

Good Morning Kashmir

16th
Year Of Publication



Through Operation Sindoor, we have struck at the very heart of those who engage in terrorist activities.

Srinagar • Thursday 31, July 2025 • Vol: 16 • Issue No: 175 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

INDUS WATER Treaty Suspended Till Pakistan Ends Terror: EAM



SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr S Jaishankar on Wednesday told the Rajya Sabha that the Indus Water Treaty was not a peace initiative but a move for appeasement. He said the treaty, signed by the then Prime Minister with Pakistan, should be reviewed in the current context.

"The Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan, signed by the then Prime Minister, was not to buy peace, but for appeasement," Jaishankar said while participating in a discussion on Operation Sindoor.

Referring to recent developments, he said, "The Indus Water Treaty will be held in abeyance until Pakistan irrevocably gives up its support of terrorism. Blood and water will not flow together."

Opening the second day

of the debate in the Rajya Sabha, the EAM began by expressing condolences for the civilians killed in the recent terror attack in Pahalgam.

He then detailed India's position during Operation Sindoor and the diplomatic communication with various countries during that time. "When Operation Sindoor commenced, several countries were in touch with us to see how serious the situation was and how long it would go," he said. "We gave the same message to all countries, that we were not open to any mediation. Anything between us and Pakistan will only be bilateral."

On India's military response, Jaishankar said, "We told them we were responding to the Pakistani attack and would continue to respond. If that

■ 'Every Terror Outfit Will Be Crushed'

J&K Will Reclaim Lasting Peace Under PM Modi's Rule: Amit Shah

Armed Forces Ensured Pahalgam Attack Perpetrators Don't Flee To Pak, All Killed'

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is set to reclaim lasting peace under the PM Modi-led government, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that all terror outfits operating in Jammu and Kashmir will be crushed.

The Union Home Minister, informed the Rajya Sabha that security forces ensured the terrorists behind the Pahalgam attack were eliminated before they could flee to Pakistan. "The coordinated operations led to their precise identification and swift neutralisation," he added.

Shah said that the responsibility for April 22 Pahalgam terror attack which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, was claimed by The Resistance Front (TRF), and those responsible were tracked and neutralised in two separate operations – "Operation Sindoor" and "Operation Mahadev."

Shah said a forensic analy-



sis confirmed that the weapons used in the attack matched those recovered from the slain terrorists. "There is no debate or doubt now. The rifles recovered were the same," he told the House.

The Union Home Minister said intelligence agencies and local police questioned 155

people, and those who sheltered the attackers were also identified and are being investigated.

Shah thanked the Prime Minister and the armed forces for their role in the counter-terror-operations.

He said, "I visited Jammu and Kashmir myself. We took a

pledge to capture the terrorists and prevent them from escaping to Pakistan. We succeeded on both fronts."

Providing a timeline of the counter-offensive, the Home Minister said, "Operation Mahadev was launched on April 22, the day of the Pahalgam attack. The

■ **OPERATION MAHADEV WAS LAUNCHED ON APRIL 22, THE DAY OF THE PAHALGAM** attack. The presence of the terrorists was detected by May 22. After confirming their exact location, a joint strategy was drawn up by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, 4 Para, and the CRPF. A detailed meeting was held by senior officials.

Major Reshuffle Of Doctors On Cards In J&K Hospitals: Sakina

JEHANGIR GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Health Minister Sakina Itoo on Wednesday said that a major reshuffle of doctors is on cards in J&K to address long standing issues in the healthcare system.

Itoo expressed concern over the practice of doctors being posted at their preferred locations for decades, which she said hampers the system's progress.

"We are now considering a major reshuffle. It is ironic that doctors have been sitting at the same place for ten years or more. People have told us that such practices—staying in one place for so long—do not help the system. If this continues, the system

will not improve." Itoo said.

She emphasized that the government's focus is on ensuring proper patient care, with a commitment to providing good treatment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "We have also implemented strict vigilance and equipped hospitals with necessary equipment," she added.

Addressing recent complaints, the Minister highlighted issues related to night-duty staffing in hospitals. "There have been many complaints that senior doctors are absent during night shifts. Interns are present, but senior doctors are not on duty. We conducted several visits to hospitals to verify this situation," she said.



Over 1,400 URLs Blocked During 'Op Sindoor': Union Min Ashwani

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: The central government blocked more than 1,400 online links during Operation Sindoor as part of its efforts to contain the spread of fake news and sensitive content in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Responding to a query from MP Tejasvi Surya, Vaishnaw said the blocked content included a range of posts on websites and social media platforms that circulated misinformation and material deemed harmful to national interests.

"Many of these handles were operated from outside the coun-



try and were found actively involved in sharing false, anti-India narratives," the Minister said in a written reply.

The government took action

under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, which allows blocking of digital content in cases involving national security, public

CS Reviews Financial Inclusion Measures In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the status of financial inclusion initiatives and beneficiary-oriented schemes being implemented across J&K.

The Chief Secretary underscored the need for saturation of all financial inclusion schemes in the Union Territory. He expressed concern over the low enrolment rates in several welfare schemes. He directed the concerned departments to scale up coverage in a mission mode to ensure no eligible citizen is left out.

The Chief Secretary highlighted that prompt and

seamless delivery of benefits is key to building public confidence in government programmes. He instructed the officials to ensure timely extension of scheme benefits to all eligible individuals, stating that such efficiency would encourage more citizens to come forward and take advantage of these schemes. The Chief Secretary laid focus on integration of the Registrar of Births & Deaths database with the Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) system. He emphasised that this integration would streamline the accrual of benefits, such as insurance claims and pension settlements, reducing delays and ensuring efficient service delivery.



Stone Pelting Activity Nullified In J&K Post-Art 370 Revocation: Nadda

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President J P Nadda said stone pelting incidents in Jammu and Kashmir have reduced to zero since the abrogation of Article 370. He said that while more than 2,000 such incidents occurred between 2010 and 2014, not a single case had been reported in the last three years.

Nadda said Kashmir Valley had not been shut down for even a day in recent years.

According to him, terrorism in the region had been limited to foreign elements, and the average life span of a terrorist in the valley had come down to seven days. This, he said, was the outcome of a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism.

Nadda said the current security situation was the result of strong political decisions. "The same police and army operated earlier as well,



but there was a lack of political will in the past to act against Pakistan," he said.

The BJP leader said that after the Uri terror attack, the Indian Army carried out surgical strikes within three days. According to him, this was the first time since 1947 that an Indian Prime Minister had publicly declared that those behind the attack would not be spared.

He said that during the UPA

government, no such action was taken despite repeated terror attacks. Referring to incidents such as the 2005 Delhi blasts, the 2006 Varanasi attack, and the 2006 Mumbai train bombings, Nadda said there was no pressure put on Pakistan at the time.

"Even after the 2008 Jaipur bomb blasts by Indian Mujahideen, the Indian and Pakistani governments agreed on confidence-building

Operation Shivshakti Army, Police Kill 2 Terrorists In Poonch, Foil Infiltration Bid

YOGESH

JAMMU: Army in close coordination with Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday foiled an infiltration bid in Poonch sector by killing two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists near the Line of Control.

Officials said that operation codenamed 'Operation Shivshakti' was carried out with precision by the alert soldiers of White Knight Corps, in close coordination with the J&K Police

Jammu based defence spokesperson, Lt Col Suneel Bartwal in a statement said, "In a coordinated counter-terrorism operation, troops of Indian Army launched 'Operation ShivShakti' in the Poonch Sector, J&K, during early hours of 30 July 25."

"The operation was based on credible intelligence inputs acquired by synergistic and synchronised intelligence coordination by military and civil intelligence units in concert with J&K Police regarding the presence of terrorists in the area. Acting swiftly on the inputs, the security forces laid coordinated ambushes

on the appreciated infiltration routes. A fierce gunfight ensued between the security forces and terrorists along the Line of Control in the early morning hours of July 30, leading to the neutralisation of two terrorists and recovery of large quantity of war like stores," he added.

Lt Colonel Bartwal said,

■ **THE SWIFT, coordinated and decisive action by security forces prevented any collateral damage and ensured the safety of local population."**

"The swift, coordinated and decisive action by security forces prevented any collateral damage and ensured the safety of local population."

The PRO said recovered war like stores include two assault rifles with ammunition, one pistol with ammunition, hand grenades, two Improvised explosive devices, medicines, communication device and other

Amarnath Yatra Suspended, No Convoy To Move From Jammu Today



UMAISAR GULL GANIE

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Wednesday suspended the Amarnath Yatra on both Pahalgam and Baltal routes due to inclement weather conditions and announced that no yatra convoy will move from Jammu base camp today.

"Shri Amarnathji Yatra has been suspended for 30.07.2025 from both Pahalgam and Baltal base camps," Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir, posted on its X handle.

The DIPR quoting Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri said that due to heavy rains

since early morning on Wednesday, the yatra has not been allowed on the tracks from Baltal and Nunwan/Chandanwari base camps.

"Due to the heavy rains in the yatra area, the movement of pilgrims from base camps has been affected. Therefore, it has been decided that no convoy movement shall be allowed towards the base camps Baltal and Nunwan from Bhagwati Nagar Jammu on 31 July 2025," the DIPR said.

Pertinently, over 3.93 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the Holy Cave Shrine since July 3, when the pilgrimage commenced. The Yatra is set to conclude on August 9.

The flow of the

Over 13.6 million mobile numbers disconnected to curb telecom fraud: Union Min Scindia

SAJID RAINA

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of Communications, Jyotiraditya M Scindia on Wednesday said that the government has disconnected over 13.6 Million mobile numbers to curb the telecom fraud.

Scindia while responding to the questions of the Members of Parliament, informed the Lok Sabha that the government has addressed key concerns related to telecom frauds.

Outlining the government's ongoing efforts to enhance prevention of cyber frauds, the Union Minister informed the House in a major nationwide push to curb cyber fraud and protect citizens from digital threats, the Government of India has rolled out a series of decisive, tech-enabled measures under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in close coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs. "As part of this initiative, a Digital Intelligence Platform has been developed, bringing together 620 institutions including 570 banks, 36 state police forces, investigative agencies, and telecom service providers, to jointly tackle fraud in real-time. The platform enables integrated action against scammers and cyber criminals who misuse telecom infrastructure to deceive citizens," he said.

The Minister said that to further involve the public in this mission, the Government launched the Sanchar Saathi portal on May 16, 2023, which has since registered over 15.5 crore hits, indicating strong public awareness and participation. "Building on this success, the Sanchar Saathi mobile app was launched on January



17, 2025, for both Android and iOS, and has received over 44 lakh downloads," he said, adding, "Through the combined inputs of these platforms, DoT has blocked 5.5 lakh handsets, and deactivated 20,000 bulk SMS senders. Nearly 24 lakh WhatsApp accounts involved in suspicious activities have also been disengaged."

