

Good Morning

Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
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The news of the death of a 5-year-old child due to rockslide which crashed into Primary School, Kalsian, Poonch is heart-rending. May God give strength to the bereaved parents to bear this shock. I pray for the speedy recovery of other children injured in this incident.

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People, History Will Judge What Changed In 5-Years: LG Sinha



REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: Asserting that people and history will judge what has changed in five years compared to what used to happen earlier, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has said that J&K has broken away from its troubled past and is embracing a brighter, secure, and development-driven future.

In an interview to a national news channel, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, reflected on the transformational journey of Jammu and Kashmir over the past five years since he took office on August 7, 2020. "Peace, prosperity, and a people-centric approach formed the bedrock of my adminis-

tration," he said. "Stone pelting and hartals are now history. Schools, colleges, and businesses function without disruption, and nightlife has made a comeback," LG Sinha stated, underlining the normalization of daily life in the Union Territory. "J&K's economy has doubled in the past five years," he added, signaling significant economic revival. Acknowledging that development is an ongoing process, the LG said, "People and history will judge what has changed in five years compared to what used to happen earlier."

On support for victims of terrorism, LG Sinha recounted emotional encounters with terror-affected

World Witnessed India's Military Might In 'Op Sindoor': PM Modi

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Monday that world witnessed India's military might during Operation Sindoor - country's precision strikes on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) in the aftermath of Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists, on April 22.

The Pahalgam attack on April 22 in Jammu and Kashmir claimed 26 lives, while the June 12 crash of the Air India flight resulted in 260 fatalities. Lawmakers stood in silence to honour the victims before taking up the session's agenda.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the media, describing the Monsoon Session as a "celebration of victory," citing the success of Operation Sindoor.

He said the mission carried out by Indian defence forces, achieved its goals within 22 minutes, targeting and destroying structures linked to terror masterminds. He added that this operation



has drawn global attention to India's military capability and the strength of its domestic defence sector.

"When the Parliament speaks in one voice during this session, it will support military morale, encourage citizens, and contribute to progress in defence research, innovation, and manufacturing," he added.

Prime Minister said the world witnessed India's military strength during Operation

Sindoor following the April 22 attack in Pahalgam that left 26 people dead, most of them tourists.

PM Modi said the Indian Army achieved its target under Operation Sindoor, in which the houses of those behind terrorism were demolished within 22 minutes.

He added that this operation has drawn global attention to India's military capability and the strength of its domestic

defence sector.

"When the Parliament speaks in one voice during this session, it will support military morale, encourage citizens, and contribute to progress in defence research, innovation, and manufacturing," he added.

He also said that security forces are making steady progress in eliminating Maoists and Naxalites and that several previously affected districts are now free from

Jagdeep Dhankhar Resigns As Vice President



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEWS DELHI: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday resigned from his post, citing health reasons.

In his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu, he said: "To prioritise health care and abide by medical advice, I hereby resign as the Vice President of India, effective immediately, in accordance with Article 67(a) of the Constitution."

Dhankhar said it has been a privilege and satisfaction to witness and partake in India's remarkable economic progress and unprecedented exponential development during this significant period. Serving in this transformative era of our nation's history has been a true honour, he added.

Further, he said, "I extend my deepest gratitude to Your Excellency - the Hon'ble President of India for her

J&K Receives Fresh Rainfall, MeT Predicts More

OWAIS GUL

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has received fresh rainfall on Monday with the weatherman here predicting more rains till July 23 across the region.

A three-day wet spell was predicted from July 21 to 23 as the Meteorological department (MeT) here had issued yellow and orange alerts for the region.

The temperature settled above normal today with Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recording a maximum temperature of 34.9 degrees.

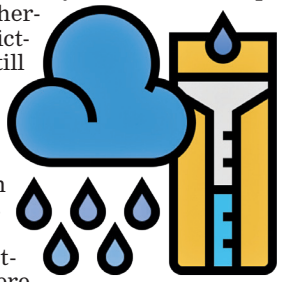
As per the data, the mercury in Qazigund, a gate-

way of Kashmir, recorded a maximum temperature of 29.0 degrees while Pahalgam recorded 28.0 degrees.

In Kupwara, the mercury settled at 35.3 degrees followed by 30.8 degrees in Kokernag while Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded a maximum temperature of 23.5 degrees.

Jammu division, however, recorded the below normal temperature today with several areas recording the heavy rainfall.

As per the data, Katra has recorded the highest precipitation in the last 24 hours. 184.2mm rainfall was recorded at Katra



Drug-Free J&K Imperative For Well-Being Of Future Generations: Sakeena Itoo

Addresses Day Long Seminar On 'Drug-Free Kashmir' At GCOE Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education Sakeena Itoo Monday emphasized that a constant and collective effort from community stakeholders, religious leaders, government officials, law enforcement agencies and citizens is crucial to combat the growing menace of drug abuse in the society.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing a day long seminar on Drug-Free Kashmir (A practical step towards Drug-Free society) at Government College of Education (GCOE), MA Road here today.



In her keynote address, Sakeena emphasized the urgent need for a unified front against substance abuse, stressing that every individual in society has a

crucial role to play in eliminating this threat.

Highlighting the disturbing rise of drug addiction among youth, the Minister

CS Holds Maiden Review Of Implementation Of JKCIP Across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting regarding implementation of the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in J&K (JKCIP).

The meeting, organised by the Agriculture Production Department, was attended by Principal Secretary, APD; VC, SKUAST, Jammu; MD, J&K Bank; MD, HADP; Deputy Commissioners; HoDs of Agriculture Departments; representatives from SKUAST, Kashmir and other concerned officers. The meeting focused

on the project's progress, annual work plan, financial mechanisms and future strategies to enhance the competitiveness and climate resilience of farmers across the UT.

During the review meeting, the Chief Secretary appreciated the project design and called for its effective implementation while meeting all the targets set for the ensuing financial year. He called upon the Bank authorities to integrate the bank processes with that of the JKCIP portal. He also asked them to create a loan product for making this programme a success.

The Chief



7.66 Cr Tourists Visited J&K From 2020-24: Centre Tells LS

OWAIS GUL

SRINAGAR: The Centre on Monday informed the Lok Sabha that a total of 7.65 crore domestic visitors and 1.47 lakh foreigners have visited Jammu and Kashmir in the five years till 2024.

According to details obtained, a total of 76,685,482 tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir from 2020 to 2024. The data reveals that 147,741 among them are foreign tourists and 76,537,741 domestic visitors.

Replying to a question, the Minister for Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, said that in 2020, a total of 25,19,524 domestic visitors and 5,317 foreign tourists visited J&K, while in 2021, a total of 1,13,14,920 domestic and 1,650 foreign tourists visited the region.

According to the data, an annual growth of 349.09 per cent was recorded in domestic tourist arrivals in 2021



"1,84,99,332 domestic visitors and 19,985 foreigners visited J&K in 2022, while in 2023, the total footfall of domestic visitors was recorded at 2,06,79,336 and foreign arrivals at 55,337," it added.

In 2024, a total of 2,35,24,629 domestic visitors and 65,452 foreigners visited Jammu and Kashmir.

The reply, a copy of which lies with KNO, reads that the Ministry of Tourism, under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme,

sanctioned a total of six (6) projects in the year 2016-17 for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, with a total sanctioned cost of Rs 519.58 crore.

All these projects have since been physically completed, it reads. The projects include Development of Jammu-Srinagar-Pahalgam-Bhagwati Nagar-Anantnag-Salamabad Uri-Kargil-Leh, Development of Tourist Facilities at Jammu-Rajouri-Shopian-Pulwama, Development of

P-06

...Tally Crosses 3.21 Lakh Mark

Amarnath Yatr: 17,000 Perform Darshan



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra continued on Monday with over 17,000 pilgrims paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine nestled in the Himalayas of South Kashmir.

With this, the cumulative figure of devotees, who have undertaken the pilgrimage since its commencement on July 3, has crossed 3.21 lakh, officials said.

Officials said that a total of 17,016 pilgrims performed darshan at the sacred cave on Monday.

Among them were 12,757 men, 3,270 women, 150 children, 158 sadhus, 9 sadhis, 3 transgender persons and 669 security personnel.

While the footfall at the shrine remained good, the

number of pilgrims departing from Jammu—the starting point for most yatris—has shown a consistent downward trend over the past few days.

From 7,908 pilgrims on July 18, the number dropped to 6,365 on July 19, 4,388 on July 20, and 3,791 on July 21 — the lowest daily departure figure recorded so far during this year's yatra.

Despite the decline, officials said that the pilgrimage is progressing smoothly and peacefully, with robust security and logistical arrangements in place across all transit and base locations.

On Monday morning, a fresh batch of 3,791 pilgrims left from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu under tight security cover for the twin base camps of

Cold Storage Units Prove Boon For Plum Growers

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: After transforming Kashmir's apple trade along with cherry, cold storage units are now turning into a lifeline for plum growers in the Valley.

Traditionally constrained by the perishability of their produce, farmers are now tapping into markets across India,

thanks to the rapidly growing cold chain infrastructure. Farmers from different parts of Kashmir said that fruits like plums used to be sold under pressure due to their limited shelf life, often just 2 to 5 days without refrigeration. This resulted in significant post-harvest losses and forced distress sales at throwaway prices.

"Earlier, we had to dispose of plums within a couple of days, sometimes at very low rates. But this year, cold storage has been a game-changer," said Javid Ahmad, a plum grower from Shopian. "We have been able

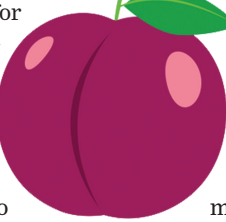
to store our fruit longer and supply it gradually to markets like Delhi, Mumbai and even Bengaluru. Most of my produce is sold already, and the rest is safely stored."

"For the first time, I stored my plums in cold storage. The returns have improved and we are seeing minimal wastage," said Mohammad Ashraf, a plum grower.

Growers said that rates are almost double as compared to last year and cold storage units are helping to send produce to markets as per demand.

Officials said that the move is part of a broader strategy to enhance Kashmir's fruit supply chain. "Short shelf life has been the biggest hurdle for growers of soft fruits like cherries and plums. Cold storage helps overcome that and opens up new market opportunities," said an official of the horticulture department.

