



Pulwama Terror Attack A Deliberate Ploy To Ignite Unrest In India: PM

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Stating that the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack was a calculated move to trigger communal clashes in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday said that 'Operation Sindoor' sent a clear message that India would no longer tolerate nuclear blackmail or differentiate between terrorists and the governments that shelter them.

Addressing Lok Sabha, PM Modi said, "Operation Sindoor was launched in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, where terrorists killed people after asking their religion. The barbaric attack as an attempt to spark communal violence in the country. But people foiled the nefarious designs of the perpetrators."

"India thwarted the conspiracy through national unity and the country responded to the attack by targeting terror infrastructure across the border," he said, adding, "We destroyed terror sites deep inside Pakistan within 22 minutes to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam attack."

He said that Pakistan had some inkling of India's response and began issuing nuclear threats. "But when the actual action happened, they could do nothing," he said, adding, "Operation Sindoor showed the world that India would not bow down to nuclear threats. We have proved that nuclear blackmail will not work anymore," he said.

PM Modi said that India did not just



He said, "**Operation Sindoor** marked a shift in India's defence posture and showcased the strength of a **self-reliant military**. Made-in-India drones and missiles exposed **Pakistan's weapon** system."

strike only once. "From Sindoor to Sindhu, India has taken decisive steps," he said, referring to a broader regional response. He said Indian airstrikes inflicted severe damage on terror camps in Bahawalpur and Muridke. "No one could imagine we could reach there. Pakistani airbases are still in ICU," he said.

The Prime Minister said the entire country is celebrating the success of the 'Operation Sindoor' as a "victory celebration."

He credited the armed forces for pre-

cise and timely action. "This is a celebration of the willpower of 140 crore Indians," he said.

PM Modi said that earlier, masterminds of attacks were confident nothing would happen, but now they know India will respond. "They are losing sleep now," the Prime Minister said, adding that India has sent a strong message to those who hatch conspiracies.

PM Modi also said India's technological capability had played a decisive role. "This is the era of technology-based warfare. If we had not prepared over the past 10 years, the consequences could have been very different," he said.

He said, "Operation Sindoor marked a shift in India's defence posture and showcased the strength of a self-reliant military. Made-in-India drones and missiles exposed Pakistan's weapon system."

The Prime Minister while referring to the decision to halt "Operation Sindoor" on May 10, said, "Questions raised about the operation and the armed forces were based on misinformation spread by Pakistan, which some individuals within India unfortunately echoed."

He recalled past military operations, including the surgical strikes and the Balakot airstrike, emphasizing that both missions were completed with precision and success. "In Operation Sindoor, our goal was very

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Operation Sindoor Across LoC, Mahadev in valley: Amit Shah in LS

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Amid the ongoing debate on Operation Sindoor, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday told the Lok Sabha that all three terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack were killed in a joint operation by the Indian Army, CRPF, and Jammu & Kashmir Police on July 28 in the Srinagar forests, marking a major success both in cross-border retaliation and in counter-terror operations within the valley.

The operation, named Mahadev, neutralised Suleman alias Faizal, Afghan, and Jibrin—all described as A-category militants of the Lashkar-e-Taiba.

"In a joint Operation Mahadev, the Indian Army, CRPF and J&K Police have neutralised three terrorists who were involved in the Pahalgam terror attack," Shah told Parliament.

He said the bodies of the three terrorists

were brought to Srinagar, where they were identified by individuals who had been detained earlier. These individuals,



according to Shah, were those who had supplied food and shelter to the attackers. "All three terrorists—Suleman, Afghan and Jibrin—were killed in yesterday's operation. The people who used to supply food to them were detained earlier. Once the bodies were brought to Srinagar, they were identified by those detained

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Terrorists Are Being Eliminated One By One: DGP

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JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhakar on Tuesday said the terrorists are being eliminated one by one in ongoing operations across the region.

"They (terrorists) have been operating here for the past four years. Operations



are going on continuously. One by one, they are being eliminated," he told reporters at a function here.

The DGP was responding to

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If Pakistan Can't Handle Terror, India Will: Rajnath Singh

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said India is prepared to assist Pakistan in countering terrorism if



Islamabad is unable to act on its own.

During a discussion on Operation Sindoor in the Rajya Sabha, Singh said Indian forces are capable of handling threats not just within the country, but also across the border. "If Pakistan finds itself unable to deal with terror elements, India is willing to provide support," he said.

Rajnath said that Operation Sindoor was carried out as a direct response to the April attack in Pahalgam, which resulted in the deaths of 26 people. He said three individuals responsible for that attack had been located and killed.

The Defence Minister said the military action followed a meeting convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the heads of the armed forces. He said during the meeting, the PM gave the go-ahead for an appropriate response.

According to Singh, the goal of the operation was to destroy camps and structures used for planning and executing attacks. He said the aim was also to signal that India does not accept the use of violence across borders.

Singh told the House that the operation had now been halted. "However, if further incidents take place, the military action could resume," he said.

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Hopes, Dreams Of Youth Can Only Flourish In Peaceful Environment: LG

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Attends Kashur Riwaaj 2025, mega event celebrating Kashmir's Culture in B'la

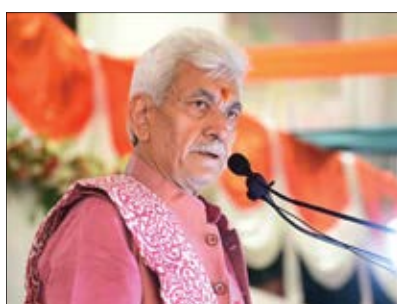
BARAMULLA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the Kashur Riwaaj 2025, a mega event celebrating Kashmir's Culture at Baramulla.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his heartiest congratulations to 20,000 youth of Baramulla for making history and securing world record title.

"By coming together for Ladishah and Calligraphy, you have set a new world record. This accomplishment will serve as an inspiration across the sections of society to reconnect with their heritage, embrace their culture, and uphold

their values," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also lauded the Indian Army and District Administration Baramulla for the commendable endeavor.



our.

"I salute the dedication and commitment of our Army. They are not only safeguarding the nation's unity and integrity but also actively serving as a custodian of this region's vibrant cultural heritage

and consistently striving to fulfil the dreams and aspirations of our youth. Unity in diversity is a hallmark of India's great culture. The

"I salute the **dedication** and commitment of our Army. They are not only **safeguarding** the nation's unity and integrity but also actively serving as a custodian of this region's vibrant **cultural heritage** and consistently striving to fulfil the dreams and **aspirations** of our youth."

Indian Army has consistently worked to harness this power for societal benefit, creating

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Amarnath Yatra set to cross 4 lakh mark today



SRINAGAR: The ongoing Amarnath Yatra is all set to surpass the four lakh mark, as the cumulative number of pilgrims, who have performed darshan at the holy cave has reached 3,93,401 as of

Tuesday, official figures reveal.

According to, a total of 7,203 pilgrims offered prayers at the holy cave shrine on Tuesday amid tight security arrangements and a spiritually charged atmosphere.

The day's pilgrim turnout included 5,025 males, 1,352 females, 109 children, 47 sadhus, 1 sadhvi, 1 transgender person, and 668 personnel from the security forces. The total footfall of pilgrims since July 3 has now reached 3,93,401.

Officials said the yatra has continued smoothly with a good daily turnout

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Comprehensive Terror Crackdown, Ironclad Border Defense Active: MoS Home

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the Lok Sabha about the measures taken by the Government of India to strengthen internal and border security and to curb internal and cross-border terrorism.

In a written reply to a question, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, outlined a multi-dimensional strategy focusing on operational preparedness, legal enforcement, surveillance and international cooperation.

Rai said that while 'Police' and 'Public Order' fall under the State List as per the Constitution, the Centre has taken several initiatives to support state governments and national agencies. These include the enhancement of the counter-insurgency grid, deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), and modernization of security equipment.

Capacity-building programs are regularly conducted for state police forces,

law enforcement and cyber investigation agencies.

To strengthen border security, the gov-



ernment has implemented the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), which uses surveillance tools like sensors, ground radars, UAVs, and satellite monitoring. Strategic infrastructure projects such as roads, tunnels,

bridges and check posts are being developed, and coordinated patrols are carried out with neighboring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

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Legal provisions under the

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CS Dulloo Reviews Readiness For 'Sampoornata Samman' Awards

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting of the Planning Department to review preparations for the upcoming Region Territory-level 'Sampoornata Abhiyan Samman Samaroh'.

The event is being organized to felicitate districts and blocks that have shown exceptional performance in achieving saturation under the nationwide Sampoornata Abhiyan.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Planning Department, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma; Director General, Economics & Statistics; Director, Planning; and other senior officers. Deputy Commissioners of the Aspirational Districts participated via video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary also took stock of preparations for district-level felicitation events being organized to honour the frontline workers and block-level officers who played a crucial role in imple-

mentation of the programme. He interacted with the Deputy Commissioners individually, reviewed their progress and directed them to ensure



proper arrangements and dignified conduct of these events.

Dulloo further reviewed the overall performance of districts and blocks under the Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks programmes. He assessed national-level rankings, status of key indicator saturation, and commended the remarkable efforts of the administrative

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Joint Committee Formed To Study Birds Related Hazards At Jammu Airport

JAMMU: Authorities on Tuesday constituted a joint committee to study birds related hazards around Jammu airport, which will submit its report within a week, an official said.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar has formed the committee under Additional District Development Commissioner, Jammu, Sher Singh, with members from Jammu Development Authority, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Cantonment Board Jammu, Airport Authority of India, Jammu and Air Force Station Jammu, the official said.

The committee has been asked to conduct field visits and submit a report within a week, suggesting measures to prevent birds related hazards at the airport.

The committee was set up at a meeting chaired by Kumar to discuss measures for preventing birds related hazards, the official said.

Representatives of the concerned departments at the meeting

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...DSEJ celebrates 5 years of NEP

Div Com hails inclusive, future-ready approach of National Education Policy-2020

Inaugurates exhibition on innovative Teaching- Learning Material

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, addressed an event to commemorate five impactful years of the transformative National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 organised by the Directorate of School Education Jammu, in collaboration with SCERT J&K and Samagra Shiksha at Polytechnic Jammu.

The event witnessed participation from stakeholders from across the School Education Department of Jammu & Kashmir, including teachers, students, heads of institutions, educational administrators, and representatives from JKBOSE, JKSCERT, DIETs, Colleges of Education, and other allied institutions.

The Divisional Commissioner inaugurated the exhibition of innovative Teaching-Learning Materials (TLMs) developed by teachers and SCERT, showcasing the creativity and learner-centric approach promoted under NEP 2020. In his address, the Divisional Commissioner spoke on the

transformative spirit of NEP 2020 and its far-reaching impact on the education

its focus on holistic development of school children, the integration of vocational



system. He highlighted the improvements NEP 2020 has brought over previous education policies, especially in terms of its learner-centric, inclusive, and future-ready approach. He emphasized the relevance of the policy in the context of Jammu & Kashmir and called attention to

education, promotion of mental health and emotional well-being, and inclusion of Children with Special Needs (CwSN).