"A key feature introduced is the Know Your Mobile Connections service, which allows users to check all numbers issued under their name and report any unauthorized connections. This has resulted in the disconnection of 1.36 crore such numbers.

"The Government has also deployed artificial intelligence tools, notably the ASTR system, to automatically detect and eliminate fake mobile numbers—leading to the disconnection of an additional 82 lakh such connections addressing the serious issue of international spoof calls, where foreign numbers appear as Indian calls, the DoT introduced a centralized software solution under the International Incoming Spoof Calls Prevention. On the very first day, 1.35 crore such spoof calls were blocked, and ongoing efforts have brought down such incidents by 97 percent. Today,

only about three lakh spoof calls are being detected daily, compared to the earlier massive volumes. Telecom operators have also been mandated to display "International Call" alerts on all such incoming numbers for greater user transparency," he said.

The Minister said, "In a significant technological leap, the Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI) system was introduced to assess user risk levels—Very High, High, or Medium—based on banking and transaction behaviour. This risk data is shared with banks in real time, helping them prevent suspicious transactions. Over 3.7 lakh individuals have been flagged under these categories, leading to the prevention of more than 3.04 lakh debit/credit instructions and the freezing of 1.55 lakh bank accounts. Recognizing the system's effectiveness, the Reserve Bank of India has instructed all banks to integrate FRI into their internal systems."

"Additionally, the DoT has taken firm steps against misuse of Indian SIMs operating from Southeast Asian countries. Over 26 lakh such roaming mobile connections have been disconnected, and around 1.3 lakh devices used in such scams have been blocked. These ongoing efforts signal the Gov-

ernment's strong commitment to protecting citizens, securing telecom networks, and building a digitally secure India. Citizens are encouraged to remain vigilant and make full use of tools like the Sanchar Saathi portal and app to report suspicious activities, check their mobile connections, and help build a fraud-free digital ecosystem," the Minister said.

Regarding the performance of public sector telecom undertakings, the Minister noted that BSNL has seen a rise in its subscriber base, increasing from 8.55 crore to 9.1 crore over the past fiscal year. This recovery is supported by a ₹3.22 lakh crore revival package sanctioned over the last three years. To ensure accountability and results, each of BSNL's 32 telecom circles is now developing its own business plan under a decentralised strategy. The Ministry has also conducted a 12-hour Strategy and Business Development Session 2025-26 with all Chief General Managers, a first in the sector's history.

The Union Minister also highlighted India's successful development of an indigenous 4G technology stack. The core software for this system has been developed by C-DoT, a public sector organisation, while the radio access network hardware is being manufactured by Tejas Networks. System integration is being handled by TCS. Out of 95,000 towers sanctioned for rollout, 75,000 are already operational, with ₹20,000 crore in capital expenditure already invested. BSNL's 4G services are now live and being optimized, with a transition to 5G planned in the coming phase—(KNO)

CS emphasizes leveraging PMGS portal for data-driven development

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday convened a meeting of the concerned Administrative Secretaries to review the layers integrated into the PM Gati Shakti (PMGS) portal and explore its potential in facilitating the holistic infrastructure planning and development across J&K.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the significance of utilizing the PMGS portal as a unified digital platform for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), particularly for infrastructure-related projects such as roads and connectivity. He directed the concerned departments to proactively integrate their planning processes with the PMGS framework for synchronized and data-driven development across the UT.

A key highlight of the meeting was the emphasis on building a digital land bank.

The Chief Secretary called for uploading of land parcel data already identified and digitized by the GIS wing of the Forest Department onto the portal. This, he noted, would enable various departments to make optimal use of available land resources for future developmental initiatives.



Recognizing the broader utility of the PMGS portal, the Chief Secretary also directed that it be used to map and analyze key social sector indicators including those related to health, education, power and water supply to enable more targeted interventions. He cited examples such as TB prevalence, anaemia rates, female literacy, school dropout rates and other sector-specific parameters that could benefit from data-backed monitoring and interventions. The portal, he stressed, should evolve as a critical tool in improving the service delivery and achieving developmental outcomes in real terms.

Moreover, Chief Secretary emphasized the need to map disaster-prone zones, including flood, landslide and avalanche-vulnerable areas within the UT using the portal. This would strengthen the

disaster preparedness and planning capabilities by enabling evidence-based resource allocation and response planning, he added.

The Department of Industries & Commerce gave a detailed presentation during the meeting, showcasing numerous examples where PMGS portal data had been effectively utilized to aid decision-making and enhance ease of living. They demonstrated cross-sectoral use cases spanning Agriculture, Planning and Industrial Development, highlighting the platform's potential to foster integrated governance.

Later, the Chief Secretary chaired a review meeting of the Industries & Commerce Department to review implementation of the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme in the UT.

During the session,

Chief Secretary took note of the department's efforts in formalizing MSMEs, enhancing Udyam portal registrations and undertaking capacity building initiatives for unit holders. He also reviewed the conduct of Buyer-Seller meets, progress on skilling and management programmes and the general outreach to stakeholders under the scheme.

Stressing the importance of a robust decision support system, the Chief Secretary called for immediate API-level integration of critical databases, including those of financial institutions, power utilities, EPFO, GST and the Udyam portal.

Such integrations, he said, are vital for accurate diagnosis and referral of cases to the MSME Health Clinic, which is envisioned to act as a catalyst in the revival and handholding of sick units across J&K.

J&K amends prison manual to safeguards rights of disabled inmates

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, J&K's Home Department has amended the Union Territory's Prison Manual- 2022 to safeguard the rights of prisoners with disabilities.

In a notification, J&K administration has amended the Prison Manual to improve the treatment and care of prisoners with disabilities.

These amendments have been incorporated in the prison manual after J&K

LG directed UT's Home department to do so.

According to the notification, prisoners with disabilities should not be discriminated on the grounds of disability and are entitled to equality, dignity, and respect.

"No prisoner shall be discriminated on grounds of disability. All prisoners with disability shall be entitled to equality, dignity and respect for their integrity on an equal basis with others," reads the notification.

The amendments provide that all prison infrastructure should be made accessible to prisoners with disabilities, in accordance with the Accessibility Standards and Guidelines notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

"Prisoners with disabilities should be provided with appropriate healthcare services, including psychiatric and psychological services, as well as access to rehabilitation programs and therapies," it states.

As per the amendments, all incoming prisoners shall be screened for disabilities at the time of admission.

"Relevant prison records should reflect their specific needs to ensure suitable accommodations and assistance," the notification adds.

It further states that prison staff should undergo regular training to sensitize them to the needs of prisoners with disabilities and to handle them appropriately—(KNO)

Sufi Roots, Social Change

Arif Naqshbandi Earns National and Global Accolades



ZUBHAIR QURESHI

SRINAGAR: Youth of Jammu and Kashmir continue to demonstrate their potential when given the opportunity. Among them is Mohammad Arif Naqshbandi, who has earned recognition in society through consistent effort and commitment. His work, rooted in community welfare and social activism, is now being acknowledged beyond local circles. With ties to a Sufi family, Naqshbandi's dedication to public service reflects a tradition of spiritual and social responsibility.

Mohammad Arif Naqshbandi was 19 when he decided he wouldn't wait for change, he would create it himself.

"I started from a very young age, and only for sawab (divine reward)," says the now 29-year-old activist. For the past decade, Naqshbandi has worked in the shadows organizing, educating, and advocating in one of India's most challenging regions.

Born and raised in Kupwara, a remote district of Jammu and Kashmir, Mohammad Arif Naqshbandi has spent the last decade working quietly but consistently for the betterment of his people. A postgraduate in Political Science from the University of Kashmir and a second master's degree

holder in Public Administration from IGNOU, he chose a path few tread in a region often defined by its hardships.

"I was deeply affected by the condition of our society," Naqshbandi says. "Love for humanity is what drew me in. I could not stand by and do nothing."

Over the years, Mohammad Arif has worked across a wide range of social causes, human rights, education, environmental awareness, women's empowerment, and youth mobilization. What stands out is not the scale, but the sincerity of his efforts, often carried out at the community level with limited resources but a deep sense of purpose.

His contributions have not gone unnoticed. This year, Mohammad Arif Naqshbandi was honored with the Uttam Bharat Puraskar and the Global Human Rights Award (GHRT) a recognition he calls "not mine alone, but a tribute to every person in our society striving for change."

Belonging to a family with a strong Sufi lineage, Naqshbandi attributes much of his moral grounding to his upbringing. "My uncle, Miyan Mohammad Maqbool Naqshbandi, was a man of vision and heart. He has been a constant source of inspiration for me," he shares.

High-density apple farming brings rich dividends to growers in Kashmir

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: The apple industry in Jammu and Kashmir is undergoing a quiet revolution with high-density apple farming emerging as a game changer. Growers who have adopted this modern technique are now reaping significant financial benefits, prompting wider interest and investment in the sector.

Farmers from various districts of the Kashmir Valley said that high-density apple cultivation has dramatically improved their yields and income, transforming livelihoods in many areas.

Introduced after 2015, these new apple varieties begin bearing fruit just one year after plantation and reach full production within four to five years—far quicker than the traditional varieties that take nearly a decade to mature. Moreover, while conventional apple harvesting often takes place in November—making it vulnerable to early snowfall and frost—high-density apples are typically harvested in July and August, avoiding much of the seasonal risk.

"We have seen the benefits firsthand," said Javid Ahmad, an orchardist from Pulwama who has cultivated high-density apples on eight kanals of land. "People have started replacing old trees with these new varieties. Not only do they require less labour and lower input costs, but the apples are also more uniform in size and colour, with superior quality."

Among the popular high-density varieties now cultivated in the region are

Jeromine, King Roat, Gala Scarlet, Red Velox, Scarlet Spur-II, Super Chief, Redlum Gala, and Auvu Fuji.

According to growers, these apples fetch nearly double the market price of traditional varieties. High-density apples are currently selling at Rs 100-140 per kilogram, compared to Rs 50 for conventional types. The plants also require fewer fertilisers and pesticides, making the method more sustainable.

The season has begun, and currently, there is good demand for high-density apples, and farmers are hopeful that demand will go up further in the coming days.

"You don't have to wait for decades to see returns," said Fayaz Ahmad, another grower. "The plants bear fruit from the very first year, and yields are consistently good."

Seeing the positive outcomes, the Department of Horticulture is pushing for expansion.

Officials said that approximately 1000 hectares have already been brought under high-density apple cultivation. Plans are in place to expand this to 5,500 hectares in the coming years.

To incentivise adoption, the government is offering a 50 per cent subsidy to orchardists who either switch to or begin high-density farming.

The transformation began in September 2015 when the then Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed inaugurated Jammu and Kashmir's first high-density apple orchard at Bamdoora in Anantnag district.