Earlier, plums



J&K, Ladakh get Rs 1,881 crore under education schemes: Gol informs Parliament

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: On the first day of the Monsoon Session, the Centre informed Parliament that it has released rupees 1,689 crore to Jammu and Kashmir and rupees 192 crore to Ladakh under the Samagra Shiksha and PM-SHRI schemes for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

According to a written statement laid in Lok Sabha by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in response to a question, Jammu and Kashmir received Rs 865.44 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 823.49 crore in 2024-25 under Samagra Shiksha. In addition, it received 52.39 crore and 99.72 crore under the PM-SHRI scheme in the two respective years.

Ladakh was allocated

Rs 52.23 crore and Rs 140 crore under Samagra Shiksha in 2023-24 and 2024-25. Under PM-SHRI, it received 4.04 crore and 11.91 crore, respectively.

The minister said that the Samagra Shiksha scheme is being implemented in partnership with states and UTs, and funding is based on approved annual work plans and fulfilment of certain financial criteria.

He said the PM-SHRI scheme aims to develop select schools as exemplars of the National Education Policy 2020. So far, 33 of 36 states and UTs have signed the MoU required to implement the PM-SHRI scheme. West Bengal and Kerala have not signed the agreement, the Minister informed the House—(KNO)

ABP vital for ensuring e-Governance at grassroots level: CS

Co-chairs review meet of its implementation with Secy DoT

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A crucial meeting regarding implementation of the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) in J&K was Monday co-chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo and Secretary, Telecom, GoI, Neeraj Mittal.

The meeting underscored the commitment towards bridging the digital divide in rural India, where broadband penetration currently stands at a mere 2%, compared to 33% in urban areas.

The meeting was also attended by the Principal Secretary, PDD; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Secretary, IT; Secretary, Cooperatives; CGM, BSNL; Deputy Commissioners and SIO, NIC besides other concerned officers.

Terming the programme as significant for strengthening the digital governance at the grassroots, the Chief Secretary said ABP will play a transformative role in extending high-speed internet connectivity to blocks, tehsils and remote panchayats across the Union Territory. He assured full support from



the UT administration to ensure time-bound implementation of the project.

Dulloo emphasized that the project would significantly enhance the connectivity for government institutions including schools, hospitals and agriculture offices, enabling better delivery of public services and access to real-time information. This programme holds the potential to revolutionize the agriculture by delivering weather forecasts, crop advisories and other farmer-centric services directly to rural areas, he added.

Secretary Telecom, Dr Neeraj Mittal, underlined the importance of optimal utilization, regular maintenance and enhancement of the BharatNet infra-

structure to maximize its impact. He suggested that the UT may consider learning from best practices of states where ABP implementation has been highly successful.

He also outlined the inter-departmental coordination required to facilitate the rollout, directing departments like IT, PDD and RDD to ensure necessary support—ranging from logistical arrangements and power supply to space for equipment.

Regarding the Programme, the meeting was apprised that the Amended BharatNet is a flagship project designed to provide fast, reliable and affordable digital connectivity across the nation.

Key features of the

program included Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs), connectivity to non-GP villages on a demand basis ensuring network. The programme also envisages uptime greater than 98% and 10-year Operation and Maintenance (O&M) commitment targeting 1.5 crore broadband connections nationwide.

The Cabinet has approved the Amended BharatNet Program (ABP) with a total estimated cost of Rs 1,39,579 crore through out the nation.

For J&K (including Ladakh), the ABP project cost is Rs 2,631 crore (including Capex & Opex). The scope of work in the region included bringing 413 connected GPs onto the

ring topology and connecting an additional 3,887 new GPs in the ring.

Additionally, all non-Gram Panchayat (GP) villages will be connected on demand, with a target of 200,000 Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) connections. The FTTH rollout will be aligned with GP commissioning milestones, with a phased adoption plan: moderate uptake in Year 1 due to infrastructure readiness, accelerating in Year 2 as over 50% of GPs become operational and reaching peak adoption in Years 3-4.

As far as implementation and timelines are concerned, M/s STL is the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) as the EPC contractor, while BSNL serves as the Project Management Agency (PMA). Key timelines for the project in J&K involves Handover Takeover (HOTO) of existing networks by PIAs within 6 months from the agreement signing date.

Survey of GPs for network creation on ring topology is envisaged within a period of 12 months from the agreement signing date. It also sets 36 months

for commissioning of GPs in ring topology. Implementation of ABP in J&K includes establishment of a state-of-the-art Network Operation Centre (NOC) at Jammu by September 2025.

The ABP network will connect the public institutions, private enterprises, local entrepreneurs and households. It will enable the digital governance through digitization of government processes and MIS systems. Besides, it will facilitate access to digital services like e-education, e-health and e-agriculture and boost the digital economy by providing platforms for businesses and digital transactions.

The meeting was informed that a centralized BharatNet Issue Management Platform has been established to track, coordinate and resolve implementation issues, ensuring structured communication and timely responses among all stakeholders.

This ambitious program is set to transform the digital landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, bringing equitable and high-speed internet access to its rural communities.

Shantmanu inaugurates IGNOU Learner Support Centre at GGM College

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant step towards enhancing access to quality higher education, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education, Shantmanu, Monday inaugurated IGNOU Learner Support Centre (LSC-12133) at Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College, here.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Professor Romesh Gupta, Principal GGM Science College; Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu; Assistant Regional Directors, Dr. Asha Upadhyay, Dr. Vikram Singh and Dr. Zeba, Deputy Registrar, S. Tejinder Pal Singh, Assistant Registrar, Dara Singh and Dr. P. S. Thakur, Coordinator of newly established Learner Support Centre.

Earlier, with the approval of Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, Professor Uma Kanjilal, based

on the recommendations of Sub-Committee of Student Support Centre (SSC) in its 9th Meeting held on May 7, 2025, the Learner Support Centre (LSC) in the GGM Science College, Jammu was notified for BSCM (Bachelor of Science) and MSCZOO (Master of Science in Zoology) programmes. This is the first ever Learner Support Centre of IGNOU in the entire Jammu division to have been notified exclusively for Science based programmes.

While speaking at the event, Shantmanu underscored the importance of accessible and flexible education in today's rapidly evolving academic landscape. He added that the Department of Higher Education is making continuous efforts to strengthen the teaching-learning ecosystem across all institutions in the UT. Establishing this support centre is yet another step in our learner-centric approach to empower the students from

all walks of life. He assured all cooperation and support from the Higher Education Department to IGNOU by way of expansion of Learner Support Network in the region.

Professor Romesh Gupta, Principal of GGM Science College, lauded the initiative and stated, that, this IGNOU centre will open new avenues of learning for both our students and the wider community. It will significantly enhance the academic engagement by offering services such as counselling, tutorials and examination support.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, IGNOU RC Jammu, elaborated on the broader impact of IGNOU in strengthening higher education in the region. This collaboration with GGM Science College reinforces our mission to bring quality distance education closer to learners, making it more accessible and inclusive, he further remarked.

Public Accounts Committee holds meeting in Srinagar

Discusses Audit Paras of Mining, I&C Departments

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly convened a meeting Monday at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to review and discuss the audit paras related to the Mining and Industries & Commerce (I&C) Departments.

The meeting was chaired by PAC Chairman Sham Lal Sharma and attended by members Mubarak Gul, Javid Hassan Baig, Devinder Kumar Manyal, Sajad Shaheen and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan.

During the session, the Committee undertook a detailed examination of audit paras 2.14 (2011-12), 3.14 (2000-01), 4.10 (2003-04), and 3.13 (2015-16) pertaining to the Mining and I&C Departments.

The Committee deliberated on the key issues including land acquisition for the Industrial Export Promotion Park at SIDCO Ompora, procurement of Broadband Seismograph and establishment of a Seismograph Observatory, construction of Zone Office Complex for Handloom at Rajouri and drawal



and utilization of public funds. The Chairman directed the concerned departments to submit a comprehensive report on the Industrial Export Promotion Park project and fix accountability where necessary.

Emphasizing the need to curb illegal mining across Jammu and Kashmir, the Chairman called for sustainable mining practices and leveraging the modern technologies to monitor and prevent illegal activities. He stressed the importance of working with a sense of duty and accountability. He directed that Action Taken Reports (ATRs) be submitted in a time-bound manner on all discussed matters.

The meeting was attended by Principal Accountant General

J&K, K. P. Yadav; Principal Secretary, Mining, Anil Kumar Singh; Commissioner Secretary I&C Department, Vikramjit Singh; Secretary I&C, Khalid Jahangir; Secretary Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita; Director General Accounts and Treasuries, F. A. Lone; Director, Handicrafts and Handloom; Director, Geology and Mining; MD SIDCO; Director Finance and other senior officials.

Chairman Sham Lal Sharma emphasized the PAC's crucial role in ensuring transparency, fiscal discipline and accountability in governance. He reiterated the Committee's mandate to scrutinize public expenditure, examine CAG audit reports, identify lapses and recommend necessary reforms.

Javed Rana condoles student's demise in Poonch landslide

GMK NEWS NETWORK

MENDHAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, has expressed profound sorrow and grief over two separate incidents causing immense distress to the affected families.

The Minister expressed deep sorrow over the tragic demise of a young student who lost his life in the landslide that occurred at Government School, Bainchh Kalsan, Poonch.

In a condolence message, the Minister expressed heartfelt condolences to the grieving family during this extremely distressing time. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and enough courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable pain.

The Minister wished a swift and complete recovery to the injured children affected by the landslide.

He directed the district administration to provide comprehensive medical care, leaving no stone unturned in ensuring they receive the highest standard of support and treatment during this critical period.

CS SWD reviews departmental schemes in Kashmir Division

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sarmad Hafeez, Monday chaired a detailed review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, to assess the performance and progress of departmental schemes and projects in the Kashmir Division.

The meeting commenced with a comprehensive presentation by Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Mohammad Akbar Wani, highlighting implementation status of flagship schemes, infrastructural projects and related reforms.

The Commissioner Secretary issued clear directives for timely and transparent implementation of pension coverage and the Marriage Assistance Scheme, ensuring that all eligible beneficiaries receive the benefit without delay. He instructed the officers to maintain high standards of service delivery and empathy towards the public.

A major thrust was laid on enhancing the impact of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, with actionable initiatives focusing on drug demand reduction and social sensitization.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasized the role of the department in contributing meaningfully to this national mission.

The status of infrastructure development under the UT Capex Budget was reviewed, with instructions for timely utilization of funds and completion of ongoing projects.

During the meeting, the projects under SIPDA (Scheme for Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act), Old Age Homes at Akura (Anantnag) and Gandarbal and Abhinanda Home were evaluated for operational and infrastructural improvements. Besides, reports on NGO-run Senior Citizen Homes, Minority and Centrally Sponsored Scholarships and Pension Disbursement (NSAP) were also discussed. The officers were directed to expedite the reporting process and resolve any pending cases. Emphasis was laid on the linking of mobile numbers to beneficiary accounts and ensuring last-mile connectivity through Bank Sakshis.

