

# Good Morning Kashmir

16th Year Of Publication

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In a continued wave of cyber offensives, Pakistan sponsored hacker groups such as "Cyber Group HOAX1337" and "National Cyber Crew" made unsuccessful attempts to breach some websites yesterday. These hacking efforts were promptly identified and neutralised by cyber security agencies.

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...Data **Lost In Floods**

## SC Grants Time To J&K Govt To Submit Report On Pak Nationals



AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Friday granted more time to the Jammu and Kashmir government to inform it about the number of Pakistani nationals detained under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan gave six more weeks after the authorities informed that data relating to such prisoners was lost during floods in the union territory.

The top court then posted the matter for hearing on July 25.

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by late Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party leader and senior advocate Bhim Singh who petitioned the court on

Pakistani citizens detained under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978.

His plea sought such persons to be freed and deported to Pakistan.

The top court previously expressed concerns over the fate of those Pakistani nationals who were released from Indian jails after completing their terms and if the neighbouring country did not accept them as its citizens.

The government was, therefore, asked to bring in a suitable mechanism to ensure such foreign nationals were not forced to remain in jails as courts frequently dealt with complaints about Pakistani nationals being incarcerated in jails despite having served their sentence.

## Unity Key Strength Of India Besides Its Military Power: PM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**AMARAVATI:** After getting full support from NDA allies for his government's response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 people, mostly tourists dead, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that India's strength today is not just in its weapons but also in its unity.

Addressing a rally in Amaravati, PM Modi, said, "Unity is a key strength of India besides its military strength."

Minutes before the Prime Minister's address, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan referred to the Pahalgam terror attack and voiced their open support to the Prime Minister in his actions against Pakistan and terrorism.

"Today, our strength is not just weapons but also our unity. (Aaj humari taqat humare hathihaar hi nahi hai...humari ekta bhi hai).



Ekta malls are being built throughout the country," said, PM Modi.

"India has tested a new DRDO missile. We are boosting our defence sector by spending more on the defence sector. We laid the foundation stone of DRDO's Missile Test Range at Nagayalanka. The Navdurga Testing Range being built in Nagayalanka will empower the nation's defence power, just like Goddess Durga," he added.

Pertinently, after the Pahalgam terror attack PM Modi led Government has downgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan. The Indus Water Treaty has been put in abeyance, while Pak nationals and diplomats in India have been sent back.

Amid growing indications of tough action against the Pahalgam terror attack perpetrators, PM Modi has given complete

...Pahalgam **Terror Attack**  
**US VP Hopes Pakistan Will Cooperate With India On Probe**

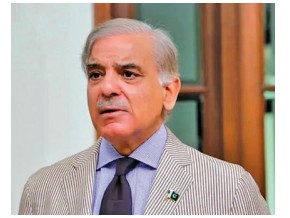


IANIS

**WASHINGTON:** US Vice-President J.D. Vance has said that the US hopes that Pakistan would cooperate with India to hunt down the Pakistan-based terrorists responsible for the terror attack in Pahalgam last month.

"Our hope here is that India responds to this terrorist attack in a way that doesn't lead to a broader regional conflict," Vance said on Thursday in an interview on Fox News' "Special Report with Bret Baier" show. "And we hope, frankly, that Pakistan, to the extent that they're responsible, cooperates with India to make sure

**Pak PM's YouTube Channel Blocked In India**



AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's YouTube channel was blocked in India on Friday amid ongoing tension between the two countries following the deadly terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

"The content is currently unavailable in this country because of an order from the government related to national security or public order. For more details about government removal requests, please visit the Google Transparency Report," read a message on the blocked channel.

The government had earlier this week blocked 16 Pakistani YouTube channels for allegedly disseminating "false, provocative and communally sensitive content" about India and has also strongly objected to the BBC's reportage on the Pahalgam attack.

The government's move follows recommendations from the

## SC Temporarily Halts Deportation Of A Family To Pakistan

AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Friday came to the rescue of a family detained for deportation to Pakistan, after it claimed that they were holding Indian passports and Aadhaar cards.

The Union government, in response to the deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) Pahalgam, has revoked all valid visas issued by India to Pakistani nationals starting April 27 and had directed all states and Union Territories for their immediate removal.

In the writ petition filed before the top court, the petitioners claimed that they are Indian nationals, and were residents of Mirpur till the year 1997 but later moved to the city of Srinagar in J&K.

The family had received a notice on April 25 from the Foreign Registration Office (FRO) in Srinagar asking them to leave India on expiration of their visa on the

premise that they are Pakistani nationals.

Further, the lead petitioner, who obtained an MBA from IIM, Kerala and is presently working in Bengaluru, claimed that his father, mother, elder sister and younger sisters were arrested

**SINCE FACTUAL** pleas raised require verification, including genuineness of documents,

ed by the J&K Police illegally on April 29 at around 9 pm.

The plea stated the family members were taken to the India-Pakistan Border on April 30 at around 12.20 pm and are at present being forced to leave India from the border.

In an interim relief, a Bench of Justices Surya Kant and NK Singh ordered that no coercive measures be taken against the

## Air Marshal N Tiwari Takes Charge As Vice Chief Of Air Staff

AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari, a distinguished fighter pilot with more than 3,600 hours of flying experience, on Friday took charge as the new Vice Chief of the Air Staff.

He succeeds Air Marshal S P Dharkar, who superannuated on April 30.

Before taking charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Tiwari served as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Gandhinagar-based South Western Air Command (SWAC).

The air marshal was given a guard of honour at the Air Headquarters — Vayu Bhawan.

"Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari PVSM AVSM VM took over as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff, IAF on 02 May 25. An alumnus of RIMC, NDA and US



Air Command & Staff College, he is a distinguished fighter pilot, test pilot and former AOC-in-C of SWAC, with over 3600 hrs of flying experience," the IAF posted on X.

He was commissioned in the fighter stream in June 1986. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, he passed out as the President's Gold Medallist.

Air Marshal Tiwari has flown various types of aircraft, and is a qualified flying instructor as well as an experimental test pilot, the defence ministry had earlier said in a statement.

The air marshal has rich field experience, which also includes operational testing of various weapons and systems, primarily on the Mirage-2000.

## Pahalgam Attack Will Be Avenged: Lop Sharma



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

hunted down." Sharma also said that the country under the leadership of PM Modi has witnessed a change.

**SRINAGAR:** Stating that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi April 22 Pahalgam attack will be avenged, Leader of Opposition and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Sunil Sharma on Friday said that the perpetrators will be hunted down and taught a lesson.

Sharma, said, "Everyone is aware that PM Modi fulfills his promise. But, we will have to wait for the revenge of the Pahalgam attack. Those responsible will be

"The time has gone when the other countries would dare to undermine Bharat. It is Modi's Bharat and those responsible will be brought to justice," he said. "Bharat continues to follow values of humanity even after witnessing the attacks like Uri, Pulwama and Pahalgam. India has never compromised with these values and witnessed the growth. However, some people who are not happy with this growth

## Pahalgam Attackers Likely Hiding In South Kashmir, Say Nia Sources

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** More than a week after the devastating terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives, sources within the National Investigation Agency (NIA) indicate that the perpetrators are still believed to be active and hiding in south Kashmir.

Investigators monitoring the case quoted as saying by India Today, said, intelligence suggests the possibility of additional terrorists still concealed in the area. During the April 22 attack in the Baisaran valley of Pahalgam, it is suspected that more terrorists were positioned at a distance, likely to offer cover-fire if security forces responded swiftly.

Reports suggest the attackers were highly self-sufficient, carrying ample food and sup-



plies, allowing them to operate independently for prolonged periods in the dense forest terrain without external assistance.

Eyewitnesses and survivors have provided harrowing details of the attack's execution, underscoring the attackers' chilling level of planning

and precision.

Tourists visiting the Baisaran meadow—often dubbed "mini Switzerland"—found themselves trapped as the attackers blocked both the main entrance and exit routes.

Sources say four terrorists were involved in the assault: two entered through

...Get **Befitting Reply**

## Pak Troops Resort To Cross Border Shelling For 8th Consecutive Night



SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** Pakistani troops continued unprovoked firing in five districts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir for eight consecutive night on Thursday, officials said.

Jammu based defence spokesman, said, "During the night of May 1-2, 2025, Pakistani Army posts resorted to unprovoked small arms fire from posts across the LoC opposite Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Naushera, and Akhnoor areas of J&K." "Indian Army responded in a calibrated and proportionate manner," he added.

Pertinently, the most recent cross-border shelling along the Line of Control (LoC) began on April 23, 2025, with unprovoked firing from Pakistan reported in the Tattapani sector of Poonch.

This marked the start of a series of ceasefire violations by Pakistani forces, escalating tensions following the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, which killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

Since then, shelling and small-arms fire have continued intermittently, with notable incidents reported across multiple sectors, including Naushera, Sunderbani, Akhnoor, Kupwara, Baramulla, and the Pargwal

...Jammu-Srinagar NH closed

## Heavy Rain Triggers Mudslides In Ramban



UMAISAR GULL

**SRINAGAR:** A man died after a lightning struck him in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, while flash floods triggered by a cloud burst in Ramban District led to the closure of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway yet again, officials and reports said on Friday.

According to the details available, a 37-year-old auto driver, Tariq Ahmad Padder, of Gansorgam, Kulgam, died after being struck by lightning in his native village. He was rushed to District

Hospital Kulgam where doctors declared him "brought dead."

The Srinagar-Jammu National Highway was once again closed for vehicular movement after a landslide occurred at Chamba Seri in Ramban area. "It occurred soon after the area near the highway was hit by the cloud-burst, leading to the flash floods again," said an official.

The commuters have been advised not to travel until the road is cleared.

"Please check the status of roads before starting your journey," a traffic

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

# Remarkable improvement of Govt School in Board Results

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Following the announcement of Class 12 examination results, it has become evident that teaching standards in government schools are progressing rapidly. There has been a significant and positive shift not only in innovative achievements but also in academic outcomes.

A recent example of this is the exceptional performance by students from the Valley in a national-level innovation competition, besides, remarkable performance of government school students by securing more than 100 merit positions in the Class 12 results.

Sharing the details, Director of School Education Kashmir, Dr. G. N. Itoo, stated that while the Class 12 results are encouraging with no school having a pass percentage close to zero, the performance in Class 10 exams is equally commendable with 438 schools achieving over 90% pass percentage.

He further added that 219 schools recorded a 100% pass rate, which is extremely encouraging.

Expressing satisfaction over the success, Dr. Itoo said these achievements are the result of the students' hard work, the dedicated role of teachers, and the growing trust of parents in government schools.

Director affirmed his full confidence in the overall success rate of students in both Class 10 and 12 examinations,

## Dir Edu felicitates Sehrish Jahangir

**KULGAM:** A felicitation ceremony was held at Higher Secondary School Bugam, Kulgam to honor outstanding academic achievers. The highlight of the event was the recognition of Sehrish Jahangir, a 12th class student of the institution, who secured 2nd position in the Science stream across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The ceremony was graced by the Director of School Education, Kashmir, Dr. G. N. Itoo, who felicitated Sehrish Jahangir for her exceptional performance. Dr. Itoo also congratulated the students, their parents, and teachers for their hard work and success in the Class 10th and 12th examinations for which results were declared by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE).

