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Peace in ...

There, only courage and resolve matter. The sports ground binds us in a shared humanity.

This is an education possible only on the ground, and it has the power to shape the character of the young generation. Such sporting events carry another vital lesson: lasting public security, peace and prosperity is strengthened from trust and values," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Lauding Jammu Kashmir Police, the Lieutenant Governor said that through the Civic Action Programme, the J&K Police has kept alive the conviction that we belong to community, that we care for youth, and that we believe in their future.

"The people here have always seen the Jammu & Kashmir Police as a guide, a mentor — an integral part of the community. These competitions are an expression of exactly that spirit," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth of Jammu Kashmir to recognize and fully seize the extraordinary potential of the Union Territory they have inherited.

"Dream big, with the health, freedom, and opportunities to make those dreams real," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Emphasizing that a bright future requires a healthy foundation, the Lieutenant Governor urged the younger generation to stay vigilant against the menace of narcotics and lead a collective war against drugs.

"Sports teach the power of shared purpose: a dedicated team achieves what no individual can. These lessons extend beyond the field, forming the foundation of life's greatest triumphs," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor also felicitated the J&K cricket team on clinching their maiden Ranji trophy title. The Lieutenant Governor extended heartfelt congratulations to the champions for this landmark triumph.

An e-Souvenir of the 2nd All India Police Kabaddi Cluster 2025-26 was also released on the occasion.

Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; Shri S.J.M Gillani, Special DG (Coordination); Shri Abdul Ghani Mir, Commandant General, Home Guards, Civil Defence & SDRF J&K; Shri Anand Jain, ADGP Armed Police; Shri MK Sinha, ADGP Headquarters; Shri Pankaj Thakur, Joint Director, IB; senior officials of J&K Police and Civil administration and eminent sports personalities attended the closing ceremony.

LG assures ...

while he was leaving a marriage function at Greater Kailash on the outskirts of Jammu on Wednesday night, officials said.

The police arrested the accused, identified as 63-year-old Kamal Singh Jamwal, a resident of Purani Mandi, who reportedly told investigators that he had been waiting for an opportunity to target Abdullah for the past 20 years.

"Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha spoke to National Conference president Farooq Abdullah. He assured that a thorough investigation would be conducted," sources said.

They said that DGP Nalin Prabhat was directed to leave no stone unturned in getting to the bottom of the incident and to ensure that action follows swiftly. Senior officials were firmly instructed to guarantee airtight security for protectees.

The police have initiated a detailed probe into Jamwal's antecedents, officials said on Thursday.

Court recalls ...

applicant was unable to cause his appearance before this Hon'ble Court today," he added.

The court had earlier rejected Abdullah's application for exemption from personal appearance.

The court also rejected an exemption application of another accused, Manzoor Gazanfar Ali, and ordered a non-bailable warrant against him too.

The matter has been posted for March 30.

'God saved ...

me," Abdullah said on Thursday morning.

The assailant, identified as 63-year-old Kamal Singh Jamwal, reportedly told investigators he had been waiting two decades for an opportunity to kill Abdullah as he had a "personal motive"

"I do not know that man, nor had anyone ever told me anything about him. As for what his motive was... how would I know what it could have been?" he told reporters at his residence.

Recounting the moments of the attack, Abdullah said he was about to step out of the wedding pavilion after the bride arrived when he heard what he initially thought was the sound of firecrackers.

"When the bride arrived, after that we took permission from them and we started leaving for home. I had just stepped out of the wedding pavilion (mandap) and was walking when I heard a sound like a firecracker. I thought someone must have burst a firecracker, because people often burst them at weddings," he said.

Abdullah, however, said he had later felt a burning sensation but did not realise at the time that it was a gunshot.

"Then I felt a kind of burning sensation, but at that moment I did not realise what had happened. In the meantime, they (security personnel) quickly pushed me into a car, and when they were seated, they told me, 'Sir, it was actually a pistol.' They said that the person had fired two shots at me," Abdullah said.

CCTV camera footage showed that the gunman had positioned himself directly behind Abdullah, but an alert police officer and an NSG commando held and overpowered the attacker, causing the weapon to misfire and hit the ground.

Asked about a possible security lapse, Abdullah said that it would be premature to make such claims, but said that many prominent people were present at the function, and adequate police arrangements should have been in place.