The meeting also took stock of progress on the PM-JVKV (education sector), PMAY-G (VDP preparation in SC village, Anantnag) and the New Beginning (Beggary Home) project in Srinagar.

Additionally, attention was given to the Jansugam Portal, court case updates and the procedure for weeding out ineligible cases, ensuring robust transparency mechanisms.

POONCH LANDSLIDE

Sakeena Itoo expresses grief over student's tragic death

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the tragic death of a student in a landslide that struck the Government Primary School in Bainchh-Kalsan area of Poonch district.

In her condolence message, the Education Minister extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and termed the incident as deeply distressing and heart-breaking. "It is truly painful to learn that a young life, full of promise, has been cut short due to this natural calamity. My thoughts and prayers are with the family during

this unimaginably difficult time," the Minister said.

Meanwhile, the Minister urged the district administration to provide immediate relief to the affected family. She also asked them to take immediate measures for the well being of injured students.

The Minister asked the Director School Education Jammu as well as Director Health Services Jammu to keep constant monitoring of the injured students for their well being and provide all possible assistance to their families.

The Minister further asked the Director School Education Jammu to assess the situation and ensure necessary infrastructure support to the affected school building.

Dr. M.J. Zarabi calls on LG Sinha

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Dr. M.J. Zarabi, former Chairman, Board of Governors, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday. He was accompanied by Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, University of Kashmir and Dr. Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad, Director North Campus.

The delegation discussed setting up of Semi-Conduc-

tor Design Centre and Lab Scale Fabrication facility for training purpose at the North Campus, University of Kashmir, Delina, Baramulla.

The proposed Centre will serve as a nucleus for research, innovation and skill development in Semiconductor design. The facility will also incubate startups and encourage innovation in chip design and testing. Further, it will enhance the University's curriculum and its integration with industry.

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCD (PHQ) J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

INVITING E-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/44/205-26 Dated: - 18-07-2025

Expression of interest (EOI) for Consultancy service (Through e-procurement mode) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)





For and on behalf of the President of India, Executive Engineer, Police Construction Division J&K Jammu/ Srinagar invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of consultant for Architectural and allied Engineering Consultancy Services from Registered firms/Consultants/Agencies under Indian Partnership Act/Societies Registration Act or Registered Companies under Companies Act for the following work

S.NO	Particular	Tender value (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents	Class of contract
1.	Design, Consultancy and preparation of detailed estimates, BOQ for Conceptual Architectural Designs for all the components, Soil Investigation Structural Designs for the Development of buildings and other related facilities including vetting of drawings from IIT/NIT/DIQC for the Construction of New building for P/S Chanapora, Separate building for Police District Telecom HQ Handwara.THE ABOVE DRAWINGS SHALL HAVE TO BE PROVIDED AS Five (05) SETS OF HARD COPIES (03 Sets in A0 Size and 02 Sets in A3 Sizes) & ONE SET OF SOFT COPY OR MORE IF REQUIRED.	4.70	10000/-	Rs. 1,000/-	Regd. Consultancy Firm

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of Quantities set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://jktenders.gov.in) as per the schedule given below:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21/07/2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	21/07/2025 16.30P.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	22/07/2025 From 09.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	28/07/2025 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online).	29/07/2025 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Ex.Engineer Police Construction Division Jammu/Srinagar.
6.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online).	To be notified after technical bid evaluation

1.

Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, Conditions and other details.

2.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly crediting to 0055 MHA (Revenue) uploading a copy of treasury challan/ receipt&in case of firms / agencies outside the UT of J&K the cost of tender shall be submitted in the shape of demand draft (DD) of any nationalized / scheduled Bankpledged to Ex.Engineer Police Construction Division PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar.The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, performance security pledged to Ex. Engineer Police Construction Division Jammu/Srinagar and relevant documents of L1 must be submitted to the Ex.Engineer Police Construction Division PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar within 5 days after opening of price bid.

a.

The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>

3.

The Department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

4.

The bidder must upload copy of cost of document for Rs1000/- as mentioned in the above e-NIT through e-challan/Treasury Challan indicating Treasury Voucher No. & Date and also indicating the e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0055-MH (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer.POLICE CONSTRUCTION DIVISION J&K Jammu/ Srinagar

No:-PCD/PHQ/2025-26/6441-47

Dated:- 18-07-2025

DIPK-3995-25

DT: 21/07/2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

PCD PHQ J&K Jmu/Sgr.

CMYK

Troubled Waters For Tourism

The scenic waterways once echoing with the gentle paddles of shikaras and the hum of motor launches now lie hauntingly quiet. As tourist footfall declines across the region, a ripple effect has begun to erode the very foundation of the local economy, an economy deeply reliant on tourism and its allied sectors. This decline is not just a seasonal slump; it's a crisis taking root, and its immediate victims are the young entrepreneurs who once bet their futures on a thriving tourist industry. For many of these individuals, the decision to invest in expensive motor launches and traditional shikaras was not merely a business move but a leap of faith. They borrowed heavily, driven by dreams of financial stability and aspirations of being part of a cultural legacy. Today, that dream lies moored in uncertainty. With rides dipping sharply, these once-promising assets have turned into liabilities, accruing losses by the day. This downturn highlights a larger issue: the fragile overdependence on seasonal tourism without adequate infrastructural or financial buffers. It is imperative that authorities recognize this vulnerability and initiate urgent intervention. Relief packages, loan restructuring, and promotional campaigns to revitalize tourism are no longer optional, they are essential lifelines.

At the same time, it's a moment to introspect and innovate. Sustainable tourism models, diversification into digital marketing of local experiences, and collaborative community-based tourism can help reduce reliance on fluctuating footfalls. Government and private stakeholders must come together to turn this crisis into a catalyst for resilient, inclusive growth. The water may seem still for now, but without meaningful action, the calm risks turning into stagnation. It's time to row together—before it's too late.

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From Shared Lives To Isolated Hearts



ABID HUSSAIN RATHER

Reliving old memories, I remember well that there was a time, not too long ago, when life was lived in community, fully, openly, and without walls. In the neighbourhoods of our childhood, boundaries existed only on maps, neither on the ground nor in our hearts. Every joy was communal, every sorrow shared. There was no concept of “my happiness or sorrow is mine alone,” for the happiness or sorrow of one was the concern of many. In any neighbourhood, if a child took their first steps, sweet fritters would find their way to every doorstep. Whenever a cow gave birth to a calf in any household, colostrum cheese was shared among all the neighbours. If someone passed an exam, the entire street would celebrate. When tragedy struck, radios and televisions fell silent, laughter was hushed, and celebrations were postponed out of respect. Neighbours were treated like extended family. Their smiles were ours, and so were their tears.

But today, that world seems like a dream long lost—like a once-bright photograph, now faded and forgotten in the quiet corner of an old attic drawer. We now live in an age where privacy is glorified. We wear our secrecy like a badge of sophistication. “Don’t tell anyone,” “Keep it between us,” “It’s none of their business”—these phrases, once considered cold or even rude, are now common and even celebrated. We proudly say, “I mind my own business,” without realising that in doing so, we’ve given up the greatest asset of humanity, the ability to truly connect with one another. Our elders often said, “A shared sorrow is half a sorrow, and a shared joy is double the joy.” This wasn’t poetic exaggeration; it was lived experience. A neighbour’s unemployment was not whispered about; it was responded to. A sick person in one house meant concerned visitors, herbal remedies, generous financial help, and prayers from every corner.

Today, in our concrete houses, tightly locked apartments, and digitally guarded lives, we know nothing of the people who live just a wall away. The sounds of celebration or mourning might drift through occasionally, but we rarely knock to ask what is wrong or what is right. There was a time when children carried plates of food and other small offerings to neighbours, with warm



smiles and gentle messages. Life was woven together with kindness, and every joy or sorrow was shared like a family secret. Now, meals arrive at doorsteps through apps, and sentiments are reduced to emojis on screens. We have gained convenience but lost intimacy and left behind connection. Our hands are fuller, but our hearts are emptier. We have built fences, emotional, digital, and even spiritual. We curate our lives into social media highlight reels, where sorrow is photoshopped out and imperfections are edited away.

Mental health professionals are now ringing the alarm bells, calling loneliness the epidemic of the 21st century. Depression, anxiety, and suicides are on the rise—not just because of economic stress or societal pressures, but because people no longer feel seen. We have replaced community with connectivity, but the Wi-Fi signal doesn’t reach the soul. Our older generation remembers a world where even marriage decisions were made with neighbourhood input—not due to interference, but because relationships were considered too important to be built in isolation. Neighbours mediated disputes. Families intervened in times of crisis. An unemployed father, a struggling student, a lonely widow—no one suffered alone but everyone in neighbourhood shared their sufferings. But world has changed now and so are the people. Now, personal space has turned into personal exile. We confuse silence with dignity and distance with strength. In our race to protect our “private lives,” we have sacrificed our public bonds. Even grief is now a solitary affair. Funerals that once brought entire communities together are now modest, brief, and often poorly

attended. The pandemic amplified this, but the trend predates it. Joys too are muted. Engagements, marriages, pregnancies, promotions—all are often kept under wraps, shared selectively, if at all. What was once called *razdari* (confidentiality) is now a permanent cloak—one that suffocates more than it protects.

We often say that we don’t like to depend on anyone. It sounds strong. But what it really means is that we are afraid to be disappointed. We no longer trust our communities to hold our truths with compassion. And in doing so, we deny ourselves the most profound human experience, which is to be known and still be loved. Children raised in such environments inherit this guardedness. They learn early that emotions must be managed quietly, victories downplayed, problems hidden. The art of sharing, once a sacred skill, is now dismissed as oversharing, and vulnerability is perceived as weakness. This is not just about nostalgia; it is about a cultural crisis. When a society loses the ability to share, it loses the ability to care.

Now the question is not whether we can return to our traditional way of living and past ethos but whether we are willing to. The antidote to this growing poison of secrecy is deceptively simple: intentional heartfelt connection. A knock on the neighbour’s door. A shared cup of tea with nears and dears. An offline conversation without screens. A willingness to say that I am not okay and to listen when others say it too. Let us remember that communities are not built through policies or apps; they are built through small, sincere acts of openness. The woman next door who cries at night might just need someone to ask if she is okay. The elderly

man who sits alone on the bench might have a story to tell. The child who seems withdrawn may need a little attention.

