureau (PIB), Dhankhar invoked the legacy

of Sherwood College's illustrious alumni, including Major Som Nath Sharma, India's first Param Vir Chakra awardee, and Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, the strategic mind behind India's 1971 victory. “Legends have walked these corridors. Their achievements are your heritage, and their legacy is your responsibility,” he reminded students.

Making a special reference to actor Amitabh Bachchan, another Sherwood alumnus, he praised the ethic of relentless work and contribution. “There is no age for work,” he said.

Encouraging students to be catalysts of change, the Vice-President reminded them that India's demographic advantage is among the youngest in the world, with 65% of the population below 35 years. “The world is not just witnessing India's rise – it's looking at India for leadership in values, vision and solutions,” he said, invoking India's G-20 theme “One Earth, One Family, One Future” rooted in the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. He urged young people to embrace emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, and Machine Learning, which have already permeated schools, homes, and workplaces. “Change is happening fast. Don't just respond to change – create it,” he advised.

MWCD Organises Cyber Security Awareness Workshop to Strengthen Digital Resilience

NEW DELHI (PIB): In a concerted effort to enhance digital safety and resilience across governance platforms, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) today organised a Cyber Security Awareness Workshop at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi. The workshop marked the first phase of a larger mission to institutionalise cyber hygiene and security consciousness, particularly for sectors dealing with vulnerable populations like women and children.

An official spokesperson told Press Information Bureau (PIB) that the workshop saw the participation of officials and officers from the Ministry and its affiliated autonomous bodies, including the National Commission for Women (NCW), Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), and the Savitribai Phule National Institute for Women and Child Development.

Addressing the gathering Anil Malik, Secretary, MWCD, underlined the urgent need for cyber vigilance. “We live in a time when our work and communication are deeply integrated with digital platforms. As government functionaries handling sensitive data, it is essential that we remain vigilant and well-informed. This workshop

India Flags Off First Export of Rose-Scented Litchi from Punjab to Qatar and UAE

Pathankot, June (PIB): In a major boost to India's horticultural exports, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Government of Punjab, facilitated the flag-off of the first-ever consignment of rose-scented litchi from Pathankot to Doha, Qatar, on Friday, June 23, 2025.

In a statement issued to Press Information Bureau (PIB), an official spokesperson said a one metric tonne consignment was dispatched to Doha, while an additional 0.5 metric tonne was exported to Dubai, UAE, marking a twin milestone in India's fresh fruit export journey and reinforcing its growing footprint in premium agri-produce markets abroad.

Spokesperson said this milestone initiative underscores the excellence of India's horticultural produce and highlights the country's growing agri-export capabilities. It offers immense opportunities for farming communities by providing international market access for their fresh and high-value produce. He said this initiative was facilitated by APEDA in association with the Department of Horticulture, Government of Punjab, Lulu Group, and progressive farmer, Shri Prabhat Singh from Sujampur, who supplied the high-quality produce.

According to the National Horticulture Board, Punjab's litchi production for FY 2023-24 stood at 71,490 metric tonnes, contributing 12.39% to India's total litchi output. During the same period, India exported 639.53 metric tonnes of litchi. The area under cultivation was 4,327 hectares with an average yield of 16,523 kg/ha. The flagged-off consignment, comprising a reefer pallet of premium Pathankot litchis, represents a major step forward for the region's growers. The success of farmers like Shri Prabhat Singh underscores the potential of Pathankot – which benefits from favourable agro-climatic conditions – as an emerging hub for quality litchi cultivation and exports.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REW DIVISION PULWAMA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
e- NIT No. 19/2025-26 Dated 27-06-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of J&K, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-
Call 1st

S. No.	Name of the Work	Block	Estimated / Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of tender documents (In Rupees)	EMD (in %)	Class of Contract	Time of completion	Major head
1.	Construction of Community Compost Pit at GP Lalpora-A	Tral	2.317	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II
2.	Construction of Community Compost Pit at Pyt Halqa Monghama	Tral	2.317	200/=	2%	DEE	30 Days	SBM II

Position of A/A:- Accorded Position of T/S:- Accorded

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 schedule of dates.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-06-2025
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	26-06-2025 from 06:55 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	10-07-2025 up to 06:55 PM
4	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	11-07-2025 at 10:00 AM or any convenient day in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Pulwama
5	Note:- Fee Receipt and EMD shall be deposited after the financial bids opened. In case The original Tender Document Fee Receipt and EMD is not Deposited within 5 days after the Financial Bids Opened for all responsive bidders Who have participated online, the Department shall take action as per Rules	

Special Condition 01:

Only the eligible contractors of respective Panchayat Halqa shall take part in the tendering process for works under District Capex with Advertised Cost 3.0 Lacs or below for District Capex works only. Bidders must upload any document viz residential certificate/ Adhar Card/ Ration Card/Electricity Bill showing panchayat name, as residence proof that he/she is residing the respective Panchayat Halqa (Applicable for DEE Class contractors in call lot only).

SCO2:- Contractors Strictly not eligible

The Bidders who had participated in 2023-24 and has not completed the works within stipulated time frame/who had left the work midway/ who had not started/taken up the works are strictly not eligible. Any such participation may lead to cancellation of their bid and No claim shall be entertained in this regard. Conditions for Bidders:

- Contractors who failed to execute the allotted work/works during the previous financial year (2024-25) are not eligible for-tendering for the current financial year (2025-26).
- Any Bidder who will go down more than 15% of Advertised Cost shall upload the Additional Security online in shape of CDR/FDR during tendering process as per Unbalance Bid Table mentioned in NIT at S. No.09a. (Non uploading of Additional Security will let to the rejection of the tender).
- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer REW Division Pulwama (Tender receiving authority).
- In Addition to Earnest Money Deposit (Bid Security), the 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 07 days before fixation of contract. The EMD (Bid Security/Earnest money) of 2% of advertised cost of successful bidder shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) shall submit all the hard copies of uploaded documents within 05 Days before fixation of Contract. Failure to produce the documents shall render the L1 as non-responsive and he shall be debarred to participate in any tendering process up to 12 months after forfeiting the CDR and case for debarring of the Contractor is forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR of the unsuccessful Bidder shall be released after opening the Tender on production of Treasury Challan.
- The Tender Opening Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or any part of any tender without assigning reason thereof.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days in the date of opening of technical bids
- Unbalanced Bid: The bidders have to produce additional security in shape of CDR/FDR of recognize scheduled/commercial Bank, pledged to Executive Engineer REW Division Pulwama. The CDR/FDR shall be valid for maximum six months or more after the last date of receipt to bids along with the bid document as per following break up:
- Additional Security online in shape of CDR/FDR
- Xen/REW/Pul/871-77

DIPK-3031/25

Dated:- 27/06/2025

Sd/-Executive Engineer
REW Division Pulwama

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK(ZALDAGAR)

Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e.mail Id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

Sub:- Extension in bidding time for Short Term e-NIT No. 11 OF 2025-26, Dated: 19-06-2025 for below mentioned works:-
Mechanical repair works to 02 cusec Horizontal Pump (Unit 1st) at LIS Beigh Mohalla Watlar of MISD Ganderbal.

Ref:- JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.: - 2025_IFC_279175_1

EXTENSION NOTICE 1

Due to No response to above mentioned e-NIT for the subject works, the critical dates are extended as under:-

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date **01/07/2025** at 1400 hrs

Date and time of Bid opening 02/07/2025 at 1230 hrs

No. MIDS/Ts/1130-34

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Srinagar,

DIPK-3050/25

Dated:- 27/06/2025

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the Assistant Director Handicrafts Kupwara Near DC Office Kupwar

Email: adhkupwara@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject:- Conducting of Awareness Program & Seminar regarding. The Department of Handicrafts, District Kupwara is going to conduct an awareness Program on 30-06-2025 form 10:00 am onwards in Public Park Langate. In the awareness program, the public will be given complete information about schemes, marketing, branding, skill growth, visibility and promotion of Kashmiri Handicrafts at UT/National level. Therefore, all the Artisans/Weavers of Block Handwara/Langate are invited to attend the programme at the scheduled date, time and venue for its successful conduct
No: ADH/Kup/Estt/ 175-180

Sd/
Assistant Director, Handicrafts
Kupwara

DIPK-3048/25

Dated:- 27/06/2025

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

NIT No.13/2025-26 RnB/Kul-e-tendering/2292-2302 dated 26-06-2025
Eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Contract Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	GST Amount (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Bid (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs. In Lacs)	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Major Head/Account	AA authority No. date	Project/Authority
1	Construction of ACR at Boys Higher Secondary School Yaripora under PAB 2024-25	17.06	14.46	2.063	800	34120	45 Days	Bee, Cee & Dee	SAMAGRA	59-CHIRAG of 2025 dated 21-02-2025 T.S No: 08/DB/TS/2025 dated 07-05-2025	Project Director SAMAGRA
2	Construction of Additional Class Room (Prev. Primary) at Govt Middle School Deepora Zone Kulgam under PAB 2024-25	10.325	8.75	1.575	600	20650	45 Days	Bee, Cee & Dee	SAMAGRA	EDU/SPD/Pig/2024-25/AAA-36/A-E-7426493 dated 01-01-2024 T.S No: 07/DB/TS/2025 dated 07-05-2025	Project Director SAMAGRA
3	Construction of Boundary Wall at MS Sofipora under PAB 2022-23 (SAMAGRA)	8.93	7.567	1.363	600	17860	20 Days	Cee & Dee	SAMAGRA	79-CHIRAG of 2022 dated 10-05-2023 T.S No: 09/DB/TS/2025 dated 07-05-2025	Project Director SAMAGRA
4	Construction of Additional Class Room at Govt. Middle School Rangrez Mohalla Educational Zone Kulgam Under PAB 2023-24 (SAMAGRA)	10.212	8.655	1.557	600	20424	45 Days	Bee, Cee & Dee	SAMAGRA	EDU/SPD/Pig/2024-25/AAA-36/A-E-7426493 dated 01-01-2024 T.S No: 10/DB/TS/2025 dated 07-05-2025	Project Director SAMAGRA
5	Construction of Elementary Building Less School for Govt Middle School Hadigam	44.578	37.778	6.80	1100	89156	60 days	Aay & Bee	SAMAGRA	59-CHIRAG of 2025 dated 21-02-2025 T.S No: SE (R&B)/Kul/TS/05 of 2025-26 dated 16-06-2025	Project Director SAMAGRA
6	Construction of Elementary Building Less School (Primary) for Govt Primary School Sheikh Mohalla Akhal	44.597	37.794	6.803	1100	89194	60 days	Aay & Bee	SAMAGRA	59-CHIRAG of 2025 dated 21-02-2025 T.S No: SE (R&B)/Kul/TS/05 of 2025-26 dated 16-06-2025	Project Director SAMAGRA
7	Construction of Lane from different spots at HS Bugh Ward No. 06 at MC Yaripora	5.469	4.634	0.834	300	10938	15 Days	Cee & Dee	MTMP	DULB/Pig/414 of 2025 dated 22-05-2025 T.S No: 16/DB/TS/2025 dated 05-06-2025	Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir
8	Construction of Lane from main road to H/o Farooq Ahmad Pandith at Ward No. 01 MC Yaripora	2.83	2.424	0.436	200	5660	15 Days	Dee	MTMP	DULB/Pig/414 of 2025 dated 22-05-2025 T.S No: 16/DB/TS/2025 dated 05-06-2025	Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir
9	Construction of Crossing near H/o Noor Mohd Malik at Ward no. 02 MC Yaripora	1.211	1.026	0.185	200	2422	15 Days	Dee	MTMP	DULB/Pig/414 of 2025 dated 22-05-2025 T.S No: 16/DB/TS/2025 dated 05-06-2025	Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir
10	Construction of Lane from Main Road to Bashir Ahmad Ganai at Ward no. 01 MC Yaripora.	1.927	1.633	0.239	200	3854	15 Days	Dee	MTMP	DULB/Pig/414 of 2025 dated 22-05-2025 T.S No: 16/DB/TS/2025 dated 05-06-2025	Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir

- 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 schedule of dates as below:-

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.	25-06-2025
2	Period of Downloading of Bidder Documents	From 26-06-2025 (10:00AM) To 16-07-2025 (04:00PM)
3	Bid Submission Start Date	From 26-06-2025 (10:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 16-07-2025 (04:00PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	17-07-2025 (11:00 AM)

- Bidders must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt credited to MH 0059-Rev/Misc: pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Kulgam (Tender Inviting Authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Kulgam (tender receiving authority). Refer Govt. order No: O-2024/A-72651 Dated:- 07-06-2018. However the Date of uploaded Treasury Receipt, must be in between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date, and CDR/FDR/BC's older than 60 months on the date of submission will not be entertained.
- Earnest Money (2% of the Advertised cost) from all the bidders in the shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering and 5% performance security of the allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BC by the Successful Bidder). The same shall be released 60 days after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period of the work. The EMD 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security vide Chief Engineer (R&B) Kashmir, Srinagar's Circular No: CER/RK/ID/32857-72 dated 01-01-2022.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process:-

- 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.
 - To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
 - The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-2 & 3.1.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents like CDR/PAN/GST/T.R
- Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
 - Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt credited to MH 0059-Rev/Misc: must be uploaded with the bid.
 - Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
 - All other terms and conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form)

DIPK-3032/25

Dated:- 27/06/2025

Sd/-Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Kulgam

Bandipora’s Aamir Peerzada Part of Emmy-Winning BBC Team for Myanmar Civil War Documentary

Peerzada’s ground reporting in Chin State highlighted atrocities and resistance in war-torn Myanmar

MARIUM FAYAZ

BANDIPORA: Aamir Peerzada, a native of Bandipora and journalist with BBC, has been honoured at the prestigious News & Documentary Emmy Awards 2025 held at Palladium Times Square, New York City.

Aamir was part of the Emmy Award-winning team from the BBC that bagged the honour in the category of Outstanding Continuing News Coverage – Short Form for the powerful documentary “Myanmar’s Civil War.”

Produced by the BBC, the 6.5-minute documentary offered rare and harrowing insight into the ethnic conflict zones of Myanmar.

Media reported that As Field Producer, Aamir Peerzada undertook a 10-day ground reporting mission in Chin State, navigating restricted and dangerous territories to provide critical journalistic support to the production team.

“His role was instrumental in enabling access to conflict-affected areas controlled by rebel and ethnic resistance groups confronting Myanmar’s military junta”.

The documentary sheds light on the brutal realities of Myanmar’s civil unrest, including forced recruitment of children, disappearances, and atrocities committed by the junta.

It also captures the resilience of rebel fighters operating from hidden jungle bases, bringing global attention to a conflict largely underreported in mainstream media.

The award was announced on June 26, 2025,

by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS), recognising exceptional global television journalism.

Peerzada, hailing from Barzulla Panjigam in



Bandipora, completed his schooling at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Shahkote Baramulla—a residential school.

He went on to pursue a BSc degree from So-

pore Degree College. In 2012, he completed a one-year course in Broadcast Journalism in Chandigarh. Aamir began his professional career with NDTV in 2013 and later joined the BBC, where he served in various roles.

Back home, celebrations poured in from across Kashmir especially in Bandipora where people from across the board congratulated Peerzada for the award.

Aamir’s achievement has been hailed as a proud moment for the Valley, with many describing it as a testament to the power of courageous storytelling and the global impact of journalists from Jammu and Kashmir.

“Aamir Peerzada’s journey from Bandipora to the Emmy stage is not just inspiring, it’s historic. He has shown how local voices can make global noise,” said one proud local netizen.

Aamir Peerzada, a BBC journalist, has also received the RedLink Award twice. He won the award in 2016 in the sports category and in 2017 for his documentary “Lighting the Himalayas” in the science and innovation category. The RedLink Awards are presented by the Mumbai Press Club.

The Bandiporian journalist was also bestowed with prestigious Ramnath Goenka Award 2015 for On Spot reporting category for videographing Nepal earth quack at Mount Everest.

Amir covered Nepal when it was hit by 7.8 magnitude earthquake on April 25, 2015—the day when he was on the ground to shoot for his documentary Operation Everest: Summiteers To Saviours.

The other awards include award at Canada International Film Festival, Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival 2015, Asian Pacific Broadcast Union Prize 2016, Asian Rainbow TV awards, Nominated as best documentary (Top 3). He was also a Semifinalist of the G2 Green Earth Film Festival.

Known for his fearless reporting and compelling visual narratives, he continues to set new benchmarks for journalism under challenging conditions. He has covered Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Syria and many other places extensively.

Social media Users across Kashmir including politicians, social workers, students and general public hailed the journalist and said Aamir Peerzada’s Emmy Award serves as a shining symbol of hope, resilience, and the global relevance of stories from the world’s most troubled corners.

Bandipora students in another facebook post congratulate Peerzada for his work. “Aamir’s dedication, hard work, and exceptional storytelling have brought global recognition, making all of us proud. His journey from Bandipora to the international stage is truly inspiring and a testament to his passion for journalism,” the post reads.

Bandipora Secures 2nd Rank in North Zone Under Aspirational Block Programme

“We aim to bring Bandipora to the Top with 100% Indicator Saturation”: DC Qadri

BANDIPORA: In a significant milestone for grassroots development, District Bandipora has secured the 2nd rank in the North Zone under the prestigious Aspirational Block Programme (ABP)



of NITI Aayog, Government of India.

An official spokesperson said this recognition reflects the district’s effective governance, sustained developmental progress, and commitment to inclusive growth.

Under this nationwide programme, Tulail Block of Bandipora was selected by the Government of India as the focal block for targeted interventions.

Since its inclusion, focused efforts across key sectors such as health, education, agriculture, financial inclusion, and basic infrastructure have yielded measurable improvements.

He said the achievement has been made pos-

sible under the able mentorship of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, whose leadership and coordination have driven impactful results on the ground.

Addressing the Press Conference in His Office Chambers, DC Bandipora said, “We are working with a clear mission to bring Bandipora to the number one position, ensuring 100% saturation under every development indicator.”

He said this recognition not only brings immense pride to the district but also makes Bandipora eligible for an award incentive of 2.5 crore, which will be utilized to further strengthen development interventions, bridge service delivery gaps, and improve the quality of life for residents, particularly in aspirational and under-served blocks.

The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora extended his gratitude to all departments, field functionaries, and community stakeholders whose collective efforts made this success possible. The recognition is not just a mark of past achievement but a motivation to continue driving holistic and inclusive progress in every corner of Bandipora.

The Aspirational Block Programme aims to improve governance and service delivery across key indicators such as Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Allied Services, Basic Infrastructure, and Social Development.

Prominent Political Workers Join PDP; Leaders Slam NC for ‘Betrayal’

BHAT ZAHOOR

Naidkhai, Bandipora: In a significant political development, several prominent political workers—mainly from the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party and other regional political outfits—joined the



People’s Democratic Party (PDP) on Friday evening during a well-attended event held in the Naidkhai area of Bandipora district.

The new entrants include District Development Council (DDC) members, former Sarpanches, and Panches, marking a major boost for PDP’s grassroots

presence in the region.

The joining ceremony witnessed the participation of hundreds of workers and supporters, highlighting growing support for the party at the local level.

PDP General Secretary Advocate Abdul Haq Khan, along with senior leaders including Basharat Bukhari, Waheed Ur Rehman Parra, Yasir Reshi, and others, presided over the event.

While addressing the gathering, PDP leaders launched a scathing attack on the National Conference (NC), accusing it of failing to deliver on its electoral promises.

“The NC government should first fulfill the promises made in their election manifesto before seeking fresh votes,” the leaders said.

They further criticized the present administration for what they termed as a “complete policy failure” under the pretext of Union Territory status and dual control governance.

The speakers also accused NC of consistently betraying public trust in exchange for power, urging the people to support PDP’s vision for a just and accountable political framework.

ADC Bandipora Visits Imambaras to Review Arrangements

BANDIPORA: To assess the preparations for the ongoing holy month of Muharram, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zafar Hussain Shawal, along with Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad, and several senior officers, today conducted an extensive tour of various Imambaras in the Sumbal Sub-Division of Bandipora.

During the visit, the ADC reviewed the essential arrangements for the smooth conduct of congregations and mourning processions throughout Muharram-ul-Haram. He engaged with the Imbarara Intizamia Committees, inquiring about the facilities available to them.

The ADC directed the concerned officers to ensure continuous supply of water and electricity during the holy days. Additionally, Municipal Committees were directed to maintain cleanliness in and around the worship places where large gatherings are expected.

On the occasion, SDM Sumbal assured that there would be regular visits to the Imambaras in their jurisdictions to guarantee that necessary facilities are provided to the community.



DC Bandipora Inaugurates Multi-Use USG Machine at District Hospital

BANDIPORA: In a significant boost to public healthcare services, the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Friday inaugurated a state-of-the-art multi-use Ultrasonography (USG) machine at the District Hospital Bandipora.

The advanced USG machine is equipped with all necessary probes to facilitate a wide range of diagnostic scans including Echocardiography, Transvaginal Sonography (TVS), Infant USG, and Color Doppler studies. This move is expected to greatly ease the burden on patients, many of whom previously had to rely on private clinics for such essential diagnostics.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the administration’s commitment to improving access to advanced medical facilities in rural and urban healthcare centers alike. He appreciated the hospital authorities for their continuous efforts to expand critical care services and urged them to ensure optimal utilization of the newly added facility.