The Divisional Commissioner urged the teaching fraternity to become agents of change, shaping the future of students by implementing NEP 2020 in its true spirit.

Director School Education Jammu Naseem Javed Choudhary presented an overview of the implementation of NEP 2020 in the Union Territory. He also underscored the department's efforts in training teachers, revamping assessments, promoting multilingualism, and setting up school complexes for resource sharing and academic enrichment.

A special highlight of the event was the distribution of educational aid kits to Children with Special Needs (CwSN), who were specially invited guests, reflecting the Department's continued emphasis on equity and inclusion.

Joint Director, SCERT, Sindhu Kapoor, Director Academics JKBOSE, Dr Sudhir Singh, Ajeet Sharma, Chief Education Officer Jammu, representatives from Government College of Education DIET Jammu, Samagra Shiksha, JKUT, along with students, ZEOs, HOLS, teacher educators, and officials from various wings of the School Education Department were present.

Deputy Commissioner Doda flags off Doda- Chamba JKRTC Bus Service

'Move aimed to boost regional connectivity, tourism, pilgrimage'

DODA: In a significant step towards improving regional connectivity and promoting tourism, Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh today flagged off the much-awaited JKRTC bus service from Doda to Chamba (Himachal Pradesh), via Baderwah.

The flag-off ceremony took place here at the DC Office Complex in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur, Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar Manhas and DySP Traffic Sarabjeet Singh.

The service is expected to benefit commuters, tourists, students, pilgrims, and traders by providing safe, reliable, and affordable public transport between Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that the launch of this inter-state bus service fulfills a long-standing demand of the public and will significantly

ease travel between Doda and Chamba. He said the initiative would especially benefit devotees traveling to the holy

contribute to economic growth by boosting religious tourism, trade, and people-to-people connections between the two



shrine of Mindhal Chandi Mata in Himachal Pradesh by providing them a safe, reliable, and affordable mode of transport.

The DC further announced that a return bus service from Chamba to Doda will also be started soon to ensure smooth two-way connectivity. He emphasized that such transport initiatives not only improve public convenience but also

states. The launch of this JKRTC bus service is part of the district administration's broader efforts to improve transport infrastructure and provide better facilities to the residents of remote areas. The initiative reflects the commitment of the administration towards responsive governance and regional development.

JKEDI commences 3 fresh batches of Summer Internship Program for 133 UG students

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship

a 10-day internship designed to fulfill the NEP-mandated



Development Institute (JKEDI) on Tuesday inaugurated three fresh batches of Summer Internship Program (SIP), welcoming 133 undergraduate students at its Bari Brahmana campus. The initiative underscores JKEDI's commitment to fostering experiential learning and strengthening industry-academia linkages in line with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The participating students, enrolled in undergraduate programs at Government Sri Pratap Memorial Rajput (SPMR) College, Jammu, will undergo

60-hour experiential learning component.

The program is structured to enhance students' understanding of entrepreneurship, innovation, enterprise creation, and research. Interns will engage in interactive sessions led by seasoned professionals, participate in business simulations, and explore real-world entrepreneurial challenges and solutions.

Key focus areas of the internship include fundamentals of research methodology and literature review, Orientation on the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27,

preparation and presentation of internship reports, awareness of various self-employment schemes operational in the Union Territory of J&K, career guidance on pursuing entrepreneurship as a viable option.

The program was inaugurated by Joint Director JKEDI Chand Kishore Sharma.

Meanwhile 38 students completed their summer internship program at JKEDI District Centre Jammu on July 28, 2025.

The participants will also gain insights into the organizational structure and functional verticals of JKEDI, with hands-on exposure to its various programs and initiatives.

By bridging classroom knowledge with practical application, this initiative aims to cultivate critical thinking, problem-solving capabilities, and an entrepreneurial mindset among the students.

It aligns with JKEDI's broader vision of nurturing future-ready talent and contributing meaningfully to the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir and beyond.

KVK Ramban starts 15 day certificate course on INM for Krishi Udhymis

RAMBAN: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Ramban and SKUAST Jammu started a 15 day certificate course (training) on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) for Krishi Udhymis of district Ramban at Dhalwas.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu Dr B.N. Tripathi and organized by Senior Scientist & Incharge, KVK Ramban Dr Raj Kumar under the supervision of Dr Amrish Vaid, Director Extension SKUAST Jammu.

Chief Agricultural Officer Dr Vinay Kumar Jandial, DAO Kuldeep Raj Bassan, and District SMS Ramban Jyoti Parkash Sharma, were also present at the inaugural function of the programme. Trainees/Krishi Udhymis from different Blocks of district Ramban enrolled for the certificate course joined this training programme.

The programme started with a welcome address by Senior Scientist & Incharge, KVK Ramban and briefed the participants about the content and outline of the 15 days programme schedule and

highlighted the importance of the programme for the aspiring

components of Natural Farming. The CAO threw light on



fertilizer dealers. He added that the organization of the 15 day INM course in the Ramban district will benefit not only the input dealers but also the farmers of the Ramban district.

On the first day of the programme, Dr Raj Kumar delivered a lecture on essential plant nutrients and their role and proper nutrient management to increase production and productivity of crops. He laid emphasis on use of balanced nutrient management by using recommended doses of fertilizers for different crops. Besides he deliberated and demonstrated the various

the handling, stocking and transportation of fertilizers. He laid emphasis on use of balanced nutrient management by using recommended doses of fertilizers for different crops. The DAO deliberated upon the current scenario of fertilizer use in district Ramban. He also laid emphasis on the role of Krishi Udhymis.

The DL SMS briefed the participants about the nutrient content of different manures and fertilizers. Various queries of the participants were also answered by the organizer. Technical session ended with the vote of thanks.

Deputy Commissioner reviews implementation of HADP, JKCIIP Projects in Poonch district



POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIIP) in the district.

The meeting aimed to strengthen inter-sectoral coordination and ensure the timely and effective execution of key government initiatives to benefit the farming community.

During the session, officers from various departments presented updates on the physical and financial progress under HADP, along with their future action plans. Discussions also focused on enhancing agricultural productivity, promoting allied sectors such as fisheries, floriculture, sericulture, and strengthening the overall agricultural economy in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner held detailed deliberations on the status of major schemes like KCC, KKG, Daksh Kisan. He reviewed the set targets, achievements so far, and identified implementation gaps. He directed the concerned departments to take proactive measures to bridge any deficiencies and ensure maximum acceptance of application and farmer coverage under these schemes.

Highlighting the importance of a collaborative approach, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on inter-departmental coordination, robust field-level monitoring, and direct farmer engagement to realize the goals of sustainable and inclusive agricultural development. The meeting was attended by the Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Sericulture Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries, Assistant Floriculture Officer, Area Grading and Marketing Officer, and the District Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Poonch.

Independence Day-2025

JMC finalises civic activity plan for National event

Commissioner reviews preparations, announces Green-Clean City initiatives

JAMMU: A high-level review meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, to finalize preparations for the Independence Day celebrations and plan various civic activities in the city.

The meeting decided that the JMC will organize a series of events featuring public awareness, environmental conservation and community participation. A major highlight of the celebrations will be a citywide plantation campaign aimed at enhancing green spaces across Jammu. The drive will involve planting trees in parks, roadside areas, government institutions, and other public spaces to promote a sustainable and eco-friendly urban environment.

To further promote cleanliness and civic responsibility, a cleanliness-themed marathon will also be organized.

The event will encourage citizen involvement and spread awareness on keeping the city clean, in line with the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Additionally, a range of community-level awareness programs will be conducted, covering topics such as solid

waste management, water conservation, animal welfare, floriculture, sanitation,

Revenue and Enforcement Subah Mehta, Joint Commissioner Health and Sanitation



and digital initiatives. Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner emphasized that Independence Day is not only a celebration of national pride but also an opportunity to reflect on civic duties and contribute to the city's development.

Senior officials from various departments presented their plans and suggestions during the meeting.

All departments were directed to ensure close coordination for the smooth execution of the planned events. The Commissioner urged all stakeholders and residents to participate actively in the upcoming initiatives to make Jammu cleaner, greener, and more citizen-centric.

Among others, Joint Commissioner

MVD conducts enforcement drive in Surankote, Challans 25 Vehicles for violation of rules

SURANKOTE: Acting on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner and Transport Commissioner Jammu and Kashmir, the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Poonch carried out an intensive enforcement drive in the Surankote area of the District.

During the operation, the enforcement team challaned 25 vehicles for various violations of the Motor Vehicles Act. A total fine of 38,500 was collected from offenders on the spot. The drive aimed to ensure road safety, compliance with traffic norms, and promote responsible driving among vehicle operators. In addition to routine checks, the MVD team also addressed and resolved a fare-related complaint reported from the Kallar Kattal area of Tehsil Surankote, ensuring passenger rights were upheld. Officials stated that such drives will continue in the coming days to curb traffic violations and improve transport discipline across the district.

Energetic U-19 Cricket Trials ignite Chowgan Ground - Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament begins at Kishtwar

KISHTWAR : The Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar today set rolling an energetic and action-packed Inter-Zonal District Level Trial-cum-Selection Cricket Tournament for U/19 Boys here on the iconic Chowgan Grounds. This tournament aims to

identify and select the most promising cricketing talent from across various zones of the district for upcoming higher-level competitions.

Young cricketers showcased their skills with passion and determination making the atmosphere electric with



competitive spirit and sportsmanship.

The matches are being conducted under the guidance of District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jaffer Haider Sheikh, and the close supervision of Zonal Physical Education Officers ensuring transparency and discipline in the selection process.

While addressing the participants, DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh emphasized the importance of discipline, dedication, and fair play in sports.

He encouraged the young athletes to stay focused on both physical fitness and moral values stating.

GoC-in-C Northern Command briefs Lieutenant Governor on Operation Mahadev

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command today called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha and briefed him on Operation Mahadev. He was accompanied by Lt. Gen. Prashant Srivastava, General Officer Commanding (GOC) 15 Corps.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Army, CRPF, and J&K Police for the successful Operation Mahadev. This crucial operation, executed in the challenging Dachigam forest, resulted in the elimination of three Pakistani terrorists responsible for the heinous Pahalgam terror attack.

GOC-in-C Northern Command informed that search operations had been ongoing in South Kashmir to Dachigam forest areas for the past few months.

There were persistent reports about terrorists hiding in this area. Recently, based on specific intelligence inputs, special teams were activated.

A joint operation was then launched by the Army, Jammu & Kashmir Police and Central Reserve Police Force, with the significant assistance of intelligence agencies, leading to the elimination of Pakistani terrorists.

CS for early operationalization of LG's Sainik Sahayta Kendras

Reviews modalities for its launch, effective functioning

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chaired a high-level meeting to discuss the modalities for operationalizing the newly established Lieutenant Governor's Sainik Sahayta Kendra (SSK) in the Civil Secretariat at Jammu and Srinagar.