Let me make one thing clear here that this is not about abandoning privacy; it is about reclaiming community. It is about remembering that life is not meant to be lived in isolation but in shared humanity. Of course, secrecy has its place. Not all information is meant for public consumption. But secrecy should be a tool for protection, not isolation. When we use secrecy to hide our pain, we suffer alone. When we use it to protect others’ dignity, we act with wisdom. In its purest form, secrecy is an ethical principle, not a wall. It is the understanding of when to speak and when to listen; when to share and when to hold. But today’s version has mutated into emotional hoarding—where nothing is shared, and everything is suppressed.

As we move forward in our digital, fast-paced, hyper-private lives, perhaps it is time to pause and remember what we have left behind. Maybe it is time to dust off the old values—not for the sake of tradition, but for the survival of our humanity. Let us normalize asking, “How are you?” Let us celebrate each other’s joys together. Let us grieve together. Let us teach our children that being open is not a flaw but a strength. Let us turn off our screens and turn toward each other. The poison of secrecy thrives in silence. But a single act of connection can be the antidote. Let us go and knock on the door. Someone might be waiting.

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Scroll Culture: The Cost Of Constant Connectivity



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

Today is the age of technology and information. There is a mobile in every hand, internet in every pocket. But have we really become more aware, or have we just become slaves of fingers sliding on the screen?

People are engrossed in an endless world of ads, videos, memes, reels and tricks. The “scroll culture” has cut off our attention span. Things that were previously deeply understood are now reduced to 30-second shorts and 280-character posts.

Our brains are filled with superficial information, but the depth of knowledge has been lost. There was a time when we would read long articles in the newspaper, discuss them, ponder over them. Now we “scroll” – without stopping, without thinking. The result?

Mental exhaustion, loneliness, competition to show off and digital depression. People post smiling selfies but are broken from within. There is a deep emptiness hidden behind ‘hashtag happy’.

So-called ‘influencers’ on social media are now giving advice in every sphere of life - health, education, relationships, even spirituality. But their knowledge is superficial, and the objective? Views and likes. Those who do not know how to manage their own



mental health have become ‘mental health experts’. The scroll culture has fragmented our thinking. On one hand there is talk of ‘mindfulness’, on the other hand we are getting disconnected from ourselves.

People waste hours scrolling through social media but have lost the power of real conversation. One click brings thousands of opinions, but who can verify their validity?

In the technological age, it was hoped that superstitions would end. But now they have become ‘digital ghosts’. On WhatsApp: “Must read this mantra at night...” On Facebook: “Send this photo to 5 people, otherwise misfortune will come!” On YouTube: “Miraculous remedy to remove Pitra Dosh”

Even educated people are looking for solutions from the

videos of “Mahadev uncle” instead of scientific thinking. People are afraid of the uncertainty of life. In this fear, they resort to superstition, which gives them the illusion of emotional security.

There is information on the Internet, but the ability to sort it out has not been taught. As a result, even lies seem true.

Everyone has become a motivational speaker, life coach, astrologer. Without any authenticity. Their aim is traffic and money. In childhood, if we ask questions, we are scolded - ‘Have faith!’ This thinking enables us to absorb misleading content as we become adults.

According to a report, on an average, an Indian youth spends 4-6 hours on social media every day. How many times does he connect with himself during this time?

While scrolling, we see glimpses of others’ lives - pictures of their parties, holidays, happiness - and become dissatisfied with our own lives. This comparison gives rise to an inner restlessness and depression. We have turned life into a reel. What is seen sells - this thinking is hollowing out the soul.

Lack of sleep, distractibility, social anxiety, self-doubt, suicidal tendencies – these are all the mental consequences of scroll culture. Many studies have found that excessive use of Instagram, TikTok and Facebook increases self-doubt and depression in teenagers and young people.

TV channels also now garner TRPs from programmes like ‘Mysterious Temple’, ‘Haunted Haveli’, ‘Astrological Solutions’. Advertising companies also sell products by scaring people with

words like ‘Rahu-Ketu Dosh’. When the institutions themselves work against the scientific approach, how can the public become aware?

Spend 1 hour mobile-free every day. Do digital detox 1 day a week. Do not look at the screen for 1 hour before sleeping at night. Do not form an opinion based on incomplete information. Do not doubt everything, but think about everything. Encourage children to ask questions. Adopt an education system based on science, logic and facts.

There should be courses like ‘How to check information’ in schools. ‘Fact checking’ should become a social habit. Don’t believe everything you see on YouTube. Connect religion to the soul, not fear. Faith means understanding, not blind following. Investigate so-called miraculous solutions.

Technology claimed to connect us, but today we are disconnected from everything - from ourselves, and from society. We are on the screen, but out of life. We click but don’t feel.

In this noise of social media, the voice of introspection has been lost somewhere. Today, the biggest need is digital detox and mental ideological renaissance. Otherwise, this scroll culture and superstition together will take us to that dark age, where there will be light - only emanating from the screen - but there will be utter darkness inside.

Knowledge never comes in a scroll, it demands a pause. Faith is never blind, it gets strength from logic. And the biggest rebellion in today’s time is - thinking.

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

Patriotism In Every Fold

VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

Like every year, Indian National Flag Day 2024 is celebrated on 22nd July to commemorate the adoption of India's National Flag by the Constituent Assembly in 1947. On this day in 1947, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the National Flag. It was a red-letter day in our history, and the tricolour's adoption marked a pivotal moment in India's journey towards establishing itself as an independent nation free from colonial rule. The National Flag symbolises national pride, unity, and the struggle for freedom, and is a tribute to the sacrifices of freedom fighters. This significant day marks the official selection of the tricolour flag with its deep saffron, white, and Indian green stripes, and the Ashoka Chakra in the centre.

The occasion also serves as a platform to appreciate and raise public awareness about the flag's role in symbolising India's independence, unity, and rich heritage. The importance of Indian National Flag Day celebrations lies in their role as a commemoration of a pivotal moment in India's journey towards independence and national identity. The national flag is a powerful symbol of a country's identity, history, and values. It represents the nation's sovereignty, unity, and pride, and is often a source of inspiration and motivation for its citizens.

The first Indian National Flag is attributed to Pingali Venkayya, a freedom fighter from Andhra Pradesh, who designed it in 1906. It featured a horizontal tricolour of red, yellow, and green with a white crescent and star in the centre. In 1917, the flag was modified to include saffron at the top, white in the middle, and green at the bottom, with the crescent and star moved to the top left corner. In 1921, Mahatma Gandhi proposed a new design that included a spinning wheel (charkha) to symbolize progress. This design also had the tricolour of saffron, white, and green. Subsequently, the Ashoka Chakra, a 24-spoke wheel



representing the Wheel of Law in Buddhism, was introduced in the centre of the white stripe in 1921.

The Indian National Congress formally adopted the tricolour flag in 1931 as its Official Flag, symbolizing the unity and diversity of India's freedom movement. On July 22, 1947, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the current form of the National Flag. This version retains the tricolour of saffron, white, and green with the Ashoka Chakra in navy blue at its centre.

The adoption came just before India's independence on August 15, 1947, signifying the culmination of the nation's struggle for freedom. The adoption ceremony placed the flag at the heart of the emerging republic's identity, signalling both a new beginning and a tribute to the sacrifices made in the freedom movement. This connection to the independence era is why National Flag Day is best observed on 22 July.

The Prevention of Insults To National Honour Act, 1971 stated

that anyone who, in a public place or visible to the public, disrespects or brings into contempt the Indian National Flag or the Constitution of India through burning, mutilating, defacing, disfiguring, destroying, trampling, or any other act (including spoken or written words), will be punished with up to three years of imprisonment, a fine, or both.

National Flag Day 2024 celebrations extend beyond a single-day event, symbolizing a pivotal moment in India's history and its

journey towards independence and unity. It serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by freedom fighters and the values of democracy, diversity, and national pride that the flag represents. One must remember that this day is deeply significant not just for its historical roots, but because of the pride and collective identity it fosters among all Indians.

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More Than A Businessman The Humanitarian Spirit Of M. Ashraf Mir



HAROON RASHID BHAT

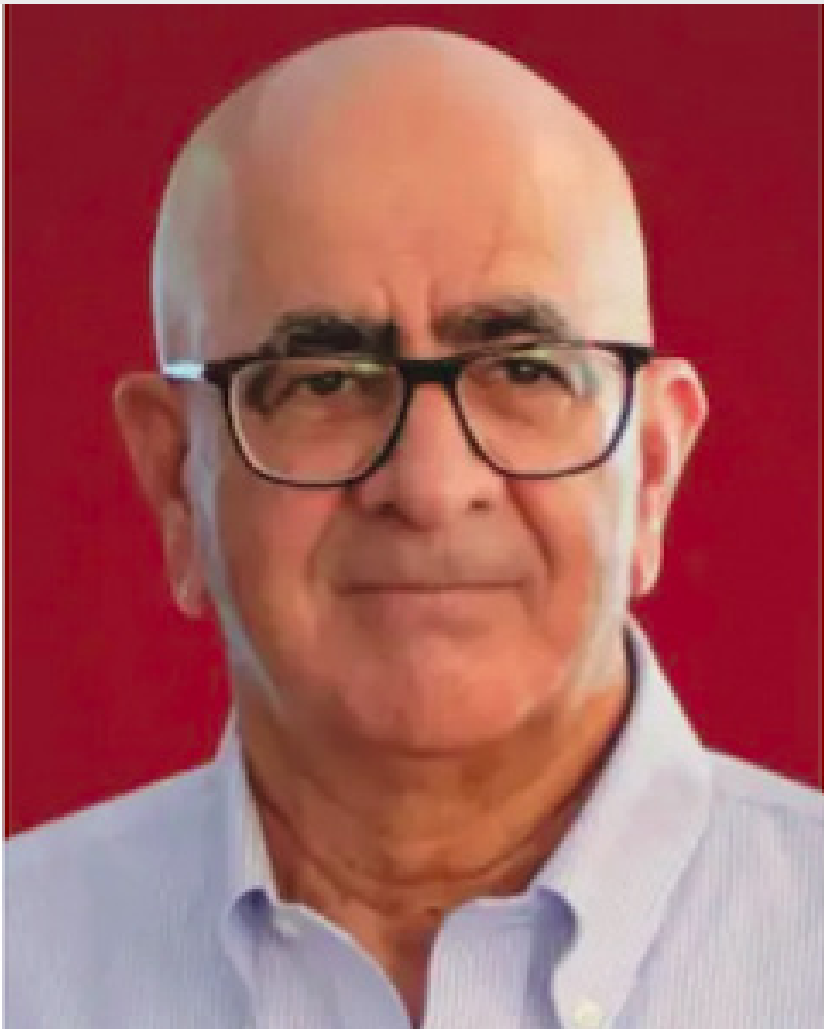
“What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal.” There are individuals whose presence uplifts lives, whose silent deeds change destinies, and whose passing leaves a vacuum that words can scarcely fill. One such soul was Mohammad Ashraf Mir Sahab, a towering figure in the business world, a quiet philanthropist, and a man of profound humanity whose legacy continues to live in the hearts he touched.