Medical Superintendent DH Bandipora, Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani, expressed gratitude for the support from district administration. He stated, “This multi-purpose USG machine is a valuable addition that will enhance our early diagnostic capabilities, which is crucial for timely treatment and better patient outcomes.”

Among others, Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Mohammad Maqbool Lone; Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Bandipora, doctors, paramedics, and technical staff, were present during the inauguration.

DLSA Bandipora Conducts Legal Aid Visit to Police Station Gurez

BANDIPORA: As part of the continued implementation of the Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC) Modified Scheme 2022, a team from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora carried out an official visit to Police Station Gurez on Wednesday.



In a statement issued to Kashmir Convener, an official spokesperson said the visit was conducted under the supervision of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Principal District & Sessions Judge and Chairman DLSA Bandipora, and the guidance of Sheikh Babar, Secretary DLSA Bandipora.

Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel (ALADC) Javid Iqbal Lone, accompanied by Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of the Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Gurez, visited the police station to review legal aid delivery mechanisms and ensure that the rights of individuals in custody are upheld.

During the inspection, the team engaged in a comprehensive discussion with the Officer In-charge of the police station. Topics included the functioning of police posts, conditions of lockups, and the treatment of detainees.

The ALADC also interacted directly with detainees to assess their legal status, access to legal representation, and treatment in custody. The visit was aimed at verifying adherence to procedural safeguards as mandated by law and to ensure that no individual is deprived of their constitutional right to legal counsel.

The DLSA team expressed satisfaction over the cooperation extended by police officials during the visit and reiterated the need for sustained coordination between law enforcement and the legal aid system.

The team emphasized that such coordination is vital for upholding justice, transparency, and human dignity within the criminal justice framework.

Indian Army Conducts Medical Patrol in Remote Rajouri Village

RAJOURI: In a significant outreach effort, the Indian Army conducted a



mobile medical patrol in the remote village of Malgujra in Sial Sui area of Rajouri district, bringing essential healthcare services to the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities and other local residents.

The initiative aimed to address the acute medical needs of residents in this geographically isolated and underserved region. The mobile medical team, equipped with basic diagnostic tools, medicines, and preventive healthcare materials, provided on-the-spot medical check-ups, treatment for common ailments, immunizations, and awareness on hygiene, nutrition, and disease prevention.

Given the lack of easy access to healthcare in the region, the programme was especially welcomed by women and elderly residents, who often face heightened health risks due to the absence of medical infrastructure.

“The mobile medical patrol reflects the Indian Army’s enduring commitment to the welfare of border and remote communities,” said an official. “By delivering compassionate healthcare directly to their doorsteps, we aim to reduce preventable illnesses and build deeper bonds with the local populace.”

Locals expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Army for reaching out with timely medical support. Beyond providing medical relief, the initiative helped strengthen civil-military cooperation in the region, reinforcing the Army’s role as a pillar of humanitarian support in challenging terrains.

Indian Army Conducts Self-Defense Training Programme at Mendhar

POONCH: As part of its ongoing outreach under Operation Sadbhavana, the Indian Army launched a Self-Defense Training Programme for local boys and girls at the Modern Institute of Creative Learning, Mendhar. The week-long training programme commenced on June 27 and will continue until July 3, 2025.

Defence Spokesperson said the training is being conducted by Ms. Tabassum Nusrat Ali, a renowned Taekwondo expert and certified self-defense instructor. A daughter of an ex-serviceman and alumna of Model Academy Sagra and Army Public School Rajouri, Ms. Tabassum brings both a strong local connect and professional expertise to the initiative.

Her structured curriculum focuses on physical resilience, situa-

tional awareness, and real-world self-defense techniques. The programme, attended by 30 students and 8 teachers, is tailored to build self-confidence, mental toughness, and personal security, with special emphasis on empowering young women. The sessions include hands-on drills and interactive modules suitable for both urban and rural scenarios.

Spokesperson further stated that this initiative is part of the Indian Army’s broader mission to foster youth empowerment, gender inclusivity, and civil-military cooperation in sensitive border areas. The Army’s consistent engagement with remote and underserved communities of Jammu and Kashmir reflects its unwavering commitment to nation-building and peace.

Editorial



Laying the Roads

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday reviewed the progress on various National Highway and tunnel projects being executed across J&K a few days after JK government got Rs 10,600 crore worth of road and tunnel projects approved by the Union government. It signals a decisive push toward transforming the UT's infrastructure and connectivity landscape. The scale and ambition of the projects—from the Zojila Tunnel and Jammu Ring Road to the 4-lane flyovers in Srinagar and border region corridors—reflect a broader vision: to integrate J&K more deeply with the rest of India and unlock its vast economic and strategic potential.

With Rs 10,637 crore approved earlier this week for 19 new projects spanning nearly 300 km, the UT is witnessing an unprecedented infrastructure boom. These projects are not merely about tarmac and tunnels—they are the arteries of economic growth, social mobility, and national security. Whether it's the Peer Ki Gali and Sadhna tunnels enabling all-weather access or the Akhnoor-Poonch highway enhancing troop mobility and trade routes, each project plays a strategic role in reshaping the region's development narrative.

The Chief Secretary's directive to ensure timely resolution of land acquisition and mining issues, while urging the deployment of adequate machinery and manpower, is a much-needed push to keep momentum intact. Too often, bureaucratic hurdles delay transformative infrastructure. Kashmir has a limited working season. During this period works should be completed while odd cold days can be spared for office works.

Moreover, the synergy between multiple executing agencies—NHAI, NHIDCL, BRO, and PWD—is critical. With over 63% of the Zojila Tunnel already completed, and key works like Srinagar Ring Road Phase-I nearing 72% completion, the pace is promising. Yet, timely completion requires constant ground monitoring, coordination, and transparency.

For the people of Jammu and Kashmir, this is more than concrete—it is connectivity, employment, tourism, accessibility, and hope. Better roads and tunnels will mean faster movement, shorter travel times, safer journeys, and improved access to education, healthcare, and markets—especially in remote districts.

As the Union and UT governments invest unprecedented resources into J&K's development, the focus now must be on delivery and impact. These roads and tunnels must not only meet construction deadlines but also transform lives and livelihoods. That will be the true measure of success.

When the Answer Becomes a Question: A Crisis Across Perspectives



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

We live in a time overwhelmed by information, contradiction, and complexity—a time when the answers that once anchored our world are unraveling into deeper uncertainties. What was once accepted as truth is now met with suspicion. When the answer becomes a question, we are no longer facing a mere knowledge gap. We are confronting seismic shifts in trust, values, and the foundational assumptions of our collective reasoning.

This transformation is not confined to one arena. It reverberates across social, political, academic, national, global, and moral domains, reshaping the way we perceive identity, governance, knowledge, and progress. This is not an age of answers. It is the age of recursive inquiry—where every certainty loops back to doubt, demanding not just better solutions, but better questions.

1. The Social Perspective: Certainty in a Post-Truth Age

The Answer: "Truth is what we agree upon."
The Question: But who decides what's true?

In the era of echo chambers and algorithm-driven realities, once-stable social truths—about gender, race, ethics, and identity—have become battlegrounds. The collective consensus that once held communities together is fracturing.

Impact:

- Breakdown of communal trust
- Hyper-polarized discourse
- Rise in conspiracy theories
- Identity politics placing lived experience above empirical consensus

2. The Political Perspective: Leadership and Legitimacy

The Answer: "Democracy gives people a voice."
The Question: But do people still believe their voice matters?

Democracies around the world are facing a legitimacy crisis. Voter apathy, institutional mistrust, and populist waves suggest that the political systems designed to empower are increasingly seen as extractive or performative.

Impact:

- Falling voter turnout and civic engagement

- Authoritarian tendencies on the rise
 - Erosion of faith in elections and judicial systems
 - Resurgence of political extremism
3. The Academic Perspective: Knowledge in Flux
The Answer: "Education is the path to truth."
The Question: Whose truth—and at what cost?
- Once sanctuaries of free thought, academic institutions are now accused of being either elitist or ideologically compromised. The definition of "valuable



knowledge" is under debate, and the cost of education no longer guarantees social mobility.

Impact:

- Debates over curriculum bias and censorship
- STEM vs. humanities value conflict
- Soaring student debt and declining job security
- Skepticism about traditional education in a digital world

4. The National Perspective: Unity in Fragmentation
The Answer: "A nation is a shared identity."

The Question: Can a nation survive without consensus on what it is?

National identity, once a unifying ideal, is increasingly contested. Immigration, historical reckoning, and economic disparity are redefining what it means to belong.

Impact:

- Cultural and ideological fractures
- Rise in regional and ethno-nationalism
- Contentious debates over monuments, memory, and language

5. The Global Perspective: Cooperation or Collapse?
The Answer: "Globalization brings progress."

The Question: Progress for whom—and at what cost?

Global interdependence has brought as many dilemmas as it has opportunities. Whether in climate action, public health, or economic stability, the promise of shared progress is being tested.

Impact:

- Vaccine nationalism undermining global health
- Climate accords with weak enforcement

6. Growing anti-globalist and protectionist movements

7. Fragile supply chains revealing systemic vulnerabilities

8. The Technological Perspective: Innovation or Invasion?

The Answer: "Technology improves life."
The Question: At what cost to autonomy, privacy, and purpose?

Once the symbol of human progress, technology is now being questioned for its impact on mental health, labor, and truth itself.

Examples:

- Social media: From connection to manipulation
- AI displacing human jobs—who sets the ethical boundaries?
- Surveillance capitalism collecting personal data for profit

9. Deepfakes and misinformation destabilizing reality itself

10. The Environmental Perspective: Stewardship or Exploitation?

The Answer: "We can manage nature."
The Question: Or are we the crisis we tried to control?

Despite decades of warnings, environmental degradation accelerates. Climate agreements yield pledges, not progress. "Green growth" often masks deeper contradictions.

Examples:

- Clean energy displacing indigenous communities
- Carbon targets missed repeatedly
- Eco-tourism and green capitalism commodifying nature
- Climate fatigue undermining grassroots momentum

11. The Historical Perspective: Remembering or Rewriting?

The Answer: "History teaches us who we are."
The Question: But whose version of history is being taught?

Historical narratives are now sites of fierce contestation. The call to decolonize memory is challenging sanitized or exclusionary versions of the past.

Examples:

- Statue removals: Erasure or reckoning?
- Politically rewritten textbooks (e.g., in Texas, India)

12. Debates around reparations and historical accountability

13. Marginalized voices reshaping the historical canon

14. The Religious and Ethical Perspective: Faith

or Control?

The Answer: "Religion offers moral clarity."
The Question: Or does it sometimes obscure it?

