

WAQF BILL

Speaker Refuses Motion, House Erupts

Assembly Adjourned For The Day



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly descended into chaos on Monday following the Speaker's refusal to accept an adjournment motion on the Waqf (Amendment) Act. Religious and jingoistic slogans echoed through the House, which was

eventually adjourned for the day after multiple disruptions. NC's Nazir Gurezi and Tanvir Sadiq had moved the motion, seeking to suspend the Question Hour to discuss the controversial Act. However, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather declined, citing that the matter was sub judice. The request for adjournment | [More on P10](#)

NC Accused Of Betrayal, Political Theatre

Peoples' Conference chief Sajad Lone Monday accused the National Conference of indulging in theatrics in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly over the Waqf Amendment Act and said the ruling party should have brought a resolution in the House against the new law. The Handwara MLA also slammed Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for meeting Union Minority Affairs Minister | [More on P10](#)

6 BJP HAAY HAAY" CLASHED WITH "BHARAT MATA KI JAI" as chants of "Allah hu Akbar" and "Nara-e-Takbeer" echoed back—turning the Assembly into a battleground of slogans."

LG Gives Assent To 3 Bills Passed By Assembly

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was informed on Monday that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has given formal assent to three important bills recently passed by the House. Assembly Secretary Manoj Kumar Pandit read out the official communication during the session, stating that the Lieutenant Governor

approved the bills on March 25, 2025. The three bills granted assent include: The Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 2025) The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2025 (L.A. Bill No. 2 of 2025) The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2025 (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 2025) | [More on P10](#)

Terrorism Curbed, Not Eliminated In J&K: HM

'J&K Has Suffered For More Than 3 Decades' | Hands Over Offer Letters To Kin Of Martyred Policemen, Engineer

Observer News Service

Jammu: Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has been curbed but "our mission is still not accomplished" as the scourge has not been completely eliminated, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday after meeting the families of 10 police personnel and an engineer who lost their lives in various terror attacks over the past one year. Shah said significant progress has been achieved under the Modi government in tackling terrorism and ending separatist ideology in the Union Territory. The minister, who is on a three-day visit to J&K, met the families at Raj Bhavan, paying tributes to the terror victims and expressing gratitude to their families. He also handed over appointment letters to



nine nominees on compassionate grounds. Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat were among those present on the occasion. Among the families who met the Union minister were

the next of kin of four policemen who recently sacrificed their lives in a fierce gunfight with Pakistani terrorists in Kathua district, officials said. A massive search operation has been underway in the forest area | [More on P10](#)

HM Arrives In Srinagar For Key Meetings

Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Srinagar on Monday evening and was received at the airport by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. Shah is scheduled to chair a series of high-level meetings at Raj Bhawan during his stay in the Valley. He is also expected

to interact with individuals and various delegations later in the evening. Before arriving in Srinagar, Shah was in Jammu on Sunday, where he held crucial meetings on security and development. He also visited the 'Vinay' border outpost in Kathua and addressed personnel of the Border Security Force (BSF). As per | [More on P10](#)

'Red Carpet For Waqf Bill Minister?' Rijiju-Omar's 'Chance Meeting' Blooms Into Political Row

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A "chance meeting" between Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Union Minister Kiren Rijiju at Asia's largest Tulip Garden on Monday triggered a political storm, with opposition parties dubbing it as "Waqf law bonhomie." According to reports, Omar Abdullah was accompanying his father and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, who had expressed a wish to visit the Tulip Garden, currently in full bloom. The sources said the father-son duo bumped into Rijiju, who had also come to visit the garden early in the morning. The politicians from opposite ends of the political spectrum exchanged pleasantries before heading their separate ways, they said. However, Rijiju posted the pictures with the Abdullahs on his X handle,



triggering controversy as opposition parties accused the National Conference of laying out a red carpet for the BJP leader in the aftermath of the

Waqf Amendment Act. NC sources termed the interaction a purely "chance meeting" and brushed aside the outrage. | [More on P10](#)

LPG Price Up Rs 50, CNG By Re 1 Excise Duty Hiked On Petrol, Diesel

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The domestic cooking gas LPG price on Monday was hiked by a steep Rs 50 per cylinder across India and CNG by Re 1 per kg, while the government raised taxes on petrol and diesel to shore up its revenues. The increase in cooking gas price will be for the Ujjawala - poor beneficiaries who got LPG connection free of cost - and general users, and will be effective from April 8 and has been necessitated due to the rise in input cost, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said. Cooking gas for Ujjawala users will cost Rs 553 per 14.2-kg cylinder from the current Rs 503 in the national capital. The same for general users will now cost Rs 853. The rates, which vary from state to state depending on local incidence of taxes, were last revised in March last year when they were cut by Rs 100. Also, CNG prices were hiked by Re 1 per kg in the national capital and adjoining cities after the government last week raised input natural gas prices by almost 4 per cent. CNG in the national capital will cost | [More on P10](#)

Kashmir Records Hottest Day Of Season Rain, Snow Expected On April 9

Agencies

Srinagar: Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir recorded the hottest day of the season on Monday while as the weatherman here predicted light snow and rains on April 9 (Wednesday). According to the details, Srinagar recorded the season's hottest day today at 28.2 degree Celsius, which was 9.4 degree Celsius above than the normal temperature. Qazigund in South Kashmir also recorded the hottest day at 27.6 degree Celsius, which was above 9.3 degree Celsius above than normal temperature. Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, recorded a maximum temperature of 24.2 degree Celsius, which was above 8.9 degree Celsius above the normal while Kupwara in north Kashmir recorded a

maximum temperature of 28.6 degree Celsius. Kokernag and Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, also recorded 9.6 degree Celsius and 11.5 degree Celsius above normal temperatures respectively today as the mercury settled at 26.6 degree Celsius and 20.0 degree Celsius respectively. Meanwhile, the weatherman has predicted generally cloudy weather towards afternoon with possibility of light snow over higher reaches of north & Central Kashmir towards late night. The local Meteorological department (MeT) has also issued a yellow alert for Wednesday, predicting isolated thunderstorm, hailstorm, lightning and gusty winds 30-40 KMPH in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that on | [More on P10](#)



MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Achieve financial freedom

Set up Systematic Investment Plans in Exchange Traded Funds (Shariah Based ETF)



Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

1, 10 Samad Complex, Ma Link Road, Srinagar, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar - 190001



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Tuesday | 08-04-2025

2

Study Suggests Humans Could Have Lower Threshold For Extreme Heat Than Earlier Thought

Press Trust Of India

Humans could have a lower threshold for extreme heat than previously thought, researchers have found -- a study result that they said can help cities prepare for summers in a warmer world.

The team from the University of Ottawa, Canada, exposed 12 volunteers to extreme heat and humidity to identify the point at which thermoregulation -- how one is able to maintain a stable body temperature -- becomes impossible.

The participants were subjected to 42 degrees Celsius with 57 per cent humidity, representing a humidex, or 'real feel', of 62 degrees Celsius.

"The results were clear. The participants' core temperature streamed upwards unabated, and many participants were unable to finish the nine-hour exposure. These data provide the first direct validation of thermal step protocols, which have been used to estimate upper limits for thermoregulation for nearly 50 years," lead researcher Robert D Meade, former senior postdoctoral fellow at the University of Ottawa, said.

"It was projected that core temperatures associated with heat stroke (40.2 degrees Celsius) would occur within 10 hours," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences'.

"Thermal-step protocols" involve exposing individuals to controlled, increasing temperatures and humidity to assess their thermoregulation and survivability limits.

The study can help understand humans' limits to withstanding extreme heat, thereby guiding health policies



and public safety measures, and help cities prepare for hotter summers, the team said.