I write this tribute not merely as a formality but as a heartfelt remembrance of a personal encounter that profoundly shaped my understanding of generosity and vision. Years ago, while working as a part-time teacher at a local residential school, I witnessed firsthand the dreams and struggles of children from economically challenged backgrounds. These students had little, yet their eyes sparkled with a thirst for knowledge. Their hunger for learning awakened in me a deep urge to offer more than just textbook education. I wanted to introduce computer literacy, a tool that could open doors to the modern world for them. At that time, computers were a luxury

for most institutions, let alone for a school struggling with basic infrastructure.

In pursuit of help, I came to know that Ashraf Sahab and his brother Abdul Rashid Mir had set up a charitable trust in the memory of beloved son, Mujeeb Mir, to serve humanitarian causes. With hope in my heart, I sought a meeting with Ashraf Sahab at his Shalimar office. I still recall the atmosphere vividly, an office busy with visitors and appeals. Yet when my turn came, I was welcomed with warmth and grace. He listened to my request with genuine interest, and without hesitation, he turned to his staff and gave clear instructions: the school must be provided with computers. Within days, two computers were delivered, a monumental gift at the time, symbolizing more than just machines.

That singular act of kindness was not just about charity; it was about empowerment. He saw beyond the immediate and recognized the ripple effect such a gift could have on the lives of children, children who, with access to modern tools, could rewrite their destinies. His response was swift, selfless, and deeply visionary. But this story is just one of many. Across Kashmir, Ashraf Sahab's name resonates not only as a successful entrepreneur but as a benefactor to countless lives. Through Cottage Industries Exposition Ltd. (CIE), his enterprise elevated Kashmiri handicrafts onto the global stage, ensuring that our cultural identity received the respect it deserved. More importantly, his business ventures created employment for hundreds of families, help-



ing them earn with dignity and stability. His success was never isolated; it was interwoven with the success of others.

Every carpet knotted, every shawl embroidered under the banner of CIE carried not only

the essence of Kashmiri art but also the soul of a man who believed in uplifting others with him. Despite his achievements, he remained a man of humility, away from the spotlight, letting his actions speak louder than words.

His philanthropy was quiet, but its impact was resounding. Be it in the field of education, cultural preservation, or social welfare, Ashraf Mir Sahab left behind footprints that time cannot erase. In reflecting upon his life, I believe that the best tribute to such a visionary soul would be to continue the work he believed in. Therefore, I humbly appeal to the leadership of CIE and all stakeholders associated with his vision, to consider establishing a grand Engineering and Medical College in the memory of Mohammad Ashraf Mir and Mujeeb Mir. Such an institution would serve as a living legacy, a space where dreams could flourish, where children from all backgrounds could gain knowledge and dignity, just as Ashraf Sahab had always envisioned.

Kashmir, rich in culture yet yearning for educational infrastructure, needs such monuments of progress, monuments not made of marble and stone, but of hope and opportunity. As we remember this noble soul, let us also carry forward his mission, not just in words, but in action. Let us pledge to uplift the needy, empower the underprivileged, and never ignore the power of a single act of kindness. “When someone you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure. And some lives, like that of Ashraf Mir Sahab, become guiding lights for generations to come.” May Allah (SWT) grant him the highest rank in Jannatul Firdous. Ameen.

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Student Killed, 5 Injured As Landslide Hits School In Poonch

YOGESH

JAMMU: A five-year-old student was killed and five others were injured after a landslide hit a government school here in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, officials said.

As per officials, the landslide was triggered at the building of Government Primary School (GPS) Kalssa, situated in Ward No. 4, Village Bhainch,

Tehsil Haveli, District Poonch by overnight heavy rains, during which a large boulder fell in a classroom of the primary school in the Bhainch-Kalsian area, killing a 5-year-old Ehsan Ali and injuring students and a teacher.

The injured students have been identified as Mohammad Safeer, age 7, son of Mohammad Sha-reef, resident of Kalsan Bhainch, Bilal Farooq, age

8, son of Farooq Ahmed, resident of Bhainch, Aftab Ahmed, age 6, son of Idress Ahmed, resi- dent of Bhainch, Tobia Kouser, age 7, daughter of Basharat Hussain, resi- dent of Bhainch.

They are undergoing treatment at Raja Sukh- dev Singh District Hospital in Poonch along with the teacher, who had suffered minor injuries.

Following the incident,

Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the loss of life.

“The news of the death of a 5-year-old child due to the rockslide that crashed into Primary School, Kal- sian, Poonch, is heart- rending. May God give strength to the bereaved parents to bear this shock. I pray for the speedy recov- ery of the injured chil-

dren,” LG Sinha wrote on X.

CM Abdullah also extended his condolences to the bereaved family on a social media post. He also directed the admin- istration to ensure proper treatment of the injured and to conduct a thorough inquiry into the incident.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal visited the district hospital and met

the injured and their fam- ilies. He also disbursed financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh to the family of Ehsan and Rs 50,000 each to the families of the injured chil- dren under the Red Cross Fund. He also assured all possible assistance to the families from the district administration.

In response to the land- slide and ongoing heavy rainfall, which recorded 184.2 mm in the region

over the past 24 hours, authorities have ordered the closure of all schools in Poonch district on July 22, 2025, as a precau- tion- ary measure.

The district adminis- tration, in coordination with the Education Depart- ment, has also initiated a structural safety audit of school buildings in vul- nerable areas to mitigate risks during the monsoon season—(KNO)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

People, History Will

families, including one where a man with three children was killed and only one of his sons was given a job. “These meetings moved me deeply, and we took decisions to ensure comprehensive rehabilitation of terror-hit families,” he said. He admitted that outreach to these families came late, but stressed that steps have now been taken to reopen old massacre cases, register FIRs, and return any properties that may have been seized by terrorists.

Responding to controversy over Chief Minister Omar Abdullah not being invited to security review meetings, LG Sinha said, “The State Reorganization Act, passed by Parliament, clearly defines the jurisdiction of all authorities. I work within my bound- aries and enjoy a cordial relationship with the CM. Whenever we have differences, we resolve them through dialogue.”

On the biggest challenge faced during his tenure, LG Sinha said, “The full integration of J&K with the Indian state and the estab- lishment of Indian sovereignty and author- ity were essential. Under Prime Minister Modi’s leadership, we have successfully achieved both goals.”

Turning to tourism and the ongoing Amar- nath Yatra, LG Sinha said that after April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, tourists had stopped visiting Kashmir. “However, the situation has improved. Over two lakh pilgrims have already participated this year in a 38-day Yatra. Hotels in Pahalgam and Sonamarg are full, and Srinagar’s hotel occupancy is at 40%,” he said, praising the hospitality of local residents for welcoming yatrīs warmly.

He also justified the suspension of helicop- ter services to the holy cave shrine this year, citing national security and past aviation accidents as reasons. “Decisions were made keeping safety and emerging drone threats in mind,” he added.

Regarding Pakistan’s propaganda and use of drones, LG Sinha said, “Operation Sindoor showed India’s strength. Pakistan’s fake narratives were exposed. Our indig- enous weapons have become a strong asset.”

When asked about his future plans, the LG reiterated his commitment to honesty and dedication. He credited Prime Minister Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for their guidance and encouragement, calling their decisions “historic” for J&K.

“The people of J&K firmly believe their future is secure with India. The only concern remains cross-border infiltration, but rest assured, we are vigilant,” LG Sinha said.

He also hailed the role of women in J&K’s progress, emphasizing their growing lead- ership across sectors and reaffirming the vision of “women-led development” in the region—(KNO)

World Witnessed

such activities, and the Constitution is pre- vailing over violence.

He urged MPs across parties to ensure smooth functioning of the house and that interests may vary, but national interest must remain the shared priority.

He also said that security forces are making steady progress in eliminating Mao- ists and Naxalites and that several previ- ously affected districts are now free from such activities, and the Constitution is prevailing over violence.

He urged MPs across parties to ensure smooth functioning of the house and that interests may vary, but national interest must remain the shared priority.

Meanwhile, both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha witnessed continuous sloganeering by Opposition MPs demanding a discussion on the recent Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor.

Reacting to the protests, Union Parlia- mentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said a meeting of the Business Advisory Commit- tee has been scheduled to decide the agenda for discussion.

“The government is ready for a discussion, but Opposition MPs are protesting in the Well of the House. It is not appropriate to begin the session like this,” Rijiju said.

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, questioned the gov- ernment over its response to the Pahalgam terror attack and asked for clarity on the current status of the militants involved.

Kharge said the Opposition had extended full support to the Centre following the inci- dent but emphasized the need for account- ability, especially in light of the acknowl- edged intelligence failure. “Even the Army chief and the government have admitted lapses. The country deserves to know what went wrong,” he told the House.

He also took sharp exception to recent comments by former US President Donald Trump, who reportedly spoke of mediating a ceasefire between India and Pakistan after

Operation Sindoor. “It’s unacceptable for any outsider to make such claims. This is an insult to our sovereignty,” Kharge said.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, BJP leader and Union Minister JP Nadda said the gov- ernment was fully prepared to hold a detailed discussion on Operation Sindoor.

“We are willing and ready to talk about it. There should be no perception that we are avoiding a debate,” Nadda said, adding that the scale and execution of the operation under Prime Minister Modi’s leadership was unprecedented. “This kind of mission has never been carried out before. We will share every detail,” he told the House.

This year’s Monsoon Session will run until August 21, with a scheduled recess from August 12 to 18. The session includes 21 sit- tings over 32 days—(KNO)

Jagdeep Dhankhar

unwavering support and the soothing won- derful working relationship we maintained during my tenure.

“I express my deep gratitude to the Hon’ble Prime Minister and the esteemed Council of Ministers. Prime Minister’s cooperation and support have been invaluable, and I have learned much during my time in office. The warmth, trust, and affection I have received from all the Hon’ble Members of Parliament would ever be cherished at and embedded in my memory. I am deeply thankful for the invaluable experiences and insights I have gained as Vice President in our great democ- racy,” he said.