In his address, Dr. Itoo stated that the Department of Education has implemented the National Education Policy 2020 and under-



taken several initiatives to modernize school education, among which the establishment of ICT laboratories is particularly noteworthy. He added that aligning the education system with contemporary demands remains a top priority of the state government.

On this occasion, Chief Education Officer Kulgam, Mohammad Shabir, welcomed the Director and expressed that his presence had greatly encouraged successful students, teachers, and field officers across the district. He also briefed the Director on the overall educa-

tional landscape of the district and mentioned that educational services are being advanced in full accordance with the Director's guidance.

Dr. Itoo, while addressing the gathering, further lauded the efforts of the students and the faculty, emphasizing the importance of dedication, hard work, and quality education in shaping the future of the region.

The event concluded with a round of applause and appreciation for the young achievers, with Sehrish Jahangir serving as an inspiration for her peers and juniors.

emphasizing that these statistics indicate a significant improvement in the quality of education. He credited this progress to initiatives like the establishment of various laboratory facilities, ICT labs, implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and the provision of education aligned with modern-day

requirements. Dr. Itoo attributed this success to the collective efforts of teachers, school heads, and parents, stating that these achievements are the result of their consistent dedication.

He extended heartfelt congratulations to the successful students and assured that the government and the Department

of Education will continue to ensure modern educational facilities are made accessible to students in every corner of Jammu and Kashmir.

It is worth noting that this year, 39,768 students appeared for the Class 10 exams, out of which 31,010 passed, bringing the overall pass percentage to 77.97%.

## Chairman DLSA Budgam holds meeting of Judicial Officers



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** Following directions of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, JK Legal Services Authority, a meeting of Judicial Officers of District Budgam was held under the chairmanship of O.P. Bhagat, Pr. District & Sessions Judge and Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, (DLSA) Budgam, here.

Yahaya Firdous, Additional District and Session Judge Budgam, Imran Hussain Wani Sub-Judge/Chief Judicial Magistrate Budgam, Nusrat Ali Hakak Sub Judge/Secretary District Legal Services Authority Budgam, Easar ul Nabi Shah Special Mobile Magistrate Budgam and Tasneem Kawoosa Munsiff/JMIC Budgam attended the meeting in person while Iqbal Rafiq Vakeel Sub judge, Chadoora, Nazia

Hassan Munsiff/JMIC Budgam, Rabiya Snober Gulzar Munsiff Magam, Aiman Aiman Munsiff/JMIC Char-i-Sharif and oweel Ahmed Mir Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Beerwah attended the meeting virtually.

During the meeting, Chairman DLSA stressed upon all Judicial officers to identify the maximum number of pending court cases for their amicable settlement in the upcoming National Lok Adalat scheduled on 10th of May, 2025.

He emphasized upon all officers to focus on old cases and identify these cases for the said National Lok Adalat. He also stressed to identify Civil Suits, Matrimonial disputes, 138 NI Act cases etc, where there is an element of settlement for the said National Lok Adalat so that the cases of more and more litigants can be amicably resolved.

## Secy DLSA G'bal chairs meeting of LADCs



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** The Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, Friday chaired a meeting of Legal Aid Defense Counsels in his office chamber.

The meeting was attended by all Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs) and aimed to discuss strategies for improvement and provision of qualitative and competent legal services in criminal matters to all eligible persons and strategies for legal research & implementation of calendar of activities.

During the meeting, the Secretary emphasized the importance of managing and implementing the legal aid system in a professional manner in criminal

trials. He stressed upon the Legal Aid Defense Counsels to ensure that the legal aid services are delivered in an efficient and effective manner, upholding the principles of justice and fairness.

The meeting provided a platform for the Legal Aid Defense Counsels to discuss challenges and share best practices in providing legal aid services to the marginalized sections of society and conduct a legal research for effective implementation of schemes devised by NALSA.

The Secretary's guidance and directions are expected to further strengthen the legal aid system in the district, ensuring that justice is accessible to all.

# Div Com reviews progress under SSR for 27-AC Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, who is also the Electoral Roll Observer, Friday chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved under the Special Summary Revision (SSR)-2025 of Electoral Rolls for 27-AC Budgam.

The meeting was held at the Conference Hall, Budgam, where Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo, who is also the District Election Officer (DEO), briefed the chair about the progress and status of work with regard to the SSR of Photo Electoral Rolls in the constituency.

At the outset, the ERO of 27-AC Budgam provided a detailed review of the progress achieved under



SSR as of date, and also highlighted the number of fresh applications received, as well as the number of claims, objections, and rejections so far.

On the occasion, the ERO also briefed the chair that the Special Summary Revision commenced on 8th April and ended on 24th April, and will be

published on 5th May 2025 accordingly for the 27-AC Budgam.

Div Com emphasised upon the concerned Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) to conduct revisions strictly according to the guidelines of the ECI and as per the notified

schedule. Div Com stressed on intensifying SVEEP activities and ensuring timely disposal of claims and objections.

ERO and AEROs were directed to cross-check the completed summary revision with a focus on 100 percent enrolment of eligible voters, including the addition of new voters and deletion of duplicate voters, within the set timeline.

He emphasised that the successful conduct of all SVEEP programmes in 27-AC Budgam must focus on achieving maximum registration of all eligible voters in the constituency.

ACR/ERO for 27-AC Budgam, Dy. Election Officer, AEROs, and representatives of various political parties were present in the meeting.

## DC Kupwara reviews progress under JK Samadhan Portal



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Friday convened a review meeting of all concerned officers and other stakeholders to assess the progress of the registration process under the JK Samadhan Portal.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of timely and efficient registration of grievances, which can be accessed and resolved through the portal.

In her address, the DC highlighted the critical role of the portal in facilitating citizens' access to government services and resolving disputes. She urged all the concerned

departments to ensure maximum outreach and participation in the portal's registration process.

CSC VLEs directed to ensure cent percent registration of the targeted population within the stipulated time frame.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of registration in various tehsils and sub-divisions of the district, with a special focus on identifying areas where registration was lagging behind.

Meanwhile, timelines were fixed for different departments to ensure cent percent registration of the people.

The meeting was attended by ACD Kupwara, CEO, CMO, BDOs, DPM-NRLM, District Manager CSC and VLEs.

## Prominent Cleric Maulana Mubarak Mubarki Passes Away



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR-** Renowned Islamic scholar and preacher, Maulana Mubarak Mubarki, president of Bazm-e-Tawheed and Khaateeb of Bazar Masjid, passed away on Friday, leaving behind a legacy of faith, unity, and service.

Known for his wisdom, humility, and deep commitment to Islamic teachings, Maulana Mubarki touched countless lives through his sermons and religious guidance.

One of his family members said that his funeral will

be held in two parts - first at 2:30 pm at his residence in Sanat Nagar, and later at 4 pm at Bohri Kadal Chowk near Bazar Masjid. He said that Mirwaiz Umar Farooq is expected to lead the funeral prayers at Bazar Masjid.

Meanwhile, Mirwaiz Dr Umar Farooq also expressed deep sorrow over his demise, calling it a personal loss.

"A few weeks ago, I visited him to inquire about his health. Despite his frailty, he recognised me and spoke with warmth and clarity. His death is a misfortune for Kashmir," he said. (KNO)

## Man Killed In Lightning Strike In South Kashmir's Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** A man died after he was struck with lightning in Ganosar Gam area of the district. Meanwhile his body was handed over to his kin after medico-legal formalities.

identified as Tariq Ahmad Paddar, son of Mohammad Shaban died today afternoon after being struck with lightning in Ganosar Gam area of the district. Meanwhile his body was handed over to his kin after medico-legal formalities.

# Chairman, Secy, DLSA Shopian visit fire victims of Peer Mohalla

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN:** In a compassionate outreach to families affected by the recent devastating fire in Peer Mohalla, Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhury, Chairman DLSA Shopian along with Mudassar Farooq, Secretary DLSA Shopian Friday visited the affected area to assess the damages.

During the visit, the Chairman DLSA Shopian assured the victims that necessary steps would be taken to expedite compen-

sation through insurance companies.

He further directed SHO Shopian to expedite the investigation and determine the cause of the fire.

Accompanying the delegation were Mohammad Waseem Mirza, Munsiff and Rafiq Ahmad Ganie, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel who provided legal guidance and assistance to the distressed families, reinforcing the DLSA's commitment to upholding justice and welfare in times of crisis.



## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION GUREZ

### NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh (R&B) E-NIT No.12/2025-26/EE/R&B/Grz/571-79/E-tendering/Dated:-01-05-2025

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

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	Construction of 10Roomed Double Story Building Cum other infrastructure and landscaping development at Govt. HSS Kilshay Tulail (Balance Work)	22.03	44060	03 Month	800	4202 UT Capex Budget	CEE/BEE	Director School Education Kashmir

Position of AAA:- (Accorded)  
1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice.	01-05-2025
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 02-05-2025 (10:00 AM) To 08-05-2025 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 02-05-2025 (10:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 08-05-2025 (04:00PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	09-05-2025 (10:00 AM)

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Gurez (Tender receiving Authority) Major Head 0059-Rev:Misc) (Tender Inviting Authority) (Name of Work & NIT No to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dated 07-06-2018.
- The work titled "Construction of 10 Roomed Double Story Building Cum other infrastructure and landscaping development at Govt. HSS Kilshay Tulail (Balance Work)" was earlier cancelled due to receipt of identical bids. Fresh tenders have now been invited for the same work under Fresh (R&B) E-NIT No.12/2025-26/EE/R&B/Grz/571-79/ E-tendering / Dated:-01-05-2025. The bidders who had participated in the earlier tender (Fresh (R&B) E-NIT No. 08/2025-26/EE/R&B/Grz/301-09/E-tendering/Dated:-21-04-2025, Item No. 02) may upload the same CDR. However, the treasury challan for the cost of tender document must be freshly generated and shall be strictly between the start date and end date of bid submission as mentioned in this NIT.
- All bidders must upload 2% of the Advertised Cost of the work as Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR, pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Division Gurez at the time of uploading of tender. The date of issuance of the CDR/FDR, must fall between the start date bid and the bid submission end date.
- The 1st lowest Bidder (L-1) shall be required to produce 5% of the Allotted Cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Division Gurez, within 05 days before the fixation of contract. This Performance Security shall be released only after successful completion of the Defect Liability Period (DLP). The initially uploaded 2% EMD shall be released in favour of the successful bidder only after the receipt of the 5% Performance Security

Sd/-  
DIPK-1034-25  
DT: 02/05/2025  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Gurez

# Dy CM inspects progress on construction works in Nowshera

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**RAJOURI:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Friday visited the PWD Dak Bunglow in Nowshera to inspect the progress on construction works being executed there.

The visit aimed to evaluate the progress on ongoing developmental works, especially conference hall at PWD Dak Bunglow Nowshera.

During his visit, the Deputy Chief Minister was apprised that the estimated cost of the project is Rs 249 Lakh and it will be completed by December 2025.

The Dy CM inspected the quality of construction works and directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of progress while maintaining high standards in work execution.

Highlighting the significance of infrastructure development, he directed the officials to ensure strict adherence to deadlines besides addressing any bottlenecks hindering



the timely completion of projects.

"Quality should not be compromised at any cost, as these projects are pivotal

for overall development of the region and well-being of the people," Surinder Choudhary remarked.

The Deputy Chief Min-

ister called for regular monitoring and evaluation of ongoing works to ensure transparency and accountability.