Religious institutions once defined moral authority. Now, scandals and politicization have left many disillusioned.

Examples:

- Clergy abuse scandals shaking faith in organized religion
- Conflicts between religious belief and medical/scientific advancement
- Rise of religious nationalism weaponizing faith for power

15. Ethics becoming tribal rather than universal

16. The Economic Perspective: Growth or Greed?
The Answer: "Economic growth benefits all."

The Question: But what if the game is rigged?

The myth of trickle-down prosperity is crumbling. Economic gains are increasingly concentrated, while precarity becomes the norm.

Examples:

- Billionaire wealth skyrocketing during global crises
- Gig economy celebrated as "freedom" masking exploitation
- Soaring housing, education, and healthcare costs
- A booming economy—but working people still struggle

Conclusion: The Age of Recursive Inquiry

When the answer becomes a question, it marks not the death of knowledge, but the beginning of transformation. This recursive loop—where answers lead to deeper questions—reflects not ignorance, but maturity. A society that questions its assumptions is one inch closer to wisdom.

But this phase is precarious. If societies respond to these questions with fear, denial, or regression, they risk collapse. If they respond with openness, reform, and humility, they enter a new age of growth.

The Shift We Need: From Certainty to Accountability

We are not simply searching for new answers—we are being asked to own the consequences of old ones.

The defining question of our time is no longer what do we believe?

But rather: Are we willing to change when those beliefs no longer serve justice, truth, or humanity?

Final Takeaway:

"When the answer becomes a question, society is either in decline—or in transformation. The difference lies in whether we resist the question or rise to meet it."

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Big Dreams, Bigger Sacrifices: A Guide to Staying Strong



DANISH ASHRAF KHAN

Success does not come easily. It does not come by magic. It does not come in a single day. It is something that we earn slowly with hard work and with full dedication. It is something that comes to those who are ready to keep going even when everything feels difficult. Whether you are preparing for a government job exam or a test like NEET, JEE, SSC, or UPSC, the rule is always the same. If you have a big dream, you will have to make big sacrifices. Your dream will test your patience and your strength. It will ask you how badly you want it.

There will be days when you will feel tired. Your eyes will burn from reading too much. Your mind will feel heavy from solving so many questions. You will feel like stopping and taking a break. You will feel like you have done enough for the day. But at that moment you need to remember why you started. Was your goal just to try for some time and then give up? Or did you promise yourself that you will give your best until the very end? Dreams are not for those who stop halfway. Dreams are for those who continue even when it is painful.

Every time you feel like giving up, think about all the hours you have already given to your dream. Think about all those early mornings when you woke up to study. Think about all those late nights when you kept going when others were sleeping. Think about the fun you missed, the parties you skipped, the mobile games you left, just so you could stay focused. If you give up now, all of that will be wasted. That is why this is not the time to slow down. This is the time to push harder. This is the time to show yourself that you can do it.

The truth is that history remembers those who keep going. Nobody remembers those who stop in the middle. The world remembers the students who stayed awake when the world slept. It remembers those who cried in silence but still picked up the book again the next morning. It remembers those who were laughed at but still moved forward quietly. You too can be that person. Be the one who keeps faith in the dream even when nobody else believes in it.

If you want success tomorrow, you need to be ready to sacrifice today. Look at any topper or any winner. Look at anyone you admire. They all have one thing in common. They chose discipline over laziness. They chose hard work over easy comfort. They said no to parties, no to wasting time, no to excuses. That is why they have reached the place where

everyone claps for them. That is why they have what many people only wish for.

You might wonder how you can prepare better for your exam. The answer is simple. You need a routine that you can follow every day. A routine that helps you stay focused without feeling lost.

time and get good sleep.

Third, give eight hours to refresh yourself. This does not mean wasting time. Use this time to eat healthy food, help your family, take a short walk, or do something that keeps you calm. You can try meditation or light exercise. This balance will make you stronger inside and outside.

Let others sleep while you work for your dream. Let others waste time while you build your future. Let your pain today become the proof that you are walking the right path.

Because one day your hard work will bring results. One day your name will appear in that final list. One day you will wear that uniform or enter that dream college. One day your



Here is a golden plan that you can follow. Divide your day into three parts.

First, give eight hours to study. This should be study without distractions. Divide this time into smaller parts like two or three hours at a time. Take short breaks in between to relax your mind. Use this time to do practice papers, revise your notes, and test yourself. Active learning is better than just reading again and again.

Second, give eight hours to sleep. Many students think sleep is a waste of time. But that is wrong. Your brain needs sleep to stay fresh. When you sleep well, you remember what you studied. Your mood stays better. Your energy stays strong. So do not waste your nights on mobile phones. Go to bed on

The most important thing is to be honest with your routine. Be regular. Be simple. Do not spend too much time thinking or planning. Start doing. Success comes to those who take small steps every day and do not stop.

Remember, this journey is not only about clearing an exam. It is about becoming stronger. It is about learning to face failure and still getting up. It is about fighting stress and still smiling. It is about believing in yourself even when people doubt you.

You will face temptations. There will be social media, friends asking you to join them, or the desire to relax and do nothing. But each time you say no to these things, you become stronger. Each time you choose your goal over fun, you come one step closer to success.

parents will look at you with tears of joy and pride. And on that day, you will thank yourself for being strong. You will thank yourself for not giving up.

So keep dreaming big. Be ready to sacrifice for your dream. And always remember, your struggle today is the price you are paying for a brighter and happier tomorrow. Keep going. Your success is waiting for you.

Author is a Teacher / Writer / Public Servant . He can be mailed at
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The Recall Campaign and Political Polarisation in Taiwan



Dr. Prashant Kumar Singh

Summary

The deep political polarisation in Taiwan as a result of the ongoing recall campaign is not conducive to Taiwan's social and political stability and security. It is difficult to ignore that the core political and ideological question of the nature of the relationship with China, and the consequent reshaping of Taiwanese politics and society, lies at the heart of the ongoing recall tussle. Taiwan's security needs the broadest possible unity of the public. Hopefully, Taiwanese democracy will prove its resilience in dealing with the recall campaign.

Taiwan's democracy is quite young. It saw its first multi-party direct presidential election based on universal suffrage in 1996 after decades of one-party authoritarian rule and martial law under the Kuomintang (KMT). The peaceful and orderly operation of high-quality democratic mechanisms has made it an archetype of successful democratisation in a Confucian society. It has been successful in managing the cacophonous diversity of opposing political forces seeking to score political points, as seen in any other democracy.

Yet, developments of the last year have placed Taiwanese democracy under duress as it seeks to manage sharp polarisation between the ruling and the opposing formations. These developments have culminated in a formal recall campaign that seeks the ouster of a large number of opposition legislators, and also some ruling party legislators, from the Legislative Yuan (LY, or parliament). The campaign is still ongoing and its results will take some more time to come out. In the meantime, its unprecedented scale has revealed a deep political polarisation in Taiwan, which is not conducive to its social and political stability and security.

Fractured Domestic Political Landscape

While the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which rejects the One China principle, rules from the presidential office, the KMT, which believes in 'One China with respective interpretations', together with the Taiwan People's Party (TPP, a smaller party which does not have a categorical position on the One China issue unlike the two leading protagonists), dominate the parliament. The DPP won the presidential office in 2016 under the leadership of Tsai Ing-wen and has retained the office since then, with a second term for Tsai in 2020 followed by Lai Ching-te in 2024. However, its vote share fell significantly in 2024 in comparison to the two previous occasions.

Furthermore, the DPP, which had secured an impressive majority in the LY in the 2016 and 2020 parliamentary elections, failed to cross the majority mark in 2024. The 2024 parliamentary elections saw the KMT's resurgence and the TPP's continuation as a third force. The KMT secured a plurality. The KMT and the TPP together now command the parliamentary majority. Han Kuoyu and Johnny Chiang from the KMT lead the LY as its president (speaker) and vice-president (deputy speaker), respectively.

In addition, the DPP, which gained control of Taiwan's local governments in November 2014[1] in the run up to its victory in the January 2016 presidential and parliamentary elections, lost badly in the local elections, mainly to the KMT, in November 2018[2] and November 2022.[3] While the losses in the November 2018 local elections proved inconsequential for the January 2020 presidential and parliamentary elections, defeat in the November 2022 local elections reflected in the fall in the vote share in the presidential election and the loss of its majority in the parliament in January 2024. At present, the KMT controls a majority of the city and county governments, including important cities such as Taipei, New Taipei, Taoyuan and Taichung.

Finally, the opposition that remained on the margins for eight years from 2016 to 2024 under President Tsai, shows signs of buoyancy. Lai thus has to deal with a combative opposition, which is making its presence profoundly felt through legislative interventions on policy matters, creating constraints for his administration.

The Three Contentious Amendments

In December 2024, the KMT and the TPP effectively used their parliamentary majority to amend the Public Officials Election and Recall Act, the Constitutional Court Procedure Act, and the Act Governing the Allocation of Government Revenues and Expenditures, overruling the government's and ruling DPP's objections.

The amendment to the Public Officials Election and Recall Act introduced the requirement for "individuals initiating a recall petition and those who sign up to such an initiative to provide photocopies of their identification cards when submitting their petition signatures".[4] Before the amendment, "campaigners only have to present the ID numbers and registered addresses of endorsers of the recall petition to local election commissions".[5] The amended law stipulates five years of imprisonment or "a fine of up to NT\$1 million (US\$30,592)" for forging identification documents.[6]

After the amendment to the Constitutional Court Procedure Act (CCPA), the Constitutional Court would need "a minimum of 10 justices to hear and rule on a case" and if any existing legal provision is to be pronounced as unconstitutional, it must "be backed by at least nine justices".[7] Earlier, the requirement was a two-thirds of sitting justices, who could decide the case "by a simple majority vote".[8] Further, normally, the strength of the Constitutional Court is 15 judges. However, seven judges retired in October 2024. Lai nominated their replacements but his nominations were 'rejected' by the LY in December 2024.[9] Thus, the effective strength of the Constitutional Court is now eight. Hence, there is ambiguity whether after this amendment, the Constitutional Court, with its current strength, can hear and decide constitutional cases including the challenges to the aforementioned three amendments.[10]

As a Taipei Times news story explained, until 1999, the central government would receive 60 per cent and local governments

would receive 40 per cent of Taiwan's total funds available in its annual budget. However, after that year, the allocation formula was changed to 75 per cent to the central government and 25 per cent to local governments. The December 2024 amendment to the Act Governing the Allocation of Government Revenues and Expenditures basically sought to restore the old formula that was in place until 1999. It has increased local governments' shares in income tax revenue from 10 per cent to 11 per cent. They would earlier receive "40 percent of business tax revenue after deduction of uniform invoice prizes",[11] but now after the amendment, all of "business tax revenue after uniform invoice lottery prize payouts"[12] would go to them.