TRAFFIC POLICE HEADQUARTERS, J&K, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

- From 29-07-2025, 1600 hrs. to 30-07-2025, 1600 hrs., there was slow movement observed on NH-44 due to breakdown of 03 HMVs, single lane traffic at Nashri-Dalwas and between Marog & Kishitwari Pathar.
- Commuters belonging to Reasi, Katra, Udhampur, Patnitop, Doda and Ramban town are requested to keep their photo ID card to prove their identification after cut off timing from Jammu/Udhampur so that their movement can be facilitated smoothly.
- Passengers/LMV's operators are advised to undertake journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW during day time due to apprehension of shooting stones between Ramban and Banihal.
- Goods carrier (HVM/LMV) Operators carrying fresh perishable/live stock are advised to load their vehicle as per advisory issued by Traffic Police Headquarters time to time as there is single lane traffic and poor condition of road at Nashri-Dalwas and between Marog & Kishitwari Pathar on Jammu Srinagar NHW.
- Fruit growers/ Load carrier (HVM/LMV) Operators carrying fresh perishable from Valley towards Jammu are advised to load and park their vehicle timely (every morning before 9.00 am at designated place between NAVYUG Tunnel and Levdoora) so that their movement can be facilitated smoothly.
- HMVs Operators/Owners are requested to desist from overloading and carry sufficient fuel during journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW. It is further requested that vehicle owners must double check the fitness of their vehicles and carry sufficient fuel before undertaking journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW.
- HMVs with only 06 and 10 tyres shall be allowed to ply through Dhar road.
- Commuters are advised to avoid unnecessary haltage between Ramban and Banihal especially near landslide/shooting stone area.

TRAFFIC PLAN & ADVISORY FOR 31-07-2025:-

Subject to fair weather and better road conditions SANVY Convoy /LMVs Passenger/Private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar NHW (NH-44) viz from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa. However, HMVs shall be allowed on alternate days. TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing this traffic.

SHRI AMAR NATH JI YATRA 2025

Please refer to Yatra Advisory No. 01 dated 27-06-2025

CUT OFF TIMINGS FOR LMVs/PASSENGER/PRIVATE CARS: -

To be released from:-

- Nagrota (Jammu) towards Srinagar: from 0600 hrs. to 1200 hrs.
- Jakheni (Udhampur) towards Srinagar: from 0700 hrs to 1300 hrs &
- Qazigund towards Jammu: from 1130 hrs to 1400 hrs.

TCU Jammu and TCU Srinagar will inform all concerned about the traffic advisory and cut off timings. No vehicle shall be allowed to move before and after cut off timings.

HMVs/Load Carriers:-

Subject to fair weather and better road conditions, HMVs shall be allowed from NAVYUG Tunnel (Qazigund side) towards Jammu after assessing the road and traffic situation on NH-44 and no HMV shall be allowed after 1900 hrs. TCU Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the HMVs.

Moreover, in view of ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, to provide hassle free movement of trucks carrying fresh/perishable goods on NH-44. UT administration has decided, all tankers of Petrol, Diesel, LPG bulk gas, all trucks carrying empty LPG cylinders; all empty vehicles of FC; any other vehicle loaded/empty upto 10-tyres shall use only Mughal Road while returning to Jammu, as per advisory issued by DIVCOM Kashmir vide No. Divcom/Dev/120/2025/7055-75 dated 01-07-2025

SHRI BUDHA AMARNATH JI YATRA-2025

Kishtwar- Sinthan- Anantnag NH-244:-

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting green signal from NHDC, LMVs/HPSVs shall be allowed from both sides viz from Anantnag towards Kishtwar and vice- versa on Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road. These vehicles shall be allowed from PP Parana towards Anantnag from 0800 hrs to 1600 hrs and from PP Daksum towards Kishtwar from 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs. No HMV other than designated HPSVs shall be allowed as per order issued by SDM Chhatroo vide No. SDM/C/2025-26/146-53 dated 16-05-2025 and SDM Kokernag vide No. SDM/KNM/665-71 dated 16-05-2025.

SSG ROAD

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, (after getting green signal from the BRO) traffic movement shall be allowed on regulated manner on Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumari road. LMVs followed by HMVs shall be allowed from Minamarg towards Srinagar at 0500 hrs. to 1000 hrs. Similarly, LMVs followed by HMVs shall be allowed from Sonamarg towards Kargil at 1130 hrs to 1730 hrs. No vehicle shall be allowed after cut off timing. SFS Convoy, plying from Srinagar to Kargil and vice versa shall plan their movement in such a manner so that Yatra convoys (both UP and DOWN) don't get disturbed.

Mughal Road:-

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting green signal from Road maintenance agencies (GREF). LMVs Passenger/Private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Mughal road viz from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa via Poonch. However, HMVs (upto ten tyres only) shall be allowed from Shopian towards Poonch. These vehicles shall be allowed from Behrampala (Baffulaz) and Herpora (Shopian) at 0700 hrs. upto 1800 hrs. as per advisory issued by DIVCOM Kashmir vide No. Divcom/Dev/120/2025/7055-75 dated 01-07-2025.

ADVISORY :-

People are advised to undertake journey only after confirming status of the road from Traffic control units as under:-

- Jammu (0191-2459048, 0191- 2740550, 9419147732, 103)
- Srinagar (0194-2450022, 2485396, 18001807091, 103)
- Ramban (9419993745, 1800-180-7043)
- Udhampur (8491928625)
- PCR Kishtwar (9906154100)
- PCR Kargil (9541902330, 9541902331)

DIPK-4538-25
DT: 30/07/2025

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Butchers' Blackmail Must End

Once again, the Valley finds itself hostage to an all-too-familiar script—arrogant butchers blackmailing both consumers and the government under the pretext of mutton trade disruptions. This recurring pattern of defiance and extortion has made the mutton sector one of the most contentious in Kashmir's economic and consumer landscape. The worst sufferers are the ordinary people, who are left to either pay exorbitant prices or go without a staple protein in their diet.

This isn't a new crisis. Time and again, butchers have unilaterally hiked prices, refused to comply with government-fixed rates, and even threatened to shut down supply, knowing well the essential place mutton holds in the local cuisine and culture. The latest flare-up only reinforces the perception that the administration is either incapable of, or unwilling to, enforce its own rules. The price lists issued by authorities are treated more like polite suggestions than binding directives.

What is most disturbing is the brazenness with which the trade is conducted. Middlemen inflate costs under opaque mechanisms; retail butchers cite those inflated rates to justify price gouging; and the government, seemingly caught in a loop of inaction, occasionally issues warnings that rarely translate into effective ground-level enforcement.

Why should the poor suffer because the state is reluctant to take on a well-networked cartel? Why is there no transparent, accountable mechanism for setting and enforcing livestock prices? And why does consumer protection vanish each time this crisis resurfaces?

It's time the government stopped treating this issue as a seasonal nuisance. It must establish a permanent, empowered task force to oversee the livestock trade—from procurement to retail—ensuring transparency, fair pricing, and strict punishment for black-marketing. Licensing of meat sellers must be made conditional on adherence to legal pricing. Wholesalers, transporters, and retailers should be audited regularly. Importantly, local watchdog bodies should be empowered to report violations directly to consumer courts or district administrations. This is not just about economics; it is about justice and the dignity of daily life. People cannot be left at the mercy of profiteers emboldened by a paralyzed system. The time for soft warnings and negotiated truces is over. The government must act—firmly, fairly, and finally.

Good Morning Kashmir

Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher

Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editor

Sulaiman Muhammed Shah

Legal Advisor

Bashir Sidiq

Bureau Chief Jammu:

Harbans Nagokay

R.N.I No: JKENG/2010/36998

Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

Office Address:

B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir Chowk, Srinagar-190001

Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat, Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

EDIT

The Struggle To Correct Kashmir's Land Legacy

MOHD AMIN MIR

In the rugged villages and rice fields of Jammu & Kashmir, the word jamabandi carries an almost sacred weight. It is not just a register of land rights—it is a ledger of family history, a record of blood and toil, and a legal backbone of rural life. Yet, many such jamabandies are riddled with glaring errors—wrong ownership entries, outdated family partitions, incorrect khasra numbers, missing girdawaris, and decades-old discrepancies.

As the government races towards digitization of land records under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), a pressing question haunts thousands of landowners: Can you digitize what is not even accurate in the first place?

The rectification files—those dusty, hand-written pleas submitted in tehsil offices, requesting corrections in revenue records—are now gathering more metaphorical dust in digital servers and unresponsive bureaucracies. For many landlords, the dream of seeing their correct landholding in a sleek digital format remains just that—a dream.

This article dives deep into the criss-crossed lanes of record rectification, the digital promise of transparency, and the growing impatience of a generation caught between physical errors and digital silence.

Section I: A Legacy of Errors

Before we digitize, we must confront the legacy we are digitizing. Jamabandies, especially in villages across Kashmir and Jammu regions, contain errors that are both systemic and human:

- Wrong Entries: Mutation records that were never entered correctly, often due to errors by patwaris or in the absence of required documents like death certificates, Tatima Shajra, or proper identification of possession.
- Oral Gift Transfers: Undocumented family transfers done decades ago orally, now lost in memory but still creating contestation on paper.
- Agrarian Reforms Chaos: Post-1971 land reforms led to widespread mutations under the Agrarian Reforms Act. Many of these were never updated properly or were overwritten during successive jamabandi revisions.
- Lack of Tatima Maps: Without subdivisional maps, survey numbers are floating without geographic precision, and overlapping claims abound.

"We were told our land is being digitized, but the system shows the wrong owner," says Ghulam Nabi, a 68-year-old landowner in Kulgam, whose family has been in possession of the same orchard since 1980. "We filed rectification requests five years ago. Nothing happened."

Section II: Rectification Files—The Forgotten Backbone of Reform

Rectification files—essentially written applications with supporting documents like sale deeds, inheritance chains, death certificates, or physical possession records—are filed by landowners at the tehsil office when errors are spotted in jamabandies. However, multiple problems plague this process:

- Delay in Disposal: Revenue officers are overburdened or indifferent, leading to a pile-up of unresolved applications.
- Lack of Transparency: There is no online tracking system for rectification files; applicants are forced to visit tehsil offices repeatedly.
- Fear of Accountability: Some officers avoid correcting long-pending mistakes, fearing legal challenges or internal inquiries.
- Dependency on Field Staff: Naib Tehsildars and Patwaris often delay spot verification, without which no correction is possible.
- The irony is stark: the very files that must be resolved before any meaningful digitization can occur are left in bureaucratic limbo.

Section III: Digital Jamabandi—A Promise Wrapped in Red Tape

The government's digitisation push is commendable, and DILRMP has brought structural improvements. Digital land portals have been launched, and many districts have completed scanning and entry of records. Yet, the e-jamabandies being uploaded often mirror the physical errors they were supposed to correct.