"Our findings (are) especially timely, given estimated limits for thermoregulation are being increasingly incorporated into large scale climate modelling. They also underscore the physiological strain experienced during prolonged exposure to extreme heat, which is becoming more common due to climate change," Meade said.

"By integrating physiological data with climate models, we hope to better predict and prepare for heat-related health issues," co-lead researcher Glen Kenny, a professor of physiology at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Health Sciences, said.

Many of the world's regions have been projected to experience heat

and humidity levels exceeding what is considered safe for humans.

A study, led by King's College London, estimated that about six per cent of the world's land could see hot conditions exceeding tolerable limits for young adults, with older ones at more risk. South Asia is expected to be among the worst-affected regions, according to the study published in February in 'Nature Reviews Earth and Environment'.

Kenny said, "Our research provided important data supporting recent suggestions that the conditions under which humans can effectively regulate their body temperature are actually much lower than earlier models suggested."

"This is critical information as we face increasing global temperatures," Kenny added.

Office Of The Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Ganderbal

KPDCL email: exengineer12@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, KPDCL Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from OEM's, Authorized Dealers & Service providers, Registered (A- Class) Electrical Contractors registered with J&K Government, Central Public Works Department, Railways and other state/central governments for "Stage contract for Maintenance/ Stabilization/ Improvement of 33 KV lines for District Ganderbal & Bandipora in respect of STD Ganderbal for the Financial Year 2025-26 Or till next Stage contract is finalized."

Important Dates and Events

e-NIT No STD/GBL/01 of 2025-26 Dated: 05-04-2025

The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per schedule given below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	05-04-2025: 17:00 Hours
B	Clarifications start date	07-04-2025: 10:00 Hours
C	Clarifications end date	15-04-2025: 16:00 Hours
D	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-bidder fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS)	07-04-2025: 10:00 Hours
E	e-Bid submission (end) date & Time	24-04-2025: 14:00 Hours
F	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time	25-04-2025: 12:00 Hours
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified bidders	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualified Bidders
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-Bids	Office of The Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal
I	Cost of e-Bid document	INR 1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand only) Should be in Shape of Treasury Challan to govt head 0801 in favor of Executive Engineer STD Ganderbal
J	Estimated Cost	Rs. 17.0 lacs
K	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 0.34 lakhs
L	Status of Funds	Demand
M	Validity offer	180 days from the date of opening of price tender.

The tender document can be downloaded from website jktenders.gov.in "Corrigendum, if any, would appear only on the jktenders.gov.in in website. Sale of physical tender document is not applicable. No price shall be submitted offline in any form. Bidder can modify his bid before last date of submission of online bid. After the last date of submission of online bid, no claim of bidder shall be entertained.

No: STD/GBL/Ts/22-28
DIPK-NB-78/25 Date: 07-04-2025

Executive Engineer,
STD Ganderbal

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK-0420160029732 issued in favour of MOHD ALTAF SOFI Parentage GH MOHD SOFI

Whereas an application has been received by one MOHD ALTAF SOFI Parentage GH MOHD SOFI wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as MOHAAD ALTAF SOFI Parentage GH MOHAMMAD SOFI Which needs to be changed as MOHD ALTAF SOFI Parentage GH MOHD SOFI

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained.

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

اطلاع عام

برخاس وعام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلق کی جاتا ہے کہ مجھے اپنے بھائی انگریسٹ زیر کزن یوم نمبر 0202050005715 جو کہ میرے نام پر ہے۔ اب اسکو مجھ قبول ہٹ ولد غلام احمد بٹ سائن جس آباد خالص صاحب کے نام پر کروانا مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر ایک نوکیلا نوٹیفیر پی ڈی ڈی بڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ معاذکر کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

بشیر احمد صوفی ولد شکیل محمد سائن کلشی پورہ خالص صاحب بڈگام۔

فون 7006310884 MBC_



SHER-E-KASHMIR UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY OF KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH

CORRIGENDUM

Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Sectors Project in J&K (JKCIP)

With reference to the earlier notification No. 01 Dated: 02-04-2025 regarding the selection method for Procurement officer on contractual basis in JKCIP, it is hereby informed that: The selection method mentioned as "Fixed Budget Selection" may be read as "Individual Consultant Selection". All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Director Research

No. AU/DR/2025-26/81
Dated: 07.04.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Ghulam Mohammad Rather want to change my daughter's name in her aadhar card bearing no 7489 0995 1615 from Azra Jan (old name) to Ayesha Jan (new name). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained

Ghulam Mohammad Rather F/o :- Ayesha Jan
R/O :- Noorbagh palapora Srinagar jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my aadhar card bearing no 6516 1749 3967 from Inayat shekh (old name) to Inayat Ahmad Sheikh (New name). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Inayat Ahmad Sheikh jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has inadvertently recorded as Zanaib Gull in Aadhaar card bearing No: 4257-6029-1918, which is incorrect. Whereas my actual and correct name is Zainab Jan. which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Zainab Jan fko
D/o Rayees Ahmad Lone
R/o Bochua Pattan District Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Tahira Akther, mother of Mehroo Javid R/O Pati Tolihaan, Sadow, Shopian want to correct my ward's name in Aadhaar records which has been wrongly entered as Mehroon Jan instead of Mehroo Javid. Now correction is required. If anybody has any objection, may contact Concerned Aadhaar Centre, Jammu/Srinagar or concerned authorities within 7 days.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from old name YAWER Rasool Bhat to new name YAWAR Rasool Bhat. In future I will be known as Yawar Rasool Bhat. If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact Passport office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my name and Date of Birth in my Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No:- 3366 7701 5786 has been wrongly mentioned as Mysar Akther . DOB 01.01.1988. instead of Miseerah John .Date of Birth (DOB) .10.01.1988.As per J&K Board Of School Education record . Now I am applying for its Correction as per Board record . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Miseerah John fko
D/O Khazir Mohd Malik
R/O :- Guloora .Tehsil :- Langate . Distt : Kupwara . Post office Langate Pin Code 193302 .

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Sub: Application of Hilal Ahmad Dar S/O, D/O, W/O Mohammad Yousuf Dar R/O Dollipora for the issuance of a Dependent certificate.

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, in this context, a detailed report was sought from Patwari Halaqa Concerned. The report of Patwari Halaqa reveals that Hilal Ahmad Dar, S/O, D/O, W/O Mohammad Yousuf Dar is resident of Odilpora, Tehsil Kreeri. And following are dependent on the applicant as tabulated below:

S. NO	NAME OF Dependents	RELATION WITH Dependent	AGE	OCCUPATION	Marital Status
1	Shugfta Begum	Wife	40	House-wife	Shugfta Begum has married Hilal Ahmad Dar
2	Nida Bilal	Step Daughter	17	Student	after death of her first husband (Bilal Ahmad Dar)
3	Gowher Bilal	Step Son	15	Student	
4	Ozair Ahmad Dar	Step Son	12	Student	

The applicant has applied for issuance of Dependent certificate. As such the instant matter is published through newspaper, if anyone is having any kind of objection, he/she may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) of the publication of this notice. After passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), No objections will be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar
Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Sub: Application of Humaira Jan, D/O, Hanifa Begum R/O Kreeri, Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance of Legal Heir certificate.