Additionally, prior to the amendment, the central government would share only "20 percent of land value increment tax revenue" with local governments.[13] However, now the opposi-



tion believes that "the growth in land value results from efforts made by local governments", therefore, "land value increment tax belongs to special municipality and county and county-level city taxes". Hence, its amendment stipulates that "the tax revenue from it should completely go to local governments".[14] In total, the amendment ensures an additional NT\$ 375.3 billion allocation to local government.[15] Discharging his constitutional duty, Lai has promulgated all three amendments.[16]

Arguments and Counter-Arguments on the Merit of the Amendments

Both sides have their own arguments regarding the merits of the amendments. The DPP government criticises the amendment to the Public Officials Election and Recall Act as "exceedingly restrictive", which would 'significantly increase the burden' of local electoral authorities.[17] Premier Cho Jung-tai termed it as violating "the electoral contract between the people and their representatives" and "the spirit of constitutional government", which would "limit the people's right to recall elected officials".[18] On the other hand, the KMT believes that the amendment would "ensure a more rigorous and fairer 'recall petition process' and "actually facilitate electoral authorities' vetting of petition signatures"[19] as previously the process had faced the charges of manipulation.

The government terms the amendments to the CCPA as an encroachment upon judicial power and "an attempt... to immobilise the Constitutional Court".[20] Premier Cho has expressed concern that "due to the Legislature's failure to approve any of the recent Constitutional Court justice nominees, the amendments in the Constitutional Court Procedure Act will effectively prevent the Constitutional Court from functioning".[21] The opposition contends that now the Constitutional Court would follow a much more rigorous review process and cases will no longer be "decided by only a handful of justices".[22]

The amendment to the Act Governing the Allocation of Government Revenues and Expenditures has the potential to have an immediate and direct impact on the functioning of the various government agencies. Premier Cho remarked that it would have "severe consequences for the finances of the central government".[23] He criticised the amendment as one that "focuses only on money allocation without addressing authority or responsibilities", and said that "its rushed passage with no detailed calculations was a major flaw in the legislative process".[24] On the other hand, the KMT maintains that "the reallocation of funding would instead reward fiscally responsible local governments and encourage them to promote economic development and create jobs, rather than relying on central government handouts".[25] It can also be concluded that its domination of the majority of city and county governments also motivated it to amend this law.

The Recall Campaign

In the backdrop of these three contentious amendments, an avalanche of recall petitions was unleashed against KMT legislators by some civil-society groups. These groups deny any affiliations with the ruling DPP, but the source of inspiration for their actions is hard to ignore. On 20 December 2024, the DPP issued a press release stating that "the last resort to stop the KMT's destruction of the constitution and their totalitarianism is to directly exercise the right of recall against public officials..."[26] Moreover, the campaign gained momentum from January 2025 onwards when the DPP legislative caucus whip Ker Chien-ming openly supported it.[27] After some delay, the KMT launched its counter-campaign to recall DPP legislators.

Taiwan's Public officials Election and Recall Act allows the recall of legislators by popular vote. The recall process has a three-stage process. In the first stage, Article 76 of the Act requires the initiator(s) to collect one per cent of voters in the concerned legislative constituency to submit the recall petition to the Central Election Commission (CEC). If the petition passes vetting, a further collection of 10 per cent of voters is required to clear the second stage as per Article 81. If the second stage successfully clears the CEC's scrutiny, it will conduct a public vote on the recall petition in the third stage.

As per Article 90 of the law, if "the number of ballots that agree with the recall are greater than the number of ballots that do not agree with the recall, and the number of ballots that agree with the recall number one-quarter or greater of the total number of voters" in the legislative seat, the recall will be accepted.[28] The recall provision is only applicable to 73 legislative seats out of total 113 which elect their representatives using the First-Past-the-Post system. It does not apply to the 34 seats which are "allocated through party-list Proportional Representation (PR)".[29] Therefore, there is no recall petition against TPP legislators, who received eight legislative seats through the PR system.

The ongoing recall campaign is a de-centralised campaign by disparate civil-society groups scattered across Taiwan. The campaign is targeting around 35 KMT and 15 DPP legislators.[30] Some petitions are in the first stage; some have cleared it and

reached the second stage. Some of them may reach the third and final stage soon. Since the KMT-supported groups started their recall campaign late, their petitions are considerably delayed.

Taiwan has been witnessing intense political rhetoric around the recall campaign. The DPP has accused the opposition of introducing bills that are "friendly toward China or would weaken Taiwan",[31] Particularly referring to the amendment to the Act Governing the Allocation of Government Revenues and Expenditures, it has accused the opposition of aligning with China's objectives and harming "national security by cutting military spending, blocking efforts to bolster defence and pandering to Beijing's interest through China-friendly bills".[32] It accuses the KMT of bringing back martial law through parliament.[33] The DPP-inspired recall campaigners view the campaign as "a battle against 'pro-China lawmakers who seek to sell out Taiwan' [and who are] a Trojan horse, undermining Taiwan's security".[34]

In return, the KMT advises the DPP to reconcile with the fact that it is in the parliamentary minority. It accuses the DPP of seeking to impose its own flavour of undemocratic rule. It alleges that the government is misusing the judiciary and other government agencies to target the opposition. It threatens to hold a referendum or a recall motion against President Lai. The opposition labels the DPP-backed recall campaign as the "suppression" of the opposition.[35]

Incidentally, it should be noted that the confrontation between the ruling party and the opposition did not begin with the three contentious laws. It had been in the making even before Lai was sworn in as president in May 2024. The opposition began working on a controversial "contempt of parliament" bill, which it felt was "badly needed to redress the power imbalance between the legislature and Taiwan's very powerful presidency".[36] sometime around March 2024.[37] The bill was passed in May 2024.[38] but it could not withstand the scrutiny of the Constitutional Court.[39] The DPP saw it as "an unconstitutional power grab, aimed at taking revenge on the DPP government led by President William Lai Ching-te"[40]

In the middle of 2024, Taiwan saw public showdowns over this law. On the other hand, it should also be pointed out that seeing that the DPP had lost the majority in the LY, the DPP legislative caucus whip Ker Chien-ming had reportedly floated "the idea of a recall campaign against the opposition" immediately after the presidential and legislative elections in 2024.[41] Thus, the present jostling appears to be an inescapable result of the electoral outcome in 2024 and both sides have been in pre-emptive mode since the beginning.

Civil-society groups have been divided on party lines.[42] However, surveys suggest that the public in general is not very supportive of the recall campaign.[43] Meanwhile, Lai has proposed talks with the opposition "amid protracted tensions and disputes" between the government and the opposition.[44] However, there has been no indication yet that the recall campaign may be suspended or cancelled.

A Wider Security-Political Scenario

That the opposition's resurgence reflects Taiwan's changed domestic political landscape and the consequent resumption of combative jostling over policy matters is one point. To many, it may also point to Taiwan's politics turning inward-looking, searching for incendiary issues, in the absence of a positive preoccupation with improving relations with China.[45] More importantly, the three contentious amendments, read alongside the opposition's other interventions, also possibly speak to its response to the rise of national security discourse in Taiwan, which it seems to view as having implications for Taiwanese politics, society and security as well.

Taiwan has seen the rise of national security discourse in response to a possible Chinese threat. Since 2016, China has been unwavering in its position that it will not have any dialogue with the DPP governments in any format unless it unequivocally declares its support for the One China principle. In addition to shunning DPP governments, it has increased pressure on Taiwan through various military and non-military elements of grey zone

warfare, as well. This situation has understandably led Taiwan to focus on security, which has been a centrepiece of the DPP governments' work. Laws such as the Anti-Infiltration Act of 2020 and the amendment to the National Security Act in 2019 are important examples in this regard. Thus, a notable feature of the Tsai and Lai governments have been their assessment of what they view as China's 'united front' strategy and their response to it. Taiwan under them has focused on creating the legal architecture to handle 'united front' threats.

Although government authorities have sought to reassure the public that in the specific context of the laws enacted to counter the 'united front' threats, criminal collaboration is well-defined, allegations of "collaboration" and being a "collaborator" is also part of political rhetoric and mobilisation. In such matters, however, government agencies everywhere enjoy a wide latitude in interpreting laws and an element of selectivity is always implicitly present. Therefore, considering the scale of cross-Strait social, cultural, religious and economic integration, concerned political and opinion-making circles have become worried about the unintended consequences of the counter-'united front' legal measures, though no mass dissatisfaction against the government on this issue appears to be emerging.

The government's preference for maintaining political and ideological correctness when it comes to articulations on cross-Strait relations also raise questions. People affiliated with the opposition frequently note that "you can't label someone an agent of some entity just because they hold a different view", and that the fear of being labelled "a CCP collaborator" [and] ... pro-Beijing—even for holding moderate or dissenting views—is a recurring theme" in discussions.[46]

The 17 strategies to counter the 'united front' threats, recently announced by President Lai, add a further dimension to these debates. In these strategies, China is termed as a "hostile foreign force", which is seeking collaboration with 'local collaborators'.[47] The strategies propose to 'streamline' cross-Strait exchanges, which is viewed as 'tightening' cross-Strait exchanges among many concerned stakeholders. The strategies are quite comprehensive and cover several aspects of people-to-people exchanges such as employment, scholarly and professional contacts. This has invited pushback from certain sections of society.[48]

Furthermore, it has also been perceived that the ruling DPP probably wants cross-Strait relations or China policy to be regarded as an exclusive preserve of the government, which is difficult for the opposition parties to accept as they see themselves as stakeholders in cross-Strait relations. The combined KMT-TPP opposition voted down a bill proposed by DPP lawmakers requiring "elected officials to seek approval before visiting China" and stipulating "prison sentences of up to three years", and a fine of NT\$ 10 million (US\$ 309,041)".[49] The KMT has been assertively pursuing its policy of maintaining civil contacts with its counterparts across the Taiwan Strait. Its leaders regularly travel to China and invite guests from there.

Similarly, the opposition led by the KMT is also not inclined to toe the DPP government's line on security issues. Notably, it has reservations against openly terming China as a "foreign adversary" as they find it too provocative. It accuses the Lai government of pushing Taiwan into a dangerous situation of "quasi war", jeopardising Taiwan's security.[50] The KMT strikes a discordant note on the government's concerns about China's 'united front' infiltration, by bringing up the putative stigmatisation of the military,[51] the Anti Infiltration Act 2020,[52] and restrictions on retired high-ranking civil and military officials' visits to China.[53]

How much of the KMT's actions are driven by genuine concerns regarding the state of democracy in Taiwan as opposed to narrower considerations of political gain is indeterminable. What is certain is that it is not inclined to leave China policy and the security policy to the government and the ruling party.