"Digitization without rectification is like photocopying a mistake," says Advocate Ishfaq Ahmad, who has dealt with dozens of land disputes arising from digital errors. Issues with the current digital rollout include:

- Legacy Errors Transferred As-Is: No filtration or correction mechanism in data entry.
- No Unified Correction Portal: Landowners have no interface to request corrections in digital jamabandies.
- Contradictory Records: In some cases, physical jamabandies and digital records don't match, leading to confusion in banks, courts, and administrative offices.
- Lack of User Awareness: Farmers and elderly landlords don't know how to access or interpret digital land records.

Section IV: The Human Cost of Delay

Behind every incorrect entry lies a story of frustration, often with legal and economic consequences:

- Bank Loans Denied: Farmers are refused credit because their name isn't correctly recorded.
- Inheritance Disputes: Sons and daughters fight in courts over jamabandies that were never updated post their father's death.
- Land Sales in Limbo: Buyers and sellers are hesitant to complete transactions due to legal ambiguities in land titles.
- Court Cases Drag On: Judges are forced to rely on outdated jamabandies submitted by patwaris as "latest," leading to injustice.

"I spent Rs. 50,000 fighting a case just to correct a father's name on the land record. It still hasn't been updated," laments Shabir Ahmad, a resident of Baramulla.

Section V: Where Reform Must Begin

Digitization is necessary, but it must follow rectification. Here's what must be done—urgently and systematically:

- Tehsil-Level Rectification Camps: Regular rectification camps should be held at the village or tehsil level, with patwaris, girdawars, and Naib Tehsildars examining rectification files on spot.
- Online Rectification Portal: J&K's land records portal should include a transparent, time-bound interface for citizens to submit correction requests, upload documents, and track their status.
- Time-Bound Disposal Policy: A legal mandate that all rectification files must be addressed within 90 days, with automatic escalation if the deadline is missed.
- Tatima Mapping Drives: Survey numbers must be verified on ground with updated Tatima

Shajra creation, using GPS and satellite imagery wherever possible.

Digital-Physical Cross-Verification: Before final digitization, each jamabandi should be cross-verified with physical possession, past mutations, and community input (lumberdars, chowkidars).

Revenue Training & Accountability: Patwaris and girdawars must be trained not just in digital tools but in citizen engagement and error handling. Officers should be held accountable for undue delays in correction.

Section VI: Hope Amidst Hesitation

Despite challenges, some districts are showing progress. In Anantnag and Budgam, tehsildars have conducted spot girdawaris for long-pending rectifications. Pilot programs for citizen rectification portals are being considered in Srinagar and Kathua. NGOs and civil society have also begun to educate farmers on their rights to correct and access records. Yet, the larger system remains sluggish. The pressure to meet digitization targets must not override the foundational work of correction.

Digitize What is Right, Not Just What is Ready

India's digital land record revolution is a defining moment in rural governance. But if we are digitizing errors, we are only encoding injustice. For Jammu & Kashmir, where land is identity, memory, and sustenance, the stakes are even higher. As the jamabandi moves from ink and paper to screens and servers, let us not leave behind the truth buried under the mistakes of the past. Rectification is not a delay—it is the precondition of justice. Landlords across the Valley are not asking for miracles. They are simply asking to be recorded as who they truly are—and for that truth to be preserved in both paper and pixel.

Mohd Amin Mir is a columnist focused on rural governance, land administration, and institutional reform in Jammu & Kashmir. He can be mailed at miramin354@gmail.com

The Silent Death Of Language

AAMIR ALTAF

Language is not just a tool for communication, it is the soul of a culture, the carrier of history, and the foundation of identity. Yet, in Jammu and Kashmir, the Kashmiri language is dying a slow, silent death. The culprits? Bad parenting, digital addiction, institutional neglect, and a dangerous obsession with Urdu and English as symbols of "prestige."

This isn't just about linguistics; it's about mental health, cultural erosion, and the collapse of intergenerational bonds. If this continues, the next generation of Kashmiris will grow up emotionally disconnected, linguistically rootless, and culturally hollow.

The Decline of Kashmiri: By the Numbers

- Only 6.8 million speakers remain (2011 Census)—far fewer than expected.
- UNESCO lists Kashmiri as a "definitely endangered" language.
- In Srinagar, only 30% of families speak Kashmiri with their children (JKAACL, 2020).
- Rural areas still hold on (~70%) , but even there, Urdu and Hindi are creeping in.

The numbers don't lie—Kashmiri is disappearing. But why?

- Bad Parenting: The First Betrayal
- The Phone Over Parenthood Crisis
- Instead of speaking Kashmiri to their children, many parents today:
 - Hand them smartphones to keep them "busy."
 - Let YouTube and Instagram raise them in Hindi/Urdu.
- Neglect emotional bonding, leading to depression, aggression, and addiction.

Result? Kids grow up:

- Unable to express emotions in any language properly. Addicted to instant dopamine (gaming, gambling, reels).
- Disconnected from their roots, seeing Kashmiri as "backward."

The Prestige Paradox.

Many educated Kashmiri parents actively reject their mother tongue, believing:

- Urdu/English = Success, Kashmiri = Stigma.
- "My child will sound 'uneducated' if they speak Kashmiri."
- This mind-set is killing the language faster than any policy ever could.

Digital Invasion: The Silent Killer of Culture

- No Kashmiri cartoons, apps, or books for kids—just Hindi dubbed cartoons and violent PUBG streams.
- Social media algorithms

push Urdu/Hindi/English content, burying Kashmiri.

- Online gambling and porn are replacing real social skills, leaving youth angry, depressed, and addicted.
- When a child's first words are from a Hindi cartoon not their mother's lullabies, we have already lost.

Institutional Failure: No Schools, No Future

- Kashmiri is not compulsory in most schools.
- No Kashmiri-medium schools exist for elite families who might want them.
- No government push for Kashmiri in tech (Google doesn't even have Kashmiri voice search).

Compare this to:

- Punjab (Punjabi is mandatory in schools).
- Israel (Hebrew was revived through ruthless policy enforcement).

Why is Kashmir's language less worthy of survival?

Mental Health Crisis: A Generation Without Roots: When children grow up: Without their mother tongue, they lose a key part of their identity. Without family stories, they lack emotional grounding. Without cultural pride, they turn to drugs, gambling, and extremism for belonging. This isn't speculation—it's happening right now in Srinagar's neighborhoods and almost in all the rural areas of Kashmir.

The Way Forward: How to Save Kashmiri

For Parents: Reclaim Your Role

- Speak Kashmiri at home—even if kids reply in Urdu/English.
- Replace screen time with storytelling—grandparents' tales, not YouTube.
- Teach pride, not shame

—Kashmiri is not "backward," it's your heritage.

For Schools: Make Kashmiri Unavoidable

- Mandatory Kashmiri classes (like Punjabi in Punjab).
- Kashmiri-medium pre-schools—make it a language of childhood.
- Kashmiri literature competitions—reward fluency.
- For Government & Tech: Digital Revival
- Fund Kashmiri cartoons, apps, and AI tools (e.g., Kashmiri voice assistants).
- Ban gambling ads targeting Kashmiri youth.
- Promote Kashmiri in public offices—why is Urdu the only official language?

Sanskrit died as a spoken language because people abandoned it for "practical" alternatives. Today, Kashmiri is on the same path—not because of outside forces, but because of our own neglect. If we continue prioritizing phones over parenting, Urdu over heritage, and escapism over emotional connection, we will raise a generation that, doesn't speak Kashmiri, doesn't respect elders, doesn't even know what they've lost. The choice is ours: Let Kashmiri die as a relic, or fight to keep it alive as a living, breathing part of Kashmir's soul.

The author can be reached at aamiraltaf16@gmail.com

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

The Wound

A Classic Story From Kashmir



DR. SHIBEN KRISHEN RAINA

“And she pressed her mouth to the wound and began to suck my blood.”
“She began to suck your blood?”
“Yes, my blood—hot blood, crimson blood!”
“But why?”

Before Daykak could say more, he closed his eyes and drifted into some unknown world—perhaps gathering the scattered threads of bygone events. Daykak’s real name was Dayaram Kaul. He was an encyclopaedia of Kashmir’s geography. Sitting beside him and talking felt as calming as listening to a sage in a peaceful hermitage after being exhausted by today’s chaotic life. He had traversed every inch of Kashmir in his time—Chilas, Gilgit, Ladakh, Drass, Lolab, Skardu, and countless other distant places. He had recounted to me almost every significant event of his life, except the mystery of his wound. Whenever the topic came up, he would fall silent. How that wound appeared on the muscle of his arm—he had never told me.

“Kaka, are you asleep?”

“No, son, just lying here, lost in thought.” He took out a small snuff bottle from his pocket and sniffed a bit. “Today’s snuff is worse than dirt,” he muttered. But I was more interested in the mystery of his wound than his snuff.

In my estimation, Daykak was about ninety years old. Yet, he was still as fiery as a red chili. He had always treated life as a challenge and lived it accordingly. He wasn’t highly educated, but due to years of working with British officers, he could manage broken English fluently enough. He often said that anyone who hadn’t read the *“Sikandarnama”*, *“Gulistan”*, or *“Bostan”* hadn’t really read anything worthwhile.

“I’m feeling a little stiff today, like my whole body has seized up,” he said. “Then take a rest today, Kaka. I’ll come again tomorrow.”

“Son, what’s left to rest now? I’m like an overripe pear—ready to fall any day now.” As he spoke, he drifted into silence.



“All my friends are long gone. Their graves have sprouted tall grasses. I’m the only one left behind. Now I just pray to God that my limbs keep working till the end and my eyesight doesn’t fail. May I never become dependent on my final hour.”

I understood that the awareness of old age had begun to gnaw at him. The once-strong man who could walk miles without fatigue was now struggling to manage his own body.

“What are you thinking about, son?” he asked, almost in his sleep. “Nothing, Kaka,” I replied, diverting the topic. “Tell me something—do you think people of the past were better or the ones today?”

“Son, a good person is one who does good work. The old folks had clean hearts, but their surroundings were filthy. Today’s world is cleaner, but hearts are dirtier. Look—I’m sweating all over!” “Shall I call a doctor?” “No, son. Who wants injections at this age? I’ll be fine. It’s just the heat today. That’s all. Tell me—how much does it cost to go to England?”

Before I could ask why he suddenly wanted to go to England, he answered himself, “I’ve been wanting to travel for years. Just feel like visiting England once.”

“But why England?”

After a pause, as though he were flipping through the pages of an entire era, he began to speak again. There was a strange sorrow in his voice. “When my father Harkak Kaul died, my education ended too. That was nearly 80 years ago. I must have been ten or twelve then—yes, around that age. I moved to the city and took a job with a Pandit for one rupee a month. My duties included washing dishes, cleaning the house, and massaging the hands and feet of the

Pandit and his wife in the evening.

Impressed by my work, the Pandit recommended me for a job in the Forest Department, where he himself was a ranger. Though my salary came from the department, my real job was still serving at his house.”