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, in this context, a detailed report was sought from the patwari halaqa concerned which reveals that Hanifa Begum, D/O, W/O Gh. Hassan Wani passed away on 25-02-2011. Moreover, the Death Certificate issued by the Competent Authority also depicts the same. Furthermore, the report of Patwari Concerned points out that the deceased has left behind the following Legal Heirs, tabulated as below:

S. NO	NAME OF LEGAL HEIR	RELATION WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION	Marital Status
1	Humaira Jan	D/O	26 Yrs	Student	—
2	Ab. Hamid	B/O	62 Yrs	Labour	—
3	Ab. Ahad	—	58 Yrs	—	—
4	Sonaullah	**	55 Yrs	Zamindar	—

The applicant has applied for the issuance of a Legal Heir certificate. As such the instant matter is published through the newspaper, if anyone has any kind of objection, he/she may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) of the publication of this notice. After passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), No objections will be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar
Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Passport bearing no: R3974576 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Passport Office Baramulla within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Muhammad Irshad Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohi U Din Bhat fko
R/o Zaloor Sapore Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my adhaar card bearing no: 3156 9967 7336 as Umer Mukhtar while my correct name is Umar Mukhtar which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Umar Mukhtar
S/o : Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat
R/o : Drach pulwama

laa

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Discharge Certificate from UPS middle school arampora Kupwara. If anybody has any objection in this regard they may file them in the above mentioned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Hasham Hassan fko
S/o. Gh Hassan Dar
R/o. Arampora kupwara

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Passport bearing no: T2535465 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Passport Office Baramulla within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Danish Fayaz Peer fko

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS NARBAL DISTRICT BUDGAM

Tele fax 01951.260.276 Pin Code 193401

Notice for the General Public

It is hereby Notified That Applicant Namely Mushtaq Ahmad Mir S/O, W/O, D/O Mohammad Subhan Mir R/O Tehsil Gottapora Distt. Budgam Had Applied For The Issuance Of Birth Certificate Of His Son / Daughter Namely Musaib Ahmad S/O, D/O Mushtaq Ahmad Mir The applicant intends to Register the D.O.B. of his son/daughter as per school record / vaccination card 29-10-2011

If Anybody is having any objection / claim regarding the same he/she may approach the office of under signed with in a period of seven days (07) days from the date of publication of this notice or else any such claims / objections shall not be entertained.

Dated: 05/04/2025 Executive Magistrate
bmg Ist class Narbal

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS NARBAL DISTRICT BUDGAM

Tele fax 01951.260.276 Pin Code 193401

Notice for the General Public

It is hereby Notified That Applicant Namely Mohammad Hayat Dar S/O, W/O, D/O Mohammad Akbar Dar R/O Gottapora Distt. Budgam Had Applied For The Issuance Of Birth Certificate Of His Son Namely Musaib Hayat S/O, Mohammad Hayat Dar The applicant intends to Register the D.O.B. of his son/daughter as per school record / vaccination card 28-09-2009.

If Anybody is having any objection / claim regarding the same he/she may approach the office of under signed with in a period of seven days (07) days from the date of publication of this notice or else any such claims / objections shall not be entertained.

Dated: 05/04/2025

Executive Magistrate
Ist class Narbal

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have Applied for contracts D Class Card in R & B Division Handwara. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may them in the above mentioned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained

Name Shabir Ahmad wani fko
S/o.Late Ab Aziz wani R/o. Kulangam Tehsil Hanwara
Distt. kupwara.

From Office of Advocate Ishfaq Rasool sheikh and Associates

In the case of
Ghulam Mohammad Bhat
S/o: Abdul Ahad Bhat
R/o: Raban Rohama Baramulla

Caveator...

Vs
Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

fko Sd/advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I Hajira Bano D/o Mohd Yousuf Rather R/o Sarai Dangerpora Sumbal have lost my passbook bearing account no. 0868050300000437 Branch Shadipora. Now I intend to apply for its duplicate if anybody have anykind of objection he/she may file the same with J&K Bank Branch Manager Shadipora within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

+91-6005362398 fko_r



PDP Headquarter At Polo View Catches Fire

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two separate fire incidents were reported in Srinagar city on Monday—one at the headquarters of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Polo View and another at a residential house in Nawakadal area, officials said on Monday.

In the first incident, a fire broke out at the PDP office near S K Park in Polo View, damaging three single-storey structures.

“One of the structures was used as a store/mess by the PDP, while the other two belonged to the Estates Department,” an official said, adding that the roofing, ceiling, doors, windows, and stored materials includ-

ing cable rolls and furniture were damaged in the blaze. “A nearby Chinar tree also suffered partial damage,” he added.

The official said a fire-fighter, identified as Bashir Ahmad, was injured while dousing the flames and was shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

In another incident at Nawakadal Chowk, a fire broke out in a single-storey residential house. “Stored timber and utensils in one of the rooms were partially damaged,” the official said, adding that the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Meanwhile, no loss of life was reported in either of the incidents.

Girl Jumps In Jhelum In Rajbagh, Rescued

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A girl jumped in the river Jhelum from Abdullah bridge in the Rajbagh area of Srinagar on Monday evening, officials said.

An official said that soon after the incident a rescue operation was launched to trace out the girl.

He said that after strenuous efforts by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the girl was rescued and immediately shifted to SMHS hospital for treatment, where her condition is said to be stable.

Police have initiated an investigation to ascertain as to why the girl took this extreme step.

‘Stray Dog Crisis In City Now A Public Health Emergency’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Reacting to disturbing reports carried by various news portals, Mudasir Karim, Youth President of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC), expressed serious concern over the worsening stray dog menace in Srinagar. He termed the situation as a public health emergency, criticising the administration for its continued indifference and failure to act despite repeated red flags raised by civil society and healthcare institutions.

The reports have highlighted that 44 people were bitten by stray dogs in a single day, with eight victims attacked by a suspected rabid dog—an incident that has once again exposed the sheer inefficiency of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation's (SMC) Animal Birth Control (ABC) program. Mudasir Karim pointed out that despite tenders worth Rs 3.56 crores being floated since January 2024, no agency has come forward to take up the project, citing impractical and poorly designed tender conditions.

Mudasir stated that this crisis did not emerge overnight and that he has raised the issue multiple times in the past, both through public platforms and formal communication. He confirmed that he had also written to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), urging it to intervene in what he described as an escalating threat to public safety.

He also took to X (formerly Twitter) to voice his frustration, writing:

“Enough is enough! How



many more lives must be endangered before authorities take action? 44 dog bite cases in Srinagar in just one day - 8 from a suspected rabid dog in Sekidafar. Our streets are no longer safe—children, elders & ordinary citizens live in fear. The Animal Birth Control (ABC) program, the only legal solution, has hit a roadblock due to failed tenders & govt inaction. Why is there no urgency? Why is human life being treated so cheaply? When will J&K wake up? When will our leaders prioritize public safety over paperwork? The people demand answers & action!!”

Mudasir added that the crisis has been further intensified by the city's non-vegetarian dietary habits, which—combined with poor garbage management—provide a constant food source for the stray dog population. The latest figures from SMHS Hospital, which reported 5,883 dog bite cases in 2024, serve as a chilling reminder of the scale of the problem. Over the past three years, at least 12 people have died as a result of rabies or trauma following dog attacks.

Arrangements For Baisakhi Finalized

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to review the arrangements for ensuing Baisakhi festival being celebrated on April 13, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi Monday chaired a meeting of Officers and members of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee here.

On the occasion, the ADDC took a detailed assessment of the preparations and arrangements being put in place by the line departments and Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee for smooth and seamless celebrations of the festival in Srinagar District.

The ADDC stressed on ensuring better arrangements well in advance with regard to safe drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, first-aid, sanitation mea-

sures, transport and parking facilities and other related arrangements.

She also asked the concerned Departments to ensure proper sanitation and immediate repairing of defunct lights in and around the Gurdwara Chatti Padshahi, Baghat Barzulla and other prominent Gurudwaras in the City.

The ADDC laid emphasis on adequate arrangements of fire fighting measures particularly near the Gurudwara Langar on the occasion. She instructed the concerned to make adequate transport and parking facilities on the occasion, so that devotees may not face any inconvenience while traveling to or from Gurdwara Chatti Padshahi.

Earlier, members of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee put forth the demands for smooth and hassle free celebrations of the festival.