The Kendra, set up through a recent order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), is envisioned as a dedicated grievance redressal and support platform for serving the soldiers associated with Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; Secretaries of Tribal Affairs Department (TAD), Information Technology and Law and Deputy Commissioners either in person or virtually.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the proposal presented by the Administrative Secretary heading the Kendra. He emphasized the need for a robust and responsive system to cater to the needs of the soldiers.

To ensure smooth implementation and oversight, he directed for constitution of a Steering Committee headed by the Principal Secretary, Home Department. The Commissioner Secretary, GAD will



serve as a member and the Secretary, TAD, as the Member Secretary, being the administrative head of the Kendra.

The Home Department was designated as the Nodal Department for the Kendra, acting as the primary liaison between civil and military establishments.

The Chief Secretary also directed for appointment of an Additional Secretary-level officer in the Home Department to exclusively handle the matters related to the SSK.

Highlighting the importance of technology-driven grievance redressal, Dulloo instructed the concerned

departments to develop a secure digital portal for registration, tracking and feedback of grievances.

He directed that the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) be onboarded for early development of the online portal.

He set a deadline of August 20 for launching the portal after conducting the necessary security audits and user trials.

The Chief Secretary stressed that the portal must provide real-time access to the applicants, their Commanding Officers and concerned authorities from respective

states/UTs to monitor and update the status of grievances in a transparent and time-bound manner.

Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti, underscored the need for holding awareness workshops to familiarize the stakeholders with the objectives and functioning of the Kendra.

He also suggested that all States and Union Territories designate the senior nodal officers to facilitate smooth coordination and resolution of grievances of soldiers posted in or hailing from J&K. Secretary, TAD, Prasanna Ramaswamy G, who is also the in-charge of the Sainik Sahayta Kendra, provided an overview of its establishment.

He noted that the cell is tasked with addressing the domestic and service-related grievances of soldiers serving within J&K as well as those from J&K serving elsewhere in the country.

He informed the meeting that the workflow for the Kendra's operations is being finalized and strict timelines will be set for grievance redressal. As per the GAD order, senior JKAS officers and necessary support staff, including data entry operators, have already been posted for effective functioning of the Kendra.

With the upcoming launch of the portal, he said, the SSK will begin serving its intended purpose in letter and spirit.

DC Srinagar reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar- Muft Bijli Yojana

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo (Chairman Monitoring and Management Committee PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana) chaired a meeting here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to discuss the plan for



Model Solar Village in the district.

The meeting discussed the threadbare plan related to the selection of one Model Solar Village in Srinagar district, a component of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY) which focuses on establishing Model Solar Village in the district and raising awareness about the scheme aimed at installing rooftop solar plants.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that the initiative is aimed at promoting sustainable energy solutions by establishing Model Solar Villages that will serve as a benchmark for harnessing solar energy to meet local electricity needs.

During the meeting, DC also took a firsthand appraisal of the progress made in installation of Solar Rooftops under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in all four Electric Divisions of the district.

He urged KPDC Engineers to work in mission mode and make coordinated efforts to accelerate the pace and progress in the scheme implementation to achieve set targets in time bound manner.

Rana lays foundation stone for Rs 594 cr WSS Samba under AMRUT; inaugurates 6 rural WSSs

FE News Network

SAMBA: Marking a major stride in the Omar Abdullah-led Government's mission to enhance access to drinking water in Samba town, Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, laid the foundation stone for Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Samba Town.

The project for augmentation of water supply in Samba Town is being taken up under AMRUT 2.0. The cost of the project is estimated at 594 crore, targeting 530 Functional Household Tap Water Connections.

The scheme once completed will ensure safe drinking water for all 17 wards thereby benefiting 30,000+ citizens.

While laying the foundation stone, Rana reiterated government's commitment to work towards a resilient, sustainable and equitable urban infrastructure.

"Water Supply Scheme is expected to significantly improve the quality of life for the local



residents, ensuring reliable and safe drinking water. This project is not just about improving the water supply but about ensuring a healthier, more dignified life for every resident of Samba," Rana said while highlighting the Government's broader goal of sustainable urban development under AMRUT 2.0.

Later, Jal Shakti Minister also inaugurated six Water Supply Schemes in rural Samba.

The five projects sanctioned under the Jal Jeevan Mission and one under UT CAPEX Budget, are critical infrastructure initiatives aimed at addressing the present and future drinking water needs

of several villages in Samba.

The Water Supply Schemes included Devaka, Daboh, Gangeri Jamoda, Sandhi-II Sangwal-II and Dabri. With a sanctioned cost of 1775 lakh, the schemes are designed to significantly bolster water security and resilience in these villages.

Speaking at the inauguration, the Minister reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of Omar led government to provide safe and adequate drinking water to every rural household.

He noted that projects like these are essential lifelines for communities, particularly in water-stressed and underserved

areas.

The Minister commended the officers of Jal Shakti Department and the implementing agencies for their coordinated efforts in execution of these projects. He emphasized that the schemes align closely with the vision of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to create climate-resilient rural infrastructure and ensure inclusive development at the grassroots level.

Key components under the schemes included sump tanks, Ground Service Reservoirs (GSRs) of varying capacities, comprehensive network of rising mains and distribution pipelines, rapid sand filtration plants, installation of advanced pumping machinery and erection of an Electric Sub Station to ensure uninterrupted water supply. A significant aspect of the project is the expansion of household-level water access. Under the schemes, 673 Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) have been provided to bolster water supply in the area.

RDD presents draft Rural Sanitation Policies before House Committee on Environment

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: The Rural Development Department today presented the draft sustainable sanitation and fecal sludge management policy for rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir before the House Committee on Environment.

The meeting, held at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar, was chaired by Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and Chairman of the House Committee on Environment, Abdul Rahim Rather, and co-chaired by the Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javed Ahmad Dar.

Chairman of the Environment Committee, M.Y. Taragami and Members of the Committee including MLA Anantnag, Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed; MLA Uri, Dr. Sajjad Shafi; MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar; MLA Chanapora, Mushtaq Guroo; MLA Devsar, Peerzada Firoz Ahmed; MLA Kokernag, Zafar Ali Khatana; and MLA Gulab Garh, Khurshid Ahmed, attended the meeting.

Commissioner Secretary Rural Development Department, Babila Rakwal; Director General Rural Sanitation, J&K, Anu Malhotra; Secretary Assembly J&K, Manoj Kumar Pandit; Director Rural Development Department, Shabir Hussain Bhat; and



other senior officers were also present in the meeting. A detailed presentation on the contours of the draft policy was given to the Committee members, outlining the proposed operational framework, institutional arrangements, funding mechanisms and monitoring systems for rural sanitation. The policy aims to establish structured operations and maintenance systems, ensure safe containment and treatment of faecal sludge, and promote environmental sustainability

in rural areas. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said, "Sanitation is a critical aspect of public health, and it is our responsibility to ensure that our rural areas have access to safe and hygienic sanitation facilities. I am confident that the policies we are developing will make a significant impact on the lives of our people." The Speaker appreciated the RDD Minister for taking the initiative of holding a consultative process before formal notification of the policy. He observed that this approach would help incorporate key suggestions from stakeholders, making the policy more practical and better aligned with ground requirements. The Chairman of the House Committee, while appreciating the draft policy, informed that the Committee would further deliberate upon it and finalize the suggestions to be incorporated before the policy is notified. During the discussions, the members of the Committee suggested ensuring active community participation in implementing and monitoring the policy, starting sludge management and treatment plants on a pilot basis before scaling them up to all blocks in a phased manner, creating mass awareness on safe sanitation practices, strengthening village-level institutions for operations and maintenance, and ensuring convergence of schemes to secure adequate funding support for rural sanitation infrastructure.

CS Dulloo reviews 'SPREAD' initiative to boost sustainable tourism in emerging destinations

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, reviewed and discussed the operational roadmap for Sustainable Promotion and Revamping of Emerging Alternate Destinations (SPREAD) initiative, aimed at positioning Jammu & Kashmir as a year-round, eco-sensitive and economically vibrant tourism



hub.

The meeting, held in this regard, was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism Department along with Principal Secretary PDD, Principal Secretary Finance, Principal Secretary PWD, Commissioner Secretary H&UDD, Commissioner Secretary Forests, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce, Commissioner Secretary RDD, MD JKTD, Directors Tourism of Jammu and Kashmir besides other senior officers concerned.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the need to decongest the overburdened tourist destinations by developing the sustainable and lesser-explored alternatives, leveraging J&K's unique topography and cultural diversity. He stressed the importance of balancing the 3Es, Economy, Ecology and Equity, in all tourism development interventions.

Emphasizing the pivotal role of local communities, the Chief Secretary called for their active engagement in management and

economic activities linked with tourism. He also underscored the need to create targeted incentives to attract private sector investment in these emerging destinations.

The Chief Secretary also stressed the importance of establishing a robust institutional framework to achieve the initiative's objectives. These included sustainable development of circuits featuring leisure, adventure, religious and niche tourism components.

ACS Tourism, Dr. Ashish Chander Verma, revealed that the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, will support the initiative, with the execution being routed through J&K

ERA. He informed that dedicated Project Implementation Units (PIUs) will be institutionalized to implement infrastructure, waste management, ecological conservation and livelihood projects sustainably.

In her presentation the MD, JKTD, Shreya Singhal elaborated that the SPREAD initiative envisions the holistic development of emerging tourist destinations in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions of J&K.

It was also revealed that a structured 10-point agenda focusing on formulating world-class master plans for each site, strengthening public infrastructure and resilient governance mechanisms, encouraging private sector investment and community participation would be ensured. Additionally, enhancing skill-building,

strategic marketing and environment safeguards and establishing strong project monitoring and advisory mechanisms are going to be put in place under this government programme.

Sheep Husbandry Kashmir organizes seminar on role of Para-Veterinary Professionals



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: The Sheep Husbandry Department, Kashmir, in collaboration with the All J&K Sheep and Wool Workers Association, today organized a day-long seminar at Lal Mandi, here, focusing on the vital role of Para-Veterinary professionals in the department.

The event was presided over by the Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives & Elections, Javid Ahmad Dar while MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone and Principal

Secretary Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, graced the occasion as Guests of Honour.

During the seminar, the President of the Association highlighted the immense dedication of Para-Veterinary professionals, particularly their work in high-altitude and difficult terrains during harsh winters. He also projected several issues faced by the workforce, including a demand for additional remuneration for services rendered under challenging conditions.

Speaking on the occasion, Javid Dar lauded

the commitment of Para-Veterinary employees and assured the gathering that their genuine demands would be examined and addressed on priority. He emphasized that livestock plays a pivotal role in strengthening the rural economy and acknowledged the critical contribution of Para-Veterinary professionals in safeguarding the livestock wealth of farmers.

MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone, also appreciated the dedication of the Para-Veterinary staff and underscored their role in ensuring effective service delivery at the grassroots level.

On the sidelines of the seminar, the Minister flagged off eight new pickup vehicles to be deployed across districts of the Kashmir division to strengthen the department's field operations and improve service delivery to farmers. The seminar also witnessed participation of Director Sheep Husbandry, Kashmir, Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah; Director Agriculture, Kashmir, Sh. Sartaj Ahmad Shah; Joint Director (Farms), Dr. Ajay Sudan; and other senior officers of the department along with para vet staff and officials.