He fell silent for a moment, then continued, “By that time, I was fifteen or sixteen. I roamed many wild jungles and climbed countless mountains with my employer. Eventually, when the ranger retired, a British D.F.O. (Divisional Forest Officer) took me under his wing.”

He grew emotional, and I felt certain he would finally reveal the mystery I had longed to know for years.

“The DFO’s wife was very kind. She would feed me well and have new clothes stitched for me every Christmas. British officers weren’t like today’s bureaucrats who remain confined to their offices—they personally toured the areas and inspected everything themselves. Their sense of duty was remarkable. Thanks to such officers, I had the chance to explore every corner of Kashmir. Ah, how lovely those days were!” He sighed deeply, and I felt his entire past was contained in that one sigh. “Then what happened, Kaka?” I asked.

“As time passed, I aged. When I was working with DFO Mr. Stane, I was around thirty. I had a sturdy build then—when I walked, even the road seemed to tremble. I wouldn’t hesitate even to fight a lion. I had immense faith in my deity and the strength of my arms.”

“But Kaka, why didn’t you ever marry?”

A faint smile flickered on his lips. Pressing them slightly, he replied, “Many friends tried to convince me.

But I never saw marriage as something that suited me. The thought of it filled me with strange aversion. I wanted to remain a free bird, lost in the beauty of nature. But I swear upon my Lord, my character was always pure. Never once did I succumb to lust!”

He looked at his wound with emotion and closed his eyes before continuing. “I was the most trusted servant in the DFO’s household. One day, the memsahib called me and said, ‘Look, Daya, we’re expecting guests from England—my brother Arthur and his daughter Lucy. You must take special care of them.’

Arthur and Lucy arrived. When they were introduced to me, Lucy asked, ‘Is he an Indian?’ ‘Yes,’ memsahib replied, ‘but a Kashmiri Pandit—my most trusted servant.’

Lucy was a 23-year-old vibrant young woman. Seeing her felt like time itself had frozen. She was like a bottle of wine whose cork had never been opened. She could make anyone forget everything. A rose in full bloom, kissed with dew, lively and flirtatious. From the moment she saw me, she took an unusual interest in me. Gradually, we grew closer. She began calling me to her table, and we dined together. We roamed the forests together. At night, she would stay in my room late, listening to Kashmiri folk tales like *“Heemal-Nagari”* and *“Lolar”*.

But I swear by my Lord, I always restrained my desires and treated her with the respect owed to my employer’s guest.” Daykak paused, then cleared his throat before continuing. “Day by day, Lucy drew closer to me. I began to sense her feelings. One day, she asked me, ‘Daya, have you ever been in love?’ I remained silent. She misunderstood.

Her eyes lost their shine. Before I could deny, she asked, ‘With whom?’ ‘With my employer.’ She flared up. As I turned to leave, she asked sharply, ‘Where are you going?’ ‘The chores are done. I’m going to bed.’ She laughed. There was intoxication and desire in her laugh. ‘So early?’

I ignored her tone and left. For days, she didn’t speak to me. Her favors waned. I noticed her eyes now carried a shadow of insult instead of affection. She began to torment me, even complaining about me to the DFO a few times.”

Daykak’s tone turned grim.

“The guests were soon to leave. That night, I was exhausted after a long day and fell into a deep slumber. In the middle of the night, I sensed something warm and soft trembling beside me. As I moved my hand, it brushed against a burning, alive presence—like a tandoor. Then—” He paused. His breathing was heavy. Sweat beaded his forehead.

“The scent of flowers, the beauty of a woman—these are impossible to capture in words. I don’t know what my hands touched or experienced. Her arms slowly encircled me. Like a wild creature, she began to bite, scratch, and claw at me.” “So... it was Lucy?” I asked.

“Yes, it was Lucy. Naked from head to toe, bathed in milk. Her every limb reeked of lust. I recalled my Lord Shambhu, the same Shambhu who had reduced Kamadeva to ashes with his third eye. I leapt up, stone-like—cold and lifeless.”

“What happened then, Kaka?” I was eager to know. “Her body ignited sparks in my eyes. But by then, Lord Shambhu had blessed me—I turned into stone, lifeless stone.

But she was a woman. She sought revenge. She picked up a dagger and struck me. My arm was torn. I don’t remember if the blood gushed out—but I collapsed, fell to the floor. She came near and pressed her mouth to the wound—sucking the red, hot blood. The blood that spilled, she smeared all over herself.

The goddess who protects life—Amba. The one who grants wisdom—Saraswati. The one who destroys evil—Durga. That night, to avenge her insult, had turned into Kali.”

Saying this, Daykak fell silent, perhaps drifting into sleep. The next day, I heard Daykak had passed away. When I looked at his corpse, I noticed his hand still trying to cover that wound. People say Daykak died, but I believe—He had set off for England... to find Lucy.

Author is MA (HINDI & ENGLISH) Ph.D. Former Fellow, IIAS, Rashtrapati Nivas, Shimla, Ex-Member, Hindi Sahakar Samiti, Ministry of Law & Justice, (Govt. of India) SENIOR FELLOW, MINISTRY OF CULTURE. He can be mailed at skraina123@gmail.com

Strengthen Bonds: From Individuals To Nations

M AHMAD

Friendship is a formidable force that possesses the capacity to unite individuals, overcome differences, and nurture a feeling of belonging. In a world that frequently appears fragmented, developing significant friendships and promoting unity can serve as a wellspring of strength and healing. Friendship is a valuable asset that enhances our lives in innumerable ways. It transcends simple acquaintanceship, as genuine friends transform into our confidants, supporters, and partners throughout life’s journey. The connection of friendship is founded on shared trust, comprehension, and assistance. Friendship is a crucial element of human existence that enhances our daily experiences. Maintaining close friendships can assist in alleviating feelings of loneliness or isolation, while also offering us supportive companions as we strive to lead meaningful lives.

Friendship represents a connection between individuals who care for one another. It is a relationship founded on trust, support, and mutual respect. Friends are present for each other during both joyful and challenging times, offering companionship and understanding. Friendship enhances our lives and provides us with a sense of belonging. Friends hold a significant position in our lives. They provide emotional support and assist us in navigating through difficulties. True friends listen without passing judg-



ment and offer advice when necessary. They rejoice in our achievements and remain by our side during challenging moments. The presence of friends contributes positively to our mental health and overall well-being. Additionally, friendships impart essential life skills such as empathy, communication, and cooperation. Friendship is a vital aspect of life. It offers emotional support, fosters personal growth, and brings joy to our existence. Genuine friends are invaluable, and it is crucial to nurture these relationships. By being good friends ourselves, we can cultivate enduring and meaningful connections that enrich our lives.

The presence of friends enhances

our social experiences and contributes positively to our overall well-being. Friends introduce joy and laughter into our lives, fostering enduring memories. They provide a sense of belonging and acceptance, which is essential for our mental health. Robust friendships can alleviate feelings of isolation and elevate our happiness. Genuine friends are invaluable, and nurturing these connections demands dedication and attention. By being loyal and supportive friends ourselves, we can cultivate strong, enduring relationships that significantly enrich our lives in numerous ways. The presence of friends enhances our social interactions and contributes positively to our overall well-being.

Friends introduce joy and laughter into our lives, helping to forge enduring memories. They provide a sense of belonging and acceptance, which is crucial for our mental health. Robust friendships can alleviate feelings of isolation and elevate our happiness. True friends are invaluable, and nurturing these relationships demands dedication and attention. By being loyal and supportive friends ourselves, we can cultivate strong, enduring connections that enrich our lives in numerous ways.

Friendship among nations, often referred to as international friendship or diplomacy, involves the establishment and maintenance of positive relationships between various countries.

It can aid in conflict prevention and promote stability, which is essential for global peace and security and can result in enhanced trade and economic collaboration, leading to increased prosperity and growth for all participating countries. It can encourage mutual understanding and respect among cultures, fostering greater cultural exchange and tolerance.

Nations that maintain friendly relations are more inclined to offer humanitarian assistance to one another during times of need. Friendly nations are more likely to collaborate on issues such as climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable development. Friendship among nations can facilitate cooperation in addressing global challenges like poverty, disease, and climate change.

Let us honour the strength of friendship and togetherness in cultivating a feeling of belonging and purpose. By fostering these connections within our lives and communities, we can build a harmonious and empathetic world that welcomes diversity and cherishes the common humanity that binds us all.

“Friendship is the foundation of collaboration, where shared goals turn into shared successes.”
- A P J Abdul Kalam

(The author is the regular writer for Good Morning Kashmir. He can be reached at specialchivers78@gmail.com)

CS Assesses Implementation Of SBM-Urban, AMRUT 2.0 In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired a meeting to review implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) and the status of sewerage treatment infrastructure across urban areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, which was attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner, JMC; MD, AMRUT; Director, ULB, Kashmir/Jammu and others, also reviewed progress under the flagship Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0.

While assessing the ongoing initiatives, the Chief Secretary underlined the importance of ensuring scientific disposal of waste and maintaining high

level of urban cleanliness. He observed that hygienic and ambient environments are preferred by the residents and emphasized that sanitation must remain a top priority for all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Calling for a mission-mode approach, Dulloo directed the concerned departments to fast-track all pending projects and complete them in a time-bound manner. He instructed for formulating a robust Operation and Maintenance (O&M) plan for the upkeep and continued usability of old community toilets across urban areas.

The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of adhering to norms prescribed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to prevent pollution of water bodies. He called for effective

micro-planning of waste management and optimization of the capacity of existing Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs), aligning with establishment of new facilities with local requirements to ensure comprehensive cleanliness.

Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur, briefed the meeting about the implementation of Solid Waste Management (SWM) under SBM (Urban) 2.0.

She informed that Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) are being developed for dry waste, while Compressed Biogas (CBG) and compost plants are being set up for processing wet waste. Besides, legacy waste is being addressed through bioremediation and Construction and



Demolition (C&D) waste plants are also coming up in Jammu and Srinagar, she added.

Devansh Yadav, Mission Director, SBM Urban, shared granular details of infrastructure being developed under the mission. He made out that Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) for JMC (150 TPD), SMC (459 TPD), ULBs of Jammu Division (63 TPD), ULBs of Kashmir

Division (117 TPD) are currently being created under SBM-U.

Similarly for processing of wet waste, CBG Plants for Jammu city (225 TPD) and Srinagar (300 TPD) are being created along with Compost Units for SMC (459 TPD), Jammu ULBs (100 TPD) and Kashmir ULBs (184 TPD).

With respect to the legacy waste, it was revealed that the

same is being treated through a scientific process of bioremediation. It was also informed that the organisation wise legacy waste to be treated involves SMC (11 lakh MT), JMC (7.23 lakh MT), Jammu ULBs (6 lakh MT) and Kashmir ULBs (3.78 lakh MT) for which works had been allotted and at many places started too.