Govt Spends Rs 713 Cr On Srinagar Smart City Projects



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has invested over ₹713 crore in various initiatives under the Srinagar Smart City project, significantly enhancing energy efficiency, transportation, waste and water management, and public safety since the program's inception.

Official figures released by the Housing and Urban Development Department, in response to legislative queries from MLAs Ali Mohammad Sagar, Shamim Firdous, and Mushtaq Guroo, show that total spending from 2018-19 up to February 2025 stands at ₹713.94 crore.

Key developments include the widespread installation of energy-efficient LED streetlights and smart metering in collaboration with KP-DCL. In transportation, 100 electric buses have been rolled out, an Intel-

ligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) deployed, and a public bicycle-sharing system with 900 cycles and 100 docking stations has been established.

Under the “Complete Street” model, 100 km of roadways have been upgraded to include pedestrian-friendly walkways, cycling tracks, utility corridors, and smart parking zones. Waste management systems have also been modernized through door-to-door segregated collection, deployment of compactors, and smart bins offering real-time monitoring.

For public safety, over 2,000 streetlights have been added, CCTV surveillance expanded citywide, and infrastructure for improved accessibility such as ramps, tactile paving, and safe pedestrian crossings introduced. Underground power cabling covering 11 km has replaced overhead lines, minimizing haz-

ards. Additionally, fire safety has been bolstered with state-of-the-art equipment and the induction of fire boats for Dal Lake.

In Chanapora constituency alone, ₹27.71 crore has been spent on two major Smart City projects over the past two years. These include the construction of an alternate road from Natipora Junction to Barzulla Bridge at a cost of ₹7.64 crore, and the beautification and upgradation of Indira Gandhi Road costing ₹20.07 crore.

Further, a Bicycle Sharing Scheme launched in 2023 under a public-private partnership received ₹4.14 crore in allocation, with ₹1.20 crore released. Operational since May 20, 2023, the scheme has so far generated ₹4.48 lakh in revenue.

Notably, cycle tracks developed in Batamalo, Hazratbal, and Lal Chowk constituencies have cost ₹9.06 crore under various Smart City initiatives.

Multiple Community Centres Completed In Chanapora

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Several community centres in the Chanapora constituency have been completed and are fully operational, while the Auditorium-Community Centre in Natipora is nearing completion, the Jammu and Kashmir government has revealed.

Responding to a question raised by MLA Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo, the Housing and Urban Development Department confirmed the completion of community centres at Chanapora (₹1.08 crore), Khal Rambagh

(₹1.70 crore), Baghat Barzulla (₹0.81 crore), and Ganbugh (₹2.00 crore).

However, work at the Auditorium-Community Centre in Hari-nambal, Natipora—constructed at a cost of ₹3.75 crore—is still underway. While the structure, roofing, internal plastering, door and window fittings, water pipe installation, and tiling of washrooms have been completed, final finishing touches remain pending.

The department also provided revenue and expenditure details for these centres over the past two

years. Community Centre Chanapora incurred expenses of ₹5.50 lakh, while Khal Rambagh, Baghat Barzulla, and Ganbugh centres saw respective expenditures of ₹9.925 lakh, ₹14.075 lakh, and ₹2.225 lakh.

Of the four centres, only the Ganbugh facility generated any revenue—₹1.50 lakh during the reviewed period.

The information was provided by Yoginder Katoch, Joint Director (Planning), Housing & Urban Development Department, under the authority of the Minister In-Charge.

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

I did wash my hand ... but.... did I clean it enough? ?Wash it again? is it clean now?

It's not just
RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING
BUT
UNSEEN PAIN
myths and stigma
distress
associated with OCD

KASHMIR (Kashmir American Society of Healthcare)
Medical Education & Research
in collaboration with
HPVT (Help Poor Voluntary Trust)
is initiating a **Free 8 weeks Group therapy** for the individuals
suffering with OCD by
a team of counselling clinical psychologists led by leading
consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.

If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial.

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

There is no need for referral , simply call us for registration.

Happy & Healthy minds Office. HPVT
Building (First Floor), Daresh Kadal
Chowk, Srinagar

9070806160

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Closed)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR

9 Shawwal
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	4:43
ZUHR	12:34
ASR	5:06
Magrib	6:59
ISHA	8:21

This Day In History

- 1848 - 1st battle at Giotto: Sardinia-Piemonte beats Austrians
- 1848 - Battle at Xaquixaguana, Peru: Pedro de la Gasca beats Gonzalo Pizarro
- 1866 - Italy and Prussia ally against Austria-Hungary.
- 1898 - Battle of Atbara River, Anglo-Egyptian forces crush 6,000 Sudanese
- 1902 - Russia and China sign the Convention of Evacuation under which Russia agrees to evacuate Manchuria within 18 months
- 1902 - Demonstration organised by socialists in Belgium as people demand better education, living conditions, the right to strike and universal male suffrage result in a riot and some deaths
- 1904 - Great Britain and France establish their Entente Cordiale, a technical treaty settling long-standing disagreements over Morocco, Egypt, Africa, and the Pacific
- 1908 - H. H. Asquith succeeds Henry Campbell-Bannerman as British Prime Minister
- 1913 - Opening of China's 1st parliament takes place in Peking (now Beijing)
- 1914 - US & Colombia sign a treaty concerning Panama Canal Zone
- 1916 - Norway approves active & passive female suffrage
- 1920 - LONGA soccer team forms in Tilburg
- 1929 - Indian Independence Movement: At the Delhi Central Assembly, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt handouts and bombs to court arrest.
- 1943 - U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, in an attempt to check inflation, freezes wages and prices, prohibits workers from changing jobs unless the war effort would be aided thereby, and bars rate increases to common carriers and public utilities.
- 1946 - League of Nations assemblies for last time.
- 1947 - Largest recorded sunspot (7,000) observed
- 1948 - Soen Nakagawa & Nyogen Senzaki (Zen teachers) meet in SF
- 1952 - US President Harry Truman seizes steel mills to avert a strike
- 1960 - Neth & Germany sign accord concerning war casualties
- 1960 - US Senate passes Civil Rights Bill with measures against discriminatory voting practices
- 1964 - Unmanned Gemini 1 launched
- 1965 - India & Pakistan forces engage in a border fight
- 1966 - OAO 1, 1st orbiting astronomical observatory, launched
- 1966 -Time publishes its "Is God Dead" issue - its first issue without an image
- 1968 - Czechoslovakia Cernik government forms
- 1968 - New socialist constitution of East Germany takes effect
- 1974 - Discovery Island opens
- 1977 - Israeli premier Yitzhak Rabin resigns
- 1985 - Amdahl releases UTS/V, 1st mainframe Unix
- 1985 - India files suit against Union Carbide over Bhopal disaster
- 1990 - New Democracy wins the national election in Greece.
- 1991 - Major league umpires & baseball reach a 4-year agreement
- 1991 - Michael Landon announces he has inoperable cancer of the pancreas
- 1994-Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa resigns
- 1997- Microsoft releases Internet Explorer 4 Beta
- 2004- The Humanitarian Ceasefire Agreement on the Conflict in Darfur is signed by the Sudanese government and two rebel groups, ending hostilities amid a 45 day ceasefire [1]
- 2012- Pope Benedict XVI calls for an end to Syrian blood shed in papal Easter message
- 2013- 163 people are killed and 50,000 are displaced after tribal violence erupts in Darfur, Sudan
- 2013 Filip Vujanović's election as President of Montenegro is confirmed by the electoral commission
- 2018 Hungarian parliamentary election won by right-wing Fidesz-KDNP alliance with Viktor Orbán remaining Prime Minister
- 2019- 600 million birds die each year in the US after striking tall buildings with Chicago the worst city, according to Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- 2019- Protests in Sudan against the government of Omar al-Bashir continue with seven killed and 2,500 arrested in Khartoum
- 2020- Saudi-backed coalition fighting Houthi fighters in Yemen calls for a ceasefire after five years to stop the spread of COVID-19

Why Saudi Temporarily Banned Visas For India, 13 Other Countries

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: In a bid to streamline travel and reduce logistical bottlenecks ahead of the upcoming Hajj season, Saudi Arabia has revised its visa issuance policies, significantly narrowing eligibility for its electronic transit visa (e-stopover visa) and temporarily suspending short-term visas for citizens of 14 countries.