DDC Kulgam encourages progressive farmer under HADP

Mission to transform farming through HADP gains momentum



FE NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: In line with the mission to transform the agricultural landscape by promoting high-tech and adaptive farming practices, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, interacted with Qayoom Ahmad Allie, a progressive farmer from Wanigund village, to acknowledge and encourage his achievements under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

No local terrorist roots now in J&K, only Pakistani infiltrators: Amit Shah

'Terror incidents drop sharply post-Article 370; no talks with Hurriyat; over 1,000 questioned in recent crackdown; key suspects identified through sketches'

FE News Network

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has significantly declined since the abrogation of Article 370. He added that there are no longer any local roots of terrorism, with terrorists now infiltrating from Pakistan.

While overall terror attacks and casualties have dropped, the number of terrorists neutralised has seen a dramatic 162% rise from 2015 to 2025, Shah said while addressing the Lok Sabha, as per the news



agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Citing data, he said that from 2004 to 2014, the region witnessed over 7,200 terror incidents, leading to the deaths of 714 civilians and 1,068 security personnel. "From 2015 to 2025, the number of terror incidents dropped to 1,525. Civilian deaths during this period stood at 324, while 542 members of the security forces lost their lives," he said.

The Home Minister attributed these changes to enhanced security operations and the government's firm decision to revoke Article 370, claiming the move dismantled the "ecosystem" that previously supported terrorism in the region.

Editorial

No More Dossiers, Only Decisive Action

The recent success of Operation Mahadev, in which security forces neutralized three terrorists responsible for the Pahalgam attack, marks another significant victory in India's relentless fight against cross-border terrorism. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's detailed statement in Parliament not only highlights the precision of our security forces but also underscores the government's unwavering commitment to zero tolerance for terrorism. The elimination of Suleman, Afghan, and Jibran, all A-category terrorists demonstrates the effectiveness of joint operations involving the Indian Army, CRPF, and Jammu & Kashmir Police. The recovery of Pakistani-made items, including voter IDs and chocolates, along with weapons whose ballistic reports confirm their use in the Pahalgam attack, leaves no doubt about the external sponsorship of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Home Minister's poignant recollection of meeting a woman widowed just six days after her wedding serves as a grim reminder of the human cost of terrorism. Yet, his assertion, "Modiji neutralised those who sent the terrorists, and our forces killed those who committed the killings" reflects a new India that refuses to be passive in the face of terror. Shah's remarks on Operation Sindoor, India's retaliatory airstrikes on terror launchpads in Pakistan following the Pulwama attack, reinforce the government's doctrine of proactive counter-terrorism. Unlike past administrations that relied on dossiers and diplomatic protests, this government has shown that terrorist safe havens across the border will not remain untouched. The precision strikes on nine terror sites and the disabling of Pakistan's air defence systems sent a clear message: India will no longer tolerate proxy warfare.

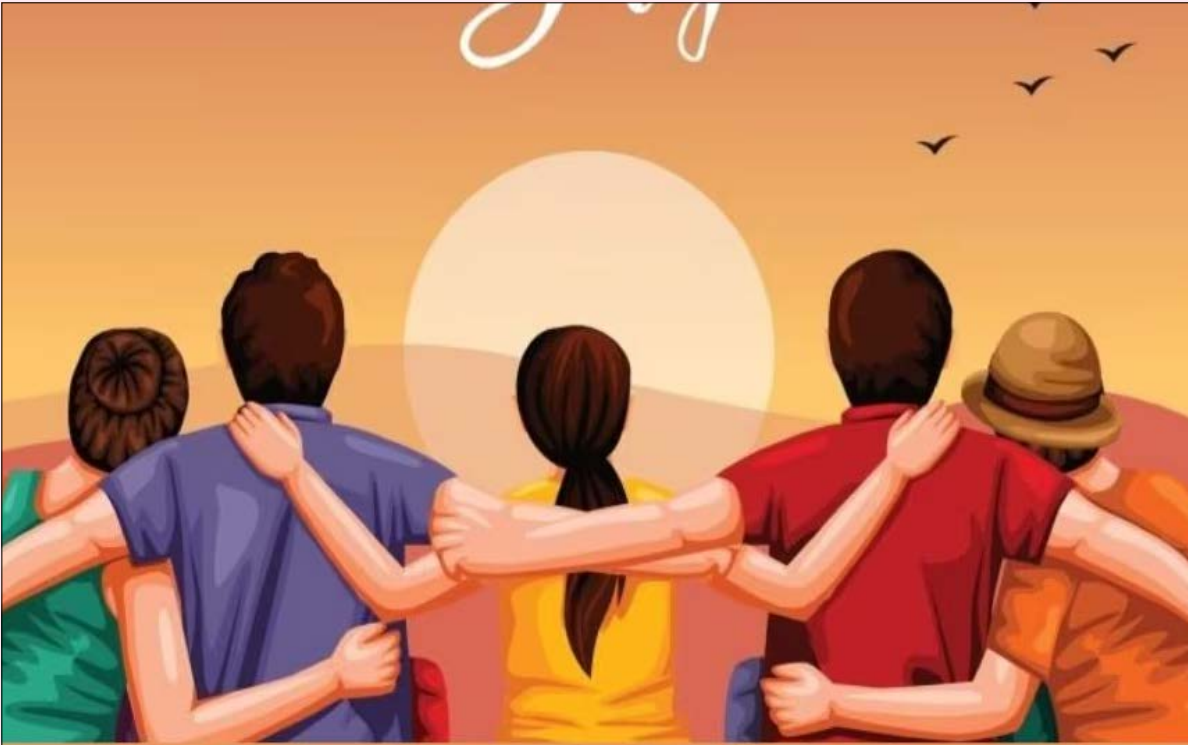
Moreover, Shah's revelation that Pakistan was forced to call for a ceasefire after suffering heavy losses, without third-party mediation, exposes the neighbour's military and moral defeat. India's restraint in targeting only military installations, while Pakistan attacked civilian areas, further highlights the ethical superiority of India's strategic approach.

The Home Minister's sharp remark, "Pakistan is Congress's mistake" may be politically charged, but it reignites a necessary debate on historical accountability. Whether or not Partition was inevitable, the reality today is that Pakistan remains a hub of terrorism, and India's current leadership has made it clear that appeasement and inaction are no longer options. The success of Operation Mahadev and the broader strategy of preemptive strikes signal a paradigm shift in India's security policy. The elimination of terrorists, combined with strong intelligence and forensic precision, sets a new standard for counter-terror operations. However, the fight is far from over. Terrorism will only be defeated by strength, not submission. And India, under its current leadership, has chosen the path of strength.



Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

The International Friendship Day is celebrated on 30th July as per the resolution adopted by United Nations in 2011. It was decided to forge a strong bond of friendship among people of various countries irrespec-



tive of their race, colour, gender, religion, ethnicity and other such factors. A bond that is boundless. Perhaps, friendship could be summarized thus. The virtue of friendship has been appreciated by one and all over the world. Friendship is a faithful and loyal relationship between two or more person living anywhere in the world. We cannot leave our whole life alone and need a faithful relationship to someone to live happily called friends. Friendship is universal, and with social media so present nowadays its hard not to stay close and up to date with those special people, even if they don't live in the same town anymore. Everyone needs a good and loyal friend to share bad or good life events, enjoy happy moments and share unbearable events of the life. Emphasizing on the importance of friendship, the great ancient Greek Philosopher and scientist exclaimed, "Man is

by nature a social animal; an individual who is unsocial naturally and not accidentally is either beneath our notice or more than human. Society is something that precedes the individual. Anyone who either cannot lead the common life or is so self-sufficient as not to need to, and therefore does not partake of society, is either a beast or a god. "

There are people to whom friendship is everything. Without a friend, life becomes unbearable for them. A saviour in troubled times, a friend in need becomes an invaluable asset. It is a nice experience to cherish

in today's world. It is a reminder that human solidarity is essential to promoting lasting peace and fostering sustainable development. Getting a best friend in the life is very hard for everyone and if one gets it, he/she is really bestowed with the true love of God.

With the world becoming a global village, thanks to the transformation brought about by information technology, Indians too have joined the bandwagon of worshippers of friendship through the net and other means.

Friendship Day is all about celebrating the bond of friendship. Connections are like plants which you need to take care of. You

The main purpose of International Friendship Day is to promote the concept of friendship across different backgrounds and cultures in order to promote peace all over the world. It is also for reminding the general public of the importance of maintaining friendship and making new friends for improving* the overall well-being of a person. The International Day of Friendship is an important opportunity to confront the misunderstandings and distrust that underlie so many of the tensions and conflicts in today's world...

need to constantly nourish your connections with different individuals in order to maintain the friendship or build it.

Friendship Day is all about celebrating the bond of friendship. It is an occasion to turn the pages of life and reminisce the wonderful moments that you have spent with your pals in the school, college or workplace. Friendship between different people from different countries and with different cultures can inspire peace efforts and assist in building bridges between communities. Friendship is important because it helps break down barriers and connect people with diverse cultures and backgrounds. It even plays an important role in promoting peace in different cultures.

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Sunnah Of Nikah Buried Under Social Pressure



Waris Nissar

Qur'an and Sunnah call for simplicity, character, and righteousness in marriage — but societal expectations, especially in Kashmir, have made Nikah a material burden that delays and discourages unions.

Introduction

Nikah, or Islamic marriage, is one of the most sacred and celebrated institutions in Islam — a bond designed by Allah to bring peace, love, and moral security to individuals and society. Yet in today's world, and particularly in Kashmir, it has become one of the most challenging Sunnahs to fulfill. What was once a simple, blessed act has been transformed into a complicated, expensive ordeal dominated by materialism, social pressure, and unrealistic expectations. This shift has created emotional, psychological, and spiritual harm — especially for youth — and stands in stark contrast to the guidance found in the Qur'an and the life of the Prophet Muhammad .

What the Qur'an Really Says About Marriage

Islam does not promote wealth, beauty, or social status as prerequisites for marriage. Instead, it commands believers to value character, modesty, and righteousness. Allah says in the Qur'an: "And marry the unmarried among you and the righteous among your male and female slaves. If they are poor, Allah will enrich them from His bounty." (Surah An-Nur, 24:32) This verse directly affirms that poverty is not a valid reason to delay or deny marriage. Yet, many families today — particularly in Kashmiri society — insist on fixed income, government jobs,

and family assets as essential criteria before considering a proposal. The spiritual and moral traits Islam teaches us to prioritize — taqwa (God-consciousness), humility, good manners — are often ignored.

Character Above Wealth — A Forgotten Criterion

The Prophet Muhammad gave us a timeless principle to assess potential spouses: "If a man whose religion and character you are pleased with comes to you [with a proposal], then marry him. If you do not, there will be turmoil on Earth and great corruption." (Tirmidhi) Sadly, this advice is rarely followed. Many grooms are rejected simply because they do not own a house or car. Many young women are dismissed because of their skin tone, caste, or family background. These rejections aren't just un-Islamic — they are damaging to individuals and communities. What matters in Islam is not what a person owns but who they are. Their honesty, their prayers, their trustworthiness — not their pay scale or property. "Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you." (Surah Al-Hujurat, 49:13) This Qur'anic truth should be the foundation of our marriage decisions, not worldly status.