## Javid Dar assesses functioning of Sheep Breeding Farm Khimber

GMK News Network **SRINAGAR:** Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, Friday visited Sheep Breeding Farm (SBF) Khimber here to assess the functioning of the facility and inspect the newly introduced Texel sheep breed imported from Australia.

MLA Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagar, Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir, Rafiq Ahmad and other senior officers of the department also accompanied the Minister during the visit.

While inspecting the facility, the Minister said, "The Texel sheep breed will emerge as a revolutionary force in the livestock industry in J&K. Its introduction offers tremendous potential for transforming sheep rearing practices, enhancing productivity, and ultimately improving the livelihoods of our farming community."

He directed the concerned officers to organize awareness camps to educate farmers on the benefits and management practices associated with the Texel breed. He highlighted that the awareness camps will serve as vital platforms to disseminate technical know-how and improve adoption of scientific sheep husbandry practices.

The Minister also appreciated the department for their efforts in successful

completion of the importation process of Texel Sheep.

During the visit, Director Sheep Husbandry informed the Minister on the introduction of around 450 high-quality Texel sheep; including 338 ewes and 112 rams—imported from Australia under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). He added that the initiative is aimed at addressing the J&K's substantial mutton demand of approximately 310 lakh kilograms annually.

He also informed that the Texel breed will be reared under intensive farming conditions at SBF Khimber, adding that the breeding lines will be scientifically maintained to preserve pedigree records. He also briefed the Minister that the first-generation (F1) progeny will serve a dual purpose of establishing breed-based farms by distributing male and female Texel sheep to farmers in isolated clusters for further propagation and upgrading local sheep breeds by distributing superior-quality Texel rams to local farmers for breeding, with requisite approvals from the Scientific Advisory Committee of SKUAST.

Pertinently, the Minister's visit highlights the government's efforts towards strengthening the livestock sector through innovation, scientific management, and farmer-centric interventions.

## JKPA gets IPA affiliation, gains national recognition

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Pickleball Association (JKPA) is officially affiliated with the Indian Pickleball Association (IPA), which has been recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, as the National Sports Federation (NSF) for pickleball.

This affiliation brings national legitimacy to JKPA, unlocking structured development, funding, and pathways for representation at national and international levels, a statement issued reads.

competitive calendar. The association remains committed to making J&K a leading pickleball destination for all age groups and skill levels—(KNO)

## RTI clarifies no limit on student half-fare concession on JKRTC, Smart City buses



AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** A recent Right To Information (RTI) reply has clarified long-standing confusion regarding the student half-fare concession on Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) and Smart City buses across the union territory.

Social activist Shahid Shafi from Chakoor Pulwama had sought clarity after reports, supported by some drivers and district General Managers, that only five students per bus could avail of the concession.

The RTI response, from the JKRTC, clearly states that there is no rule limiting the number of students eligible for a half-fare on a single bus. "The only requirement is a valid college or school identity card; no additional paperwork or permissions are necessary," it said.

Contrary to circulating rumours, students are not assigned reserved or fixed seats. The concession applies universally to any seat, provided the student presents a valid ID, the response added.

Since the scheme's introduction in June 2017, JKRTC has issued directives instructing bus staff and managers to honour the half-fare concession without restrictions.

The department also clarified that students who are denied their benefit can

file a complaint directly with the General Manager (Operations) at JKRTC, M A Road, Srinagar.

Interestingly, records show no official grievances in the past three years, which might indicate either a lack of awareness among students or a reluctance to report issues.

The department reassured that every genuine student presenting a valid ID is entitled to the half-fare, regardless of how many other students are travelling on the same bus. Passengers facing denial of the benefit or being charged full fare are advised to note the details of the bus, such as route number, date and time, and report the incident to the GM (Operations).

The scheme also extends concessions to categories like differently-abled persons, war widows, and HIV/AIDS patients, each with specific documentation guidelines. For example, children up to three years old are exempt from fare calculations, while children aged three to twelve are charged half the fare. Fifty per cent of the seats in all state-registered stage carriage vehicles are reserved for women and persons with disabilities, with provisions allowing other passengers to occupy these seats if vacant, and no fare is charged for mobility aids like wheelchairs and tricycles—(KNO)

# Div Com visits Hajj House Bemina, inspects arrangements for Hajj-25

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Ahead of the commencement of Hajj-25, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Friday visited Hajj House Bemina to take first hand appraisal of arrangements & basic amenities laid out by various departments.

Intending pilgrims would start leaving for the pilgrimage from Sunday, May 04, 2025.

During the visit, Div Com was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Bilal Mohi ud din Bhat. Other officers present during the visit included Director, Airport Authority of India, Srinagar International Airport, Regional Director of BCAS, representatives from Health, PHE, KPDCI, Information, Hajj Committee, SMC, JK Police, Customs, Emigration, Spice-Jet, and various banks.



On the occasion, Div Com took comprehensive inspection of services and infrastructure, including forex counters set up by banks, luggage screening machines, e-bracelet counters, and boarding facilities.

Div Com also reviewed the cleanliness of lodging rooms and the availability of basic amenities, such as

water and uninterrupted electricity supply.

On the occasion, Officers from the Hajj Committee briefed the Div Com on the extensive measures taken to ensure comprehensive arrangements for security, traffic management, sanitation, and other essential services.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, the Div Com emphasized the importance of delivering meticulous services to the pilgrims during their time at the Hajj House and during their departure. He called for coordinated efforts to provide the best possible experience for the Hajj, ensuring their comfort and safety during the sacred journey.

## Dal Lake boat capsizes near Duck Park; one rescued, one missing



REHAN QAYOUM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** A boat capsized in Dal Lake near Duck Park on Friday afternoon, after which authorities launched a rescue operation that was halted late in the evening due to poor visibility and fading light.

While one person was rescued earlier in the day, efforts to locate the second individual have so far been unsuccessful. The rescue teams plan to resume their search with the first light on Saturday morning.

Officials said that the incident occurred during gusty winds when two fishermen in the lake were caught off guard. Their boat was overwhelmed by the sudden weather change and capsized near Duck Park.

"The two fishermen jumped into the water in an attempt to save themselves. One of them, identified as Abdul Majeed Khosa, son of Mohammad Sultan Khosa from Rain-

awari, Srinagar, was rescued immediately. Despite continuous efforts, the second person, Tauseeq Ahmad Chopan (24), son of Ghulam Mohammad Chopan, a resident of Chopan Mohalla, Rainawari remains missing," an official said.

The rescue operation involved teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) along with divers and rescue boats deployed to thoroughly scan the area. However, as darkness set in, the operation was suspended due to limited underwater visibility and poor lighting conditions.

An SDRF official said that despite extensive search efforts using specialised equipment, there were no signs of the missing person.

"The rescue teams will resume the search at first light tomorrow (Saturday) morning to ensure all efforts are exhausted in locating the individual," the official said—(KNO)

## Drug Control team cracks down on violations along Baltal route



RAJA SYED RATHER

**GANDERBAL:** In view of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, the Drugs Control Department of Ganderbal district intensified inspections of pharmacies and medical establishments along the Baltal axis through Sonamarg, a critical route for yatra pilgrims.

According to officials, the inspection drive was carried out on April 26 under the supervision of Dr. Shibeer Ahmad Bhat, Assistant Controller Drugs for Ganderbal and Bandipora. The team inspected 20 medical shops in the area, out of which four were found flouting mandatory drug regulations and were consequently sealed on the spot under Section 22(d) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Following this, a review inspection was conducted on May 1, where it was observed that the sealed shops had brought their operations into compliance. However, the license of one pharmacy

in Kangan was suspended for three days due to continued non-adherence to guidelines.

Speaking to KNO, an official said that pharmacies en route the yatra must uphold high standards of compliance. "Medical shops were directed to ensure availability of emergency medicines, staff must follow proper dress code, and signboards with license details and contact numbers should be displayed visibly," he said.

In a related development, the department also inspected the PHC Sonamarg, where six samples were taken from the drugstore for lab testing and analysis to ensure quality assurance in public healthcare services.

The department emphasized that these checks are part of a broader strategy to safeguard public health and ensure uninterrupted medical support during the pilgrimage. Officials stated that such proactive measures would continue in the run-up to SANJY 2025—(KNO)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
**Single Cover System ENIT NO. 05 OF R&B /CHADOORA/ 385-93 of 2025-26 DATED: 01/05/2025**  
 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of Middle School at Zaloowa.	44.49	1100.00	88980/-	120	PAB 2024-25	A/B

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

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	01/05/2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	01/05/2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	01/05/2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	08/05/2025 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	08/05/2025 at 4.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in MH: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).  
 Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation bidder shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.
  - The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for beyond bid validity.
  - At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. In case of failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities
  - The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
  - 50% of the normal deposits (Deducted at 10% from running bills) to be released after virtual completion of the work and balance 50% after completion of DLP.
  - All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 385-93  
 Dated: 01/05/2025

DIPK-1054-25  
 DT: 02/05/2025

Executive Engineer  
 R&B Division Chadoora

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION BANDIPORA.**  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
**Subject: 1. Construction of District Veterinary Hospital Bandipora.**  
**Ref:- This office e-NIT No.01 of 2025-26 /575-81/BANDIPORA/Dated:- 01-05-2025.**  
 Kindly read Earnest Money for Rs.600440/= Instead of Rs.60044/= for the above mentioned work advertised vide this office e-NIT No. in reference. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.  
 No.:-EE/R&B/Bandi/607-13  
 Dated:-02-05-2025.

DIPK-1064-25  
 DT: 02/05/2025

Executive Engineer  
 R&B Division Bandipora.

**Good Morning Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

**Pahalgam Aftermath – Terror Casts a Shadow Over Hope**

Just as the Kashmir Valley stood on the brink of another historic tourist season, with Pahalgam poised to welcome over ten million visitors, terror struck with merciless precision. The recent attack has not only claimed innocent lives but also shattered the hopes of thousands who looked to this season as a beacon of recovery and prosperity. For months, locals, hoteliers, tour operators, and artisans had worked tirelessly. The government had invested heavily in infrastructure, improving connectivity, sanitation, and safety protocols. The buzz was palpable—Kashmir was ready to shine again, and Pahalgam was set to be its crown jewel. But the cruel calculus of terrorism intervened, with saboteurs bent on derailing the region's hard-earned peace and progress. The impact is immediate and devastating. Bookings have been canceled. Travel advisories have been reissued. The bustling bazaars that had just begun to echo with the laughter of travelers now wear an eerie silence. And beneath this stillness lies the deeper pain of local families who have lost not only loved ones but also livelihoods. What must not be lost in this moment of grief and disruption is resolve. This attack is a stark reminder that the battle for Kashmir is as much about narrative as it is about security. Those who fear peace, economic stability, and cultural exchange aim to pull the Valley back into isolation. But the answer must be more resilience, not retreat. The government must not only ensure justice and prevent further attacks but also support the local economy through recovery measures. Tourists, too, must not abandon the Valley. Courage today means visiting, supporting, and standing with the people of Pahalgam. Terror can shake structures—but it must not break the spirit of a place or its people. The future of Kashmir depends on our collective refusal to let darkness win.