Regarding the status of sewerage treatment infrastructure, Superintending Engineer, UEED, Samiullah Beigh, informed that the current urban population of J&K is approximately 42.5 lakh, generating 457.45 MLD of wastewater. Against this, a cumulative STP capacity of 163.69 MLD has been established. Additionally, 66.9 MLD capacity is under execution and STPs with a further 45.2 MLD capacity have been tendered out.

The meeting was informed that

under AMRUT 2.0, projects worth over Rs1002 crore are being implemented across J&K, including Rs 867 crore in Central Assistance. The mission primarily focuses on completion of 99 water supply schemes to ensure sustainable drinking water access to all the major towns of J&K. It also envisages sewerage and septic management projects worth Rs 196 crore in assistance by Central government and Rs20 Cr for Water body rejuvenation projects.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the need to align AMRUT projects with the broader objective of sustainable urban development. He directed all the implementing agencies to maintain momentum and accountability through out the implementation of this flagship programme.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Indus Water

fighting were to stop, Pakistan must make a request. And that request could only come through the channel of the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO).”

He also addressed opposition claims related to international diplomacy. “I want to tell them (Opposition) that from April 22 to June 16, there has been no phone call between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump,” he said.

Jaishankar said India conveyed to the international community that it would not accept any form of mediation or pressure tactics. “We gave a message that India is not open to mediation. We will not accept nuclear blackmail,” he said.

The EAM said that terrorism is now on the global agenda because of consistent efforts made by the present government—(KNO)

J&K Will Reclaim

presence of the terrorists was detected by May 22. After confirming their exact location, a joint strategy was drawn up by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, 4 Para, and the CRPF. A detailed meeting was held by senior officials. The operation was then executed at the pinpointed location.”

Shah told the House that the families of Pahalgam terror attack victims had personally requested justice. “They wanted a decisive response and we delivered it,” he said.

The Union Home Minister said that the attackers were killed with precision. “We shot them in their heads,” he said, responding to questions on whether there had been any leniency.

On the timing of the final operation, Shah responded to criticism over it coinciding with the Parliament session. “Someone asked why these terrorists were killed on the first day of Parliament session. I would have ordered it the very next minute after the attack if that were possible. But it’s not easy,” he said.

Referring to the twin operations, the Union Home Minister said, “Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev represent India’s strongest response to terrorism. Together, they form the sternest response seen anywhere.”

Shah also invoked history, calling “Har Har Mahadev” a call to action used by Shivaji Maharaj and his soldiers. He said the phrase symbolises India’s strength and determination.

He questioned the Opposition’s protests during his speech, asking whether they were trying to defend groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba. “Who were you trying to save?” he asked. “Chidambaram’s remarks exposed Congress before the world,” he added.

Amit Shah said, “I want to tell the Congress party that it was during your tenure that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) was lost, but it is the BJP that will bring it back. We carried out targeted strikes on terrorist hideouts, their bases, organisations, training camps, and launching pads. Our operation was aimed at terrorism, but Pakistan perceived it as an attack on its country.”—(KNO)

Mutton Shortage

have raised for months now.

“The government says the matter lies with Punjab. But the impact is being felt here, in Kashmir,” Mehraj added.

Meanwhile, the disruption has put immense pressure on those preparing for weddings in the coming weeks. In Kashmiri culture, mutton is not just another food item; it is the foundation of Wazwan, the elaborate multi-course non-veg feast that defines local weddings.

“Without mutton, what is a wedding here. Families are panicking because chefs and Wazas won’t start unless meat is available in bulk,” said a Srinagar-based event planner.

Caterers and Wazas across the Valley have also expressed concern over cancellations and delays, while families are heading to either postponed events or consider scaled-down menus.

According to the dealers, despite verbal assurances from certain ministers and officials, no written order or actionable solution has been put forward.

Ganaie said that attempts to speak with relevant officials were met with vague responses, with some shifting the responsibility to the Punjab government, the main supplier state for livestock coming into J&K.

“The government claims it is working on it, but we have not seen any results. If they have formed any committee to look into these issues, they must follow through with clear decisions,” he said—(KNO)

Major Reshuffle Of

Itoo acknowledged that while some hospitals have junior doctors on duty, senior doctors often do not stay through the night. “This issue needs to be taken seriously—senior doctors must be present during night shifts, not just junior staff,” she said.

The Minister admitted that the healthcare system inherited a shortage of doctors, but pointed out that the present dispensation led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is working on it. “Several senior doctors—five or six—were appointed, and many consultants, previously removed, were posted in remote areas,” she said.

She said, “Yes, there is a shortage, but alongside this, some doctors give more time to private practice instead of fulfilling their hospital duties—coming on time and attending to patients properly.”

“During recent hospital inspections, many of these concerns were found to be valid. As a result, the government has decided to take strict action because here, emergencies are closed, OPDs are shut, and hospitals are left without proper services,” she said.

The Minister also announced new measures to improve accountability and patient care. “Doctors should be available promptly when patients arrive. It is also necessary for doctors to wear nameplates with their names on their uniforms, so patients can easily identify their doctors, whether they are orthopedic specialists or from other departments,” she said—(KNO)

Over 1,400 URLs

order, or the sovereignty of India.

According to the Minister, the URLs flagged during this period contained misleading content, provocative material targeting the armed forces and posts with communal overtones, largely traced to Pakistan-based accounts.

To monitor and respond in real time, the government established a centralised control unit, which remained operational round-the-clock. This unit, jointly managed by defence personnel, information agencies and the Press Information Bureau (PIB), functioned as a central command for identifying and countering online threats during the operation.

Vaishnav noted that the PIB’s fact-checking team was actively involved in tracking false narratives and issuing timely clarifications. Verified information was shared with the public, and action was taken against posts found to be spreading disinformation.

He also informed the House that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued an advisory to media outlets on April 26. The advisory instructed news platforms to avoid live telecasts of defence activities or troop movements in order to protect operational details and public safety—(KNO)

CS Reviews Financial

Further, he called upon the departments to intensify the ongoing outreach campaign, reaching every household with accurate information on available schemes. He noted that increased awareness among the citizens is essential for enhancing participation and making financial inclusion truly universal in J&K.

The review meeting assessed the significant progress made under various financial and social inclusion schemes. He highlighted the substantial impact of initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) in bringing financial security and empowerment to the region’s populace.

Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D.Vaidya, while giving insights about the overall scenario of these social security schemes, made out that the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is the foundation of financial inclusion. About its penetration in the UT, it was revealed that Kathua leads with 92.74% achievement against its 2024-25 target for new accounts, followed by Bandipora at 71.08%.

Overall, the region achieved 46.75% of its annual target for 2024-25, with 21.45 lakh cumulative accounts as of March 31, 2025. In terms of enrollment against the 2011 Census Population, Samba district shows the highest PMJDY account penetration at 31%, followed by Reasi and Baramulla at 24% each.

With respect to the PMSBY which provides affordable accidental insurance, the enrollment has shown remarkable growth, increasing by 168% to 23.57 lakh in the last five years. The total premium paid as of 2024-25 stands at Rs 13.55 Cr, with claims disbursed amounting Rs 18.39 crore.

The meeting was further informed that overall, the region has achieved 116.16% of its PMSBY enrolment target for 2024-25, reaching a cumulative achievement of 23.56 lakh since inception till March 31, 2025. Jammu district has the highest cumulative enrollment since inception, with 5,80,112 beneficiaries.

A total of 1,123 claims have been received since inception, with 930 settled, disbursing Rs18.39 Cr. J&K Bank leads in claims settled against premium collected, with 204% achievement.

As far as PMJJBY is concerned, it was said to offer an affordable life insurance cover of Rs2 lakh upon death due to any cause. Regarding the enrolment in PMJJBY, it was revealed that Kishtwar and Kupwara districts have achieved over 170% and 140% of their PMJJBY enrolment targets in 2024-25, respectively. The total achievement for 2024-25 stood at 94.89% of the annual target, with cumulative enrollment reaching 9.66 lakh since inception till March 31, 2025. Jammu district has the highest cumulative enrollment under PMJJBY, with 2,33,455 beneficiaries.

Out of 2,996 claims received since inception, 2,296 have been settled, disbursing Rs45.90 crore. Again J&K Bank had processed the highest number of claims.

The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) provides a guaranteed monthly pension of Rs1,000 to Rs 5,000 after 60 years of age for workers in the unorganized sector. The enrolment has seen a significant increase of 148% in the last five years, reaching 2.48 lakh beneficiaries.

In 2024-25, Kishtwar and Rajouri districts have achieved 64.57% and 64.39% of their annual enrollment targets, respectively. Overall, the region has achieved 40.52% of its APY enrollment target for 2024-25, with a cumulative enrollment of 2.48 lakh as of March 31, 2025. Samba district has the highest APY enrollment against the 2011 Census population at 5.8%, followed by Jammu at 5.4%.

These schemes collectively underscore the government’s commitment towards fostering comprehensive financial and social inclusion, ensuring a more secure and prosperous future for the citizens of the UT.

Amarnath Yatra

Yatra has started to decline as most of the registered pilgrims have completed their pilgrimage and the peak season has ended. Moreover, the government had put in place three-tier security and other arrangements this year as well—(KNO)

Army, Police Kill 2

logistic stores. The huge recovery of war like & logistic stores indicate that the terrorists were well-prepared for prolonged engagement.

Search operation is in progress in the surrounding areas to rule out the presence of any more terrorists, he added.

The Indian Army’s White Knight Corps, in a post on X, reiterated their commitment to safeguarding the nation, stating, “Swift action and accurate firepower thwarted the nefarious designs of the infiltrators. Operation Shivshakti is a testament to our resolve to protect the region from terrorism.”

Pertinently, this operation came just days after security forces carried out ‘Operation Mahadev,’ on July 27. On a tip off security forces had launched massive searches in the steep and dense mountain ranges of Lidwas at Harwan in Srinagar outskirts following which contact was established with hiding Lashkar terrorists involved in the April 22 Pahalgam attack. They were neutralised—(KNO)

Stone Pelting Activity

measures. They kept firing bullets at us, and we kept offering them biryani,” he said.

Responding to criticism from the Opposition over the Pahalgam incident, Nadda said those raising questions should look at their own record. “During their tenure, multiple blasts took place across the country, and many people were killed, but no concrete action was taken. Trade and terror continued side by side during those years,” he said.