The Kashmiri Crisis: Overaged and Overlooked

In Kashmir, the crisis of delayed marriages is growing. Many men and women remain unmarried into their thirties not because they lack faith or desire, but because they cannot meet the unreasonable demands of society. Young men with strong character, deen, and education are overlooked because they do not yet have "settled jobs." Young women face constant judgment, stigma, and rejection for things they cannot control. This "overage" culture is producing psychological trauma, depression, and frustration. Families are divided, youth feel hopeless, and communities lose their moral balance. Worse still, this delay opens doors to immorality and

temptation — something Islam warns against. The Prophet advised: "O young people, whoever among you can marry, let him marry, for it helps lower the gaze and guard chastity." (Bukhari and Muslim) When we make Nikah difficult, we make sin easy.

The Curse of Extravagant Weddings



Another serious barrier is the obsession with extravagant weddings. In Kashmir, weddings are often defined by how lavish the feast is, how heavy the gold, and how grand the guest list. Families spend lakhs on functions, dowry, and ceremonies — money that could instead support a new couple's actual life. Islam urges simplicity. The Prophet said: "The most blessed marriage is the one with the least expenditure." (Bayhaqi) The Prophet married off his daughters with simple dowries and never allowed culture to overshadow Islam. Yet today, families fall into debt just to meet social expectations. In doing so, we block the very barakah (blessing) that Nikah is meant to bring.

What Needs to Change

The solution is not hidden — it's in the Qur'an and the life of our Prophet . As a society, we must change our standards. We must begin to ask: • Is he honest? • Is she kind? • Does he pray? • Does she observe modesty? • Will they support each other in faith? Not — does he have a car? Is her family well-known? What's the bank

balance? What caste? Our elders, scholars, khathees, and journalists must actively promote this reform. Mosques should facilitate simple Nikah ceremonies. Families must unite to reject lavish demands and prioritize ease, sincerity, and compatibility. The youth must also be educated to value spiritual growth over societal approval.

Conclusion

Nikah is a gift from Allah, not a transaction to be negotiated with gold, status, or lineage. When we return to the original spirit of marriage in Islam — rooted in love, mercy, and mutual respect — we will see stronger families, health-

ier minds, and more stable societies. Kashmir, with its proud Islamic heritage, must lead by example and revive the prophetic model of marriage: simple, sincere, and rooted in faith. Let us not be the generation that made Nikah so hard that zina (sin) became easy. Let us be the generation that brought it back to what Allah

In Kashmir, the crisis of delayed marriages is growing. Many men and women remain unmarried into their thirties not because they lack faith or desire, but because they cannot meet the unreasonable demands of society. Young men with strong character, deen, and education are overlooked because they do not yet have "settled jobs."

intended: a blessing, not a burden.

But change will only begin when we stop blaming "society" and start correcting ourselves. Society is not greater than Allah — and if we keep using it as an excuse, we are placing it above His command.

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J&K shines at Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2025, New Delhi

Sakeena Itoo highlights success of "Paigam" NEP mela across J&K

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The prestigious Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2025 was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, with a vision to further the transformative goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The event was inaugurated with an address by Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, who emphasized the Centre's commitment to inclusive and innovation-driven education in India.

From the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, participated in the event. She was accompanied by Secretary School Education, J&K, Ram Niwas Sharma, Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Dr. G. N. Itoo, SPD Samagra Shiksha and two UT topper Students of INSPIRE MANAK Awards from HSS Pahloo, Kulgam, J&K.

In an interaction with the media during the programme, several parents expressed appreciation for the Union and J&K Governments' proactive efforts to disseminate awareness about NEP 2020 among all stakeholders, especially through grassroots initiatives.

In her remarks, Sakeena Itoo commended the committed efforts of higher



officials and Heads of Institutions (Hols) for ensuring mass participation in the "NEP Mela - Paigam", which was held across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir. She noted that the initiative has successfully carried the message of NEP 2020 to

students, teachers, and communities at large.

Secretary School Education, J&K, Ram Niwas Sharma, reiterated the Government's strong resolve for effective and timely implementation of NEP 2020 in the Union

Territory. He underlined the focus on quality, inclusivity and innovation in education as per the national vision.

Dr. G. N. Itoo, Director School Education Kashmir, who also participated in the Samagam, closely monitored the conduct of NEP Mela 2025 in Kashmir from New Delhi.

Speaking to the media, Dr. Itoo stated that "an extensive mega programme under the title 'Paigam' was conducted across Jammu and Kashmir to spread awareness regarding NEP 2020. In the Kashmir Valley alone, nearly 400 events were held, witnessing participation from over 42,000 students, 3,000+ teachers and Heads of Institutions, along with a large number of community members."

The NEP Mela featured debates, discussions and cultural programmes centered around NEP 2020, aiming to empower the learners and educators with the knowledge and spirit of the policy.

The participation of J&K's top officials and young achievers at the national stage underlines the region's active and commendable role in transforming its educational ecosystem under the vision of NEP 2020.

DC Budgam Inaugurates Inclusive Education Distribution Camp At HSS Soibugh

FE NEWS NETWORK

Over 100 CWSN beneficiaries receive assistive aids under Samagra Shiksha to promote inclusive learning

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat inaugurated a distribution camp for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) under the Inclusive Education component of Samagra Shiksha at Higher Secondary School Soibugh.

The event was organised by district administration in collaboration with the Education department Budgam.

More than 100 CWSN beneficiaries were provided with customized aids and appliances to support their educational journey. These included wheelchairs, CP (Cerebral Palsy) chairs, collars, hearing aids, smart sticks, braille kits, teaching-learning material (TLM) kits.

Besides, Joint Director Education, Kashmir; CEO Budgam and other senior officers from the Edu-

cation and Social Welfare department were also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the event, DC emphasised that inclusive education is not only a constitutional mandate but a moral responsibility. He said this initiative is a message of em-

education, adding "District administration will ensure that no child in Budgam is left behind."

Dr Bilal highlighted the government's focused efforts under Samagra Shiksha to provide inclusive support to marginalized groups, especially children with special needs.

He urged parents, teachers, and community leaders to actively contribute towards building a learning environment rooted in empathy, equity, and accessibility.

DC called for sustained collaboration among institutions, families, and civil society to promote inclusive education in both letter and spirit.

He said, "We must work hand-in-hand to ensure that children with special needs are not only enrolled but fully engaged and empowered throughout their educational journey."

Dr Bilal said this distribution camp is aimed at facilitating mobility, sensory support, communication, and learning enhancement for specially-abled children, ensuring their effective participation in regular schooling.



powerment, dignity, and opportunity.

He said every child, regardless of their physical or cognitive challenges, deserves the right to quality

Anantnag celebrates 5 years of National Education Policy

FE NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: To mark the 5th anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Chief Education Officer Anantnag today organised a distribution camp of aids and appliances for specially-abled children & awareness programme under the Inclusive Education component of Samagra Shiksha, J&K.

The event was held at Government Higher Secondary School (Boys), Bijbehara, and witnessed participation from students, teachers, officials, children from educational zones Bijbehara & Sirigufwara, besides civil society members.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Anantnag highlighted the significance of the NEP 2020 in ensuring equitable and inclusive education for all learners, especially children with special needs. He stated that the policy is being implemented in letter and spirit across all schools in the district to promote holistic development and equal opportunities for students from all backgrounds.

"NEP 2020 lays strong emphasis on inclusive and accessible education, and we are committed to reaching every child, including the specially-abled, with quality learning facilities," CEO said.

District Education Planning Officer (DEPO) Anantnag, in his address, elaborated on the key provisions of NEP and the steps taken for its effective implementation in the district. He emphasized the transformative nature of the policy and its potential to reshape the education landscape of Jammu & Kashmir.

Likewise Padma Shree Javaid Tak spoke about the problems of the specially-abled and the provisions in NEP for them. The event concluded with the distribution of mobility aids, learning tools, and assistive devices among 61 Children including Wheelchairs, Crutches, Hearing Aids, Tricycles, Braille Kits, Smart Phones etc. to several specially-abled children, enabling them to better participate in academic and co-curricular activities.



Committee On Privileges Meets In Srinagar

Deliberates On Constitutional Rights, Protocol Of Legislators

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Privileges of the Jammu and Kashmir Legisla-



tive Assembly convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to discuss matters related to the constitutional privileges and entitlements of legislators.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Nizam-ud-Din Bhat and attended by members of the committee including Vikram Randhawa, Javaid Riyaz (Bedar), Salman Sagar, Sheikh

ment (GAD), M. Raju; Secretary, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Department, Achal Sethi; and Secretary, Hospitality & Protocol Department, Neeraj Kumar and Secretary Legislative Assem-

all appropriate platforms. He stressed the need for a well-defined framework to safeguard the dignity, autonomy and effective functioning of elected representatives.

The Committee resolved that a detailed report concerning the privileges and protocol issues of legislators be compiled and submitted within a stipulated time-frame.

The Chairman expressed confidence in collective efforts and commitment of the Committee members, reaffirming their role in upholding the integrity of the institution. He assured that the Committee would cooperate and perform within its defined mandate to continue contributing for the public welfare.

The meeting witnessed active participation from members, who shared insightful suggestions and feedback on various issues.

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'J&K faces variation of 700 MWs power during day time'

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In the backdrop of low voltage issues during the day time, 'Jammu and Kashmir is facing a variation of nearly 700 Megawatts (MWs) of power' in comparison to other hours.



Official figures reveal that in view of low voltage during the day hours from 9Am to 2Pm, Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited has a Available Transfer Capability (ATC) and Total Transfer Capability (TTC) of 2700/2800 MWs of power.

However, during the other hours except for 9Am to 2Pm, there is an ATC and TTC capacity of 3400/3500 MWs of power—highlighting the need of improving the grid and other major infrastructures that can help in increasing the voltage during the day hours.

According to the official details "J&K SLDC is also sharing (transfer capability limit) ATC/TTC base-case on a regular basis as per CERC approved procedure."

"However, due to low voltages during the daytime, the ATC and TTC figures for day time were recently reviewed and revised figures were communicated to J&K SLDC. Due to low voltages in the Kashmir valley area, the transfer capability limits (ATC/TTC) are 2700/2800MW during 09-14hrs and 3400/3500MW for other than 09-14hrs duration," it reads.

The documents say that "As of now the schedule of the state control area is not being restricted to ATC, and sometimes it is crossing the assessed ATC and TTC limits."

"However, in future as is the case with Punjab which is separate bid area, schedule of J&K state may be restricted upto their ATC and TTC limits upon formation of separate bid area," it reads.