The Saudi Civil Aviation Authority has announced that the e-stopover visa — a convenient option for travelers transiting through the Kingdom — will now be issued only to passengers arriving from or departing to countries designated as “Group A.” The revised list includes 18 countries:

Canada, United States, Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, China (including Hong Kong and Macau), Malaysia, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, and Mauritius.

Travelers from these nations will continue to benefit from the streamlined e-stopover visa process, while others are now excluded under the updated policy.

Temporary Visa Suspension for 14 Countries

In a separate but related move, Saudi authorities have imposed a temporary halt on issuing new short-term visas — including single- and multiple-entry business visit visas, e-tourist visas, and family visit visas — to nationals of the following 14 countries:

India, Egypt, Pakistan, Yemen, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, Nigeria, Algeria, Indonesia, Iraq,

Sudan, Bangladesh, and Libya.

The suspension will take effect from April 13, 2025, and remains in place as part of measures to manage crowd control and ensure safety during the Hajj period. Individuals from the affected countries who already possess valid visas may still enter the Kingdom up to April 13 but must exit by April 29, 2025.

Preventing Hajj Misuse of Non-Pilgrimage Visas

These new regulations follow challenges observed during the last Hajj season, where many pilgrims reportedly entered Saudi Arabia using non-Hajj visas, contributing to severe overcrowding and logistical difficulties.

Basil Al Sisi, a member of Egypt's Chamber of Tourism Companies, stated in a televised interview that the policy reflects lessons learned from the previous year's pilgrimage chaos. “Authorities have identified the countries that contributed to the crisis last year,” he noted, emphasizing the misuse of tourist or visit visas for Hajj purposes.

New Umrah Visa Timeline

Further clarifying pilgrimage travel, Saudi officials announced a standardized timeline for Umrah visa issuance:

Start: 14th of Dhu Al Hijjah
End: 1st of Shawwal

The new guidelines form part of the Kingdom's broader efforts to maintain order, enhance pilgrim safety, and ensure that all religious travel is properly coordinated through appropriate channels.

In Delhi, Iran's Soft Power Finds a New Voice

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Signaling a renewed focus on cultural diplomacy and religious outreach, Iran has

faiths and students, also marked the farewell of outgoing representative Haj Agha Mahdavi-pour, whose 15-year tenure was hailed as a “golden era” for Shia out-



named Dr. Abdul Majeed Hakeem Elahi as the new Representative of its Supreme Leader in India, succeeding Hoiyat Al Islam Haj Agha Mahdi Mahdavi-pour after a distinguished 15-year tenure.

The announcement was made during an impressive ceremony held at the Iran Culture House in New Delhi, where Ayatollah Mohsin Qummi, Head of International Relations in the Supreme Leader's Office, delivered a keynote address that underlined the evolving dynamics of Indo-Iran religious and cultural diplomacy.

The event, attended by diplomats, scholars, leaders of various

reach and Iran-India spiritual engagement.

A Spiritual Legacy and Strategic Messaging

Ayatollah Qummi's address was more than ceremonial—it was steeped in the strategic and spiritual undertones of Iran's soft power outreach in South Asia. Opening with blessings upon the Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) and the Ahlul Bayt, he described Indo-Iranian ties as a “civilizational bridge,” emphasizing that religious leadership plays a pivotal role in nurturing these age-old connections.



Muslim Law Board Moves Supreme Court Against Waqf Bill

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The All India Muslim Personal Law Board has moved the Supreme Court against the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

Earlier in the day, a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan agreed to consider, listing for an urgent hearing, the plea of Jami-at Ulama-i-Hind, AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi and others, including Congress MP Mohammad Jawed and AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan on the issue.

President Droupadi Murmu on April 5 gave her assent to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which was passed by Parliament after heated debates in both houses.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) filed the plea in the top court late April 6.

In a press statement, SQR Ilyas, the AIMPLB spokesperson, said the petition strongly object-

ed to the amendments passed by Parliament for being “arbitrary, discriminatory and based on exclusion”.

The amendments, it said, not only violated the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution of India but also clearly revealed the government's intention to take complete control over the administration of Waqf, therefore, sidelining the Muslim minority from managing their own religious endowments.

Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution ensure freedom of conscience, the right to practice, propagate religion, and the right to establish and manage institutions for religious and charitable purposes, it said.

The newly-enacted law deprives Muslims of these fundamental rights, it added.

“The amendments regarding the selection of members of the Central Waqf Council and Waqf Boards stand as stark proof of this deprivation. Additionally, the five-year requirement for a

waqif (donor) to be a practising Muslim contradicts both the Indian legal framework and Article 14 and 25 of the Constitution, as well as Islamic Shariah principles,” the statement said.

Describing the law as discriminatory and inconsistent with Article 14 of the Constitution, the press release said the rights and protections afforded to the endowments of other religious communities—Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Jains and Buddhists—were denied to Muslim Waqf, Awqaf.

The board said the top court being “the guardian of constitutional rights” should annul these “controversial amendments, uphold the sanctity of the Constitution” and the Muslim minority rights from “being trampled upon”.

The plea is settled by advocate M R Shamshad, with advocate-on-record Talha Abdul Rahman representing the Muslim personal law board, through its General Secretary Maulana Fazlur Raheem Mujaddidi.

Israel Controls 50% Of Gaza As Palestinians Get Squeezed Into Shrinking Wedges Of Land

Agencies

TEL AVIV: Israel has dramatically expanded its footprint in the Gaza Strip since relaunching its war against Hamas last month. It now controls more than 50 percent of the territory and is squeezing Palestinians into shrinking wedges of land.

The largest contiguous area the army controls is around the Gaza border, where the military has razed Palestinian homes, farmland and infrastructure to the point of uninhabitability, according to Israeli soldiers and rights groups. This military buffer zone has doubled in size in recent weeks.

Israel has depicted its tightening grip as a temporary necessity to pressure Hamas into releasing the remaining hostages taken during the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that started the war. But the land Israel holds, which includes a corridor that divides the territory's north from south, could be used for wielding long-term control, human rights groups and Gaza experts say.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last week that



even after Hamas is defeated, Israel will keep security control in Gaza and push Palestinians to leave.

The demolition close to the Israeli border and the systematic expansion of the buffer zone has been going on since the war began 18 months ago, five Israeli soldiers told The Associated Press.

“They destroyed everything they could, they shot everything that looks functioning ... (the Palestinians) will have nothing to come back, they will not come back, never,” a soldier deployed with a tank squad guarding

the demolition teams said. He and four other soldiers spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

A report documenting the accounts of soldiers who were in the buffer zone was released Monday by Breaking The Silence, an anti-occupation veterans group. A handful of soldiers — including some who also spoke to AP — described watching the army turn the zone into a vast wasteland.

“Through widespread, deliberate destruction, the military laid the groundwork for future Israeli control of the area,” said the group.

Israel Strikes Tents Near Hospitals In Gaza, Killing And Wounding Reporters

Agencies

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip: Israel struck tents outside two major hospitals in the Gaza Strip overnight, killing at least two people, including a local reporter, and wounding another nine,

nis at around 2 a.m. set the tent ablaze, killing Yousef al-Faqawi, a reporter for the Palestine Today news website, and another man, according to the hospital. Six other reporters were also wounded in the strike.