From State Land to Shamilat

**Understanding the Mutation and Revenue Law in J&K**

MOHD AMIN MIR

In the labyrinth of land records and revenue documentation in Jammu and Kashmir, one of the most perplexing developments has been the reclassification of state land into Shamilat land by way of mutation. This administrative shift, often misunderstood or misapplied by field officers, holds profound implications for ownership rights, community access, and state control. While the mutation itself is recorded in revenue documents, the legal rationale behind it is not universally grasped within the department. This article attempts to decode the process, historical background, legal provisions, and key revenue terms surrounding the transformation of state land into Shamilat land, with particular focus on Section 5, cess charges, and entries in land records.

**The Landscape of Land Classifications in J&K**

The traditional land classification system in Jammu & Kashmir, derived from a blend of Mughal, Dogra, and British land revenue practices, categorizes land as proprietary (malikyat), state-owned (sarkari), and communal (Shamilat). While proprietary land is owned by individuals or legal entities with recorded rights, state land belongs to the government and is managed for public or administrative purposes. Shamilat land, on the other hand, refers to land held in common by the village community, typically used for grazing, firewood collection, and other communal needs.

However, the line between these categories has not always remained distinct. Over decades, in certain cases, state land has been reclassified as Shamilat through a specific revenue mutation process, which often lacks uniform interpretation and application.

**Mutation: The Legal and Revenue Mechanism of Reclassification**

In revenue parlance, a mutation (intiqaal) refers to the process of updating land records to reflect changes in ownership, possession, or land classification. Mutations are recorded in the mutation register (Roznamcha Waqiyati) and ultimately reflected in the JamaBandi and Girdawari records.

The mutation that changes state land into Shamilat land is often recorded as "Mutation under Section 5 of the Shamilat Law" or "Mutation of Shamilat Deh Entry." This mutation denotes a reclassification of land previously recorded as state land, giving it a new legal character as communal property vested in the village community.

Such a change can only be carried out under strict legal scrutiny, guided by administrative orders and supported by

local usage or need. Unfortunately, in many instances, the mutation order merely cites "as per Section 5" without explaining the basis or ensuring the procedural safeguards are met. This has led to administrative confusion, particularly among junior or untrained revenue officers.

**The Origins and Meaning of Shamilat and Section 5**

The concept of Shamilat land is historically derived from



customary practices prevalent across North India, especially Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. In Jammu & Kashmir, similar communal lands existed under local names and were gradually formalized in revenue records under Dogra and British rule.

Section 5, often cited in mutation orders, originates from the Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961, which was influential in shaping land laws in other northern states. This section identifies land as Shamilat if:

1. It was recorded as Shamilat Deh in the revenue records at the time of consolidation or before;
2. It was used for common purposes of the village;
3. The land, even if previously owned by the state or individuals, was transferred for communal benefit under specific government notifications.

In Jammu & Kashmir, while the exact act was never enforced, its principles were administratively adopted in certain areas. The use of "Section 5" here refers to the administrative extension of this idea, used as a shorthand to describe such mutations.

However, the mere mention of Section 5 without a well-documented historical basis, survey maps, or verification of usage patterns does not legitimize the transformation of land classification. Hence, it becomes vital to examine supplementary indicators like cess charges.

**Cess Charges as Evidence of Shamilat Classification**

Cess (lagaan or malguzari) charges are minor levies imposed on land for its usage, often collected by the Panchayat or revenue authorities. In the case of Shamilat land, while ownership lies with the community or the Panchayat, users may still be liable to pay nominal cess charges if the land is leased, cultivated, or otherwise utilized for non-communal purposes.

Shamilat under Section 5 as per government order" may be implemented without understanding:

- What government order is being referenced?
- Whether it is applicable to that tehsil or village?
- Whether local usage supports the classification?

This lack of scrutiny has, in some cases, led to wrongful occupancy of state land under the guise of Shamilat land, trig-

ged the nature and conditions under which land can be classified as Shamilat. The core principle is that communal usage, historic revenue records, and absence of private ownership are essential to support such a classification.

In State of Punjab vs. Balbir Singh (1994), the Supreme Court held that not all village common lands could be vested in Panchayats unless they were genuinely used for communal purposes. Applying similar principles, the courts in Jammu & Kashmir have occasionally set aside mutations done mechanically without proper inquiry.

In some instances, state land given on lease for specific public utilities (schools, hospitals, playgrounds) has been wrongfully mutated as Shamilat. Courts have warned that such practices amount to "colorable exercise of administrative power."

**Recommendations and the Way Forward**

To prevent misuse or misinterpretation of Section 5 and the associated mutation orders, the following measures are recommended:

1. Clear Format for Mutation Orders: Orders must include references to historical usage, cess records, and applicable laws.
2. Revenue Officer Training: Officers must be trained to understand the difference between proprietary, state, and Shamilat land, especially while digitizing records.
3. Verification Protocol: Before applying Section 5 mutations, field verification by Patwaris and Girdawaris must be mandatory and documented.
4. Separate Tagging in Digital Systems: Shamilat land must be clearly marked in digitized revenue records to avoid overlap with state land entries.
5. Public Notification: Changes to land classification must be publicly notified to allow objections or clarifications by stakeholders.

**Conclusion**

The conversion of state land into Shamilat land through mutation is a sensitive legal and administrative process. While the spirit of Section 5 supports communal rights and equitable land use, its misuse or misapplication can erode state assets and create confusion in ownership. By ensuring that revenue officers understand the legal framework, follow verification protocols, and interpret records with clarity, Jammu & Kashmir can maintain the integrity of its land governance system.

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gering legal battles and loss of public property. It underscores the need for formal training and clear documentation practices in the revenue department.

**The Legal Framework under the Land Revenue Act**

The Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act, Svt. 1996 (1939 AD), does not provide a comprehensive definition of Shamilat land, as it was originally designed around proprietary rights and state ownership. However, it does allow for the classification of land based on possession, usage, and title. The Act empowers the Financial Commissioner and the Tehsildar to maintain and update land records, including classification. In practice, references to Shamilat land are made in conjunction with executive orders, circulars, and interpretations derived from customary law and administrative practice. Key revenue documents—especially the Waqiyati Roznamcha (daily diary), Mutation Register, and Girdawari—form the basis of land status verification.

Where ambiguity arises, it is the duty of the Naib Tehsildar and Girdawar to physically verify the land and recommend whether the mutation was correctly applied. Failure to perform this duty has often resulted in fraudulent or mistaken reclassification.

**Judicial Observations and Case Precedents**

Several court rulings in North India and J&K have clari-

**Gaps in Understanding Among Revenue Officers**

One of the recurring administrative problems is the failure of some revenue officers to grasp the full implications of the mutation order converting state land to Shamilat. Since such orders are often written in legalistic or shorthand form, and without reference to historical usage patterns or legal background, the officer tasked with updating records may misclassify or overlook vital details. For example, a mutation order stating, "Converted to

**Wake-Up Call - Cancer Hits the Under 40 Generation**



DR RAGHAV KESRI

**Young Adults and Unexpected Cancer Diagnoses**

Traditionally, cancer screening programs and public awareness campaigns have focused on middle-aged and older adults. However, doctors across India are now reporting more cases in younger individuals who often present with aggressive forms of the disease. Breast cancer is being diagnosed in women in their 20s and 30s, while young men are increasingly facing colorectal and testicular cancers. Unlike older adults, the disease in younger patients often progresses faster and can go undetected longer due to lack of screening.

Factors such as sedentary lifestyles, poor dietary habits, increased exposure to environmental toxins, obesity, smoking, and delayed medical checkups are contributing to this surge. Additionally, hereditary factors and genetic mutations play a more prominent role, especially in families with a history of cancer.



**Why Awareness and Timely Action Matter**

One of the biggest challenges in treating cancer among the youth is the delay in diagnosis. Many young people dismiss early warning signs like unexplained weight loss, fatigue, changes in bowel habits, or lumps, assuming they are too young to have cancer. This leads to late-stage detection, when treatment becomes more complex and outcomes less favorable. Awareness campaigns must

now evolve to speak directly to young adults, stressing the importance of not ignoring symptoms and undergoing regular health checkups, especially in high-risk groups.

**Rethinking Prevention and Screening**

While national cancer screening programs are being expanded, there is an urgent need to tailor these initiatives for younger populations. High-risk individuals, those with family history, lifestyle risks,

or early symptoms should be prioritized for screening and early evaluation.

Hospitals and cancer care centers across India are beginning to introduce more youth-focused outreach and genetic counseling, particularly in states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, where young-onset cancer incidence is rising rapidly.

The rise of cancer among young Indians is not just a medical concern, it is a social and generational issue. Early detection, timely intervention, and greater awareness can significantly improve outcomes. As India grapples with this evolving challenge, it's essential to educate, empower, and equip younger generations with the tools to act early. Detection at the right time can save lives, even in the prime of youth.

Author is a Senior Consultant and Head of Department, Medical Oncology, Yatharth Hospital, Greater Noida

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

# The plight of daily wage workers

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

In the changing times, when the world of technology, capital, and glamour seems to be making India shine, there is a large section of the country that lays the foundation of that shine but itself keeps suffocating in the darkness. This is the section—the daily wage laborers. It is because of them that skyscrapers are built, the roads run at a high speed, and the city breathes. But the irony is that there is neither stability, nor security, nor identity, nor sensitivity in the lives of these labourers.

The plight of daily wage laborer is not only economic but also a result of social neglect and institutional failures. Be it the Covid-19 pandemic or the recent urban disasters, this class had to bear the first and the deepest blow. For these daily wage earners, lockdown and economic recession became a matter of life and death. Their names may be recorded in government announcements, but there is no reliable record of them in the statistics, nor are they a priority in the implementation of schemes.

India's workforce is around 500 million, of which more than 90 percent of workers are employed in the informal sector. About 72 percent of urban India's workforce is working as daily wage workers. This "backend India," which no one sees, works day and night to keep up the pace of "frontend India." This class is the foundation of modernity not only of India but also of Singapore, Dubai, and the Gulf countries. But the irony is that they have no identity card, no insurance, no stability, hard work and neglect.

The struggle of workers in India is not new. From the Bombay Mill Workers Movement during the British period to the establishment of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) in 1920, the working class organised themselves and raised their voice for their rights. The tradition of celebrating May 1 as 'Labour Day' may have started with the Chicago movement, but the workers of India have also fought struggles that shook the power from time to time. But the sad



*India's workforce is around 500 million, of which more than 90 percent of workers are employed in the informal sector. About 72 percent of urban India's workforce is working as daily wage workers. This "backend India," which no one sees, works day and night to keep up the pace of "frontend India." This class is the foundation of modernity not only of India but also of Singapore, Dubai, and the Gulf countries. But the irony is that they have no identity card, no insurance, no stability, hard work and neglect.*

thing is that even in the 21st century their issues remain the same—minimum wages, safety, and dignity.

Factories, hotels, restaurants, construction sites, and delivery services—I depend on them. From Ola-Uber drivers to masons, carpenters, food delivery boys, and plumbers—they are the ones who keep the cities moving. But when it comes to their rights, the system becomes silent. There

is no adequate water-bathing system for them, no safe housing, no pure drinking water, no health services. They are advised to wash their hands, but even hand pumps are unreliable for them. If they are sick, there is no name in the hospital queue; if there is a bank, there is no account; and if there is labor there is no recognition. They face the triple blow of infection, unhealthy environment, and mental

exploitation every day.

A large number of these hard workers are women workers—rying bricks to construction sites, washing utensils in homes, sweating in the fields, and then returning home to look after the kitchen. They have no maternity leave, no protection from sexual harassment, and no guarantee of equal pay. The saddest thing is that women workers are often considered 'invisible' in social

security schemes.