Keeping in view the issues, the authorities have said, "Expeditious actions are required from J&K side to improve the low voltages in Kashmir valley." (KNO)

NIT Srinagar faculty member Dr. Moiz Khan honoured with 'National Geospatial Emerging Faculty Fellow Award'

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has conferred the National Geospatial Emerging Faculty Fellow (Interdisciplinary - Jury) Award 2025 to Dr. Mohd Moiz Khan, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar.

The award was presented during the 'Open-Source GIS Day' celebrations held at Prof. B. Nag Auditorium, Victor Menezes Convention Centre, IIT Bombay.

The award, instituted by the FOSSEE (Free/Libre and Open Source Software for Education) - GIS (Geographic Information System) Project under the National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT), Ministry of Education, Government of India, recognizes Dr. Khan's exceptional contribution to open-source geospatial research in areas such as waste management, green energy, and urban sustainability in the Srinagar Smart City with a particular focus on Dal Lake conservation, in collaboration with SKUAST-K.

The award was presented in the presence of A.S. Kiran Kumar, former Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), who graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

The primary goal of FOSSEE GIS at IIT Bombay is to raise awareness about open-source geospatial software, promote the use of Indian satellite data (such as ISRO-NRSC's Bhuvan, VEDAS, MOSDAC, and Bhoonidhi portals), and support indigenous technologies like NavIC (ISRO-SATNAV).

Reacting to the national recognition, Director, NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, said that it is a proud moment for the entire NIT Srinagar fraternity. "It is a proud day for NIT Srinagar. Dr. Moiz Khan's award shows how research from our institute is making a real difference in tackling environmental and social challenges," he added.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, also congratulated Dr. Moiz and stated that this award is a testament to Dr. Khan's dedication and impactful research in the geospatial domain. It also highlights NIT Srinagar's commitment to promoting open-source and policy-driven scientific work that aligns with national missions,

he said.

Dr. F. Q. Mir, Head of the Chemical Engineering Department, congratulated Dr. Moiz Khan on receiving the award. He praised him for using open-source geospatial tools to solve important environmental and urban problems.

"This is a proud moment for our department. His work will inspire young researchers to take up meaningful, real-world projects," Dr. Mir added.

Dr. Moiz's projects align with the objectives of the National Geospatial Policy 2022 and Indian Space



Policy 2023, emphasizing the use of NavIC, Indian satellite data, and open-source platforms to solve India-specific problems.

In his message, Dr. Moiz Khan said that he is humbled and honoured to receive this recognition from a prestigious institution like IIT Bombay.

"This award encourages further collaboration and innovation using geospatial science to contribute meaningfully to environmental preservation and sustainable urban development in Kashmir," he added.

The National Geospatial Awards are a flagship initiative of the FOSSEE GIS project at IIT Bombay. They aim to recognize contributors to geospatial technology across various fields while encouraging the use of open-source GIS tools.

This year, nominations came from across the country. Awardees were chosen by a national jury comprising experts from ISRO, NRSC, the Survey of India, and top academic institutions.

Pulwama Terror

clear to dismantle the core infrastructure of terrorism. We struck the main base involved in recruitment, funding, and training of terrorists. Despite numerous challenges, our forces ensured the operation met its objectives.”

He told the House that during the operation, Pakistan pleaded for it to be stopped. “Their (Pak) Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) contacted us, saying we had hit them hard and urged us to call off the attack. But from the beginning, we had made it clear there would be no escalation from our side unless provoked.”

The PM also dismissed suggestions that any international leader pressured India to halt the offensive. “No head of state asked us to stop. On the night of May 9, the US Vice President attempted to contact me several times. I was in meetings with our armed forces and responded later. When we finally spoke, he warned me that Pakistan might launch a significant counterattack. I told him clearly: if Pakistan dares to strike, our response will be far greater and we will not return bullets with bullets, but with cannons.”—(KNO)

Amit Shah

by our agencies,” he said.

The Home Minister added that Suleman was an A-category commander of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, while Afghan and Jibran were also listed as A-grade terrorists by the security agencies.

He mentioned that the terrorists had Pakistani voter ID numbers and that Pakistan-made chocolates were recovered from them

On forensic confirmation, Shah said rifles seized from the site matched those used in the Pahalgam attack. “Three rifles were seized from the terrorists. The ballistic report is in my hand, and it has been confirmed by six experts that these were the same rifles used to attack our citizens,” he said. The weapons recovered included two AK-47 rifles and one M-9 carbine.

The HM said forensic testing of cartridges had already been conducted before the operation, and after the seizure of weapons, further tests were carried out in Chandigarh to confirm the link.

He referred to the arrest of those who provided shelter to the attackers. “The NIA had already arrested those who gave them shelter. Those who fed them were detained,” he said.

Recounting his meeting with families affected by the Pahalgam attack, Shah said, “I met the affected families. I saw standing before me a woman who had been widowed just six days after her wedding. I can never forget that scene.”

He added, “Modi ji neutralised those who sent the terrorists, and our security forces killed those who committed the killings.”

Referring to Operation Sindoor, the Home Minister said the Cabinet Committee on Security met on April 30, following which the operation was launched on May 7 between 1:04 am and 1:24 am. “Nine terror sites in Pakistan were destroyed. No Pakistani civilians were killed,” he said.

On May 9, Shah said, 11 of Pakistan’s air bases were targeted, and eight were hit in a way that disrupted the country’s air defence systems. “Our job was completed at 1:26 am on May 7. This is not Manmohan Singh’s government. We will not sit quietly and send dossiers,” he said.

Speaking on the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, Amit Shah told Parliament that six of Pakistan’s radar systems were destroyed during the Indian operation. “While Pakistan targeted residential areas, India refrained from retaliating in kind and instead focused solely on military targets,” he said.

“We only attacked their air bases and ruined their attacking capabilities. Our armed forces were intact, and their attacking capacities were destroyed,” he said.

Shah added that, facing significant losses, Pakistan had no choice but to call for a ceasefire. “On May 10, the Pakistani DGMO called our DGMO, and we paused the conflict at 5 pm without any third-party mediation,” he said.

He also commented on the historical context of Pakistan, saying, “Pakistan is Congress’s mistake. If they had not accepted partition, there would have been no Pakistan today.”—(KNO)

Terrorists

questions about the ongoing operations and the number of terrorists killed.

In response to another question about the number of terrorists currently active in Jammu and Kashmir, he said the figures cannot be disclosed in the public domain.

Prabhat avoided a direct response to a question on ‘Operation Mahadev’ and said the country’s top leaders have already spoken on the matter.

In a major breakthrough, the Army’s elite para commando earlier on Monday gunned down the alleged mastermind of the Pahalgam terror attack along with two of his associates in an encounter in a forest area on the outskirts of Srinagar.

Sulleman alias Asif, who is believed to be the mastermind of the April 22 attack, was killed after the security forces launched a surprise action, codenamed ‘Operation Mahadev’. (PTI)

Amarnath Yatra

despite weather-related challenges in the higher reaches. “We expect the total number to cross 4 lakh tomorrow if the trend continues,” an official said.

Meanwhile, the 27th batch of 1,490 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu early Monday morning and has reached the twin base camps in the Valley.

According to the details, the convoy departed in two segments and was escorted by CRPF and J&K Police personnel to ensure safety throughout the journey.

The batch comprised 1,262 men and 186 women, along with 42 sadhus and sadhvis—37 sadhus and 5 sadhvis. The yatris were accommodated in 61 vehicles, including 35 buses, 7 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 18 light motor vehicles (LMVs), and 1 two-wheeler.

The convoy was split between the two main routes leading to the holy cave. The first group, consisting of 327 pilgrims in 16 vehicles, proceeded towards the Baltal base camp in Ganderbal district via the shorter but steeper 14-kilometer route. The second group, comprising 1,163 pilgrims in 45 vehicles, took the traditional 48-kilometer Pahalgam route

in Anantnag district.

The annual Amarnath Yatra, which commenced on July 3 and is scheduled to conclude on August 9, has been proceeding smoothly, drawing participation from across the country—(KNO)

Hopes, Dreams

opportunities for youth to strengthen national unity through literature, music, art, and sports,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated the commitment of Government of India and J&K Administration, under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, to empower Youth of J&K. With a whole-of-government approach, we are working to align the aspirations of youth of Jammu Kashmir with the nation’s aspirations, he said.

“Hopes and dreams of youth can only flourish in a peaceful environment. Pakistan-backed terrorism and separatism had robbed Jammu and Kashmir of peace, progress, and the youth’s aspirations. Now, Jammu and Kashmir is rapidly moving forward,” the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude on behalf of the nation and J&K UT to Army, Paramilitary and Police force for successfully executing Operation Mahadev, in which three Pakistani terrorists involved in the April 22 heinous Pahalgam terror attack were eliminated in Dachigam forest.

He also called upon the youth to rise above language, sect, and religion and collectively counter those who spread public unrest.

“There are disturbing elements in society who attempt to justify terrorism and the killing of innocent lives and try to held hostage the aspirations and dreams of lakhs of youth. Such individuals need to be unmasked,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He further sought the cooperation of young generation in the fight against drug menace and to bring the youth who have fallen prey to drug addiction back into the mainstream.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor announced Guru-Shishya Parampara programme of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and Calligraphy course in collaboration of JKAA-CL with University of Kashmir.

J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages with University of Kashmir is going to launch a 6-month and one year Certificate/ Diploma course in Calligraphy.

Under the JKAA-CL’s Guru-Shishya Parampara programme, Gurus to train 4-8 shishyas in extinct arts and will receive Rs 10,000 per month. The Shishyas will also get Rs 5000 per month, while assistants will receive Rs 7500 per month.

Principal Secretary Culture, Shri Brij Mohan Sharma; GOC 19 Infantry Division, Major General Paranvir Singh Punia; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri; DIG North Kashmir, Shri Maqsood-Ul-Zaman; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Shri Minga Sherpa; senior officials of Security Forces, Civil and Police Administration; office bearers of Universal Record Forum, Artists, prominent citizens and youth in large number were present. (DIPR)

If Pakistan

Rajnath said the decision to stop the operation was taken after Pakistan’s military leadership reached out with a request to end the hostilities. India, he said, agreed to a pause, not a permanent end.

Singh said the operation was planned in such a way that it would only target those directly involved in terrorist activities. Civilian areas were deliberately left out of the operations to avoid unintended casualties, he said.

The Defence Minister said that allowing Pakistan to be part of a major counter-terrorism panel at the international level was questionable. “The global community should review any financial support being sent to Pakistan, as such funds were not being used for development but for supporting hostile elements,” he said.

During the discussion, Rajnath said that a time may come when those living in areas under Pak-

istan’s control may voluntarily express their desire to be a part of India.

The Rajya Sabha session was briefly disrupted as some opposition members protested and later walked out after being denied a chance to speak—(KNO)

Joint Committee

discussed the issue of birds hazard originating from surrounding areas of the airport, the official said, adding they also took note that accumulation of garbage and dumping of waste attract birds near the airport.

The divisional commissioner directed the JMC, JDA and CEO, Cantonment Board Jammu, for implementing a robust garbage disposal mechanism in the areas surrounding the airport and conduct awareness drives for prevention of garbage dumping. (DIPR)

Comprehensive

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 and the NIA Act, 2008 support prosecution, the reply reads, adding that technology tools like artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and facial recognition are employed to detect networks, while online spaces are monitored to prevent radicalization.