Conclusion

It is difficult to ignore that the core political and ideological question of the nature of the relationship with China, and the consequent reshaping of Taiwanese politics and society, lies at the heart of the ongoing recall tussle. As support for One China was at the core of the KMT's decades-long authoritarianism, apprehensions that 'oppose One China' may become a new hegemonic ideological formula with implications for political freedom and personal liberty, which may be at the back of the mind among concerned circles, including the opposition. Hence, it may have pushed the three contentious amendments with the motive of self-preservation against perceived executive heft and to preserve its say in cross-Strait relations inter alia, inviting the retaliatory recall campaign against it.[54]

A polarised and raucous polity may have implications for Taiwan's stability and security. Aspiring to establish 'oppose One China' as a hegemonic formula, taking a leaf out of the old KMT's book, will not yield results as the historical conditions are completely different. Furthermore, that the KMT suppressed Taiwanese during its authoritarian decades did not matter to China as the party believed in One China. However, any supposed suppression of Taiwanese in order to force them to oppose One China can potentially provide Beijing with an unwelcome excuse to intervene in unpredicted ways, which no one in Taiwan can possibly prefer. Further, how the mercurial Trump administration would react to unchecked political and social chaos in Taiwan should also be a concern, as the US remains its sole 'security guarantor'. Taiwan's security needs the broadest possible unity of the public. Hopefully, Taiwanese democracy will prove its resilience in dealing with the recall campaign.

The paper was published by the Manohar Parrikar Institute For Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) or of the Government of India and republished by Kashmir Convener under Creative Common License. Author Dr. Prashant Kumar Singh follows the strategic and domestic affairs of India. He is also a keen follower of state and society in Taiwan. And he has a deep interest in India's engagement with East Asia. His current research project is "Foreign Relations and Security in Xi Jinping's Chinese Dream". Views expressed are of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Manohar Parrikar IDSA or of the Government of India.

CS Atal Dulloo Reviews Pace of National Highway Projects Across J&K

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting regarding progress on various National Highway projects being executed across J&K.

According to an official spokesperson, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the DCs to look into the land acquisition and mining issues to ensure that these do not hinder the pace of work anywhere. He enjoined upon the concerned agencies to ensure that all projects progress at a suitable pace to see their deadlines are met without any fail.

The meeting highlighted significant advancements in critical infrastructure projects managed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under Project Sampark and Beacon and the Public Works Department (PWD) Kashmir.

Key NHAI projects reviewed in the meeting included the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway and Jammu Ring Road tunnels, with the latter slated for completion by March 31, 2026.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway



projects, including the Marog-Digdol tunnel, Digdol-Khuni Nallah section and Makarkot-Sherbibi viaducts, were also assessed.

Besides, the progress on Srinagar Ring Road (Phase-I) was said to be physically completed by 71.50% with an anticipated completion by November 30, 2025.

While the work on its Phase-II from Sumbal to Wayul is also apace which is likely to see completion by December, 2026.

The recently awarded projects comprising

Srinagar Ring Road Phase-IIA from Manigam to Pandach, Service Road for Domel-Udhampur section of NH-44 were said to be taken up for execution soon. Under the projects executed by NHIDCL, various packages of Jammu-Akhnoor Road (NH-144A) likely to be completed by December 2025 in all respects.

The meeting also discussed the progress on Zojila Tunnel (NH-1 - 30.826 km) and it was informed that 63.87% of the work has been completed, rest of the project is expected to be

completed by February 2028.

Projects of BRO under Project Sampark that came under review in the meeting included widening of Akhnoor-Poonch (NH-144A) highway re-sectioned into 8 packages with end date of completion set as January 2026.

Similarly, the reviewed BRO projects under Beacon included different sections of NH-1 Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Road, expected to be completed by November 2026.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed PWD projects including Pulwama Bypass, Kulgam Bypass, Shopian Bypass on NH and Service Road along NH-44 (Srinagar Bypass).

The meeting also assessed progress on action plan for 19 new projects with a total length of 296 km, to be executed with an estimated cost of Rs 10,637 crore.

The notable projects included 4-lane flyover from Lal Chowk to Parimpora Junction, construction of 4-lane Pantha Chowk Flyover on NH-44, construction of 4-lane Magam Flyover on NH-701A, Panjtarni Tunnel, construction of Pir Ki Gali tunnel and construction of Sadhna tunnel etc.

Sec. Sports Council inaugurates Kashmir Super League Player Bidding at Srinagar



SRINAGAR: Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul Friday officially inaugurated the player bidding ceremony of the Kashmir Super League (KSL), region's first-ever corporate franchise-based football tournament, at a vibrant event held in Srinagar.

An official spokesperson of the JK government said league was Organized in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council aiming to revolutionize the football landscape of the Union Territory by bridging grassroots talent with professional structures, corporate investment, and organized league play.

Lauding the initiative, Nuzhat Gul said, "Kashmir Super League is not just a tournament; it's a transformative movement for football in J&K. By bringing together corporates, youth, and sport on one stage, we are creating a sustainable ecosystem that will inspire a new generation of talent and ambition. This is the future of football in the region, bold, organized, and filled with opportunity."

The player bidding ceremony marks a significant milestone in the KSL journey, setting the stage for an exciting season ahead where homegrown talent will be matched with professionally managed teams, a first for the region's football landscape.

With match days scheduled to begin soon, Kashmir Super League promises not only high-octane football action but also a renewed sense of hope and energy in the sporting fabric of Jammu & Kashmir.

Distt admin Pulwama conducts mega Awareness, Saturation Camp at Machama Tral

PULWAMA: Continuing its campaign under the nationwide flagship initiative Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), district administration Pulwama today organized a mega tribal outreach camp at Machama Tral.

Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) reported that the camp marked a significant step towards realising the vision of last-mile delivery of welfare services through a whole-of-government approach as envisioned by the Abhiyan, bringing together various Govt.

departments such as Health, Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Forest, Fisheries, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, and others under one umbrella.

On the occasion, each department had set up their dedicated stall focusing on achieving saturation in various government schemes such as PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Aadhaar enrolment, Ayushman Bharat card registration, Kisan Credit Card issuance, and the distribution of domicile and caste certificates.

The event was attended by Member of Legislative Assembly Tral, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, and DDC Member Tral, Dr. Harbaksh Singh. They interacted with the tribal community, listened to their concerns, and acknowledged the importance of direct engagement in bridging service gaps.

MLA Tral also inspected the stalls set up by various line departments and reviewed their progress.

While addressing the gathering, he emphasised the importance of achieving full coverage of all government schemes and welfare programmes in tribal areas, and instructed officials to ensure that benefits are delivered timely and effectively to all eligible beneficiaries.

A special health camp was also set up by the Health department. The camp offered sickle cell screening, active case finding for tuberculosis, and general health consultations.

DLIC approves 29 cases under Mission YUVA in Ganderbal

GANDERBAL: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting under Mission YUVA was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, in the VC Room of the DC Office Ganderbal.

Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) reported that at the outset, a detailed discussion was held regarding the applications received under the scheme.

The committee deliberated upon the cases submitted through the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU) and, after thorough scrutiny and evaluation, approved 29 cases unanimously for financial and institutional support under the Mission YUVA initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the significance of Mission YUVA in empowering the youth through skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, and self-employment opportunities. He stressed the need for robust post-approval support and follow-up to ensure the sustainable success of the approved units.

DC also directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of sanctioning, disbursing benefits, and extending all necessary handholding support to the beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Chief Planning Officer, Syed Shah Nawaz Khan; Lead District Manager; Nodal Officer (JKEDI) and other concerned.

DEO Kupwara holds meeting with Political Parties on polling station rationalisation

KUPWARA: District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting with officers, representatives of various political parties to discuss key electoral matters, particularly the rationalisation of polling stations, as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

During the meeting, all instructions and guidelines issued by the ECI were shared in detail with the participants.

According to a statement issued by Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Representatives from political parties actively participated and shared their suggestions and concerns regarding the rationalisation process.

Ayushi assured them that all their inputs have been duly noted and will be considered in the final decision-making process.

DEO reiterated the commitment to conduct free, fair, and transparent elections, ensuring the cooperation and confidence of all stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy District Election Officer Kupwara, Mumtaz Ahmad Pir; Returning Officers, officials and representatives from different political parties.

Sakeena Itoo lays foundation stone of main building, administrative block of GDC Chadoora

BUDGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo laid the foundation stone of main building and administrative block of Government Degree College (GDC) Chadoora here today.

MLA, Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar, besides officers and large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Education Minister emphasized on the government's unwavering commitment to empowering youth through accessible and quality education. "This institution will not just be a building of bricks and mortar, but a beacon of knowledge, opportunity and progress for the youth of Chadoora and adjoining areas", she stated.

The Minister also announced that in coming days a bus will be provided to the college for the convenience of students.

Sakeena Itoo said that with the sincere efforts of languishing projects have been made functional while work on others has been fast-tracked", she highlighted.

Minister further highlighted that the progress we have seen in the past few months is a reflection of the government's dedication to inclusive growth and grassroots development.

Outlining some key achievements of the government in recent months, the Minister said that the Government increased the Old age pension as well as marriage assistance for the sisters of J&K.



DC Srinagar inspects different offices in DC Office Complex

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: In order to take stock of functioning & infrastructure of various sections of DC office complex, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, IT infrastructure, as well as ensuring adequate amenities and accessibility to the public.

DC inspected the offices of Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Nazool, SDM East, Tehsil Office South, besides other subordinate Offices.

During the visit, DC interacted with the officers and other officials and emphasized the paramount importance of transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public service delivery. He stressed the need for adopting best work ethics and urged the staff to work with a proactive approach while addressing public issues and grievances.

Labroo stressed the significance of maintaining cleanliness, organized office spaces and adhering to established protocols.

While inspecting the Revenue Record room, DC emphasized proper maintenance of the records in an organized manner and its simultaneous digitisation. He also stressed on ensuring better facilities for the people visiting the DC office Complex and laid stress on creating a comfortable and welcoming space for visitors to access services and address their grievances.

DC also stressed the importance of creating a user-friendly environment within the office, particularly for those seeking assistance or redressal of issues.



Akshay Labroo Friday inspected various sections and sub-offices of DC office, Srinagar.

Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) reported that the visit focused on taking stock of available facilities, existing infrastructure and the existing need to enhance administrative efficiency by upgrading infrastructure, streamlining record rooms,

Dharti Aabha Abhiyan conducted at tribal village Ringzabal in Sukhnag

Budgam: Dharti Aaba Abhiyan was conducted today at Village Ringzabal, a notified tribal village in Block Sukhnag, with a strong message of inclusive population.

In their address, officials from various line departments emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring last-mile delivery of services and highlighted the importance of such campaigns in building trust and transparency between the administration and tribal communities.