It has been a privilege and satisfaction to witness and partake in India’s remarkable economic progress and unprecedented expo- nential development during this significant period. Serving in this transformative era of our nation’s history has been a true honor.

“As I leave this esteemed office, I am filled with pride in Bharat’s global rise and phe- nomenal achievements and hold unwavering confidence in her brilliant future,” he added.

CS Holds Maiden

Secretary stressed on giving swift approv- als to the applications submitted by the applicants. He also impressed upon them to devise training modules for the trainers and beneficiaries to enhance their capacity to make their ventures a grand success.

During the review meeting, the Chief Sec- retary appreciated the design and structure of the project and emphasized the need for its effective and timely implementation, ensur- ing all targets set for the ensuing financial year are met. He urged the bank authorities to fully integrate their operational processes with the JKCIP portal to streamline service delivery and enhance coordination.

The Chief Secretary also called for crea- tion of a tailored loan product to support implementation of the programme and ensure its long-term success.

Highlighting the need for efficiency and responsiveness, he directed all the concerned departments and institutions to ensure swift approvals of applications submitted by the beneficiaries.

Furthermore, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the importance of capacity- building initiatives, advising formulation of training modules for both the trainers and beneficiaries to empower them with the skills necessary to make their ventures suc- cessful.

While giving overview of this prestigious project, Principal Secretary, APD, Shailen- dra Kumar, revealed that the project encom- passes a total investment of approximately US\$ 217 million (Rs 1800 Cr). He informed that it has been designed to improve the com- petitiveness and climate resilience of farm- ers through enhanced production, value addition and marketing of high-value niche commodities in J&K.

Regarding the funding pattern, the Prin- cipal Secretary mentioned that the same constitutes substantial contributions from IFAD (46%), the UT (12%), beneficiary con- tributions (21%), private sector involvement (10%) and bank credit (10%), along with con- vergence support (2%).

MD, HADP, Sandeep Kumar, in his pre- sentation, revealed that the JKCIP is struc- tured around three main verticals including Climate-smart and Market-led Production (52% of total cost).

Elucidating further, he divulged that another vertical of the programme called Agri-business Ecosystem Development con- stitutes 33% of total cost. It aims at enter- prise promotion, market promotion and incubation/startup support. The fourth ver- tical of Project Management encompasses 5% of total cost ensuring efficient oversight, monitoring, evaluation and knowledge man- agement.

About the objectives of this project, it was

given out that it targets to reach out to 3 lakh households (15 lakh individuals) across 90 blocks in both Jammu (45 blocks) and Kash- mir (45 blocks) divisions. Special emphasis is being placed on vulnerable groups, includ- ing 141,000 women (47%), 90,000 youth (30%) and 30,000 individuals from other vulnerable communities (10%).

With respect to Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWPB) for 2025-26, it was informed that the same stands at Rs 150.06 crore. Key allocations included Rs 110.33 crore for climate-smart and market-led production, Rs 14.21 crore for agri-business ecosystem development and Rs 15.90 crore for support- ing the pastoralists and other vulnerable communities.

Out of 172 approved activities for AWPB 2025-26, a procurement plan for 151 activi- ties totaling Rs 138 crore has received IFAD’s approval. This included consulting services, grants and goods. For 2025-26, Rs 75 crore has been released on Beams, with an additional Rs 12.50 crore advance drawal sanctioned by the Finance Department on July 15, 2025.

As of July 19, 2025, about 1240 farmers have been registered and 478 applications have been received, with key activities focus- ing on sheep/goat units, vegetable cultiva- tion, water management, protected cultiva- tion and apple crop management. Besides, a farmer-friendly loan product has been developed in collaboration with UTLBC, featuring a 10% marginal money with no processing charges, a moratorium period of up to 2 years and a repayment period of up to 8 years.

It was informed that various feasibility studies and business plans are underway for key sectors like Tulip, Saffron, Apple and Wool Value Chains. Besides, extensive HRD initiatives are being implemented, with interviews scheduled for various officer po- sitions across departments to strengthen the human resources for effective implementa- tion of this project.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of timely execution and effective implementation of all planned activities to ensure successful achievement of JKCIP’s objectives and upliftment of the agricultural and allied sectors in Jammu & Kashmir.

Pertinently, the rural credit workshops will commence in August to raise awareness among the farmers and stakeholders.

Drug-Free J&K

said that the government cannot fight this societal hazard alone. She pushed for coordi- nated efforts from religious leaders, families, civil society groups and other agencies to combat this social evil.

“A drug-free Jammu and Kashmir is not only the need of hour, it is a necessity for the survival and well-being of our future genera- tions”, maintained Sakeena.

The Minister further said that the govern- ment is keenly working towards combating this menace from society. She added that drug de-addiction centres have been estab- lished in district headquarters to provide required support to individuals affected by drug addiction.

While commending the organisers and college for organising the seminar in this burning societal issue, the Minister asserted that this seminar should chalk out some actionable strategies needed for making Kashmir free of drug abuse, a challenge that continues to threaten our social and cultural fabric.

During the event, cultural performances were showcased to depict the impact of drug abuse on families as well as overall society.

The event saw huge participation of edu- cators, youth leaders, students, healthcare professionals, law enforcement officials as well as representatives from civil society.

Among others, Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari; Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges, Prof. Seema Naz; Principal Government Women’s College Srinagar, Principal GCOE Srinagar and other senior officers of district adminis- tration were present on the occasion.

J&K Receives Fresh

station today while Jammu recorded 31.6 mm since this morning.

Several areas across Kashmir also received fresh rainfall this evening with the Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad predicting inter- mittent spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower till July 23 at many places with intense showers at few places and heavy rain at isolated places of J&K.

From July 24 to 27, he said that there is a possibility of brief showers at scattered places.

Moreover, the MeT has issued an advisory, stating that there is a possibility of intense showers with gusty winds at few places with

heavy rain at isolated to scattered places of J&K during 21-23rd July.

“Flash floods at few vulnerable places with landslides, mudslides & shooting stones,” it reads, adding that rise in water level in rivers, streams, local Nallas & water logging in few Low lying areas is also expected— (KNO)

Cold Storage Units

would rot before reaching distant cities. Now, we can ensure quality and freshness even when sending them as far as Kolka- ta,” said Riyaz Dar, a fruit exporter from Srinagar. “The market has opened up—the returns are higher and the reputation of Kashmiri produce is growing.”

The Horticulture Planning and Marketing Department is actively working on strength- ening the cold storage network across the Valley under various central schemes. Experts believe this infrastructural support could redefine the dynamics of Kashmir’s horticulture sector.

“If this trend continues, Kashmir can go beyond apples and emerge as a significant supplier of cherries and plums to the rest of India,” they said.

With the success of this season, growers and traders are hopeful that the Valley’s per- ishable fruit sector is headed toward a more profitable and sustainable future.

Bashir Ahmad Basheer, Chairman of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers Cum Dealers Union told KNO that currently the demand for plums is much better and farmers are getting good returns and its credit goes to cold storage units as well—(KNO)

Amarnath Yatr:

Baltal and Pahalgam, which serve as the two main routes to the cave shrine.

The group comprised 3,067 men, 522 women, 9 children, 192 sadhus and sadhis, and 1 transgender pilgrim. The convoy was split into two: the Baltal-bound convoy car- ried 1,208 pilgrims in 52 vehicles, while the Pahalgam-bound convoy transported 2,583 pilgrims in 96 vehicles, officials said.

“Even though there is a slight decline in pilgrim turnout from Jammu, the overall yatra is proceeding without disruptions. All necessary facilities including shelter, food, medical assistance, and route security are fully operational,” an official said.

This year’s Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to conclude on August 9, is being conducted amid unprecedented security measures, including drone surveillance, RFID tracking for pilgrims and a multi-layered deployment of forces—(KNO)

7.66 Cr Tourists

Tourist Facilities - Construction of Assets in lieu of those Destroyed in Floods in 2014 under PM Development Package, Develop- ment of Tourist Facilities at Mantalai and Sudhmahadev, Development of Tourist Facilities at Anantnag-Pulwama-Kishtwar- Pahalgam-Zanskar Padum-Daksum-Ranjit Sagar Dam and Development of Tourist Facilities at Gulmarg-Baramulla- Kupwara- Kargil-Leh.

However, Shekhawat said the Ministry has not undertaken any formal study to date to assess the extent of direct and indirect employment generated in the region under the scheme during the last five years—(KNO)

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Forms from 90.12 pc electors have been collected: ECI tells SC

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has told the Supreme Court that, pursuant to its Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar, enumeration forms from 90.12 per cent electors have already been collected.

In an affidavit filed before the top court, the poll body said that pursuant to the SIR process, as on July 18, enumeration forms from 7.11 crore out of the 7.89 crore existing electors in Bihar, have already been collected and accounting for “deceased individuals, permanently shifted electors, and those enrolled in more than one place, the forms collection phase of the SIR has effectively covered 94.68 per cent of the nearly 7.90 crore-strong electorate in Bihar”.

As per the ECI, all political parties have appreciated the necessity and correctness of the SIR exercise and have been cooperating and participating in its timely completion.

The poll body said that it undertook the SIT exercise – the only legally recognised alternative under the existing legal framework for a comprehensive, ground-up preparation of the electoral rolls – to restore public confidence and address other concerns like the presence of names of deceased, shifted and non-citizens in the electoral rolls.

Responding to the petitioners contention that there was no reason for such intensive electoral rolls revision in a poll-bound state in such a short period of time, the ECI, in its affidavit, said, “Given that it is a pan-India exercise aimed, it was neces-

sary to commence the SIR with the State of Bihar, which goes to polls in the middle of November, in order to ensure that the purity of electoral roll is maintained and ineligible voters are weeded out.”

The ECI is of the view

merely hearsay secondary evidence,” the affidavit said.

It added that the newspaper articles relied upon by the petitioners to drum up a narrative of exclusion should be “discarded in totality” and such an

process and compliance with principles of natural justice.

Saying that every effort has been made to ensure that no eligible electors stand excluded from the electoral roll, the ECI submitted that it has “special focus” directed towards the marginalised, old, poor, sick, etc. to facilitate their enrolment to the extent possible, including through deployment of volunteers for obtaining eligibility documents.

As per the poll body, each elector who has submitted the enumeration form with or without documents will be included in the draft roll to be published on August 1 and if any elector who has been unable to submit his enumeration forms is entitled to seek inclusion in the final roll by submitting a claim in the prescribed form along with the declaration.