In response to a question on financial support to terrorists, Rai said a Combating Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Cell has been operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs since 2011. The NIA hosts a Terror Funding and Fake Currency Cell, and the FICN Coordination Centre (FCORD) facilitates information sharing among agencies. Financial channels, NGOs, and hawala networks are under continuous surveillance.

Regarding sanctions, Rai stated that actions under UN Security Council Resolutions 1267 and 1373, and Section 51(A) of the UAPA, 1967, include freezing of assets, travel bans, and restrictions on fund transfers for designated individuals and organizations.

India has Joint Working Groups on Counter-Terrorism with 26 countries and participates in 5 multilateral forums: ASEAN, BIMSTEC, BRICS, EU, and QUAD-CTWG. It also maintains a stand-alone dialogue with Tunisia.

On the role of intelligence agencies, the MoS Home said national and state-level agencies operate jointly through the Multi Agency Centre (MAC) and State Multi Agency Centres (SMACs), sharing real-time intelligence. Coordination among central forces, state police, and technical intelligence units has been increased, along with the strengthening of State Intelligence Bureaus—(KNO)

CS Dulloo

machinery. He emphasized the need for sustained progress and focused intervention to ensure long-term development.

Highlighting the impact of the three-month Sampoonata Abhiyan campaign (July 4–September 30, 2024), the Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts of the officers and field teams. The campaign, launched by NITI Aayog, focused on achieving 100% saturation in six critical indicators spanning health, nutrition, education, agriculture, infrastructure and livelihoods.

Providing a detailed overview, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma informed that both Aspirational Districts of J&K Baramulla and Kupwara have achieved saturation across all six key indicators. Based on performance, the recognitions in the shape of Gold Medals shall be awarded to DDCs of Aspirational Districts that had saturated all six indicators including that of Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora, Kulgam and Reasi. Besides, the Silver Medals had been proposed for the DDCs of Pulwama, Ramban and Kishtwar districts with saturation of five indicators and a Copper Medal to DDC of Rajouri district for achieving saturation in three indicators.

Among the Aspirational Blocks, Tulail, Singhpora, Manzgam, Keran and Thakrakote have accomplished full saturation. Three others Marwa, Khari and Ichegoza have saturated five indicators, while Khwas achieved saturation in three.

Noteworthy performance improvements were also recorded. Ichegoza (Pulwama) improved its

composite score by +9.13 points, reaching Rank 2 in March 2025. Tulail (Bandipora) rose by +6.66 points, securing Rank 8 with a score of 68.90.

The campaign positively impacted around 12.64 lakh people nearly 10.3% of the population across 44 identified backward blocks, driving progress in sectors such as agriculture, health, education, water supply, irrigation, and power infrastructure.

To honour these achievements, the Sampoonata Abhiyan Samman Samaroh will recognize District Development Commissioners, block-level officers and frontline workers.

For successful conduct of the event, NITI Aayog has sanctioned Rs 10 lakh for the UT-level function and Rs 5 lakh to each district for organizing district-level felicitation programmes.

A key highlight of the event will be the launch of “Akanksha Haat”, a week-long initiative aimed at showcasing local innovation and entrepreneurship. NITI Aayog has provided an additional Rs 5 lakh per district to support this initiative across the aspirational districts of the country. (DIPR)

DC Srinagar reviews progress of projects under Scheme for Revival, Restoration, Preservation of Heritage/ Assets

SRINAGAR: A meeting of District Level Co-ordination-cum-Implementation Committee (DLIC) on development, restoration and preservation of heritage assets in the district was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo here on Tuesday at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex.

The meeting discussed threadbare the action plan prepared for carrying out the restoration, revival, preservation and maintenance of Architecture and Heritage of Religious Places/

Heritage Sites in Srinagar in the financial year 2025-26.

Among other, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad;



Executive Engineer of R&B, Dy CEO, Officers from Archives, Culture and other departments attended the meeting.

At the outset, DC was given a detailed overview about the DPRs regarding the all the identified religious places/ heritage sites under “Scheme for Revival, Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage in Jammu and Kashmir”.

On the occasion, DC reviewed the efforts aimed at the restoration, revival, preservation and maintenance of various architectural and heritage sites in Srinagar district.

He highlighted the significant cultural value of Srinagar’s architectural heritage, underscoring the critical need to preserve these historical assets as symbols of the district’s identity and legacy.

DC emphasized that the projects to be undertaken for development are vital for preserving the district’s heritage value, promoting tourism, and enhancing livelihood opportunities. He instructed officials to expedite the submission of remaining Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of the pending projects for approval of the government.

He also instructed the concerned officials to expedite the work on the projects, approval for which has already been received during the last financial year. (DIPR)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION ZAINPORA

Email.xenrandbzainapora@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM/ADDENDUM

It is notified for the information of all concerned that please read:

1. **Name of Item as:** Providing of 01 light Vehicle i.e Toyota Innova/ Mahindra Scorpio / Bolero with Driver for official Purpose in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Zainpora

Instead of

Providing of 01 light Vehicle i.e Toyota Innova/ Mahindra Scorpio / Bolero excluding Driver for official Purpose in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Zainpora

2. **Class of Contract as:** Travel / Passenger Light Vehicle union / a registered light vehicle owner with passenger permit and valid Licensed Driver

Instead of

Travel / Passenger Light Vehicle union / a registered light vehicle owner with passenger permit

3. **Chapter-II (Condition 3) as:** The Supplier has to quote rate on day basis in consonance with rates as in vogue in state motor garage only for the vehicle with driver.

Instead of

The Supplier has to quote rate on day basis in consonance with rates as in vogue in state motor garage for the vehicle only without driver.

4. **The bidder should Upload Valid Driving License of the driver besides other documents prerequisite for the bidding process.**

For the NIT No. 09/ZNP/RnB/e-tendering/2025-26 Dated: -24-07-2025.

No:R&B/ZNP/DIV/1600-04

Dt: 28-07-2025

DIPK-4455/25

Dt: 29-07-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Zainpora

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION SRINAGAR EXTENTION NOTICE

Corrigendum (II) to this office e-NIT NO: AMRUT/JSMDS/e-NIT-03 of 06/2025

Name of Works: “Design, Engineering, Providing, Welding, Laying/Fixing in proper position, Testing and Commissioning of 630mm Diameter HDPE Rav Water intake Pipeline in Nigeen Lake from proposed offtake point near Ashai Bagh Bridge up to the sump (delivery point) of Stage 1st Pumping Station of WSS Pokhribal located at northern bank of Nigeen lake under AMRUT 2.0, including successful trial run for a period of one month on Turnkey/EPC basis”. The scope shall include all necessary Ancillary works Such as Jointing, Pipe Supports, Alignment, placing in proper position in and under water, Leak Testing, Hydro Testing, Required Appurtenances, and Restoration of Site Conditions to Original or Improved State, as applicable.

Due to poor response, the critical dates of above e-NIT are extended as below.

01.	Bid down load end date	01-08-2025 up to 04:00 PM
02.	Bid Submission end date	01-08-2025 up to 04:00 PM
03.	Date and time of opening of bids	02-08-2025 at 02:00 PM

Rest all the terms and conditions shall remain the same as laid down in the e-NIT No. referred to above

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
Jal Shakti Mech. Circle South, Srinagar.
Addl. charge of Executive Engineer,
Jal shakti Mech. Division, Srinagar.

No: JSMDS/CC/Amrut-2.0/1621-32

Dated: 26/07/2025

DIPK-4451/25 Dt: 29-07-2025

GOVERNMENT OF(J&K) JAMMUL& KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer

Jal Shakti (PHE)Deptt.

Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan,Nowshara Srinagar.

Extension Notice 4th.

Subject: Construction of Bore Well at Chapran District Bandipora.

Reference: This office Fresh e-NIT No.16-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./ 2581-91, dated: 19-06-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_279213_1.

Due to “No Response” for the above mentioned works advertised vide-NIT No. and Tender ID No’s under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 15-07-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	06-08-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	07-08-2025 11.00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

Sd/=
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
1 Water Division Srinagar.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./3993-4002

Dated: 28-07-2025

DIPK-4447/25 Dt: 29-07-2025

India is taking steady, confident steps towards oil self-sufficiency: Petroleum Minister

NEWDELHI: India is witnessing a renewed surge in oil and gas exploration, particularly in offshore regions, underscoring the country's vast untapped hydrocarbon potential. In a written reply to a starred question in the Rajya Sabha, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, stated that the opening of nearly one million square kilometres of erstwhile 'No-Go' offshore areas in 2022 has been a landmark development. This move has unlocked significant exploration frontiers, especially in deepwater and frontier regions such as the Andaman-Nicobar (AN) offshore basin, and has been instrumental in triggering the current momentum in offshore activity.

Since 2015, Exploration and Production (E&P) companies operating in India have reported 172 hydrocarbon discoveries, including 62 in offshore areas. The Minister highlighted the geological significance of the AN basin, which lies at the junction of the Andaman and Nicobar Basins within the Bengal-Arakan sedimentary system. The tectonic setting, located at the boundary of the Indian and Burmese plates, has led to the formation of numerous stratigraphic traps that are conducive to hydrocarbon accumulation. This geological promise is further amplified by the basin's proximity to proven petroleum systems in Myanmar and North Sumatra. The

region has attracted renewed global interest following significant gas discoveries in South Andaman offshore Indonesia, underlining the geological continuity across the region.



While the favourable geology sets a strong foundation, Puri emphasized that the real breakthrough has come from the government's strategic policy interventions and a new exploration approach. The revised strategy has enabled aggressive acquisition of seismic data, initiation of both stratigraphic and exploratory drilling, and increased engagement with international exploration partners, several of whom have shown keen interest in the newly accessible frontier blocks.

National Oil Companies have planned to

drill four offshore stratigraphic wells, including one in the AN basin. These scientific wells are designed to test geological models, validate the existence of petroleum systems, and help de-risk future commercial exploration. Although commercial accumulations have not yet been confirmed, these efforts mark a major step forward in systematic and knowledge-driven hydrocarbon exploration.

In a significant development, ONGC and Oil India Ltd (OIL) have launched an ambitious exploration campaign in the Andaman ultra-deepwater region. For the first time, drilling operations are targeting depths of up to 5000 metres. One such wildcat well, ANDW-7, drilled in a carbonate play in the East Andaman Back

Arc region, has yielded encouraging geological insights. These include traces of light crude and condensate in cutting samples, heavy hydrocarbons like C-5 neo-pentane in trip gases, and the presence of reservoir-quality facies. These findings establish, for the first time, the existence of an active thermogenic petroleum system in the region, comparable to those in Myanmar and North Sumatra. While commercial reserves remain to be established, this campaign has validated the presence of a working petroleum system and laid the foundation for focused ex-

ploration in the area.