"It seems like there might have been a security lapse somewhere, but calling it a security lapse is a very big statement. The question is that many prominent people were present at this wedding, so the police should have taken proper precautions. But there was a total absence of police arrangement," he said.

Despite being a Z+ category protectee, Abdullah highlighted a glaring lack of basic security protocols at the venue.

He said the biggest issue is that there was no police presence at all. "Not for me alone, but many prominent people had come to that wedding. It was necessary to have protection at such an event, especially in the kind of environment we are living in today, where such elements exist. Precaution is necessary," Abdullah said.

The accused, a resident of Purani Mandi, remains in custody.

Following the incident, Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke with Abdullah to check on his well-being and assured a thorough investigation into the security breach and the attacker's motives.

"Yes, the home minister also called me. He asked how I was. I told him, 'By the grace of God, I am safe.' He said they had caught the person and that an investigation would be conducted, and they would inform me what exactly happened," he added.

Abdullah said a proper inquiry should be conducted to determine the reasons behind the attack.

"There should be a proper inquiry into this matter. Now it is up to them to investigate and find out why this happened and what the reason was. These kinds of things keep happening nowadays...where an atmosphere of hatred has been created," he said.

Abdullah credited his survival to the swift reactions of his

Special Security Group (SSG) and NSG cover. "They stood in front of me and showed immense courage. That is why I am alive."

"I do not have enough words to praise them. There were people in the room with me, including local police personnel, security men who stayed with me, and members of the NSG, who stood in front of me to protect me," he said.

On whether the earlier downgrading of his security could have contributed to the incident, Abdullah said that increasing security alone does not fully eliminate risks.

"Even if you increase your security, remember one thing: the attacker always has the advantage. He knows where he wants to target you and what he wants to do. But I will not say that security should be increased further. That is not the main issue," he said.

He said terrorism continues to be a global challenge. "We live in an era where terrorism is hanging over us like something in the sky, and we cannot completely control it. Terror exists not only in our country but across the world. Anything can happen anywhere," he added.

His son and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had echoed concerns about security on X, questioning how an armed man reached point-blank range.

"There are more questions than answers at the moment... including how someone was able to get this close to a Z+ NSG-protected former CM," he said.

Top officials are currently reviewing security for all high-profile protectees in Jammu and Kashmir, with plans to upgrade convoy jammers and enforce stricter access controls at public events.

Drone-dropped ...

and further investigation is underway to trace the backward and forward linkages.

The police urged citizens to come forward with any information regarding illegal drug activities in their localities, including those residing near the International Border.

Man who ...

leaving a marriage function at Greater Kailash on the outskirts of Jammu on Wednesday night, officials said.

The police arrested the accused, identified as 63-year-old Kamal Singh Jamwal, a resident of Purani Mandi, who reportedly told investigators he had been waiting for an opportunity to target Abdullah for the past 20 years.

Carrying NC flags and placards reading "Restore law and order" and "Probe the firing incident", hundreds of workers and leaders began their protest march from the party headquarters, Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, in Jammu.

Raising slogans such as "We want justice" and "Farooq Abdullah zindabad", the protesters marched towards the city centre. The police stopped them at Raghunath Bazaar, leading to a brief jostling as security personnel prevented them from moving ahead.

Some protesters, however, managed to move towards City Chowk, where they staged a brief dharna before dispersing.

Talking to reporters, former minister and senior NC leader Ajay Sadhotra termed the incident a "major security lapse".

"They had gone to attend the wedding. Dr Sahib, the deputy chief minister and other senior leaders were present, but there was not even a single security person at the venue. How could a person carrying a weapon enter the premises if proper checking was being conducted?" he said.

Sadhotra said that the situation could have turned into a "major tragedy" if the personal security staff with Abdullah had not intervened in time. "The attacker took out the pistol, but the security personnel behind Dr Abdullah immediately pulled him back and the shot went into the air," he said.

He demanded that law and order be placed under the control of the chief minister so that the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir improves.

NC's provincial president, Jammu region, Ratan Lal Gupta also condemned the attack, saying it raised serious concerns about the safety of political leaders. "If a leader like Farooq Sahib is not safe, then what will happen to ordinary people? He has always advocated Hindu-Muslim unity and communal harmony," Gupta said.