“Therefore, any person excluded from the draft roll has another opportunity to be included by submission of the form with declaration and documents. This claims period is stipulated for another period of thirty-one days after the publication of the draft roll till, i.e., 1 September 2025,” the ECI said.

After the completion of the entire process, the final roll will be published on September 30, it added. As per the ECI, even after the publication of the final roll, new electors can be enrolled up to the last date of nominations of the forthcoming Assembly elections in Bihar.

“This is an ongoing process in each election to maximise inclusion. Any apprehension of huge/substantial ensure disenfranchisement is therefore misleading and non-existent,” the affidavit said.



that accuracy and completeness of the electoral roll is absolutely essential for democracy and the poll body has been charged with a constitutional duty to ensure its purity, it added.

The poll body said that the entire edifice of the petition challenging the SIR exercise rests on newspaper articles and columns, which are “replete with misleading facts” and claimed that there has been a deliberate attempt to twist the narrative against the SIR exercise and portray the poll body in a poor light.

“It is trite law that newspaper articles do not constitute reliable evidence on facts stated therein. This Hon’ble has held that judicial notice of facts and figures stated in a newspaper cannot be taken as such facts and figures are

impermissible methodology would not deserve any indulgence from the top court.

Terming the pleas against the June 26 decision of the poll body directing SIR as “pre-mature”, the ECI said that the contentions raised in the petitions are entirely unsustainable.

“The allegation of exclusion of any eligible voter based upon suspicion is entirely incorrect and unsustainable. [T]he SIR exercise is inclusionary and every attempt has been made by the ECI and its officials to ensure that no eligible elector is excluded from the electoral roll,” said the affidavit, adding that there are “multiple layers of checks at all stages of the process” and no name of any elector will be deleted from the electoral roll without due

Vice President exits mid-term: Rajya Sabha to gear up for a new helm amid legislative crosscurrents

IAN5

NEW DELHI: The resignation of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has set in motion a constitutional and political transition that will unfold over the coming weeks.

With his departure now official, the process to elect a new Vice President - India’s second-highest constitutional office - will begin under Article 66 of the Constitution.

Until that election is concluded, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha will step in to discharge the Vice President’s parliamentary duties, including presiding over proceedings in the Upper House. However, this temporary arrangement does not confer the title of Acting Vice President or confer broader constitutional authority beyond the Rajya Sabha chairmanship.

Under the Constitution, the Election Commission must fill the vacancy “as soon as possible,” typically within six months. The new Vice President, once elected, will serve a full five-year term rather than simply completing the remainder of Dhankhar’s tenure, says Supreme Court lawyer Pradeep Yadav.

Meanwhile, Dhankhar is not expected to continue in office in any capacity. Once the resignation takes effect - submitted formally to the President under Article 67(a) - the role is vacated, and no provision allows for



an interim return unless elected afresh.

This interregnum in the Rajya Sabha leadership comes at a politically charged moment, coinciding with the Monsoon Session, when legislative activity is traditionally intense.

Dhankhar’s absence removes a vocal and combative figure from the Upper House, potentially altering the tone of parliamentary engagement. The Deputy Chairman, though institutionally competent, may adopt a more restrained posture as compared to Dhankhar’s assertive style.

As the government weighs its choice of successor, the nomination will reflect not just strategic calculations ahead of the 2026 general elections but also the desired tenor of parliamentary discourse.

For the Opposition, this window offers a brief pause to recalibrate tactics and potentially advocate for a less partisan figure in the constitutional role.

The outcome of the Vice Presidential election - and

its immediate impact on the functioning of the Rajya Sabha - will carry lasting implications for both governance and the choreography of Indian democracy.

In the interim, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha will assume responsibility for presiding over proceedings in the Upper House. However, this is a procedural arrangement and does not elevate the Deputy Chairman to the status of Acting Vice President.

As advocate Pradeep Yadav clarified, the resignation does not trigger a constitutional crisis - those are typically associated with the office of the President. Nevertheless, constitutional offices like the Vice President, Prime Minister, or President cannot be left vacant.

Dhankhar, having submitted his resignation under Article 67(a), is not expected to continue in any capacity until a successor is chosen. His exit comes during the Monsoon Session, a time of high legislative activity, and leaves a notable vacuum in the leadership of the Rajya Sabha. Dhankhar, known for his combative parliamentary style and proximity to the ruling BJP-led NDA, was often at the centre of heated debate and procedural contention.

His absence could momentarily alter the tone of the Upper House, possibly making room for a more subdued or concilia-

tory approach depending on how the Deputy Chairman chooses to navigate the role.

Politically, the race to elect a new Vice President offers the NDA an opportunity to reaffirm its legislative posture ahead of the 2026 general elections. A nominee echoing Dhankhar’s assertiveness could signal a continuation of combative parliamentary tactics, while a more moderate figure might reflect strategic recalibration.

For the Opposition, the moment presents a slim opening to advocate for a less partisan occupant, though they remain numerically outmatched in both Houses. Beyond procedural implications, Dhankhar’s departure highlights the pressures of high constitutional office.

He is the third Vice President in Indian history to resign mid-term, joining VV Giri and R Venkataraman - both of whom resigned to ascend to the presidency. Dhankhar, however, appears to have exited public life permanently, with no indication of a future political pivot.

As Parliament prepares for a transition at the top of the Rajya Sabha, political observers are watching closely. The government’s choice of successor will not only reflect electoral arithmetic but also shape the texture of future legislative discourse and the evolving choreography of India’s constitutional institutions.

Maha govt to challenge HC's acquittal of all 2006 Mumbai blast accused

IAN5

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government on Monday announced it will challenge the Bombay High Court’s acquittal of 12 accused in the 2006 Mumbai train blasts case.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis termed the court’s verdict as “shocking”, saying that the state government will move the Supreme Court against it. “I will go through the entire order. I have discussed it with the lawyers, and the high court verdict will be challenged in the Supreme Court,” Fadnavis told reporters.

Earlier, the Bombay High Court on Monday in its major ruling acquitted 12 accused in the July 11, 2006 Mumbai blast case.

The verdict was given by a bench of Justice Anil Kilar and Justice S Chandak.

The High Court’s order

is a major blow to the investigation agencies. With this decision, the sentences imposed by the special court earlier have been cancelled.

There were in all 13 accused, of whom one was already acquitted by the special court. The high court has ordered the release of 12, of whom five were on death sentence and seven others on life imprisonment, to be released from jail immediately.

The serial bomb blasts in a local train in Mumbai killed 187 people and injured more than 800. Five explosions took place in local trains in Mumbai in 11 minutes between Churchgate and Borivali stations.

The explosives used in the 2006 Mumbai train bomb blasts were a mixture of RDX and Ammonium Nitrate. The bombs were packed into seven pressure cookers and put

in bags. Forensic analysis confirmed the presence of these explosives in the debris.

The serial bomb blasts were carried out by Islamic militants backed by Pakistan. During the attack, seven blasts ripped through trains in the evening rush hour. The Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) had filed a chargesheet in November 2006 under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The Prosecution had argued that the attack was planned by Pakistan’s intelligence agency ISI, and carried out by operatives of Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Toiba with help from the Students’ Islamic Movement of India, a banned Indian group.

However, the police and investigation agencies

were unable to present evidence properly in the court, leading to the acquittal of 12 accused after 19 years languishing in jail.

In 2015, a special court convicted 12 accused in the case and sentenced five accused to death and seven others to life imprisonment.

Faisal Sheikh, Asif Khan, Kamal Ansari, Elhtesham Siddiqui, and Naveed Khan were sentenced to death. The accused had challenged this sentence in the High Court. The accused in the case had alleged that the police had beaten them up and recorded their statements.

Due to this, the Bombay High Court had raised questions on the investigation by the Mumbai Police. The state government had filed the petition in the High Court to confirm the death sentence pronounced by the special court.

19 killed, 164 injured in Bangladesh Air Force jet crash in Dhaka



IAN5

DHAKA: At least 19 people, most of them reportedly children, were killed and around 164 injured when a Bangladesh Air Force training aircraft crashed into a school building in capital Dhaka Monday afternoon.

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media division of the Bangladesh Armed Forces, stated that the pilot of the crashed training aircraft was among the 19 people who lost their lives in the accident.

According to the ISPR, the Bangladesh Air Force’s F-7 BGI training aircraft took off at 1:06 pm, local time on Monday and crashed into the Milestone School and College building in Dhaka’s Uttara around 1.30 PM.

“As you all know, today an F-7 BJI fighter aircraft of the Air Force made a crash landing at approximately 1:00 pm in the two-story school building of our Milestone School and College’s Uttara branch. On the first floor of this two-story building, there were classes for third and fourth graders. On the second floor, there were classes for second and fifth

graders. There was a meeting room for the principal’s office next to it. A coaching class was in progress,” Brigadier General Mohammad Zahed Kamal, the Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defence, was quoted as saying by Bangladesh’s leading Bengali daily, Prothom Alo.

A Milestone College teacher told ‘The Daily Star’ newspaper that he was standing near the college building when the aircraft hit the front side of the three-storey school building, trapping several students.

“The college teachers and staff rushed to rescue the students. Members of the army arrived shortly afterwards, followed by firefighters who joined the rescue operation,” the newspaper reported.

Members of the Bangladesh Army and eight engines of Fire Service and Civil Defence rushed to the spot and started rescue operations, according to a fire service notification.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Tribune reported that eight units from the Uttara, Tongi, Pallabi, Kurmitola, Mirpur, and Purbachal fire services are working at the scene.

India to equip 30 Myanmar security officers with essential peacekeeping skills

IAN5

NAYPYIDAW: India-Myanmar United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Training Course, which began in Naypyidaw on Monday, will equip 30 mid-level officers of Myanmar security forces with essential peacekeeping skills in conflict situations.

The 14-day training programme, being held from July 21 to August 1, is conducted by New Delhi’s Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK), with major focus on de-escalation, conflict management and protection of civilians.

The training course would be conducted by a three-member Indian Mobile Training team from the CUNPK, preparing mid level officers from Myanmar security forces with necessary and essential skills for peacekeeping.

Seven similar training programmes have been conducted between India and Myanmar from 2016 to 2019.

India’s Ambassador to Myanmar, Abhay Thakur and the Vice Chairman of the State Administration Council and Deputy Prime Minister Vice Senior General Soe Win inaugurated the training programme on Monday.