The Israeli military said it hit a Hamas militant, without provid-



Palestinians inspect the site hit by an Israeli airstrike in Deir Al-Balah Gaza Strip on Monday, April 7, 2025. (Photo | AP)

including six reporters, medics said Monday.

Twenty-eight other people were killed in separate strikes across the territory, according to hospitals.

Israel has carried out waves of strikes across Gaza and ground forces have carved out new military zones since it ended its ceasefire with Hamas last month. Israel has barred the import of food, fuel, medicine and humanitarian aid for well over a month as it seeks to pressure Hamas to accept changes to the truce agreement they reached in January.

A strike on a media tent outside Nasser Hospital in Khan You-

ing further information. The military says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames Hamas for their deaths because it is deeply embedded in residential areas.

Israel also struck tents on the edge of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central city of Deir al-Balah, wounding three people, according to the hospital. Nasser Hospital said it received another 20 bodies, including eight women and five children, from separate strikes overnight and into Monday. Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital said two additional strikes on homes in Deir al-Balah killed eight people, including three women and three children.

Heat Wave Incoming, Here's How Tihar Jail Plans To Keep Inmates Cool

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Two lemons a day and “heat-resistant sheets” are part of the plan of Tihar Jail authorities to help inmates cool off as the summer approaches.

Delhi is currently amidst a heatwave, with the maximum temperature already expected to cross 40 degrees on Monday.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow warning for a heatwave.

A prison official said the anti-heat measures are a part of their seasonal plan.

“Be it summer or winter, we follow a proper plan for the inmates according to the Tihar Jail manual. We will provide two lemons every day to each inmate for three months — April, May, and June — to help keep their bodies hydrated,” the official told PTI.

A sufficient quantity of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) has been procured to keep prisoners hydrated, he added.

The jail authorities have also planned to install heat-resistant sheets inside the cells to help maintain the temperature a few degrees lower.

“These sheets are very helpful during the summer as they keep the cell temperature

normal and allow air circulation,” the person said.

Established in 1958, Tihar Jail is one of India's largest prison complexes, comprising nine prisons spread over more than 400 acres — along with one prison in Rohini and six in Mandoli.

Located in West Delhi, Tihar is close to the Tilak Nagar and Hari Nagar areas of the city. Originally designed to house approximately 10,025 inmates, it currently accommodates over 19,000, leading to severe overcrowding.

Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has announced plans to shift Tihar Jail to the outskirts of the city, allocating Rs 10 crore in the 2025-26 budget for surveys and consultancy services related to the relocation.

The official said that no inmate is treated as “special” inside the prison.

“We strictly follow the jail manual. We don't provide any special facilities to any of the inmates. However, we closely monitor inmates aged 60 and above. Doctors check them daily,” he said.

Inmates get only room-temperature water, and no water coolers are allowed inside the premises.

NEWS MAKERS

FIR Against ‘Fake’ Cardiologist After 7 Deaths In MP Hospital

Police have registered a case against a ‘fake’ cardiologist at a missionary hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district, following the deaths of seven persons who were allegedly being treated by him, officials said on Monday.

A team from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) will reach Damoh on Monday and camp till Wednesday to investigate the matter.

The police registered a First Information Report (FIR) on Sunday midnight against the accused, identified as Dr Narendra John Camm, based on a complaint lodged by Damoh district's Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) MK Jain, the officials said.

According to the complaint, Camm performed angiography and

angioplasty procedures at Mission Hospital without being registered with the Madhya Pradesh Medical Council.

“The doctor's registration number is not displayed on any of his medical documents, which appears to be suspicious prima facie. No doctor can provide services in Madhya Pradesh without registration,” the FIR stated.

A team of doctors launched an investigated following a letter from the district collector, and the hospital management said Camm had already left the medical facility, it mentioned.

The hospital manager provided documents related to the doctor's degree. However, the investigation team prima facie could not find the registration number of any medical council or university, which is generally mentioned in the documents.



As per documents of the doctor concerned presented by the Mission Hospital, his medical registration certificate has been issued by the Andhra Pradesh Medical Council. But the name of Dr Narendra John

Camm does not appear in the registration on the council's official website, thus it seems suspicious at first sight, the FIR stated.

The case has been registered against the accused under Sections 315 (4) (dishonest misappropriation), 338 (forgery), 336 (3) (creating or altering documents or electronic records with fraudulent intent), 340 (2) (forged documents and electronic records) and 3 (5) (joint criminal liability when a criminal act is committed by several persons in furtherance of a common intention) under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

As per a complaint lodged earlier by a local resident with the NHRC, the person, using the name Dr N John Camm, who was said to be working at the hospital, had shown himself to be educated and trained from abroad.

Man Steals Rs 2.45 Lakh From Madhya Pradesh Shop, Leaves Apology Letter

A man who stole Rs 2.45 lakh from a shop in Madhya Pradesh's Khar-gone district left behind a letter seeking forgiveness for the act committed on Ram Navami, his struggles with debt and constant hounding by creditors as well as a promise to return the amount in six months, a police official said on Monday.

The theft took place at the shop of Jujar Ali Bohra in Jamidar Mohalla under Kotwali police station limits in the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, Kotwali police station assistant sub-inspector Arshad Khan said.

“The thief left behind a typed letter in which he addressed the shop owner as Jujar Bhai. The shop owner has told us he had kept Rs 2.84 lakh in a bag, of which around

Rs 2.45 lakh was stolen, while Rs 38,000 remained. In the letter, the culprit has sought forgiveness for the act, which he committed on Ram Navami,” inspector Khan said.

“He has said he stays in the neighbourhood. He claimed he had a lot of debt and creditors were visiting him daily. He wrote that he didn't want to resort to stealing but had no option. He has claimed he has taken only what he required while leaving the rest in the bag itself. He has promised to pay back in six months and said the shop owner was free to hand him over to police then,” inspector Khan informed.

The man emphasised that everything he had written in the letter was true, adding that “right now it is very important for me to steal money,” inspector Khan said.

“The thief left behind a typed letter in which he addressed the shop owner as Jujar Bhai. The shop owner has told us he had kept Rs 2.84 lakh in a bag, of which around Rs 2.45 lakh was stolen, while Rs 38,000 remained

Amid Pandemonium, Statehood Resolutions Lapse In JK Assembly



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Amid noisy scenes and disruption in the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday, three key resolutions seeking restoration of statehood to the region lapsed without discussion.

The House was unable to conduct any business as members of the ruling alliance staged protests over the rejection of an adjournment motion related to the Waqf Bill. As a result, the resolutions listed for discussion and voting could not be taken up.

The resolutions were submitted by National Conference legislators Hilal Akbar Lone, Qaiser Jamsheed Lone, and indepen-

dent MLA Shabir Kulley. These had been selected through a draw of lots on March 25, but their fate was sealed amid the commotion that gripped the House.

Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone took to social media to question the National Conference over its role in the protest. "Were they protesting against the Waqf Bill or deliberately stalling the statehood resolutions?" he asked in a post on X. Drawing a parallel with a past incident, Lone added, "This is reminiscent of 2013, when the resolution on Afzal Guru lapsed after NC's Speaker adjourned the House due to a sudden uproar from the Congress, then its ally."

Amit Shah Visits Sunil Sharma's Residence In Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, visited the residence of senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma in the Gandhi Nagar area of Jammu.

During the visit, several issues concerning development and security were reportedly discussed. Earlier in the day, Shah also visited the family of



slain DSP Himayun Muzamil in Srinagar, who was killed in an encounter in Kokernag last year.

Tourism Development Master Plans Under Review: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Tourism Department is currently reviewing master plans for several Tourism Development Authorities, including Doodhpathri and Tosamaidan, to enhance infrastructure and visitor experience.