The BJP National President said that at the 2009 SCO Summit, the UPA government did not even mention the 2008 Mumbai attacks—(KNO)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I, Sheikh Babar Jan S/o Late Khazir Mohd, resident of Wazir Bagh, near L D Hospital, Srinagar, have lost the Registration Certificate (RC) of my electric auto bearing registration No: JK01AU 2462. The RC was lost while traveling from Wazir Bagh to Jehangir Chowck. I have applied for a duplicate RC with the Regional Transport Office (RTO), Srinagar. If anyone has any objection regarding this matter, they may submit their objection at the RTO Office, Srinagar, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

CBI not probing Indiabulls matter, Supreme Court told

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday informed the Supreme Court that it was not investigating alleged "illegalities" of Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited (IHFL), now renamed as Sammaan Capital Ltd.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a plea filed by Citizens Whistle Blower Forum (CWBF) seeking an in-depth, thorough and time-bound investigation by a SIT into various serious "illegalities" including round-tripping of funds, violations of provisions of the Companies Act, and siphoning of funds committed by the promoters of IHFL, its subsidiaries and their promoters.

Appearing on behalf of the CBI, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) SV Raju, submitted before the Justice Kant-led Bench, that the Central agency has not found any wrong in IHFL's disbursement of loans to corporate entities.

Senior advocates Harish Salve and Mukul Rohatgi, representing the IHFL's promoters, contended that the CWBF's claims are fictitious, adding that it has already withdrawn several related petitions.

Due to paucity of time, the apex court adjourned the hearing, saying that it will look into the allegations at a later date.

In November last year, the Supreme Court had agreed to examine CWBF's



plea and sought responses from IHFL and other respondents in the matter.

The plea before the apex court claimed that based on public records, ROC documents and financial statements, the IHFL had been extending huge loans to various companies and these companies in turn have been routing a substantial part of the money as investment in companies belonging to the key-shareholders/promoters of IBHFL, including Sameer Gehlaut, the founder and the then Chairman of IBHFL.

"In other words, borrowing companies bestow huge benefits to the key shareholders and Chairman of the IBHFL for the favour they get in the form of loans from IBHFL," CWBF's plea said.

It added that since the funds with IBHFL are essentially its borrowings from public sector and private sector banks and investments of its depositors, "thousands of crores of public money seem to

have been siphoned out by the company in order to financially benefit its promoters".

Earlier, the Delhi High Court had rejected CWBF's plea seeking direction for an SIT investigation into various serious illegalities including round-tripping of funds, violations of provisions of the Companies Act, and siphoning of funds committed by the promoters of IHFL, its subsidiaries and their promoters.

The special leave petition (SLP) filed before the apex court said that the Delhi High Court failed to appreciate that many of the companies to which IBHFL has extended these loans have a small paid-up capital, do not have any fixed assets and are not even engaged in any business activities.

"The directors and office addresses of many of these companies are also common. A majority of these borrower companies have also failed to file charges with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

(MCA). That merely because the borrowing companies have paid back some of the dubious loans advanced to it, does not imply that the promoters of Indiabulls did not benefit from the same," contended the SLP filed through advocate Neha Rathni.

It added that mere repayment of loans does not absolve a company and its promoters from criminal liability and investigation, especially when such a company has further taken various loans, possibly to show repayment in its book of accounts.

The plea contended that IHFL and its promoters are in violation of various statutes and policies like evasion of Income Tax, violation of rules and regulations of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), SEBI, National Housing Bank and other laws but none of the authorities have taken any action.

The petitioner said that the "instant scam" follows close to the heels of scams such as those perpetrated by ICICI Bank, IL&FS and Dewan Housing Finance Limited and illustrates how promoters and persons in charge of large NBFCs have looted public monies invested in them and diverted them to their own companies using a web of shell companies.

Indiabulls, a leading finance company and now an NBFC, was founded by Sameer Gehlaut in 1999 and went public with a listing on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in 2004.

Kanchipuram silk weavers see India-UK FTA as ray of hope for their sagging businesses

IAN S

CHENNAI: Kanchipuram, a renowned pilgrimage centre in Tamil Nadu and widely known for its array of handloom products, is anticipating good outcomes from the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed between India and the United Kingdom.

The town, home to about a thousand temples, boasts more than 6,000 handloom weavers, who are mostly centred in areas like Pillayar Palayam and Ayyampettai.

These weavers sell their sarees to private companies and cooperative institutions. However, the rise of 'power-loom sarees' being sold as Kanchi silk sarees has negatively impacted the livelihood of genuine Kanchi silk saree weavers.



The recent surge in gold and silver prices further heightened their woes and resulted in decreased sales, affecting the weavers' income. The weavers are now demanding that the government control the prices of gold and silver to alleviate their struggles.

Amid the challenges, the

India-UK agreement has come as respite for them as they expect it to boost silk production and provide more opportunities to weavers. The agreement could help increase production and exports, benefiting the local weavers.

According to Mohan, a local silk saree producer,

this agreement is a welcome development, and this could help the industry grow.

Overall, the Kanchipuram silk industry requires support to overcome these challenges and capitalise on opportunities like the India-UK FTA agreement.

The FTA, also known as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), is expected to significantly enhance jewellery exports from India, said reports citing experts.

Notably, the FTA was signed to give impetus to economic ties between the two nations. The agreement aims to boost trade by reducing tariffs, streamlining customs processes, and enhancing collaboration across various sectors.

Tamil Nadu: Karur textiles businesses eye big gains in next 5-6 years, from FTA

IAN S

CHENNAI: The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) recently inked between India and the United Kingdom (UK) is expected to drive strong growth in Indian exports, benefitting the textile manufacturing centres, in particular.

Notably, the FTA, also called as Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), gives an unprecedented duty-free access to 99 per cent of India's exports to the UK. This includes labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather, marine products, gems and jewellery, and toys, as well

as high-growth sectors like engineering goods, chemicals, and auto components.

After the FTA, many employment-intensive sectors like textiles, garments, leather goods, engineering products and jewellery are hoping to reap huge benefits because of the incentives and duty-free access to UK markets. The duty exemptions will make Indian products more competitive and open up new opportunities in the overseas market.

Karur, a well-established textile hub in the country, is excited and upbeat over the growth prospects in the coming

years. Karur, a city in Tirupur district of Tamil Nadu, is a hub of India's ready-made garments sector and is likely to see an increase in demand for green garments and high-value products in UK markets.

This will lead to a significant boost in exports, investment expansion and employment. Moreover, these will help in skills development and technological advancement.

Currently, India exports textiles and ready-made garments worth around \$1.4 billion per year to the UK. With the FTA, this volume is expected to double in the next 5-6 years.

"The FTA is not just

about trade growth, it represents comprehensive economic partnership built on trust between the two countries. We thank the Prime Minister for successfully concluding this agreement," said Homeline Textile's Angelina Stephan Babu.

Notably, the FTA ensures tariff elimination on about 99 per cent of tariff lines, covering India's nearly entire trade basket. This means nearly 100 per cent of Indian goods such as textiles, leather, marine products, gems and jewellery, toys, chemicals, engineering products, and agri-products will enter the UK market at zero duty.

India-Nigeria ties strengthened under PM Modi: Former Nigerian Minister

IAN S

GANDHINAGAR: Former Foreign Minister of Nigeria, Geoffrey Onyeama, met Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel during his visit to India as part of the Indian Culture Immersion Programme organised by the Ministry of External Affairs on Wednesday.

During the meeting, held in Gandhinagar, both leaders lauded the deepening India-Nigeria ties, particularly in the context of Nigeria's participation in the G-20 Summit under India's presidency.

The Chief Minister highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's global vision of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - "the world is one family" - and emphasised how this ethos continues to shape India's inclusive foreign policy.

Onyeama, accompanied by his wife, expressed admiration for Gujarat's rapid development and its preservation of cultural heritage.

He appreciated Gujarat's role in offering higher education opportunities to Nigerian students, further strengthening people-to-people connections between the two countries.

He also acknowledged the significant contribution of the Gujarati community to Nigeria's socio-economic



development and praised India's technological and economic progress under PM Modi's leadership.

Patel reiterated Gujarat's willingness to explore greater cooperation with Nigeria in the fields of trade, industry, and investment.

The former Nigerian Foreign Minister's visit included stops at the Statue of Unity and Maharaja Sayajirao University in Vadodra.

He is scheduled to visit the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) and Gujarat Technological University (GTU) on Thursday.

Senior officials present during the meeting included Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister M.K. Das, Principal Secretary of Industries Mamta Verma, Industries

Commissioner P. Swaroop, and INDEXTb MD Keyur Sampat.

As of 2024, India and Nigeria maintain robust bilateral trade relations, with trade volumes exceeding USD 14 billion annually.

India is one of Nigeria's largest trading partners, primarily importing crude oil and liquefied natural gas from Nigeria, while exporting pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, automobiles, textiles, and refined petroleum products.

Nigerian oil accounts for a significant share of India's energy imports. Beyond hydrocarbons, the countries are also exploring partnerships in agriculture, digital technology, fintech, education, and capacity building, reflecting a broader shift toward diversified economic engagement.

No winners in tariff war, coercion and pressure won't achieve anything: China

IAN S

BEIJING: Reacting strongly to the US threat of facing higher tariffs if China continues to purchase Russian oil, Beijing on Wednesday said that there are no winners in a tariff war, and coercion and pressure will not solve problems.

"China will take reasonable energy security measures based on its national interests. There are no winners in a tariff war, and coercion and pressure will not solve problems. China will firmly safeguard its sovereignty, security, and development interests," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said during a regular media briefing.

China's reaction came around the same time US President Donald Trump threatened on Wednesday to impose a 25 per cent tariff on India's exports, starting Friday.

"India will be paying a tariff of 25 per cent" starting on August 1, Trump posted on Truth Social. He said that India would also face an additional tariff penalty for buying Russian energy.

Trump had set the penalty, known as secondary tariffs, across the board at 100 per cent for all who are buying Russian energy if



Moscow did not reach a ceasefire with Ukraine.

He shortened the deadline for that to 10 days from Tuesday, setting it at August 7.

The threat to India could be a negotiating tactic to force New Delhi to reach an agreement after Trump and his officials, like Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, had spoken optimistically that India would be among the first to make a deal.

India was among the first countries to start trade negotiations with Washington on tariffs, and Trump had repeatedly said that an agreement was imminent, most recently last week.

Trump said in his post: "Remember, while India is our friend, we have, over

the years, done relatively little business with them because their Tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the World".

He accused India of having "the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary Trade Barriers of any Country".

He added: "They have always bought a vast majority of their military equipment from Russia, and are Russia's largest buyer of ENERGY, along with China, at a time when everyone wants Russia to STOP THE KILLING IN UKRAINE".

"ALL THINGS NOT GOOD! INDIA WILL THEREFORE BE PAYING A TARIFF OF 25%, PLUS A PENALTY FOR THE ABOVE, STARTING ON AUGUST FIRST!" he wrote.

Kremlin lauds preparedness as earthquake struck Russia's Kamchatka peninsula



IAN S

MOSCOW: The massive earthquake that struck off the coast of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula earlier in the day highlighted the region's preparedness to tackle such high level emergency situations, Russian Presidential Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov said in Moscow on Wednesday.