Throughout the day, Gram Sabha sessions remained the focal point of the campaign, with departmental representatives addressing scheme-related queries, clarifying eligibility criteria, and assisting in on-spot registrations for a wide array of welfare initiatives including PMAY-G (Housing), KCC (Kisan Credit Card), PMJAY (Ayushman Bharat), Swadesh Darshan Guest House registration, HADP (Agriculture schemes), JJM - FHTC (Tap water connections).

The day's proceedings also included field visits by officials to monitor progress on scheme implementation and identify areas requiring special focus. A display of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) materials ensured that information was made accessible in local dialects and in simplified form.

As part of cultural engagement, tribal students and artists performed local Gojri and Pahari songs, reiterating the theme of preserving one's ethnicity while embracing development.

Local panchayat head expressed gratitude to the district administration, all participating departments, and especially to the Rural Development department for the programme, for selecting Ringzabal as a host village for this important initiative.



Save Earth Mission Announces Grand Global Vision Unveiling in Ahmedabad

Srinagar: Following its historic feat of planting over 500,000 trees in just 1 hour under the banner of "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam," Save Earth Mission has captured the world's attention and inspired a global climate awakening.

The Guinness World Record-breaking campaign, which saw massive participation across India, was celebrated internationally and featured on prestigious media platforms including Forbes, Fox, Business Insider, and leading national and international TV networks.

Now, Save Earth Mission is going global. The organization has officially announced its biggest international event yet – the Save Earth Mission Global Vision Unveiling – a monumental gathering that will mark the launch of Save Earth Mission's global strategy to plant 30 billion trees by 2040 and guide the world toward net zero carbon emissions.

The event will take place on July 3, 2025, at 6:00 PM IST, at the iconic GIFT City Club in Ahmedabad, India. This global announcement marks a major leap in Save Earth Mission's journey – a platform where the organization will unveil its expanded roadmap and rally international chapters toward a unified climate goal.

With leaders, representatives, and volunteers from across the Save Earth Mission global network expected to attend, the event will set the stage for country-wise plantation drives, new global collaborations, and an accelerated push toward reforestation and sustainability.

The location was finalized through a global public voting process, where shortlisted cities – including Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Goa, Bangkok, and Ahmedabad – were presented to the Save Earth Mission global community. With the highest number of votes, Ahmedabad was selected as the host city, positioning India as the epicenter of this next chapter in climate action.

"This is a proud moment not only for India but for the entire world. The people have spoken, and Ahmedabad has emerged as a symbol of global climate solidarity," said Sandeep Choudhary, President – India Chapter, Save Earth Mission. "At the Global Vision Unveiling, I will be presenting Save Earth Mission's roadmap for global tree plantations, cross-border collaborations, and how we will mobilize citizens, corporates, and governments to collectively reach the 30 billion tree milestone by 2040. "The Save Earth Mission Global Vision Unveiling will feature keynote presentations, strategic partnership announcements, country-wise plantation commitments, cultural showcases, and a unified global declaration to restore Earth's ecosystems. This event marks a critical inflection point in the world's fight against climate change – a moment where action replaces promises, and collective steps are taken toward a greener, more sustainable planet. (PR



Continued From P1...

LG Calls

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth to inculcate the spirit of 'Nation First' and motivate people to discharge their duties towards the nation.

“Youth are our hope for a brighter future. Youth are the most valuable assets for any region and government.

Youth are the true catalysts of change in society. Youth must imbibe the profound values of the NCC – discipline, unity, leadership, and selfless service and work collectively to realise the vision of Viksit Bharat,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the message should also be conveyed through the Special National Integration Camp that the participation of the youth in the planning and development process at the grassroots level should be ensured so that socio-economic development can be fully realized.

The NCC should be seen as a bridge between the administration and youth aspirations.

By leveraging the NCC's network and connect, we can ensure the active participation of youth in various nation-building activities.

This special camp is also an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in achieving the goal of youth-led development and to prepare a roadmap for the future, the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded NCC Cadets' remarkable efforts during Operation Sindoor. “Our NCC cadets rose to the occasion during difficult times. Beyond their selfless service

in relief camps across border districts, they also proactively organized blood donation drives. Through these commendable deeds, they have unequivocally elevated the prestige of NCC,” he said.

On the occasion, NCC cadets delivered captivating performances that vividly showcased India's rich and diverse cultures.

As many as 340 cadets and NCC officers from all over the country are participating in the camp.

GOC 15 Corps, Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava; Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education Department, Shantmanu; Additional Director General, NCC Directorate J&K and Ladakh, Maj Gen Anupinder Bevil; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Bidhuri; Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Sarmad Hafeez; Officers of NCC Directorates, NCC cadets from across the country were present.

Padma Shri Farooq Ahmed Mir; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo and senior officers of Civil Administration, Police and Security Forces were also present.

Developing nine

Wani, MLAs Farooq Ahmad Shah, Salman Sagar, Altaf Ahmad Kaloo, Tanvir Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal, FICCI past president Jyotsna Suri,

Head of FICCI J&K Chapter Mushtaq Burza, and a host of film producers, MICE organizers, wedding planners, golfers, and stakeholders from the tourism and hospitality sector.

The Chief Minister also emphasized the diversity of tourism opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir.

“We can't confine ourselves to three or four destinations. Jammu offers pilgrimage and border tourism. Kashmir offers scenic, cultural and adventure tourism. Together, we can build a more holistic tourism ecosystem.”

Discussing connectivity, the CM noted the transformative impact of railway infrastructure: “Traveling by train through tunnels and world's highest rail bridge into the valley is a breathtaking experience. We may not yet have a direct Delhi-Srinagar line, but that day isn't far.”

He also underscored the government's commitment to infrastructure development and niche tourism sectors.

“We are close to completing a world-class conference facility in Gulmarg to supplement venues like SKICC. Areas like MICE tourism, golf, film and destination weddings are vital components of our future strategy.”

The Chief Minister urged the tourism fraternity to be active partners. “We value your support, suggestions, and most importantly—your criticism when needed. Together, we can build a resilient and vibrant tourism sector that not only brings visitors but makes them

want to return.”

On the occasion, Chief Minister launched a book ‘Golfing in Paradise’ authored by Atul Dir, celebrating Jammu & Kashmir's growing appeal as a premier golf tourism destination.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani also spoke on the occasion and said J&K had emerged as a tourism hub much before other states in India and now we need to develop whole range of niche tourism activities in J&K such as adventure tourism, leisure tourism MICE tourism alongwith promoting Kashmir as an affordable and wonderful wedding destination.

Travel in

pilgrims to check the traffic advisories before starting their journey to avoid any inconvenience, and follow cut off timings,” Birdi added—(KNO)

GOC 16 Corps

With the Amarnath Yatra 2025 approaching, Lieutenant General Mishra, according to KNO, emphasized the importance of robust security measures to ensure the safety of pilgrims traveling to the holy cave shrine in south Kashmir.

The Romeo Force, operating under the White Knight Corps as part of Operation Rakshak, has been tasked with securing key areas along the yatra routes, particularly in the sensitive Poonch and Rajouri sectors, which spread through Line of Control and connecting Kashmir with Pir Panchal range.

The visit also focused on reinforcing security along the LoC in the Rajouri-Poonch sector, a region known for its strategic importance and vulnerability to infiltration.

Lt Gen Mishra lauded the troops for their relentless vigilance and high morale in challenging conditions, urging them to maintain the highest standards of professionalism.

“The Romeo Force's aggressive counter-terrorism operations and steadfast commitment to security are pivotal in ensuring peace in this sensitive region,” he stated.

The GOC's review included briefings on current operational modalities, logistical support, and communication systems—(KNO)

Operation BIHALI

As reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, Army Commander of the Northern Command, commended the #WhiteKnightCorps for their swift and precise action. He said, “The professionalism and coordination displayed by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police in Operation BIHALI exemplify our unwavering commitment to ensuring a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir. The Northern Command remains dedicated to safeguarding the region and maintaining peace.”

The operation was launched early on June 26 when a joint search team, led by Army Para Commandos, established contact with terrorists near Karoor Nallah in the Bihali area of Basantgarh. Despite adverse weather conditions, including rain and dense fog, security forces engaged the terrorists, resulting in the elimination of one JeM terrorist, reportedly a top commander codenamed ‘Maulvi’. This terrorist had infiltrated Indian territory in April 2024 and was allegedly orchestrating terror activities in the region.

Bhim Sen Tuti, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu Zone, provided an update: “The search operation to track down the remaining three JeM terrorists is ongoing, aided by drones and sniffer dogs. Reinforcements have been deployed to strengthen the cordon, and despite poor visibility due to fog, our forces are working relentlessly. We expect clarity as weather conditions improve.”

On Thursday, the Army's White Knight Corps shared an update on X (formerly Twitter), saying, “Op BIHALI Update: In the ongoing joint operation by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police in Basantgarh, one terrorist has been neutralized so far. The operation continues.”

Security measures across the Union Territory have been heightened, with 180 companies of Central police forces deployed to ensure the safety of Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrims, scheduled to commence from July 3—(KNO)

India rejects

significance of Mission YUVA in empowering the youth through skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, and self-employment opportunities. He stressed the need for robust post-approval support and follow-up to ensure the sustainable success of the approved units. DC also directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of sanctioning, disbursing benefits, and extending all necessary handholding support to the beneficiaries in a time-bound manner. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Chief Planning Officer, Syed Shah Nawaz Khan; Lead District Manager; Nodal Officer JKEDI and other concerned.

of its reasoning for suspending its treaty obligations. Following the attack, which resulted in multiple casualties, India announced it would temporarily place the treaty in abeyance.

The MEA said this decision was taken under international law and reflects India's position on national sovereignty and security.

India reiterated that it is not bound by any decisions from a tribunal it considers unlawfully constituted. It also stated that it expects Pakistan to address concerns related to cross-border activity rather than attempting to seek outcomes through disputed legal forums.

The MEA said that India would continue to assert its rights under international law and uphold its position regarding the development of hydroelectric infrastructure within its territory—(KNO)

NIA court

tourists, dead and 16 others injured.

According to the NIA, the arrested accused disclosed the identities of the three armed terrorists involved in the attack and confirmed that they were Pakistani nationals affiliated with the banned terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

Parvaiz and Bashir had knowingly harboured the terrorists at a seasonal ‘dhok’ (hut) in Hill Park before the attack, according to the NIA's findings.

The two provided food, shelter and logistical support to the terrorists, who, on the fateful afternoon, selectively targeted and killed tourists based on their religious identity, making it one of the most gruesome terrorist attacks in recent memory, the agency said.