When the cities were put under lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic, the images of migrant workers walking thousands of kilometers barefoot, hungry, and thirsty on the roads shook the entire country. The hands that built the cities became strangers to everyone. Governments kept passing the buck to each other, and these workers kept losing their lives even on railway tracks while returning to their villages.

In such a situation, the question arises — who is responsible for their plight? Governments that remember them only during election season? Society that only uses their labor but does not consider them as human beings? Or the policy system that still considers them "temporary", while the entire urban India is dependent on their labour? If our cities are standing on someone's bones, then is their right only to shed sweat? Does the development of the country mean only high-rise buildings, or also the prosperity of the hands that build those buildings?

We need a revolution at both policy and social levels. First of all, their registration should be

made mandatory—initiatives like the "e-Shram Portal" should be made widespread and local. Also, it should be the government's priority to provide the "Unorganized Workers Index Number Card" to every worker. This will not only give them an identity but will also serve as a means to link them to social security schemes.

Boosting the social security fund can no longer afford delay. Every worker must have access to health insurance, a guaranteed minimum wage, and relief in case of emergencies. The definition of a smart city is incomplete if it does not provide dignity to its most vulnerable workers. Local bodies, panchayats, and municipalities must also link these daily wage workers to employment according to their skills. There should be a "Shram Sahayata Kendra" in every city, which should become a center of information, consultation, and assistance.

The hard work of the workers who went to countries like Singapore, Qatar, and Dubai from India became the identity of the buildings there. But there too there is a lack of basic facilities for them, and here in our country they are completely neglected, calling them 'weaker sections.' What an irony it is to make the citizens of a developing country 'second-class' citizens in their own country!

Ramnath, a construction worker in Gurugram, spends 12 hours a day lifting bricks and gravel. He and his wife both work as labourers, yet are unable to pay the school fees of their children. "We built the city, but we do not have the right to live in it," he says. Ramnath is no exception at a representative voice of millions of laborers in India.

Today, when we are celebrating Labor Day, it should not be merely symbolic. This day should force us to think whether we are really able to give our builders the respect, the security, and the life they deserve. If not, it will not take long for the building of development of this country to turn into ruins.

*The author can be mailed at DrSatywanWriter@outlook saurabh.onmicrosoft.com*

# Beyond Human Perception

BASHIR AHMAD DAR

After reading Surah Al-Kahf from the Holy Quran, I truly understood what Dr. Allama Iqbal meant in his famous couplet from the poem Khadir-e-Rah: "Kashti-e-Miskeen-o-Jaan-e-Paak-o-Deewar-e-Yateem, ilm-e-Musa (A.S.) bhi hai tere samne hairat farosh". This couplet references three key incidents in the Quranic story of Prophet Musa (A.S.) and Khidr (A.S.), which highlight the limits of human understanding in the face of divine wisdom.

Summary of the Story: One day, a man from Bani Israel asked Prophet Musa (A.S.), "Who is the most knowledgeable among the people?" Believing himself to be the Prophet and hence the most knowledgeable, Musa (A.S.) replied, "I am." To teach him humility and show that no one holds complete knowledge, Allah commanded him to journey to the place where the two seas meet, where he would find a servant of Allah more knowledgeable than himself. Musa (A.S.) obeyed and eventually met the

servant—widely understood in Hadith literature to be Hazrat Khidr (A.S.). Musa (A.S.) requested to accompany him and learn from him, but Khidr (A.S.) warned that Musa would not be able to remain patient with what he saw. Musa promised to remain silent and patient, asking no questions unless Khidr (A.S.) himself explained.

Their mysterious journey began with three puzzling events:

The Damaged Boat: They boarded a boat belonging to poor fishermen. To Musa's shock, Khidr damaged it by making a hole in it.

The Killed Boy: Later, Khidr killed a young boy they encountered.

The Rebuilt Wall: In a town where they were refused hospitality, Khidr repaired a crumbling wall without asking for any compensation.

Each time, Musa (A.S.) questioned Khidr, unable to restrain his sense of justice and confusion. After the third incident, Khidr declared that it was time to part ways. However, before doing so, he explained the divine wisdom behind his actions: The boat belonged to

poor people. A tyrant king was seizing all functional boats. By damaging it slightly, Khidr ensured it would be spared and the owners could repair it later.

The boy was destined to bring grief to his believing parents due to his rebellious nature. Allah intended to replace him with a better child.

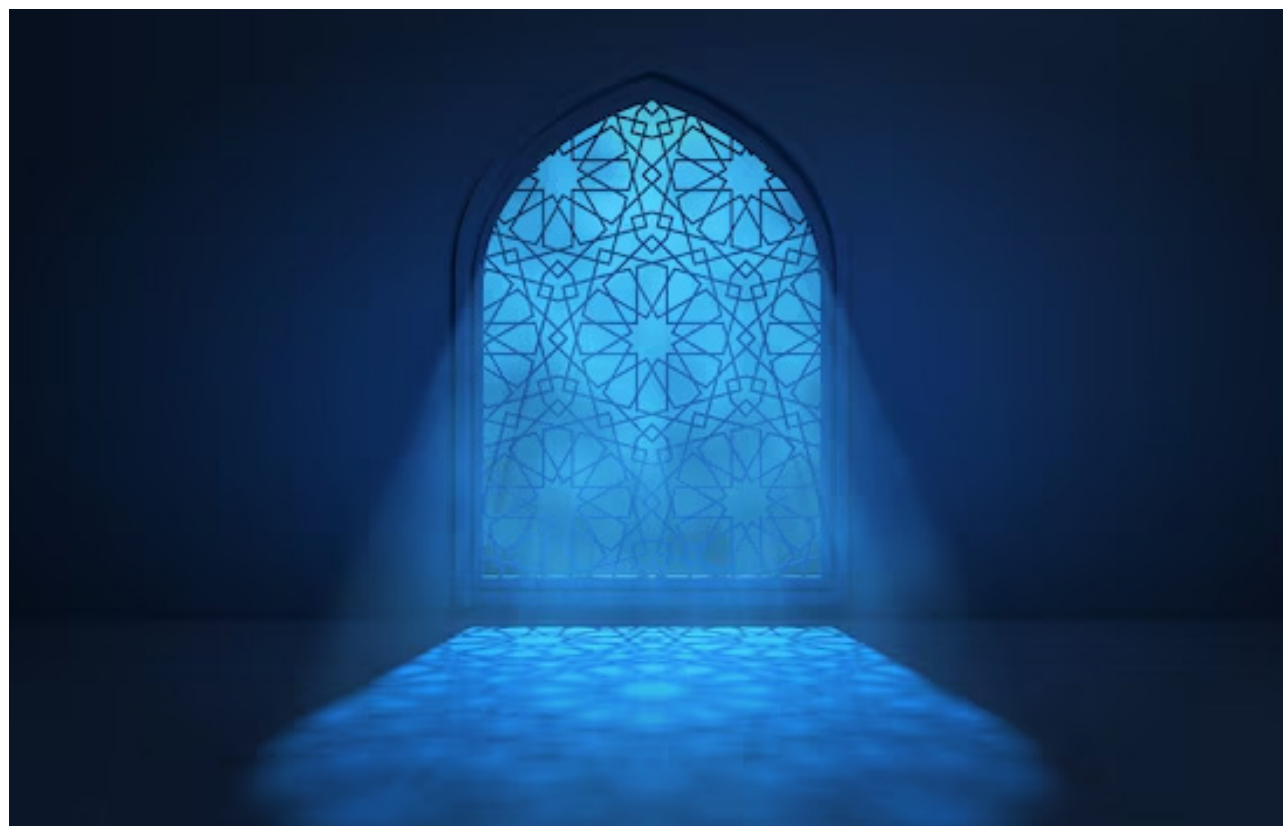
The wall concealed a treasure belonging to two orphan boys. Their righteous father had left it for them, and the wall's restoration ensured it would remain hidden until they matured.

Khidr emphasized that he had done none of these things of his own accord, but rather by Allah's command.

As rightly said by Maulana Maududi, "Those who judge events based only on their apparent form make serious errors in their conclusions, for they fail to see the divine wisdom behind them."

This story reminds us that human knowledge is limited, and what may seem unjust or senseless may, in fact, be part of a deeper divine plan.

*(The author is a teacher by profession)*



*Each time, Musa (A.S.) questioned Khidr, unable to restrain his sense of justice and confusion. After the third incident, Khidr declared that it was time to part ways. However, before doing so, he explained the divine wisdom behind his actions*

# 10 Reasons To Snack On Dates This Winter

**D**ates are sweet, chewy fruits harvested from the date palm tree. Originating in the Middle East, dates have been a staple in diets for thousands of years. They are rich in essential nutrients, including vitamins, minerals, fibre, and antioxidants. Dates are known for their natural sweetness, making them a healthier alternative to refined sugars. Their warming properties, nutrient density, and ability to boost energy make them particularly beneficial during winter. They help nourish the body, strengthen immunity, and provide warmth, making them an excellent addition to winter diets. Keep reading as we discuss the many benefits of consuming dates as a snack in winter.

10 Health benefits of snacking on dates during winter

- 1. Boosts immunity**  
Dates are rich in antioxidants like flavonoids, carotenoids, and phenolic acid, which help fight free radicals and prevent cell damage. The high concentration of vitamins and minerals strengthens the immune system, making it easier for the body to fend off common winter ailments like colds and flu.
- 2. Provides natural warmth**  
Dates are known for their "warming" properties in traditional medicine. They increase body heat, which is particularly beneficial during colder months. This warming effect helps maintain optimal body temperature and keeps you cozy during the winter season.
- 3. Rich in iron and prevents anaemia**  
Dates are an excellent source of iron, which helps



boost haemoglobin levels. Iron is essential for maintaining healthy red blood cells and preventing anaemia, a condition that can lead to fatigue, weakness, and cold intolerance which are issues that are more pronounced in winter.

- 4. Promotes digestive health**  
High in dietary fibre, dates aid digestion and prevent constipation, a common issue during winter due to reduced water intake and physical

activity. The soluble fibre in dates promotes regular bowel movements.

- 5. Boosts energy levels**  
Dates are a natural source of simple sugars like glucose, fructose, and sucrose, which provide a quick energy boost. During winter, when days are shorter and energy levels can dip, snacking on dates helps maintain stamina and prevents lethargy, making them an ideal pre-workout or mid-afternoon snack.
- 6. Supports bone health**

Dates contain essential minerals like calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, and potassium, which contribute to strong bones. Winter weather can exacerbate joint and bone discomfort, especially for those with arthritis.

- 7. Improves heart health**  
Dates are rich in potassium, which helps regulate blood pressure and reduce the risk of heart disease. The antioxidants in dates also reduce inflammation and cholesterol levels.

Including dates in your winter diet can help protect your cardiovascular system from cold-weather-related risks.

- 8. Aids in weight management**  
Despite their natural sweetness, dates have a low glycemic index and are rich in fibre, which promotes satiety and curbs unhealthy cravings. Consuming dates in moderation can help manage weight by preventing overeating and providing a nutritious alternative

to processed sweets during the winter season.