Officials said kiosks and food courts have already been established in Doodhpathri and out-

sourced for operations. While no Yatri Niwas structures have been constructed at Raithan, Raiyar, or Tosamaidan, budget accommodation and basic facilities like huts and viewing decks are in place.

Future plans include road upgrades, parking, and new trekking routes to promote eco- and adventure-tourism in these scenic areas.

'No Proposal For Aru Cable Car'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government intends to install a gondola between Yatri Niwas and Baisaran in Pahalgam, a move aimed at promoting eco-tourism in the region. However, no proposal exists for a gondola from Pahalgam to Aru at this stage.

Authorities said the area's natural beauty makes it ideal for sustainable tourism.

The focus remains on preserving the environment while expanding tourism activities such as trekking, camping, and winter sports.

Pahalgam also serves as a key stop on the Amarnath Yatra route, and infrastructure development is aligned with the area's cultural and ecological significance.

'ACP Proposal For 10+2 Lecturers Under Consideration'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that a proposal for Assured Career Progression (ACP) for 10+2 lecturers appointed through the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) is currently under active consideration.

The response was given to a question raised by MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa during the ongoing session of the J&K Legislative Assembly.

In response to concerns regarding stagnation and limited promotional avenues, the government clarified that 10+2 lecturers appointed through JKPSC are promoted to the post of Senior Lecturer with two advance increments.

Subsequently, they are elevated to the positions of Principals and their equivalents under Pay Level-10A (Rs 56,600-1,79,800), as per the rules. Eligible Principals are

further promoted to the posts of Chief Education Officers or equivalent positions.

Regarding the demand for Functional Upgradation (NFU) or ACP on the lines of Assistant Surgeons, Dental and Veterinary Doctors, and ISM doctors, the School Education Department has proposed the introduction of ACP. The proposal was deliberated in the Establishment-cum-Selection Committee meeting held on June 5, 2024.

"A sub-committee was constituted by the General Administration Department (GAD) vide Government Order No. 1339-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated July 9, 2024, to examine the proposals of various departments. Additionally, an internal committee was constituted by the School Education Department vide Government Order No. 357-JK(Edu) of 2024 dated September 11, 2024, to further examine the matter," the government stated, adding that the issue is currently under active consideration of the department—(KNO)

Saudi Job Scam Leaves Kashmiri Youth Depressed

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A growing number of youth from Kashmir valley are falling prey to a job scam that promises employment in Saudi Arabia but leaves them stranded with low wages, long working hours, and broken promises, an investigation has found.

Not only are they forced into menial jobs with little pay and long shifts, but they're also bound by harsh two-year contracts that strip them of the right to leave or return home.

Local agents, operating mainly from Srinagar and north Kashmir, are charging hefty sums while assuring well-paying jobs, only to send the youth into exploitative conditions abroad.

A tentative survey conducted has revealed that around 233 youth from Kashmir are currently stuck in similar exploitative conditions across various Gulf countries.

Of them, over 75 percent are earning just 1,100 Saudi Riyals (around Rs 25,000) per month—far less than what they were promised.

Moreover, about 55 percent said they didn't receive any salary during the first three months of work, pushing them into financial distress. Many remain bound by restrictive contracts, with no way to leave or return home.

Tariq Ahmad, a resident of Arin in Bandipora, is among the victims. "I gave 70,000 rupees to a Srinagar agent who said I'd be working in a zaatoun company," he said. "But when I reached Mumbai, I was made to sign a contract that mentioned a much lower salary. I called the agent, and he told me to go ahead, promising ev-

erything would be fine."

However, since arriving in Saudi Arabia three months ago, Tariq has been made to work 15 hours a day and hasn't received any salary.

"I've spent everything to come here. I've been working day and night, and there's no money, no help," he said. In a



video that has gone viral online, he says he's losing hope and may take his own life along with his wife if nothing changes.

Mustafa, another youth from Baramulla, was also promised a respectable job in Saudi Arabia. "They told me it was a good position with a decent salary. But after arriving here, they gave me a delivery job. I've already signed a two-year contract. I feel stuck," he said.

Imran from Kupwara shared a similar account. "I was told I'd work in a hotel. I now clean toilets for 14 hours a day. I didn't come here for this. I just want to return home."

"I'm not the only one, there are hundreds of Kashmiris like me who were promised decent jobs in golf clubs, but ended up doing menial work in harsh conditions. We all want to come back, but these two-year contracts have turned our hopes into a trap," Imran added.

He urged the youth not to fall prey to these agents, saying they have no mercy or

concern for the lives they ruin. Imran also appealed to the Jammu & Kashmir Police to launch a thorough investigation into these fraudulent job agencies and agents operating in the region.

Many of these young men including Imran are under pressure from their families back home, who took loans or sold assets to pay the agents.

With no income, no proper food, and contracts that tie them for years, they feel helpless.

Several Kashmiri youth who have returned home after spending two or more years in Saudi Arabia said many of them echoed the same distressing experiences as those currently trapped there broken promises, long working hours, low or unpaid salaries, and complete isolation.

Most of them said they were lured by agents with false job offers, only to end up in labour-intensive roles under exploitative conditions. "It was a nightmare I wouldn't wish on anyone," said one returnee from Pulwama. "What Tariq and others are facing now is exactly what we went through."

Families of these people have urged the J&K Police, the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Saudi Embassy to investigate the role of travel agents and ensure the safe return of those stranded.

"A series of awareness campaigns have been conducted across the country to educate people about the dangers of fake job rackets," Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs said. "Over 3,281 illegal agents have been identified on the eMigrate portal till February 2025."—(KNO)

A TENTATIVE SURVEY CONDUCTED HAS REVEALED that around 233 youth from Kashmir are currently stuck in similar exploitative conditions across various Gulf countries"

Makhdoom Sahib's Ancestral Shrine Freed From Waqf Clutches: Renzu

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a landmark spiritual and legal assertion, the historic shrine of Tujar Sharief, linked to the Raina dynasty and ancestral family of Hazrat Makhdoom Sahib, has been declared spiritually and administratively independent of all central and state Waqf boards. The announcement was made by Khwaja Farooq Renzushah, Chief Patron of the Makhdoom Trust, during his visit to the shrine.

According to Mohammad Sultan Makhdoomi, Sajada Nasheen of the shrine and General Secretary of the Trust, repeated attempts were made over the years by the former Kashmir Waqf Board and the newly formed Union Territory-level Waqf body to bring the shrine under their control. However, he noted that the shrine's foundation—laid in the presence of thousands of devotees by Renzushah, late Shah Sahib, and Peer Mohammad Yaseen of Harwan—was legally registered as a private Awqaf, making such takeovers a contempt of court.

Historic accounts reveal that at the time of foundation, threats from radical anti-shrine elements were rampant, even causing a local MLA to flee the



site. Later, a militant attack on the shrine led to the martyrdom of a devotee and serious injuries to three others. These challenges only solidified the resolve of the Makhdoom Trust to protect the shrine's sanctity and independence.

The shrine is spiritually significant, being the resting place of Hazrat Usmaan Raina and Bibi Maryam Raina, parents of Hazrat Hamza Raina and Hazrat Ali Raina, at Paeth Astaan. Meanwhile, the Boen Astaan houses Baba Ali Raina and Baba Zeethi Raina—grandparents of the saint. The management of these shrines is currently overseen by Mohammad Sultan Makhdoomi, Jenab Farooq Khan, Mohammad Amin Makhdoomi, and Mohammad Ashraf Makhdoomi.

Commenting on the legal standing, Renzushah emphasized that only a court of law

has the jurisdiction to review matters related to the Makhdoom Trust or its associated shrines. He also pointed out the irony of the Waqf Act—allegedly influenced by controversial preacher Zakir Naik during his 2003 visit to Kashmir—which led to mistrust toward newly formed Waqf institutions and their attempts to manage sensitive Sufi shrines.