The NIA continues its probe into the terror network that enabled the brutal killings in Kashmir's tourism hub. (PTI)

Glaciers worldwide

and food production in South Asia. It is imperative that researchers, governments, and stakeholders work together to address these challenges.”

However, the experts stated that becoming carbon neutral was the only solution to preserve glaciers. “There are 18000 glaciers in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, but all of them are melting. The glaciers are melting in the entire Himalaya including J&K. In the past couple of years, the melting of glaciers has increased,” the experts said.

The melting of snowfall has increased as the temperature remains usually high, especially in the months of February, March.

Notably, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) confirmed that 2024 was the warmest year on record, based on six international datasets. The past ten years have all been in the Top Ten, in an extraordinary streak of record-breaking temperatures.

The experts have stated that with the increasing temperatures, the glaciers have been melting at a rapid pace and similarly, J&K too is losing 18-20 meters of a glacier every year.

“Until and unless we become carbon neutral, nobody can stop the melting of glaciers. The carbon emission is increasing, global emission is also high and in future it will be increased as per the study, but becoming carbon neutral only could help in stopping the melting of glaciers,” the experts said—(KNO)

CS calls gap

With respect to Telecom Connectivity, the Digital Bharat Nidhi scheme is going to be instrumental in bridging the digital divide, enabling access to online services and information. While 83 villages are currently covered, plans are in motion to connect the remaining 41 villages.

Similarly, the Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme is extending television access to border villages, facilitating access to news, entertainment and educational content. Out of 40,726 households in identified villages, 23,976 already have DTH television connectivity with efforts to connect others through this DTH instruments.

Similarly, the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) is envisaged to ensure reliable on-grid electrification, improving the living standards and supporting the local enterprises. Significant progress has been made with 46,257 out of 46,579 households already electrified across these blocks.

To ensure effective implementation, a comprehensive planning and saturation strategy is being adopted, which included finalizing village-wise saturation plans across the four thematic areas, ensuring convergence with relevant schemes besides strengthening inter-departmental coordination through regular meetings and constitution of Block and District-level teams for real-time monitoring.

Moreover, the VVP focuses on saturating key thematic areas to enhance connectivity, improve living standards and foster economic growth and cultural preservation in these regions.

Need permanent solution to border issue, Rajnath Singh tells China

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh batted for a permanent solution to border demarcation issue between India and China during his meeting with his Chinese counterpart Admiral Dong Jun.

The two met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting in Qingdao, China, Thursday.

The Defence Ministry in a statement said the two ministers held in-depth discussions on the need to maintain peace and tranquility along the Indo-China border.

Singh acknowledged the work being undertaken by both sides to bring back a semblance of normalcy in the bilateral relations.

He highlighted the necessity of solving the complex issues through a structured roadmap of permanent engagement and de-escalation, the statement said.

“Rajnath Singh also stressed on border management and to have a permanent solution of border demarcation by rejuvenating the established mechanism on the issue,” the statement added.

He emphasised the need to create good

neighbourly conditions to achieve best mutual benefits as well as to cooperate for stability in Asia and the world.

He also called for bridging the trust deficit created after 2020 Border stand-off, by taking action on ground, the Ministry said.

The two ministers agreed to continue consultations at various levels to achieve progress on issues related to disengagement, de-escalation, border management and eventual de-limitation through existing mechanisms.

Singh also briefed his counterpart on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor which he said was aimed at dismantling the terrorist networks in Pakistan. (ANI)

House Committee on salary enhancement of Legislators holds meeting

SRINAGAR: The House Committee, constituted to examine the demand for enhancement of salaries and allowances of legislators, today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was presided over by Committee Chairman, Surjeet Singh Slathia, which was attended by members including Ali Mohammad Sagar, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Sajad Gani Lone, Hasnain Masoodi, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, Arjun Singh Raju and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan.

During the meeting, the Chairman acknowledged the demand for a hike in salaries and allowances of legislators, ex-legislators and assistants, assuring that the matter will be considered positively.

He emphasized the need to adopt best practices from other States and Union Territories to address the issue effectively and at the earliest.

The Committee held a detailed discussion on the salary structures of legislators in other states. The members also raised concerns regarding pension-related benefits for ex-legislators and strongly advocated for addressing these issues.

Additionally, the demand for an increase in the allowances of assistants was deliberated upon, with members unanimously supporting the proposal for a revision, spokesperson said.

The Chairman urged all members to submit their suggestions in writing to contribute constructively to the report. He informed that a comprehensive report will be submitted to the Assembly ahead of the next session for appropriate consideration and action.

The meeting also discussed need for the revisions of house loan and car loans benefits to the legislators.

Issues related to fuel cap for daily use, hike in allowances including stationary, medical, house, sanctuary, Constituency and other allowances was also discussed during the meeting.

12% cybercrime linked to child exploitation, sextortion in J&K: SSP CICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's Crime Investigation Centre for Excellence chief, SSP Mohammad Yaseen Kichloo, on Friday said that 95% of cybercrime cases reported in the J&K involve bank fraud, while 12% are related to child exploitation, sextortion, and other forms of digital abuse.

Addressing a press conference, Kichloo said that most cyber fraud cases involve either financial theft or personal exploitation. “In 95% of the cases, bank accounts are drained. In 12%, we see instances of child exploitation, sexual harassment, or sextortion.”

He also said that cybercrime is becoming a serious threat, with evolving techniques targeting people through social engineering, malware, and even fake job offers.

He urged the public to remain alert, avoid sharing sensitive information, and report suspicious activity to cyber police.

Kichloo said cybercrime is a growing concern, and while the Crime Department is actively investigating and responding, more public awareness is crucial. “The common people may not be fully aware of the risks they face in the digital world. That is why I've come here from Jammu to raise awareness,” he said.

“Cybercrime has become a science in itself, and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has taken a great initiative by sanctioning cyber police stations in every district.

These stations are also supported by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA),” he added.

He said there is rise in “digital arrest” frauds where people receive fake calls impersonating police officers or government

officials, telling them they are under investigation or their family members are in trouble. “Recently, a few teachers in Kashmir were targeted through such digital arrest calls on WhatsApp.

Thankfully, they contacted us, and we saved them from being trapped,” he said.

“Such fraudsters use uniforms and official language to scare the victims. They pose as CBI officers, police, judges, or even bank officials. People should not fall for these tactics or share any personal details,” the SSP said.

Kichloo said that the cybercrime unit has developed a mechanism to recover stolen money if reported within the “golden hour” immediately after the fraud occurs.

“If someone contacts us within that golden hour, we can freeze the fraudulent transaction. Last year, we recovered nearly Rs 7 crore and returned it to people's accounts,” he said.

Emphasizing digital hygiene, he said people often neglect basic safety settings. “You can enable two-factor authentication on WhatsApp for extra protection.

Many people don't know this and later report their WhatsApp being hacked,” he said.

He added that even with all passwords and OTP protection, it's the human brain that gets compromised when someone unknowingly shares their OTP or PIN with a fraudster. “Never share your OTP or PIN, even if someone claims your Amazon parcel has arrived and asks for it. These are social engineering tricks,” he said.

He also warned about Facebook cloning, where fraudsters copy someone's profile picture and details, then send friend requests to contacts and trick them into sending money.

“People use high-pixel profile pictures and accept random friend requests. This allows fraudsters to easily clone accounts,” he said.

Spraking on newer threats, the SSP said that cybercriminals are now embedding malware into photos and PDF files. “You might receive a photo asking if you recognize a missing person. That image might contain malware or a virus that gets downloaded to your phone and compromises your data,” he said.

This technique is called steganography, where malicious code is hidden in a file that appears innocent. “Once you click on it, your phone's gallery, apps, and bank details can be compromised,” he added.

He also warned against clicking on suspicious PDFs, even if they appear to come from trusted sources like offices or colleagues. “Cyber fraudsters are now using such tactics to infect your device,” he said.

Speaking on two alarming cybercrime trends namely Pig Butchering and Cyber Slavery, SSP said that these are becoming very common in Kashmir. “In cyber slavery, children and youth are lured through fake placement agencies promising jobs abroad.

They are taken to borders of countries like Cambodia or Myanmar, where they are locked in rooms and forced to run cyber scams,” he said.

He appealed to parents and children to verify all job and placement agencies before trusting them. “Otherwise, your child may become a victim of cyber slavery.

These are real threats, and cases are being reported in J&K,” he said.

He warned people against charging their phones at public charging stations such as airports or restaurants.

“Hackers can compromise your phone even through a charger. Always carry a power bank and be cautious when giving your phone for scanning or photocopying,” he said.

He further cautioned against sharing personal mobile numbers and email IDs at restaurants or during online transactions. “These details are often used by cybercriminals to launch targeted attacks,” he said.

Speaking about the increasing number of sextortion cases, where victims receive unexpected WhatsApp or Messenger video calls.

“If answered, the fraudster on the other side posing as a semi-nude or nude girl or boy records the call and later blackmails the victim, threatening to post it online or send it to family members,” the SSP said.

“This is not the fault of the victim. But out of fear, people often end up paying money to the blackmailers. In such cases, don't panic. Immediately call 1930 or inform the nearest cyber police station,” he said.

Concluding with a message of reassurance, SSP said, “You are not alone. The cyber police are with you 24/7. If you face any problem, reach out to us through helpline 1930 or visit your nearest cyber police station.”

He added that cybercrime awareness is a top priority of the department, and under the guidance of the DGP, police are committed to being people-friendly and responsive.

“Through this awareness, we want to protect every citizen from cyber fraud. Your safety is our responsibility,” the SSP said. (KNS)

SCO Document Without Reference To Terrorism Not Acceptable: EAM

NEW DELHI: Union External Affairs minister S Jaishankar on Friday said India wanted a reference to terrorism in the outcome document of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) defence ministers' meeting, but it was not acceptable to one member country, an oblique reference to Pakistan.

Jaishankar said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's view on the matter was right since the main purpose of SCO was to fight terrorism and without a reference on it (on India's concerns on terrorism), he would not accept the outcome document.

Singh on Thursday refused to sign a joint communique of the SCO following the omission of the Pahalgam terror attack and not explicitly addressing India's concerns over Pakistan-backed cross-border terrorism.

At a conference of SCO defence ministers' conclave, Singh demanded inclusion of the terror attack in the communique while the Pakistani side pressed for having a paragraph on militant activities in Balochistan in an apparent attempt to blame New Delhi, top sources said.

The objective of SCO that runs through consensus was to fight terrorism, Jaishankar said in a press conference when asked about Singh's stand.

“In the discussion on outcome document of the defence ministers' meeting, one country — you can guess which one — said ‘no we don't want reference to that,’” he said.

The SCO runs by unanimity, Jaishankar said, but when one country said it will not accept any mention of terrorism, Singh communicated that the outcome document was not acceptable to India. (ANI)

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