The preventive measures taken forth the earthquake struck "proved" the region's preparedness, Peskov stated. "All warning systems worked in a timely manner, and the tsunami evacuation of people from the areas where they needed to be evacuated was organised," Peskov said during a media briefing.

"In general, the seismic resistance of the buildings proved its worth. Thank God, there were no casualties. And so here, let's say, technological preparedness - it proved its worth and showed itself to be at a high level," TASS quoted the Kremlin representative as saying.

The Director of the Schmidt Institute of Physics of the Earth of the

Russian Academy of Sciences, Sergei Tikhotsky, told the state-run news agency that the earthquake that struck Kamchatka early Wednesday was an "expected event of the last 30 years", giving the people enough time to be prepared, along with the steps already taken to strengthen buildings.

As per Tikhotsky, the most vital and crucial part of the seismic activities has already swept off, which would mean that the aftershocks would not be much worse, or stronger than the initial hits.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) reported that the quake's epicentre was located about 125 km southeast of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, a major city in the far eastern region of Russia.

Initially reported as an 8.0 magnitude quake, the USGS later revised its assessment to 8.7, citing updated data.

The earthquake was recorded at a relatively shallow depth of 19.3 kilometres (12 miles), increasing the likelihood of significant surface-level shaking and potential tsunami waves.

Charmed by PM Modi's 'diplomatic spell', Maldives and Lankan leaders give up anti-India stance

IAN S

COLOMBO: Charmed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "diplomatic spell", Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu and Sri Lankan President Anura Dissanayake - two leaders who backed a strong anti-India policy before coming to power in their respective nations

- now seem to have made a major shift in their approach towards New Delhi, the Lankan media cited on Wednesday.

The observations were made during Dissanayake's ongoing July 28-30 State Visit to the Maldives which took place almost immediately after PM Modi's landmark visit to Male, last week.

"With the end of Modi's visit to the Maldives, Sri Lanka's pro-China JVP leader, President Anura, has gone to the Maldives at the invitation of the Maldivian President. What happened to Anura, and to the JVP, is the same as what happened to the Maldivian President. They also showed a

strong anti-India policy before coming to power," a report by Lankan media outlet Mawrata News stated.

Last December, Dissanayake, while visiting India on what was his first official foreign visit since assuming office, had thanked India for its "immense support" during the unprecedented eco-

nomc crisis and also assured Prime Minister Modi that he will not allow the island nation to be used in any way that is detrimental to the interest of India.

On July 25, PM Modi arrived in Male on a two-day State Visit to participate in the Maldives' 60th Independence Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour.

Satish Sharma emphasizes Science, Technology driven agri transformation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Science and Technology, Transport, Satish Sharma, Wednesday reaffirmed the government's commitment towards transforming Jammu and Kashmir's agriculture sector through cutting-edge science, technology and innovation.

The Minister was speaking at a high-level Stakeholders Meet on Strengthening the Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) Ecosystem in Kashmir, organized by PI-RAHI, Northern Region S&T Cluster in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Science & Technology Council and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-Kashmir).

The function witnessed participation of Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Dr. Nazir Ahmad Ganai; Secretary Science & Technology, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary; Advisor PI-RAHI, Jatinder Kour Arora; Additional Director JKSTIC, Dr. Nasir Shah along with senior scientists, progressive farmers, scholars and officers of the Science & Technology Department.

Satish Sharma invoked the visionary reforms of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah, who brought the historic land-to-the-tiller legislation. He emphasized that the present focus is on



bringing about a similar transformation through smart technologies and modern scientific interventions in agriculture. "Today's focus is on creating a dynamic Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) ecosystem in Kashmir. Our farmers must not only be beneficiaries of government aid but active participants in technological progress," he maintained.

The Minister outlined several key pillars of the government's agricultural transformation agenda under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. These included Smart Farming Solutions, Biotechnology Interventions, Post-Harvest Management and Value Addition, Use of Renewable Energy in Agriculture, E-Commerce and Direct

Market Access for Farmers, Skill Development, Capacity Building and Robust R&D.

Satish Sharma also launched four new start-ups by young innovators of SKUAST-K, symbolizing the government's support for youth-led entrepreneurship in the agri-tech domain. He praised the innovative spirit of Kashmir's youth and stressed the importance of creating a conducive research and innovation ecosystem. "We have the brains that can do wonders. All they need is the right environment, like a seed that needs sunlight and water to bloom," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, elaborated on the university's initiatives to build a vibrant agri-tech-nology ecosystem. He said

that these steps are geared toward increasing employability, improving yields, and boosting the income of the farming community.

Secretary Science & Technology, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, stressed the need to bridge the gap between government and academia, enabling the young researchers to scale their innovations. He proposed institutional scholarships to support youth innovators and ensure their ideas receive the necessary backing.

Earlier, the Minister went around the SKUAST-K campus and interacted with the students and innovators. He was briefed about several ongoing research projects and cutting-edge technologies being developed to support sustainable and climate-resilient farming in the region.

CS assesses implementation of SBM-Urban, AMRUT 2.0 in J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to review implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) and the status of sewerage treatment infrastructure across urban areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, which was attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner, JMC; MD, AMRUT; Director, ULB, Kashmir/Jammu and others, also reviewed progress under the flagship Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0.

While assessing the ongoing initiatives, the Chief Secretary underlined the importance of ensuring scientific disposal of waste and maintaining high level of urban cleanliness. He observed that hygienic and ambient environments are preferred by the residents and emphasized that sanitation must remain a top priority for all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Calling for a mission-mode approach, Dulloo directed the concerned departments to fast-track all pending projects and complete them in a time-bound manner. He

instructed for formulating a robust Operation and Maintenance (O&M) plan for the upkeep and continued usability of old community toilets across urban areas.

The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of adhering to norms prescribed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to prevent pollution of water bodies. He called for effective micro-planning of waste management and optimization of the capacity of existing Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs), aligning with establishment of new facilities with local requirements to ensure comprehensive cleanliness.

Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur, briefed the meeting about the implementation of Solid Waste Management (SWM) under SBM (Urban) 2.0.

She informed that Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) are being developed for dry waste, while Compressed Biogas (CBG) and compost plants are being set up for processing wet waste. Besides, legacy waste is being addressed through bioremediation and Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste

plants are also coming up in Jammu and Srinagar, she added.

Devansh Yadav, Mission Director, SBM Urban, shared granular details of infrastructure being developed under the mission. He made out that Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) for JMC (150 TPD), SMC (459 TPD), ULBs of Jammu Division (63 TPD), ULBs of Kashmir Division (117 TPD) are currently being created under SBM-U.

Similarly for processing of wet waste, CBG Plants for Jammu city (225 TPD) and Srinagar (300 TPD) are being created along with Compost Units for SMC (459 TPD), Jammu ULBs (100 TPD) and Kashmir ULBs (184 TPD).

With respect to the legacy waste, it was revealed that the same is being treated through a scientific process of bioremediation. It was also informed that the organisation wise legacy waste to be treated involves SMC (11 lakh MT), JMC (7.23 lakh MT), Jammu ULBs (6 lakh MT) and Kashmir ULBs (3.78 lakh MT) for which works had been allotted and at many places started too.

Regarding the status of sewerage treatment infrastructure, Superintending Engineer, UEED,

Samiullah Beigh, informed that the current urban population of J&K is approximately 42.5 lakh, generating 457.45 MLD of wastewater. Against this, a cumulative STP capacity of 163.69 MLD has been established. Additionally, 66.9 MLD capacity is under execution and STPs with a further 45.2 MLD capacity have been tendered out.

The meeting was informed that under AMRUT 2.0, projects worth over Rs1002 crore are being implemented across J&K, including Rs 867 crore in Central Assistance. The mission primarily focuses on completion of 99 water supply schemes to ensure sustainable drinking water access to all the major towns of J&K. It also envisages sewerage and septic management projects worth Rs 196 crore in assistance by Central government and Rs20 Cr for Water body rejuvenation projects.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the need to align AMRUT projects with the broader objective of sustainable urban development. He directed all the implementing agencies to maintain momentum and accountability through out the implementation of this flagship programme.

Sakeena Itoo mourns loss of teacher killed in Handwara road accident

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Sakeena has expressed deep grief over the tragic road accident at Behnipora area of Handwara in which a Government teacher, Irshad Ahmed Lone lost his life and many were injured. In her condolence message, the Minister extended her deepest sympathies to the bereaved family. She described the deceased teacher as a dedicated educator who served the community with commitment and integrity. The Minister prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed her solidarity with the grieving family during this difficult time.

6th District Srinagar Yogasana Sports Championship 2025-26 Concludes Successfully

GMK NEWS NETWORK

The 6th District Srinagar Yogasana Sports Championship 2025-26 concluded with great enthusiasm at the Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor Sports Complex (SKISC), Srinagar. Held from July 29 to 30, the championship was organized by the District Srinagar Yogasana Sports Association, affiliated with the J&K Yogasana Sports Association & sponsored by the J&K Sports Council.

The closing ceremony, held on July 30, was graced



by Mr. Maqsood Ahmad, Manager SKISC, as the Chief Guest. The Guests of Honour included Mr. Shabir Ahmad Dar (Senior Yogasana Coach, JKSC), Bollywood actor Mr. Aadil Khan, Mr. Basit Nabi (Sec-

retary, District Budgam YSA), Mr. Altaf Ahmad Bhat (Member, JKYSA) & Mr. Aijaz Ahmad Bhat (President, District Srinagar YSA).

The Chief Guest felicitated the top perform-

ers with medals & trophies. Tameem Tariq was declared Best Male Player, while Hurrabah Ashai was honoured as Best Female Player for their outstanding performances.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from young athletes across the district, highlighting the growing interest in Yogasana as a competitive sport. The association thanked all officials, volunteers & participants for their support & reiterated its commitment to promote Yogasana at the grassroots level in Srinagar.

Committee on Subordinate Legislation meets in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Wednesday convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to examine and review the rules, regulations and by-laws framed by the Revenue Department.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman, Hasnain Masoodi and attended by members Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Hilal Akbar Lone, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Satish Kumar Sharma, Irfan

Hafiz Lone and Dr. Rameshwar Singh.

The Committee conducted a detailed examination of various rules, sub-rules, regulations and bye-laws framed by the Revenue Department.

Emphasizing the need for efficient and seamless service delivery, the Committee underscored the importance of transparent land transfer mechanisms and user-friendly revenue services for the general public.

In-depth discussions were held on key legal provisions related to land laws. The Committee stressed

the need for hassle-free registration processes and easy access to revenue records to enhance public convenience. It deliberated on key rules including Migrant Rules, Agrarian Reforms Rules, Land Grant Rules and Evacuees' Property Rules.

The Chairman highlighted the pivotal role of land laws in ensuring justice and equity and reaffirmed the Committee's commitment to public welfare. He urged all members to contribute constructively towards legislation that benefits every section of society.

MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR
— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —
DIL KE EHSAAAS