Providing an overview of the exploration outcomes so far, the Minister informed that ONGC has made hydrocarbon discoveries in 20 blocks, with an estimated reserve of 75 million

National Oil Companies have planned to drill four offshore stratigraphic wells, including one in the AN basin. These scientific wells are designed to test geological models, validate the existence of petroleum systems, and help de-risk future commercial exploration...

metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE). OIL, on its part, has made seven oil and gas discoveries over the past four years, with reserves estimated at 9.8 million barrels of oil and 2,706.3 million standard cubic meters of gas. (PIB)

Higher US tariffs part of price Europe willing to pay for its security, arms for Ukraine

BRUSSELS: France's prime minister described it as a "dark day" for the European Union, a "submission" to US tariff demands. Commentators said EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen's handshake with President Donald Trump amounted to capitulation.



The trouble is, Europe depends mightily on the United States, and not just for trade.

Mirroring Trump, Von der Leyen gushed that the arrangement she endorsed over the weekend to set US tariff levels on most European exports to 15%, which is 10% higher than currently, was "huge". Her staff texted reporters insisting that the pact, which starts to enter force on Friday, is the "biggest trade deal ever".

A month after NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte ingratiated himself with Trump by referring to him as "daddy," the Europeans had again conceded that swallowing the costs and praising an unpredictable president is more palatable than losing America.

"It's not only about the trade. It's about security. It's about Ukraine. It's about current geopolitical volatility. I cannot go into all the details," EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic told reporters Monday.

"I can assure you it was not only about the trade," he insisted, a day after "the deal" was sealed in an hour-long meeting once Trump finished playing a round of golf with his son

at the course he owns in Scotland.

The state of Europe's security dependency Indeed, Europe depends on the US for its security and that security is anything but a game, especially since Russia invaded Ukraine. US allies are convinced that, should he win,



President Vladimir Putin is likely to take aim at one of them next.

"The EU is in a difficult situation because we're very dependent on the US for security," said Niclas Poitiers at the Bruegel research institution in Brussels. "Ukraine is a very big part of that, but also generally our defence is underwritten by NATO."

So high are these fears that European countries are buying US weapons to help Ukraine to defend itself. Some are prepared to send their own air defence systems and replace them with US equipment, once it can be delivered.

"We're going to be sending now military equipment and other equipment to NATO, and they'll be doing what they want, but I guess it's for the most part working with Ukraine," Trump said Sunday, sounding ambivalent about America's role in the alliance.

The Europeans also are wary about a US troop drawdown, which the Pentagon is expected to announce by October. Around 84,000 US personnel are based in Europe, and they guarantee NATO's deterrent effect against an adversary like Russia.

At the same time, Trump is slapping duties on America's own NATO partners, ostensibly due to concerns about US security interests, using Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act, a logic that seems absurd from across the Atlantic.

Wearing Europe off foreign suppliers "The EU is in a difficult situation because we're very dependent on the US for security," said Niclas Poitiers at the Bruegel research institution in Brussels. "Ukraine is a very big part of that, but also generally our defence is underwritten by NATO."

"I think there was not a big willingness to pick a major fight, which is the one (the EU) might have needed with the US" to better position itself on trade, Poitiers told The Associated Press about key reasons for von der Leyen to accept the tariff demands.

Part of the agreement involves a commitment to buy American oil and gas. Over the course of the Russia-Ukraine war, now in its fourth year, most of the EU has slashed its dependence on unreliable energy supplies from Russia, but Hungary and Slovakia still have not.

"Purchases of US energy products will diversify our sources of supply and contribute to Europe's energy security. We will replace Russian gas and oil with significant purchases of US LNG, oil and nuclear fuels," von der Leyen said in Scotland on Sunday. (PTI)

Ex-Maharashtra minister, Cong leader Suresh Warpudkar joins BJP



MUMBAI: Former Maharashtra minister and Congress leader Suresh Warpudkar on Tuesday joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) along with his supporters, giving a boost to the ruling party in Parbhani district of Maharashtra.

BJP's state unit president Ravindra Chavan welcomed Warpudkar into the party fold at a function held at the party's state headquarters here. Chavan said Warpudkar was known for his commitment to social causes.

"His entry into the BJP, inspired by the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, will further strengthen the party's vision of a developed Maharashtra and India," he said.

Warpudkar's political experience would enhance the BJP's organisational strength in Parbhani, he said.

"Everyone who joins the BJP is given due respect, and the same will be extended to Warpudkar and his colleagues," he said.

Warpudkar, a former junior minister, said he joined the BJP to support its development-oriented policies.

"With everyone's cooperation, I am committed to spreading the party's ideology and contributing to its growth," he said.

Parbhani Guardian Minister Meghna Sakore-Bordikar was present at the event. (PTI)

DPIIT ties up with Ather Energy to boost EV manufacturing and clean mobility ecosystem

NEWDELHI: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ather Energy Limited, an Indian electric vehicle manufacturer, to



accelerate the growth of India's clean mobility and advanced manufacturing sectors. The collaboration is being undertaken as part of the Build in Bharat initiative led by the Startup Policy Forum (SPF), a coalition of over 50 innovation-focused startups.

The MoU outlines a comprehensive partnership between DPIIT and Ather Energy that will focus on strategic mentorship for deep-tech startups, infrastructure support for startups in the EV value chain, joint innovation programs such as the Bharat Startup Grand Challenge, co-hosted talent and skill development initiatives, and participation in events like Startup Mahakumbh along with on-ground exposure visits.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Sanjiv Singh, and Co-founder and CEO, Ather Energy, Tarun Mehta. The initiative is expected to support India's transition towards sustainable transport and create a more enabling environment for manufacturing-oriented startups.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Sanjiv Singh said, "The electric mobility sector in India is entering a transformative phase. Through this partnership with Ather Energy, we aim to catalyse the development of an enabling environment where startups can contribute meaningfully to EV manufacturing, battery innovation, and clean energy solutions."

Co-founder and CEO, Ather Energy, Tarun Mehta said, "We are happy to collaborate with DPIIT to strengthen support systems for hardware and deep-tech startups. With policy support and stronger industry participation, this initiative can help founders tackle core technology challenges and scale high-quality products from India."

President and CEO, Startup Policy Forum, Shweta Rajpal Kohli said, "This partnership between DPIIT and Ather Energy brings to life the Startup Policy Forum's Build in Bharat initiative. Unlocking the potential of India's manufacturing sector through collaboration is key to building a globally competitive innovation ecosystem."

This collaboration is expected to provide new opportunities for startups in the EV and manufacturing space, contributing to a future-ready and self-reliant startup ecosystem aligned with India's climate and industrial goals. (PIB)

DRDO Successfully Test-Fires 'Pralay' Missile Twice in Two Days



NEW DELHI: In a significant boost to India's tactical missile capabilities, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted two consecutive flight-tests of the indigenously developed 'Pralay' missile on July 28 and 29 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.

The tests, part of User Evaluation Trials, were aimed at validating the missile's full operational envelope — from minimum to maximum range. Both launches achieved mission objectives with precision, as the missiles followed the intended trajectory and struck the designated targets with "pin-point accuracy," DRDO said in an official statement.

All subsystems, including those developed in collaboration with multiple DRDO labs and industry partners, functioned flawlessly. Data from advanced tracking sensors and instruments, including those aboard a ship near the impact zone, confirmed the system's performance, officials said.

Developed by the Hyderabad-based Research Centre Imarat (RCI) along with other DRDO laboratories, Pralay is a solid-propellant, quasi-ballistic missile featuring cutting-edge guidance and navigation systems. It is designed to carry multiple types of conventional warheads and is capable of engaging a variety of targets with high accuracy.

Top scientists from DRDO, senior representatives from the Indian Army and Air Force, and industry partners including Bharat Dynamics Limited and Bharat Electronics Limited witnessed the successful trials.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lauded DRDO, the Armed Forces, and the industrial collaborators for the milestone achievement. "The missile, equipped with modern technologies, will give a further technological boost to the Armed Forces against emerging threats," he said.

DRDO Chairman and Secretary of Defence R&D, Dr Samir V Kamat, congratulated the teams involved, noting that the successful completion of Phase-1 trials paves the way for the missile's induction into the Armed Forces in the near future.

With Pralay, India strengthens its tactical strike capabilities, adding a potent and swift-response option to its arsenal amid growing regional security challenges. (PIB)

Top Chinese, US trade officials huddle in Sweden for second day of thorny talks over tariffs

STOCKHOLM: Chinese and US trade officials arrived for a second day of meetings in the Swedish capital Tuesday to try to break a logjam over tariffs that have skewed the pivotal commercial ties between the world's two largest economies.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng made no public comments to reporters after the first day of talks that lasted nearly five hours behind closed doors at the Swedish prime minister's office Monday.

Before the talks resumed Tuesday, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson met with Bessent and US trade representative Jamieson Greer over breakfast.

The United States has struck deals over tariffs with some of its key trading partners — including Britain, Japan and the European Union — since President Donald Trump announced "Liberation Day" tariffs against dozens of countries in April. China remains perhaps the biggest unresolved case.

"The Chinese have been very pragmatic," Greer said in comments posted on social media by his office late Monday. "Obviously we've had a lot of tensions over the years. We have tensions now, but the fact that we are regularly meeting with them to address these issues gives us a good footing for these negotiations."

"Whether there will be a deal or not, I can't say," Greer added in the clip posted on X from MSNBC's "Morning Joe". "Whether there's room

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for an extension, I can't say at this point. But the conversations are constructive and they're going in the right direction."

Many analysts expect that the Stockholm

talks, at a minimum, will result in an extension of current tariff levels that are far lower than the triple-digit percentage rates as the US-China tariff tiff crescendoed in April, sending world



markets into a temporary tailspin.

The two sides backed off the brink during bilateral talks in Geneva in May and agreed to a 90-day pause — which is set to end on Aug 12 — of those sky-high levels. They currently stand at US tariffs of 30% on Chinese goods, and China's 10% tariff on US products.

Other issues on the agenda include access of American businesses to the Chinese market; Chinese investment in the US; components of fentanyl made in China that reach US consumers; Chinese purchases of Russian and Iranian oil;

and American steps to limit exports of Western technology, like chips that help power artificial intelligence systems.

The Stockholm meetings could also provide some clarity about the prospects for a summit to be held later this year between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping, seen by some as a crucial step to lock in any major agreements between their two countries.

On his Truth Social media platform, Trump insisted late Monday that he was not "seeking" a summit with Xi, but may go to China at the Chinese leader's invitation, "which has been extended. Otherwise, no interest!"

While the Chinese side has offered few specifics of its aims in Stockholm, Bessent has suggested that the situation has stabilised to the point that China and the US can start looking toward longer-term balance between their economies.

Since China vaulted into the global trading system about two decades ago, the United States has sought to press leaders in Beijing to encourage more consumption in China and offer greater market access to foreign-made — including American — goods. (PTI)

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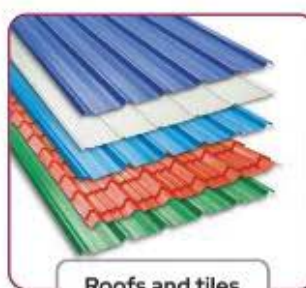
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