NC women's wing leader Bilma Luthra said the protest was meant to highlight concerns over "deteriorating" law and order. "The purpose of our protest is that law and order should be strengthened and placed under Omar Sahib so that people can live in a safe environment," she said.

Additionally, the BJP on Thursday strongly condemned the attack on National Conference president and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, saying "targeting political leaders through violence is unacceptable" and demanded a thorough probe into the incident.

Abdullah had a narrow escape when a gunman allegedly opened fire at him from behind while he was leaving a marriage function at Greater Kailash on the outskirts of Jammu on Wednesday night.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and advisor to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Nasir Aslam Wani, were also accompanying Abdullah when the incident occurred.

The accused, identified as 63-year-old Kamal Singh Jamwal, a resident of Purani Mandi in Jammu, was arrested and told police that he had been waiting for an opportunity to target Abdullah for the past 20 years.

During a meeting of the BJP spokespersons in Jammu and Kashmir, the leaders discussed the incident and expressed serious concern over the attack, said Advocate Sunil Sethi, a party spokesperson.

Addressing the meeting, Sethi said violence has no place in a democratic society and political differences must be addressed through dialogue and constitutional means.

"The BJP firmly opposes such acts and reiterates that the party does not support any activity that threatens peace and democratic functioning," he said.

He stressed the need to maintain a healthy political environment in Jammu and Kashmir and said targeting political leaders through violence is unacceptable.

"A thorough and transparent probe should be conducted into the incident so that the circumstances surrounding the attack can be properly examined," he said.

Party spokesperson Tahir Chowdhary said attempts to harm political leaders undermine democracy and create an atmosphere of fear and instability. He lauded the prompt action of security personnel in preventing any loss of life.

BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa, who visited the residence of Abdullah to express solidarity, described the incident as condemnable and said Jammu has always been known for peace and communal harmony.

"Such incidents have never had a place in Jammu. Even at the peak of militancy, the region maintained harmony. What has happened now is highly condemnable," he said.

Randhawa said the attack took place at a private function, making the incident even more unfortunate.

"It is by God's grace that no harm occurred. However, security agencies should certainly pay attention to such matters. When prominent personalities attend a place, adequate security arrangements should be ensured," he added.

The motive behind the attack was still unclear and must be thoroughly investigated, he said.

"The accused himself is giving different statements. We do not know what kind of grudge he had or what prompted him to commit such an act. This is clearly a matter for investigation," Randhawa said.

Shabir Shah ...

funds to disrupt peace by way of pelting stones, damaging public property and conspiring to wage war against the central

government.

Shah was alleged to have played a "substantial role" in facilitating a separatist movement in Jammu and Kashmir by inciting the general public to raise slogans in support of Jammu and Kashmir's secession, paying tributes to the family of slain terrorists by eulogising them as "martyrs", receiving money through hawala transactions and raising funds via cross-LoC trade, which were allegedly used to fuel subversive and militant activities.

CM stresses ...

expediting expenditures, resolving bottlenecks and ensuring strict adherence to timelines and quality standards. He stressed the need to expedite expenditure so that the maximum amount is utilized and the bare minimum amount is surrendered.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized faster fund utilization and timely completion of projects, and said that delays or non-expenditure of funds may affect the sanctioning of funds in the next financial year.

Omar meets ...

in the city. Leaders cutting across party lines also gathered at the former chief minister's residence in Bathindi here to enquire about his well-being and demanded a thorough probe into the incident.

Abdullah had a narrow escape when a gunman opened fire at him from behind while he was leaving the function at Greater Kailash on the outskirts of Jammu on Wednesday night.

The chief minister drove straight to the NC chief's residence after arriving in Jammu from Delhi this morning. He spent nearly an hour with his father, who received a stream of visitors, including leaders from the BJP, the Congress and social activists.

Omar's sons — Zamir and Zahir — also reached Bhatindi from Srinagar to meet their grandfather.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, who visited Abdullah, said CCTV camera footage clearly showed the accused pointing a gun at the NC president, rejecting speculation that firing was part of celebratory fire.

He said timely action of security personnel prevented a tragedy and demanded a thorough probe into the incident, as-serting that an attack on such a highly protected leader raises serious security concerns.

Among those who visited Abdullah were ministers Sakina Itoo and Javid Dar, along with senior functionaries and workers of the party, who condemned the incident and termed it a matter of serious concern.

BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa also visited Abdullah and termed the incident "deplorable and unfortunate" and said Jammu has always been peace-loving.

"Such incidents have no place in Jammu. Even at the peak of militancy, Jammu maintained its communal harmony," he told reporters after meeting Abdullah.

Referring to conflicting statements by the accused, the BJP leader said the motive behind the attack was still unclear.

"We do not know what kind of grudge he has been carrying and what was going on in his mind, or why he did this. The agencies should investigate it and question him.

"He himself is saying that he had been looking for him for 20 years... This is clearly a matter for investigation, and the agencies must probe it," the BJP MLA said.

Several Congress leaders also met Abdullah to enquire about his well-being.

Meanwhile, the accused — Kamal Singh Jamwal — a resident of Purani Mandi in Jammu, reportedly told police that he had been waiting for an opportunity to target Abdullah for the past 20 years.

Police have initiated a detailed probe into the antecedents of Kamal Singh Jamwal, the man who allegedly attempted to assassinate former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah at a marriage function here, officials said on Thursday.

Police are examining the 63-year-old Jamwal's background, including his personal, social and possible organisational links, to ascertain the motive behind the firing incident, they said.

193 MPs ...

accusing the poll panel of deleting genuine voters.

The process for removing the CEC is similar to that for the removal of a Supreme Court or a high court judge, meaning an impeachment can be effected only on the ground of proven misbehaviour or incapacity.

Article 324(5) of the Constitution says the CEC shall not be removed from office except in like manner and on like grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court, and the conditions of service of the CEC shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

The motion for removal may be introduced in either House of Parliament and must be passed by a special majority — a majority of the total membership of the House and a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

According to the law on the appointment of CEC and election commissioners, "the CEC shall not be removed from his office except in the like manner and on the like grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court", and the other election commissioners shall not be removed from office "except on the recommendation of the CEC".

According to the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, if the notice for the motion is given on the same day in both Houses of Parliament, no committee shall be constituted unless the motion has been admitted in both Houses.

After the motion has been admitted in both Houses, a committee shall be constituted jointly by the Lok Sabha speaker and the Rajya Sabha chairman.

The committee will consist of the chief justice of India (CJI) or a Supreme Court judge, the chief justice of one of the 25 high courts, and a "distinguished jurist".

The committee proceedings are like any court proceeding where witnesses and the accused are cross-examined.

The CEC, too, will get a chance to speak before the committee. According to the rule, once the committee submits its report, it will be tabled in the House, and discussions will commence for impeachment.

The motion to remove a judge, and in this case the CEC, will have to be passed by both Houses.

When the House discusses the motion, Kumar will have the right to defend himself standing at the entrance of the House chamber.

Technology and ...

and governance technologies will strengthen verification systems and enable faster processing of information collected across the country.

A prominent feature of the upcoming exercise, Sharma said, will be the self-enumeration facility, which will allow citizens to directly submit their own demographic information. The initiative, he noted, introduces a participatory dimension to the Census process by enabling individuals to contribute their data through digital platforms.

In addition, enumerators and supervisory officials will record information using their own digital devices rather than conventional paper forms. The data collected will be uploaded to indigenous data centres designated as critical infrastructure by the Government of India, enabling quicker compilation and analysis.

Sharma explained that this technology-driven framework is intended to reduce manual errors and improve the overall integrity of the data. The government has also introduced the con-

cept of "Census as a Service (CaaS)", which aims to streamline data management and facilitate broader institutional use of demographic insights.

During his address, Sharma invited leading technology firms, research institutions and digital governance experts to participate in an upcoming national conference on Census and Artificial Intelligence use cases, scheduled to be held in Jammu and Kashmir next month. The event is expected to explore how advanced analytics and artificial intelligence can assist large-scale population data systems.

The discussions at the two forums drew participation from the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, senior officials from the Government of India and several state administrations, technology start-ups, public sector enterprise leaders, policy specialists, and national and international experts in digital governance.

Highlighting the wider policy relevance of the Census, Sharma said the exercise will continue to play a central role in shaping economic planning, demographic policy, governance reforms and aspects of India's export-import strategy. He also described the Census as an important component of the Government of India's broader development agenda.