The Indian Ambassador recapitulated India’s commitment to the programme as well as constitutionalism and federalism in the context of Myanmar’s ongoing

peace process.

Thakur also mentioned India’s significant contribution to international peacekeeping, recalling its assistance with over 290,000 peacekeepers since 1950, along with over 5000 peacekeepers currently deployed in nine out of 11 active UN Missions.

Focusing on enabling participants with the skills to de-escalate and manage conflicts, rules of engagement for protection of civilians and operational planning in complex peacekeeping operations, the CUNPK will also provide practical insights for executing missions in diverse and challenging conditions and maintaining stability.

Defence cooperation has been a strong pillar of bilateral relations between the two countries. High-level visits, enhanced training, capacity building and support in provision of specific equipment and technologies have led to a more wholesome relationship and better understanding of mutual security concerns.

Additionally, India has been offering avenues of capacity building to Myanmar under various schemes like Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), Indian Council for Cultural Affairs (ICCR) Scholarships and other training programmes.

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCD (PHQ) J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

INVITING E-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No//EE-PCD/PHQ/46/2025-26 Dated:- 19-07-2025

Executive Engineer PCD PHQ&K JAMMU/SRINAGAR on behalf of The President of India invites tenders by e-tendering on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. / CPWD / Railways and other State / Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (Rs. In lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Police Post at Arwani Bijbehara Anantnag under Account Head Buildings & Structures in Demand -51 Police.	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	156.08lacs	4000/-	312160/-	550 working days	31-07-2024	"A"
2	Construction of D O Residence of P/P including LSQ block, Malkhana/ Lock up at Police Post Keegam Shopian Anantnag under Account Head Buildings & Structures in Demand -51 Police.	PCD (PHQ) J&K, Jmu/ Sgr	212.09lacs	4000/-	424180/-	730 working days	31-07-2024	"A"

1. Date of Publishing 21-07-2025 at 1600 hours.

2. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website http://jktenders.gov.in from 1630 hours on 21-07-2025.

i. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http://jktenders.gov.in from 23-07-2025 to 30-07-2025 upto 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened at 1100 hours on 31-07-2025 online.

ii. The complete bidding process will be online.

iii. Technical bids of bidders shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer PCD PHQ J&K Jammu/ Srinagar on 31-07-2025 at 1100 Hrs.

iv. The lowest bidder i. e. L1 shall be intimated to deposit the original copy of required earnest money in shape of CDR/ FDR and hard copies of all relevant documents as mentioned in clause 2 of general instructions to the bidders within five days from opening of financial bids.

v. In light of Govt. Notification issued by Finance Department Civil Secretariat Vide No. A/24(2017)-651 dated:- 07-06-2018, the bidder must upload the copy of challan / receipt on account of cost of tender documents remitted in the treasury concerned for that the bidders must write an application to be addressed to treasury officer concerned requesting therein for remittance of amount as cost of tender documents towards M. H. 00055/ Revenue (others).

vi. Treasury challan/ receipt indicating the name of work and e-NIT No. favouring Executive Engineer PCD PHQ by crediting to M.H. 00055/ Revenue issued after the issuance of advertisement e-NIT No. & date and upload the same.

No:- e-NIT/EE-PCD/PHQ/2025-26/6482-91

Dated: 19-07-2025.

DIPK-4003-25

DT: 21/07/2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Police Construction Division

PHQ, J&K, Jmu/Sgr.

CMYK

Bumrah to play fourth Test; Pant on track to keep as well

AGENCIES

With confirmation that Jasprit Bumrah will play the fourth Test against England at Old Trafford, India's team combination following their injury crisis after the Lord's fixture is falling into place.

"So far, we only know that Jassi [Bumrah] bhai will play," Mohammed Siraj said in Manchester on Monday when asked about India's pace attack, which looked likely to be disrupted with injuries to Akash Deep and Arshdeep Singh.

Apart from Bumrah's availability, the other good news for India two days before the Test was that Rishabh Pant, who had suffered a finger injury at Lord's, came through a training session that lasted over two hours. India are still sweating on Akash Deep's groin niggle and will give him time to recover.

With allrounder Nitish Kumar Reddy, who played the second and third Tests and impressed at Lord's as the fourth seamer, now ruled out of the series with injury, specialist batter Sai Sudharsan is likely to return to the XI. Sudharsan had played the first Test at Headingley and made scores of 0 and 30 but was left out for offspinning



allrounder Washington Sundar at Edgbaston and Lord's. If Sudharsan returns, India could replace Washington with Shardul Thakur if the conditions warrant a fourth seamer instead of a second spinner. Akash Deep's fitness remains

the big question. He bowled at the training session on Monday, but only into bowling coach Morne Morkel's mitt. The medical staff and decision-makers will monitor him over the next two days to decide if he is fit and can last the duration of a Test

match. There could be temptation to rest him if Bumrah plays at Old Trafford but misses the fifth Test at The Oval, which starts three days after the fourth Test ends. While this will be the third of the three Tests that

Bumrah planned to play in this five-match series due to workload management, there is a chance the Manchester weather might reduce the strain on him. As things stand, the forecast is for light showers on the first

two days and the fifth day at Old Trafford. If the series is alive at The Oval, don't rule out Bumrah playing a fourth Test.

If Akash isn't fit to play at Old Trafford, the third fast bowler will be one of Prasidh Krishna, who played the first two Tests, or the uncapped Anshul Kamboj, who was brought in as cover. Prasidh's average of 55.16 and economy of 5.33 in the series might suggest a lack of control, but in the first two Tests he was asked by the team to bowl spells of sustained short-pitched bowling, which brought him two wickets at Headingley but went for runs at Edgbaston.

If Kamboj, 24, gets his Test cap, it won't be as desperate a selection as it sounds. He has been on the selectors' radar and is known to extract more seam movement than most, which could make him a like-for-like replacement for Akash Deep. Kamboj has 79 first-class wickets at an average of 22.88 since 2022. He comes with the approval of Chennai Super Kings MS Dhoni, who complimented his seam movement during this year's IPL.

While the identity of India's third seamer remains uncertain, there was more certainty around Pant, who copped a

blow on his left index finger while wicketkeeping during the first innings at Lord's. He didn't keep for the rest of the Test but batted in both innings. India were confident there was no fracture, but they didn't want to risk making it worse.

On Monday, Pant went through wicket-keeping drills and batted comfortably in the nets. The only doubt around Pant was that, unlike at Lord's, he will not be able to get a substitute wicketkeeper at Old Trafford if he aggravates the same injury in-game. For a while, Dhruv Jurel was in contention to keep in the fourth Test, with Pant likely to play as a specialist batter, but his performance at the nets on Monday should settle those doubts.

India are trailing 2-1 in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, after losing the first Test at Headingley and the third at Lord's.

India squad for fourth Test
Shubman Gill (capt), Rishabh Pant (vc & wk), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Kuldeep Yadav, Anshul Kamboj. *(ESPNCRINFO)*

4th Test: Dawson returns to England Test side after eight years, replaces injured Bashir

IANIS

MANCHESTER: Liam Dawson is set to make a remarkable return to Test cricket after eight years as England named him in the playing XI for the fourth Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy series against India at Old Trafford, starting on Wednesday.

The 35-year-old replaces off-spinner Shoaib Bashir, who suffered a fractured finger during the Lord's Test. Despite the injury, Bashir bowled through pain to take the final wicket and help England clinch a 2-1 lead in the series.

Bashir has since undergone surgery, with a wire inserted in his left pinkie to aid recovery. In his absence, Dawson — who last played a Test in July



2017 against South Africa — steps in to add spin variety with his left-arm orthodox bowling and batting depth at No. 8.

The call-up is a full-circle moment for Dawson, who appeared to be out of the national setup until

earlier this summer, when he was recalled to the T20I side after three years. He made an immediate impact with figures of 4 for 20 against the West Indies in a match captained by Harry Brook.

"He's a wily, old fox," Brook said at Old Trafford. "He's very experienced and a very skilful cricketer. He's played everywhere, played against everyone, so hopefully he can have an amazing performance this week."

"As we've seen over the Test series, the footholes have been for the left-handed batters outside off, so hopefully he can land it in the footholes and create a bit of spice and some opportunities to take wickets."

Brook also praised Dawson's mindset: "He's willing

to always fight for the team, he's very competitive, and it's good to have him here."

Dawson's domestic form has been outstanding. Since 2021, he has taken 12 of his 15 career five-wicket hauls and scored nine centuries. His 2024 campaign was capped with the PCA Men's Player of the Year award, a testament to his all-round prowess.

England have kept the rest of their side unchanged, with Jamie Smith continuing as wicketkeeper. The hosts will look to seal the series with a win in Manchester.

England XI: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (capt), Jamie Smith (wk), Liam Dawson, Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse, Jofra Archer.

Football: Liverpool set to sign striker Ekitike from Eintracht Frankfurt

IANIS

LONDON: Liverpool have officially announced that they have reached an agreement with Eintracht Frankfurt over the signing of striker Hugo Ekitike in a deal worth 79 million pounds (106 million U.S. dollars). In a statement released on Monday, the English club confirmed: "The Reds and the German outfit have struck a transfer deal said to be worth 69 million pounds plus 10 million pounds in add-ons."

Ekitike is expected to travel to Merseyside later this week to undergo a medical and finalise a long-term contract with manager Arne Slot's team, reports Xinhua.

The 23-year-old Frenchman was an unused sub-

stitute in Eintracht's pre-season friendly on Saturday as negotiations regarding his future continued. Ekitike scored 22 goals in 48 appearances across all competitions last season, helping Eintracht secure qualification for the Champions League.

Born at Reims in the Marne district of France, Hugo Ekitike started his senior career at 18 with Stade de Reims with their reserves team in 2019-21 and then progressed to represent the first team from 2020-23. Soon after joining the Reims first team, he was sent on a loan deal to



Danish club Vejle Boldklub in 2021 and then to Paris Saint-Germain in 2022-23. In 2024, Frankfurt signed him on a permanent basis 2024.

and then progressed to represent the first team from 2020-23. Soon after joining the Reims first team, he was sent on a loan deal to Danish club Vejle Boldklub in 2021 and then to Paris Saint-Germain from 2022-23.

At the end of his loan stint, he was signed up by PSG in 2023, from where he was sent on loan to Eintracht Frankfurt after playing just one match in the 2023-24 season. In 2024, Frankfurt signed him on a permanent basis 2024.

At the international stage, Hugo Ekitike played for the France U20 and U21 teams, making six and five appearances respectively.

MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR

— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —

DIL KE EHSAAAS



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