- 9. Promotes skin health**  
Dates are loaded with vitamins and antioxidants that promote healthy, glowing skin. During winter, dry and dull skin is common, but the vitamins in dates (especially vitamin C and vitamin K) help maintain elasticity, repair damaged skin cells, and keep your skin moisturised from within.
- 10. Supports brain health**  
Dates contain antioxi-

dants and nutrients that support brain function, such as flavonoids and vitamin B6. The cold weather and reduced sunlight in winter can sometimes affect mood and cognitive function, making dates a helpful brain-boosting snack.

Incorporating dates into your winter diet not only satisfies your sweet tooth but also provides numerous health benefits that support overall well-being during the colder months.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

### Unity Key Strength

operational freedom to the armed forces to decide on the mode, targets and timing of response to Pakistan.

During the past ten days PM Modi has chaired two back to back meetings of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and has passed strict directions to eliminate terror and its supporters—(KNO)

### US VP Hopes Pakistan

that the terrorists sometimes operating in their territory are hunted down and dealt with," the US Vice-President added.

During the interview with Fox News, Vance made his first public remark on the attack, which left 26 people dead. Vance and his family were in India on a four-day visit when the carnage of the worst since the Pulwama attack on CRPF personnel in 2019 took place.

The Vice-President's remarks assume significance amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack. Vance, who was in India last month, had then condemned the attack and expressed solidarity with the victims and their families in a post on X.

The Pahalgam attack, which claimed the lives of 25 tourists and one local, was one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in the Kashmir Valley in recent times. The terrorists had planned the attack on a scenic meadow which required hiking or using a pony service to get to the spot.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, amid escalating tensions between the two countries following the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

Rubio asked Pakistani officials to cooperate in the investigation and work to de-escalate tensions between them. In his first public remarks on the attack, Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that India will give a fitting and precise response to every act of terrorism.

Sending a strong warning to terrorists, Amit Shah said, "If anyone thinks that a cowardly attack is their victory, they must remember this is Narendra Modi's India and revenge will be taken, one by one." Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vowed to "pursue" the perpetrators and their backers "to the ends of the earth". India downgraded its ties with Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack.

It took several diplomatic measures, including the pausing of the Indus Waters Treaty, expelling all Pakistani military attaches, closing its airspace to Pakistani airlines and shutting down of the Attari-Wagah border. In response, Pakistan undertook tit-for-tat measures and suspended the Simla Agreement. India on Thursday relaxed its deadline, allowing

Pakistani nationals to return to Pakistan via the Attari-Wagah border.

However, Pakistan has not yet reciprocated with the same measure by allowing Indian nationals into the country.

### Pak PM's YouTube

Ministry of Home Affairs in the wake of the April 22 terror attack in the upper reaches of the Kashmir resort town in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.

Besides, the Ministry of External Affairs will be monitoring the reporting of the BBC, which termed terrorists as militants, officials had said.

The YouTube channels blocked are Dawn News, Irshad Bhatti, SAMAA TV, ARY NEWS, BOL NEWS, Raftar, The Pakistan Reference, Geo News, Samaa Sports, GNN, Uzair Cricket, Umar Cheema Exclusive, Asma Shirazi, Muneeb Farooq, SUNO News and Razi Naama.

### Pahalgam Attack

are trying to destabilize the peace and killing innocents," he said.

He added that PM Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah have already promised that the Pahalgam terror attack will be avenged. "India stands at the top and follows the values of humanity in letter and spirit," he said.

Sharma also remembered Adi Shankaracharya and greeted the people on the occasion of Shankaracharya Jayanti—(KNO)

### Air Marshal N

He was actively involved in operations and also took part in many important missions during the Kargil conflict, it had said.

The air marshal earlier had taken over as the AOC-in-C, SWAC in May 2023.

### SC Temporarily Halts

petitioners till verification of documents. "Since factual pleas raised require verification, including genuineness of documents, we dispose of the present writ petition at this stage without expressing any opinion on merits, with a direction to authorities to verify the documents or any other relevant facts that may be brought to their notice.

"Let an appropriate decision be taken at the earliest, though we are not stating any timeline," ordered the Justice Kantled Bench.

The apex court clarified that its order will not be treated as precedent in other

cases of deportation.

### Pahalgam Attackers Likely

the main gate, one took position at the exit, and a fourth remained hidden in the surrounding pine forest, likely providing backup.

The three attackers opened fire on tourists who were picnicking, riding ponies, or enjoying food from local stalls. Two wore military uniforms, while the third was dressed in a traditional Kashmiri pheran. Gunfire first erupted near the exit gate, sending the crowd fleeing toward the entrance—only to be ambushed by the men already stationed there.

Complicating efforts to track them, the terrorists reportedly used a secure communication device that does not rely on SIM cards and supports short-range encrypted messaging—making interception and real-time tracking extremely difficult for law enforcement.

### Pak Troops Resort

sector along the International Border, occurring over several consecutive nights up to last night.

It may be recalled that during a hotline conversation on April 30, 2025, between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan, India issued a stern warning to Pakistan, reiterating that such unprovoked actions violate the 2003 ceasefire agreement and will not be tolerated.

The Indian DGMO emphasized the need for Pakistan to adhere to bilateral commitments and cease all hostile activities along the LoC and IB—(KNO)

### Heavy Rain Triggers

official said. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic National Highway (Ramban), Raja Adil Hamid said that restoration work is underway to clear the debris and resume traffic.

He said most of the vehicles have already been cleared, while some stranded ones have been halted at safer locations. "Our priority will be to clear traffic going uphill," he said.

Pertinently, flashfloods last month had washed away significant portion of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and the restoration work is on.

Meanwhile, the gusty winds followed by the moderate rainfall wreaked havoc in several areas as the reports about the uprooting of a tree was received from SKICC here, leading to the massive traffic jam along the route.

Moreover, the reports were received that a tree uprooted near SKICC this afternoon amidst the gusty winds, causing huge traffic jam along the route.

Furthermore, two flights were also diverted due to the windstorm today.

According to an official, IndiGo flights 6E896/2305 (Delhi-Srinagar-Delhi) and 6E214 (Mumbai-Srinagar-Ixj) were unable to land at Srinagar International Airport due to windstorms and have been diverted to Chandigarh and Delhi, respectively.

Moreover, as predicted by the local Meteorological department, (MeT), rains lashed several central and southern areas of Kashmir this afternoon.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is a possibility of brief spell showers at isolated to scattered places with thunder and gusty winds till May 05—(KNO)

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# Instagram accounts of Babar Azam, Rizwan, and Shaheen blocked in India

AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** Top Pakistani cricketers, Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, and Shaheen Shah Afridi, have had their Instagram accounts blocked in India in the aftermath of the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

The three are currently participating in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) 2025, representing Peshawar Zalmi, Multan Sultans, and Lahore Qalandars, respectively. However, Indian users can no longer access their Instagram pages, with a message citing compliance with a legal request to restrict the content in the country.

The move comes as part of a broader crackdown following the April 22 terrorist strike in Kashmir, where 25 tourists and one Kashmiri local were killed after gunmen opened fire at a meadow near the tourist town of Pahalgam.

In response, the Indian government has begun restricting Pakistani social media accounts with significant Indian followings.

Olympic gold medalist javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem's Instagram account was also blocked



in India on Thursday. Nadeem, who defeated India's Neeraj Chopra at the Paris Olympics, had recently declined an invitation to participate in Chopra's NC Classic javelin event set for May 24 in Bengaluru.

Earlier in the week, several Pakistani YouTube channels were also withheld in India for "disseminating provocative and communally sensitive content" and "misinformation against India, its Army, and security agencies".

Former cricketers

Shoaib Akhtar, Shahid Afridi, and Basit Ali were among those whose YouTube presence was curtailed. Interestingly, their Instagram profiles remain visible for now, unlike the accounts of Babar, Rizwan, and Shaheen.

Other notable Pakistani celebrities, including actors Mahira Khan and Ali Zafar, have also seen their Instagram profiles restricted in India, marking a significant digital blockade amid rising bilateral tensions.

Moreover, many other

Pakistani YouTube channels have been banned in India for provocative and communally sensitive content, along with false and misleading narratives targeting India, its Army, and security agencies.

The other banned channels include Dawn News, Irshad Bhatti, SAMAA TV, ARY NEWS, BOL NEWS, Raftar, The Pakistan Reference, Geo News, Samaa Sports, GNN, Uzair Cricket, Umar Cheema Exclusive, Asma Shirazi, Muneeb Farooq, SUNO News HD, and Razi Naama.

# Pakistan attempts to attack Indian websites linked to children

AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** Pakistan has once again resorted to cyberattacks against India. In a continued wave of cyber offensives, Pakistan-sponsored hacker groups such as "Cyber Group HOAX1337" and "National Cyber Crew" made unsuccessful attempts to breach some websites.

Defence sources told IANS that these hacking efforts were promptly identified and neutralised by Indian cybersecurity agencies. The latest cyber attacks were carried out on Thursday.

Highly-placed sources submitted that among the latest provocations, the websites of Army Public School Nagrota and Sunjuwan were targeted and attempted to be defaced with messages mocking the victims of the recent Pahalgam terror attack.

In another incident, a website catering to ex-servicemen's healthcare services was defaced, signalling Pakistan's growing frustration. There have been repeated attempts made by hackers operating from Pakistan to attack websites having linkages to children, old age veterans and other innocent people.

Resorting to attacking veterans and families' platforms reflects another low by Pakistan and their continuous attempt at unethical ways of operating.

The hacking of the



Army Institute of Hotel Management's website and Indian Air Force veterans' further illustrates the Pakistan establishment's intent to provoke and escalate tensions in the digital battlespace.

These brazen cyberattacks are part of a broader pattern of provocation by Pakistan, which has long employed terrorism and information warfare against India, sources added.

Defence experts said that it appears that Pakistan is testing India's restraint and patience.

Before these latest cyberattacks, earlier in the past week, Pakistani cyber operators targeted Indian military-related websites, including those of the Army Nursing College, Army Public Schools, Army Welfare Housing

Organisation, Army Welfare Placement Organisation and others.

On April 22, terrorists opened fire on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. The brutal attack claimed the lives of 26 people.

The terrorists reportedly asked the names of the tourists before shooting at them. Since the incident, the Indian Army has launched an intensive operation against terrorists in the region.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has also been engaging in firing along the Line of Control (LoC). Since the Pahalgam attack, Pakistan has been continuously firing on the Line of Control. On the other hand, it is launching cyberattacks on institutions related to the Indian Army.

Pakistan has so far

launched cyberattacks on educational institutions, medical institutions and welfare-related websites related to the Indian Army. India has warned Pakistan over the ceasefire violations.

The Indian side over the matter on Tuesday conveyed its warning in the weekly hotline talks between the India and Pakistan DGMOs.

According to Defence sources, this year itself, Pakistani troops have violated the Ceasefire Agreement 15 times in addition to 2,651 instances of minor small arms firing and abetted three infiltration attempts wherein seven terrorists were killed.

The Indian Army has effectively responded to these provocations while maintaining its commitment to restraint.

# India's forex reserves surge past \$688 billion mark

AGENCIES

**MUMBAI:** India's foreign exchange reserves rose for the eighth straight week to touch \$688.13 billion as of April 25, according to the latest RBI data released on Friday.

The foreign exchange kitty surged by \$1.98 billion during the week.

The foreign currency component of the reserves increased by \$2.17 billion to \$580.66 billion.

The gold reserves component of the forex reserves decreased by \$207 million to \$84.37 billion while Special Drawing Rights (SDR) went up by \$21 million to \$18.59 billion.