Sharma concluded by thanking the organisers of both events for providing a platform to deliberate on technological pathways for governance and for enabling discussions on the evolving framework of the forthcoming Census exercise.

India rejects ...

become second nature for Pakistan to blame India for its misdeeds," Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing.

"As a state sponsor of terrorism for decades, Pakistan has zero credibility when it comes to cross-border terrorism. No amount of storytelling is going to alter this reality, nor is anyone fooled by Pakistan's assumed victimhood," he said.

Jaiswal was responding to a question on the issue.

Pakistan had accused Afghanistan's Taliban of becoming India's "proxy".

The border regions between Pakistan and Afghanistan witnessed a fresh spell of deadly conflict in the last couple of weeks.

Late last month, the Pakistani military carried out air strikes inside Afghanistan.

Jaiswal also lambasted Pakistan for its comments on the India-Canada uranium deal.

"We reject the statement made by Pakistan on the matter. India's credentials regarding non-proliferation are impeccable and well recognised by the global community," he said.

"A country with a well-documented history of clandestine nuclear proliferation can hardly preach the virtues of export controls and proliferation risks. Such ludicrous statements are nothing more than an attempt by Pakistan to distract from its own abysmal record," he said.

India had signed the USD 2.6 billion agreement with Canada on March 2 during Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit to New Delhi. Under the deal, Saskatoon-based Cameco will supply nearly 22 million pounds of uranium to India for nuclear energy generation from 2027 to 2035.

Islamabad had questioned the uranium deal saying it could indirectly help India expand its nuclear arsenals.

"Assured external uranium supplies effectively release India's domestic reserves for military use, enabling the expansion of its fissile material stockpiles, accelerating the growth of its nuclear arsenal," a Pakistan foreign ministry spokesperson had alleged.

Jumat-ul-Vida...

Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, M. Raju, IAS.

Juma'atul Vida, the last Friday of Muslim fasting month of Ramzan before Eid ul-Fitr, will be observed in Jammu and Kashmir on March 13, officials said.

Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir Nasir Ul Islam announced that Juma'atul Vida will be observed this Friday. He said Eid ul-Fitr is likely to fall on March 20 (Friday) or March 21 (Saturday), depending on the appearance of crescent.

"After consulting other scholars, it was decided to observe Juma'atul Vida on March 13," he said.

LG, CM greet ...

continue to steer us toward a future founded on compassion, unity, and enduring harmony."

CM Omar Abdullah has extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Jumat-ul-Vida.

In his message, the Chief Minister emphasized the profound spiritual significance of Jumat-ul-Vida, the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, which holds special importance for the Muslim community.

He urged people to utilize this sacred occasion for prayers, introspection and seeking divine blessings for peace, prosperity and harmony in society.

"May this blessed occasion bring peace, prosperity and well-being to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Let us pray for unity, harmony and the continued progress of our society while strengthening the bonds of compassion and brotherhood," the CM said.

CM also appealed to the people to remember the underprivileged and extend support to those in need, underscoring the values of kindness, charity and generosity that define the spirit of Ramadan.

He expressed hope that the prayers offered on this sacred occasion would inspire everyone to work collectively towards building a more just, inclusive and peaceful society.

Meanwhile, minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo has extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Juma-tul-Vida.

In her message, the Minister said that Juma-tul-Vida holds deep spiritual significance for Muslims and serves as a reminder of the values of compassion, humility, and generosity that define the sacred month of Ramadan.

"May this sacred occasion bring solace to hearts, strengthen our collective resolve for harmony and usher in peace and prosperity for all," the Minister prayed.

She also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of entire Jammu and Kashmir.

Hideout busted...

in connection with the recovery, officials said. Officials said the search operation was launched based on specific intelligence inputs about suspected militant movement in the forest belt. After locating the hideout, the troops cordoned off the area and conducted a thorough search to ensure that no additional explosives or weapons were concealed nearby.

Meanwhile, security forces have intensified surveillance and search operations in the surrounding areas to track down the terrorists believed to have used the hideout.

NIA conducts ...

handler Nazir Hussain in April last year. Officials said the searches were carried out to gather further evidence and track possible links of the accused with other operatives involved in the conspiracy.

During the raids, the NIA teams examined electronic devices, documents and other materials suspected to be connected with the case.

Investigators believe the arms recovered earlier were intended for use in subversive activities in the region.