The declining trend in forex reserves of earlier months due to revaluation and forex market interventions by the RBI to help reduce volatility in the rupee has now been reversed over the last two months.

Earlier, the country's forex reserves had increased to an all-time high of \$704.885 billion in September 2024.

Any strengthening of the country's foreign exchange kitty also helps bolster the rupee vis-a-vis the US dollar which is good



for the economy. An increase in the foreign exchange reserves reflects the strong fundamentals of the economy and gives the RBI more headroom to stabilise the rupee when it turns volatile.

A strong forex kitty enables the RBI to intervene in the spot and forward currency markets by releasing more dollars to prevent the rupee from going into a free fall. Conversely, a declining forex kitty leaves the RBI less space to intervene in the market to prop up the rupee.

Meanwhile, India's external sector has emerged stronger with total exports rising to an all-time high of \$824.9 billion in the financial year 2024-25 despite geopolitical uncertainties and a slow-down in world trade.

This represents a growth of 6.01 per cent over the previous year's export figure of \$778.1 billion.

Services exports continued to drive the growth momentum, reaching a historic high of \$387.5 billion in 2024-25, up 13.6 per cent from \$341.1 billion in the previous year. For March 2025, services exports stood at \$35.6 billion, reflecting a year-on-year growth of 18.6 per cent compared to \$30.0 billion in March 2024, the latest RBI figures show.

In 2024-25, merchandise exports excluding petroleum products rose to a record \$374.1 billion, registering a 6 per cent increase from \$352.9 billion in 2023-24 — the highest ever annual non-petroleum merchandise exports.

# Delhi court issues notice to Sonia, Rahul Gandhi in National Herald case

AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** A court here on Friday issued notices to Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in the alleged National Herald money laundering case.

The Rouse Avenue Courts asked the Gandhis and others accused to show cause as to why cognisance should not be taken on the charge sheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Last week, Special Judge (PC Act) Vishal Gogne temporarily declined to issue notice on ED's prosecution complaint and asked the federal anti-money laundering agency to place the requisite documents on record and remove the defects.

As the prosecution contended that the court can take cognisance of a charge sheet without hearing the accused and, therefore, notices should be issued, the judge had said: "I cannot pass such an order until satisfied."

The court had then posted the matter for hearing on May 2. The ED recently filed

a prosecution complaint against senior Congress leaders, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, in the National Herald case. Others named in the charge sheet include Congress Overseas Chief Sam Pitroda, Suman Dubey, and others.

The charge sheet, filed before Delhi's Rouse Avenue Courts, values the alleged proceeds of crime to the tune of Rs 988 crore. It is alleged that the Congress leadership had misappropriated property belonging to the Associated Journals Limited (AJL), the original publisher of the National Herald, by converting public trusts into personal assets.

The National Herald, a newspaper established by Jawaharlal Nehru and other prominent leaders in 1938, was originally aimed at representing the liberal voice within the Indian National Congress. Published by AJL, the National Herald was a critical tool for Congress during the freedom struggle and post-independence years. Alongside the English publication, AJL also published newspapers in Hindi and Urdu. However, the paper ceased operations in 2008 due to

mounting debts exceeding Rs 90 crore.

The controversy over its assets came into focus in 2012 when BJP leader Subramanian Swamy filed a complaint in a trial court, alleging that Congress leaders had engaged in cheating and breach of trust in the process of acquiring AJL.

According to Swamy, the firm Young Indian Ltd -- in which Sonia and Rahul Gandhi are majority stakeholders -- acquired control over the newspaper's vast assets through a "malicious" takeover aimed at benefiting the party leadership personally. In the course of the investigation, the ED found that the accused, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, used Young Indian to acquire AJL's assets at a nominal price of Rs 50 lakh. The probe agency claimed that Young Indian, beneficially owned by the Gandhis, effectively took control of AJL's properties while undervaluing their market worth.

In November 2023, the ED attached immovable properties valued at Rs 661 crore and AJL shares worth Rs 90.2 crore, terming them their suspected proceeds of crime.

# 98.24 percent of Rs 2,000 banknotes have been returned: RBI

AGENCIES



**MUMBAI:** As many as 98.24 per cent of the Rs 2,000 banknotes which were in circulation as on May 19, 2023, have now been returned with the total value of such notes outside the banking system coming down to Rs 6,266 crore at the close of business on April 30, 2025, according to an RBI update on Friday.

The total value of these banknotes in circulation was Rs 3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 banknotes was announced, which means less than 2 per cent of them are still in circulation.

The Rs 2,000 banknotes continue to be legal tender. The facility for exchange of the Rs 2,000 banknotes is available at the 19 Issue Offices of the Reserve Bank since May 19, 2023. From October 9, 2023, RBI Issue Offices are also accepting Rs 2,000 banknotes from individuals/entities for deposit into their bank accounts. Further, members of the public are sending Rs 2,000 banknotes through India Post from any post office within the country, to any of the RBI Issue Offices for credit to their bank accounts, the official statement said.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation on May 19, 2023. The status of withdrawal of these banknotes is periodically published by the RBI. The last press

release in this regard was published on October 1, 2024. The facility for deposit or exchange of the Rs 2,000 banknotes was available at all bank branches in the country up to October 7, 2023.

The Rs 2,000 denomination banknote was introduced in November 2016 primarily with the objective of meeting the currency requirement of the economy in an expeditious manner after the withdrawal of the legal tender status of all Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 banknotes in circulation at that time. With the fulfilment of that objective and the availability of banknotes in other denominations in adequate quantities, printing of the Rs 2,000 banknote was stopped in 2018-19.

A majority of the Rs 2,000 banknotes were issued prior to March 2017 and were at the end of their estimated life span of 4-5 years. It has also been observed that this denomination is not commonly used for transactions. Further, the stock of banknotes in other denominations was considered to be adequate to meet the currency requirement of the public.

In view of this and in pursuance of the "Clean Note Policy" of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), it had been decided to withdraw the Rs 2,000 denomination banknote from circulation, the RBI had stated at the time of the withdrawal. The RBI's clean note policy aims to ensure the availability of good-quality banknotes to members of the public.

# US V-P Vance hopes Pakistan will cooperate with India on probe in Pahalgam terror attack

AGENCIES

**WASHINGTON:** US Vice-President J.D. Vance has said that the US hopes that Pakistan would cooperate with India to hunt down the Pakistan-based terrorists responsible for the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam last month.

"Our hope here is that India responds to this terrorist attack in a way that doesn't lead to a broader regional conflict," Vance said on Thursday in an interview on Fox News' "Special Report with Bret Baier" show.

"And we hope, frankly, that Pakistan, to the extent that they're responsible, cooperates with India to make sure that the terrorists sometimes operating in their territory are hunted down and dealt with," the US Vice-President added.

During the interview with Fox News, Vance made his first public remark on the attack, which left 26 people dead.

Vance and his family were in

India on a four-day visit when the carnage -- the worst since the Pulwama attack on CRPF personnel in 2019 -- took place.

The Vice-President's remarks assume significance amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack.

Vance, who was in India last month, had then condemned the attack and expressed solidarity with the victims and their families in a post on X.

The Pahalgam attack, which claimed the lives of 25 tourists and one local, was one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in the Kashmir Valley in recent times. The terrorists had planned the attack on a scenic meadow which required hiking or using a pony service to get to the spot.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, amid escalating tensions between the two countries following the



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In his first public remarks on the attack, Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that India will give a fitting and precise response to every act of terrorism. Sending a strong warning to

terrorists, Amit Shah said, "If anyone thinks that a cowardly attack is their victory, they must remember this is Narendra Modi's India -- and revenge will be taken, one by one."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has vowed to "pursue" the perpetrators and their backers "to the ends of the earth".

India downgraded its ties with Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack and took several diplomatic measures, including the pausing of the Indus Waters Treaty, expelling all Pakistani military attaches, closing its airspace to Pakistani airlines and the shutting down of the Attari-Wagah border. In response, Pakistan undertook tit-for-tat measures and suspended the Simla Agreement.

India on Thursday relaxed its deadline allowing Pakistani nationals to return to Pakistan via the Attari-Wagah border. But, Pakistan has not yet reciprocated with the same measure by allowing Indian nationals into the country.

# Mariya Showkat wins bronze at 68th National School Games

AGENCIES

**GANDERBAL:** Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Ganderbal congratulated Mariya Showkat of Watlar, a resident of Chanthan Gulabpora, for winning a bronze medal at the prestigious 68th National School Games.

Mariya won the medal in the martial art of Thang-Ta, competing in the under-44 kg weight category in the Girls U-17 division.

Her outstanding performance, has brought immense pride to her school, community and the entire district of Ganderbal.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Ganderbal, Sheikh Shafiq Iqbal, lauded the young athlete's achievement, stating, "Mariya's accomplishment is a proud moment for all of us. Her perseverance, commitment, and skill have not only earned her national recognition but also inspired countless youngsters across the district."

The department also extended appreciation to Mariya's coaches and family for their continuous support and encouragement. DYSS Ganderbal wishes Mariya continued success in her sporting journey ahead—(KNO)

# IPL 2025: Cummins optimistic over SRH future despite seventh defeat

IANS

**AHMEDABAD:** Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Pat Cummins stated the team 'can cling on to some hope' about their future despite having been virtually eliminated from playoff contention after the 38-run defeat against Gujarat Giants in Match 51 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 here on Friday.

Half-centuries by Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler saw Gujarat post

a massive total of 224/6 in the first innings at the Narendra Modi Stadium. Despite Abhishek Sharma's 74-run fighting knock, there was not enough fight by the batters to chase it down, and they fizzled to 186/6.

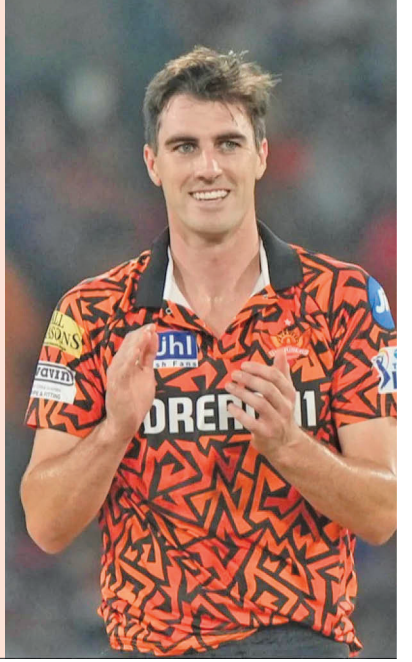
Sunrisers have won only three of their 10 games so far this season, and their fate now depends on other fixtures going their way. However, Cummins believes that hope is still there for the

franchise, given the mega auctions that took place in 2024, ensuring the core of the team will remain the same for years to follow.

"Our power-play with the bat wasn't too great. I was as guilty as anyone else. Probably let them get 20-30 extra runs. Maybe hang on to one or two catches. Again, I am guilty there. Chasing 200 looked a bit more realistic. They are class batters. They don't do anything outlandish. If you bowl bad balls,

they just put them away.

"We probably dished out too many bad balls. It is a really good wicket. Going for 140 in the last 14 overs was good on the bowling part. Sharma batted nicely. Nitish at the end. Left a little too much and too late for the batters. We can cling to some hope. Big auction last year. The core of the group will be there for three years," said Cummins during the post-game presentation on Friday.



# It's RCB vs CSK again, but will IPL's tastiest fixture have the same edge as before?

AGENCIES

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) taking on Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in Bengaluru is arguably one of the biggest clashes in the IPL. But there is a distinct vibe missing from this game this time around, and CSK's season has a lot to do with that.

There was hardly any crowd outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium when CSK arrived for their training session ahead of Saturday's game. This was very different from last year, when both sides of the street outside the venue were packed even on the eve of the game, and a sizeable crowd had gathered inside to watch the players train.

Make no mistake, the RCB-CSK clash will still get top billing. The tickets have been sold out for weeks, and the stadium will be packed to the rafters to watch MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli go head-to-head (for one final time?). But the buzz is missing.

CSK have lost eight out of ten games, and were the first team to be knocked out of IPL 2025. Even their training session on the eve of the fixture against RCB wasn't as intense as it might otherwise be. Shaikh Rasheed and Ayush Mhatre started the session with R Ashwin, Anshul Kamboj and Noor Ahmad bowling in one set of the nets, while Vijay Shankar went ahead at another.

Ravindra Jadeja walked in for a bat half an hour after the training began, but intense rain stopped the session for about 40



minutes. CSK picked up pace after the rain break, with Sam Curran, Jadeja, Devon Conway, Rachin Ravindra and Dewald Brevis all having a go. Dhoni, Shivam Dube and Matheesha Pathirana were the notable absentees from the training session.

It was quite different at the other end in the RCB camp. Currently on 14 points, a win at home will take RCB to 16, and make their playoffs chances and a potential top-two finish even stronger. They started their training session with Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal sharing one net, and Jitesh Sharma in another, with Dinesh Karthik keeping a careful watch, while Romario Shepherd was having a hit in a third net. RCB also had a wristspinner very similar to Noor, bowling at Kohli and Padikkal.

However, RCB's session was halted by a sharp spell of rain, which briefly stopped. But as the players returned to resume the session, the clouds opened up

again. And unlike the two previous occasions, it didn't stop raining for the next three hours, bringing an early end to proceedings.

It has rained relentlessly in Bengaluru over the last two days, and thunderstorms are expected on matchday as well.

### In the spotlight: Krunal Pandya and Khaleel Ahmed

With the limelight on Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Krunal Pandya has quietly flown under the radar. He has picked 13 wickets this season, which is his best ever in a season. But, more importantly, all his wickets have come in RCB wins. In the seven matches RCB have won, Krunal has 13 wickets in 26 overs at an economy of 8.2, while in the three matches that RCB have lost, he has no wicket to show in six overs, with his economy zooming to 10.5. Krunal has the second-most wickets by a spinner this season, behind

Noor, and has been RCB's go-to spinner in the middle-overs, where he operates at an economy rate of 8.18. Krunal is coming into the game on the back of a Player-of-the-Match performance against Delhi Capitals, where he was frugal with the ball, and scored an unbeaten 73 with the bat.

While there has been little to write home about CSK's bowling this season, Khaleel Ahmed has been pretty consistent, especially at the start. No other bowler has more powerplay wickets than Khaleel this season (nine), while he has also bowled 106 dot balls, the highest for any bowler. In terms of dot balls, this is already Khaleel's third-best season, and he still has four games to go. Khaleel has the second-most wickets for CSK behind Noor, and had an interesting battle with Phil Salt and Kohli when these two teams met earlier this season. He will want to continue the good run of form going forward.

# Ethan Bamber claims five-for as Warwickshire, Yorkshire trade blows

AGENCIES

Warwickshire 161 for 6 (Barnard 41, Coad 2-30, Sears 2-38) trail Yorkshire 205 (Baird 47, Bamber 5-47) by 44 runs

New-ball seamer Ethan Bamber claimed his first five-wicket haul in a Warwickshire shirt as they and star-studded Yorkshire traded blows during a 16-wicket opening day of their Rothesay County Championship fixture at Headingley.

Bamber moved from Middlesex over the winter and is playing his fourth match for the Bears, who won the toss on a green pitch and bowled their hosts out for 205 to signal an early tea.

His 5 for 47 from 15.2 overs included England's new limited-overs captain Harry Brook for a frantic 33, while impressive three-wicket all-rounder Ed Barnard got Joe Root for 1 and Jonny Bairstow for 47.

Warwickshire, for whom wicketkeeper Kai Smith claimed five catches, closed on 161 for 6 from 43 overs in reply, trailing by 44. Barnard added 41.

Both counties came into this following draws last time out.

Warwickshire were six points better off in the early Division One table after three matches, and they edged the morning as Yorkshire reached lunch at 97 for 4. Brook had 33 of those.

With obvious movement through the air and off the pitch on offer, Bamber struck twice added to a wicket apiece for fellow seamers Barnard and Olly Hannon-Dalby.



Having left Fin Bean out, Yorkshire opted to utilise Dom Bess as a locum opener alongside Adam Lyth, who contributed 26 but was one of the morning wickets. Dawid Malan (groin) was also missing.

Bess, for 16, was first to go when he got an inside-edge to a Bamber delivery which nipped back and was caught behind by Smith.

Warwickshire's wicket-keeper took three morning catches, including James Wharton off Bamber at the second attempt. He fumbled the initial chance but held the rebound between his thighs.

When Root played at a back-of-a-length delivery from Barnard which he probably didn't need to,

edging low to second slip, Yorkshire were 32 for 3 after 14 overs.

Lyth followed to Hannon-Dalby before Brook made an action-packed start to his innings. Although he drove nicely, he danced down the pitch twice looking to hit over the top and survived a huge caught behind appeal off Michael Booth.

Brook failed to add to his lunchtime 33 when miscueing an attempted uppercut off Bamber to Hamza Shaikh at third - 97 for 5 in the 29th over, three balls into the afternoon.

George Hill followed shortly afterwards to the same bowler before Bairstow and Jordan Thompson united to share a vital

seventh-wicket 61. While both were attacking, it wasn't reckless. Thompson supported his captain with 35.

There were signs of Bairstow - making his 100th Championship appearance - at his savage best. But there was finesse too. One straight drive off Barnard was as good as any shot all day.

However, Barnard removed both as Yorkshire fell to 185 for 9. Thompson was caught behind before Bairstow played on.

New Zealander Ben Sears then clobbered a late 28 to sneak Yorkshire beyond the 200-mark before edging Bamber into the slips to signal an early tea. And wickets continued to fall in the evening - six of them.

After Davies and Rob Yates shared an opening 30, Warwickshire lost four for 17 inside eight overs.

Davies edged Australian debutant Jordan Buckingham's new-ball seam to third slip before Yates was trapped lbw by Ben Coad.

And when Shaikh gloved pacy Sears behind as he tried to leave alone, followed by Zen Malik trapped lbw by Hill next ball, the hosts were back in it at 47 for 4 in the 14th.

Barnard then set about settling the situation and drove nicely. He shared 59 with Dan Mousley - the latter contributing 32 before edging Coad to second slip - and a sixth-wicket 50 with Australian debutant Beau Webster, 32 not out.

However, Barnard was caught at second slip off Sears late on, almost the last act of a super day's play.

# Flick focuses on specific area in Barcelona training to avoid mistakes from Inter Milan clash



AGENCIES

According to journalist Carlos Monfort, Barcelona dedicated a large part of their training session today to defending set pieces, as Hansi Flick looks to correct one of the few recurring flaws in his team's otherwise disciplined setup.

The emphasis comes ahead of the crucial second leg against Inter Milan in the Champions League semi-finals, with the tie delicately poised after a 3-3 draw in the first leg.

Statistically, Barcelona have been one of La Liga's best sides at defending set plays this season, conceding just three goals from such situations, the lowest in the league.

However, the numbers do not tell the full story. In recent high-stakes matches, particularly in Europe and cup competitions, Barcelona have been repeatedly punished from corners and free-kicks.

They conceded from set pieces in the Copa del Rey final against Real Madrid and once also looked vulnerable against Borussia Dortmund in earlier Champions League rounds.

### Inter also took advantage

The warning signs were ignored against Inter. In the 3-3 thriller, two of Inter's three goals came directly from corners.

The Italian side had already shown their aerial threat by scoring two goals

from corners to eliminate Bayern Munich in the quarter-finals.

Flick, never one to hide from tactical flaws, addressed the issue directly in the press conference ahead of the Valladolid match. "I think we can defend much better," he began saying.

"It's not just the height, it's how you block, how you take responsibility in defence... but of course, we were hurt a lot by Inter's set-pieces. Bayern also conceded. Inter also have a great shooter, maybe one of the best."

Clearly, this is not just a minor adjustment, it is a critical area that could define whether Barcelona progress to the Champions League final.

# Barcelona Teenager Yamal Praised By Friend & Foe For Performance Against Inter Milan

AGENCIES

**BARCELONA:** After witnessing from the touchline how Lamine Yamal pushed his Inter Milan lineup to the limit, Simone Inzaghi said talents like the Barcelona teenager come around only once in a half century.

"He's the kind of talent who is born every 50 years, I had never seen him live and he really impressed me today," the Inter coach said after Yamal helped Barcelona rally in a scintillating 3-3 draw Wednesday to start their Champions League semifinal series.

"Lamine Yamal caused us so many problems in the last 25 minutes of the first half."

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick described his 17-year-old player as "a genius" after Yamal put on his latest talent show in his 100th game for the club's senior squad.

"He's special. I've said it before, but he's a genius," Flick said. "In the big matches, he shows up, and I think he enjoyed the situation. I'm really happy that this talent, if it only comes every 50 years like Simone said, I'm glad it's for Barcelona."



### Yamal Romping Where Messi Once Did

Yamal dismissed any comparison to Lionel Messi in his first press conference for his club a day before Inter came to town. But his performance recalled the best days of Messi as his teammates fed him passes and let him pick Inter apart from the right flank. Each time he had the ball he was either searching for a teammate in scoring position or dipping his head and dribbling past

his marker. His goal was one for the YouTube compilations.

Inter had a 2-0 lead and the momentum from goals by Marcus Thuram and Denzel Dumfries, and it appeared like they'd left Yamal with nowhere to go in the 24th. But he slipped around one defender, sped past a second, and then, putting the ball on his left foot, he curled a shot past the turning heads of at least two more Inter players. The ball smacked the far post and was cradled

in the net. That goal made Yamal — at 17 years, 291 days — the youngest scorer in a Champions League semifinal.

He went so close to bettering that moments later when he glided past two defenders and sliced a shot from a sliver of an angle off the crossbar.

"This guy is incredible," Manchester City striker Erling Haaland posted on Snapchat with a screenshot of Yamal's shot off the bar.

Yamal fed passes to Ferran Torres and Dani Olmo for back-to-back shots that Inter goalkeeper Yann Sommer saved before Raphinha took over and headed a ball down for Torres to ram home for 2-2 before halftime.

Dumfries put Inter ahead again before Raphinha ensured the draw with a long-range strike that found the net. But Yamal was disappointed that a final push for a winner came up short.

"The whole world can see what a good footballer he is. He's a player who shines," Inter midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan said. "We tried to stop him, but that was so difficult because he's got great talent. I hope we don't let him play this much next week."

### Hungry For More

Yamal said he appreciated the praise but just wanted to focus on the next match with a European Cup just two wins away.

"I am happy to have helped the team, and now we need to go for more," he said. "We knew we could have won the game but now we are just focused on the second leg and going through."