"Today is a great victory for the lovers and devotees of Hazrat Makhdoom Sahib. Our timely actions have ensured that sacred spaces like Tujar Sharief and even Aham Sharief in Bandipora remain protected from exploitation," said Renzushah. He added that unless all other unspecified Awqaf properties and post-1990 religious institutions are also brought under review, targeting only traditional Sufi dar-gahs is unacceptable.

Over 8 Lakh Beneficiaries Receive Monthly Pension: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday informed the Legislative Assembly that more than eight lakh individuals across the Union Territory are receiving monthly financial assistance through various welfare schemes. Of these, 4.5 lakh are from the Kashmir Division and 3.6 lakh from the Jammu Division.

In response to a question raised by MLA Irfan Hafiz Lone, the minister in charge clarified that there are no delays in the disbursement of pensions, asserting that payments are being made regularly and in accordance with the guidelines of the respective schemes.

According to the minister,

"4,50,797 eligible beneficiaries in Kashmir Division receive monthly financial aid under the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), with an additional 64,881 beneficiaries covered under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). In Jammu Division, 3,61,182 beneficiaries avail pension benefits under the same schemes." Addressing a separate query, the minister acknowledged delays in the disbursement of marriage assistance in certain cases. "In instances where departmental funds are not available, payments may be delayed until after the marriage, but only for applicants who applied at least one month prior to their wedding date," he stated.

Rs 5,677 Crore Disbursed Under GPF This Fiscal: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The government has disbursed Rs 5,677 crore under the General Provident Fund (GPF) for the fiscal year 2024-25 so far, it said in a statement on Monday. Officials clarified that GPF bills for both in-service and retired employees are being cleared regularly, depending on the availability of resources. While there may be occasional delays, these are attributed to resource constraints rather than administrative negligence.

Kashmir Faces Acute Healthcare Crisis: Study

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As the world marks World Health Day, a recent study published in the European Journal of Medical and Health Research paints a grim picture of healthcare in Kashmir, highlighting doctor shortages, mental health challenges, and alarming rural-urban disparities.

According to the study, Kashmir has only one doctor for every 4,000 patients, far worse than the national average. Mental health concerns are even more staggering, with nearly half of the population reportedly suffering from depression, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), especially among women and children. The availability of psychiatric

care remains critically low.

In rural regions, only 45% of households have access to clean drinking water, leading to outbreaks of waterborne diseases like cholera and diarrhoea. Overcrowded hospitals, high maternal mortality, child malnutrition, and poor immunisation further underscore the region's failing healthcare infrastructure.

While NGOs such as Médecins Sans Frontières are filling some gaps in services, the study stresses the need for urgent government investment in rural healthcare infrastructure, expansion of mental health services, environmental protection measures, and public-private partnerships to improve care delivery.

270 Assistant Surgeon, 1,590 Paramedical Posts Vacant

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Health and Medical Education Department has confirmed that 270 Assistant Surgeon and 1,590 paramedical posts remain vacant across the Kashmir division.

The department is currently working on setting up dialysis units in all Community Health Centres, with units at Magam and Beerwah planned for the next phase.

Of the 1,736 sanctioned Assistant Surgeon posts, only 1,466 are filled. Similarly, 2,628 paramedical staff are in place out of a sanctioned strength of 4,218. Recruitment has been ongoing, with 52 medical officers appointed in 2023 and 226 in 2024.

Officials stated that upgrades to health centres follow Indian Public Health Standards, and feasibility reports guide expansion proposals.

928 SRO-43 Cases, 1,279 RAS Applications Pending In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The government on Monday revealed that 928 cases under SRO-43 of 1994 remain unresolved, along with 1,279 applications under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS).

While 1,116 cases were approved this year, efforts are ongoing to clear the backlog.

Administrative departments have been directed to resolve cases independently where applicable and submit fortnightly compliance reports.

The 2022 version of the Rehabilitation Scheme now includes a merit-based approach, digital application submission, and centralised processing to ensure transparency and timely appointments.

No Land Acquired For Baramulla-Kupwara Rail Line: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday affirmed that no land has been acquired for the Baramulla-Kupwara Railway Line, however, confirmed that the land has been acquired for the road widening project in Handwara belt.

Responding to queries by MLA Sheikh Khurshed, the government said that Rs 4.06 crore has already been disbursed as compensation. "An outstanding amount of Rs 23.23 crore is under process through the Bhoomi Rashi Portal."

The government said that land has been acquired for the road widening project in Langate Assembly Constituency, specifically in Kralgund, Langate, and Handwara Tehsils.

In Tehsil Kralgund, no land has been acquired, while in Tehsil Langate 38 Kanal, 12 Marla, and 03 Sarsai have been acquired. Similarly, in revenue village Handwara, around 24

Kanal, 13 Marla, and 06 Sarsai and in Braipora 31 Kanal, 02 Marla, and 02 Sarsai has been acquired.

Regarding concerns over rate differences in compensation between Braipora and Handwara, the government said that Handwara lies entirely within Municipal Limits, while Braipora lies partially in rural limits, as per the existing rules.

For urban areas, compensation is multiplied by a factor of 1 while for rural areas, compensation is multiplied by a factor of 2, it said.

On a query regarding the rehabilitation of affected farmers, orchardists, house owners, shopkeepers, and other stakeholders, the government response stated that the entire acquisition is being carried out under the National Highway Act, 1956. Compensation for structures, land, and trees is being paid in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the response reads.

DEBATE OVER JKAS PROMOTIONS:

Govt Forms Panel To Address Concerns

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has acknowledged concerns over the 'alleged arbitrary supersession' of senior JKAS officers by their juniors from departmental or feeding services, and has constituted a committee to streamline the career progression within the premier administrative service.

Responding to a question by legislator Muzaffar Iqbal Khan during the ongoing session of the J&K Legislative Assembly, the government cited Rule 11(1) of the JKAS Rules, 2008, which governs promotions to time scale posts.

As per the rules, 50% of the time scale posts are to be filled by promotion from directly recruited junior scale officers, while the remaining 50% are filled from feeding services in

proportion to their respective strength.

Additionally, 10% of the feeding service quota is allocated to other eligible government departments under clause (c) of Rule 6.

However, in light of the grievances raised, the government, through Order No. 2088-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated December 13, 2024, has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Shaleen Kabra, IAS, Financial Commissioner (ACS), Jal Shakti Department. The committee's mandate is to examine and streamline promotion mechanisms and ensure fair career progression for all JKAS officers.

Additionally, the move comes amid growing concern that SRO-386 of 2008 may have led to an imbalance in promotional opportunities within the JKAS cadre, affecting morale among direct recruits—(KNO)

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of
Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Opinion Editor: Tooba Towfiq
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Business & Sales Head: Namisha Raj
Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No: L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobsserver.net

KO VIEW

Affidavit Row

After taking a principled position on the contentious reservations issue, the elected Jammu & Kashmir government submitted an affidavit in the High Court, calling a writ petition against the reservation policy “frivolous” and “mischievous.” This has generated fresh controversy with the opposition accusing the government of hypocrisy.

It was only weeks ago that the government in response to growing public protests and civil society pressure, set up a cabinet sub-committee to look into the issue of unfair job quotas. The sub-committee, headed by Social Welfare Minister Sakina Itoo, was meant to recommend reform to the existing quotas, which are believed to disproportionately favour the underprivileged classes. But the affidavit tells another story altogether: it goes against the government position.

The government in damage control mode has said it will file a fresh affidavit, if need be. Addressing a press conference in Anantnag, Itoo termed the affidavit in question as vague, ‘The National Conference, on the other hand, has distanced itself from the affidavit. The NC spokesman Imran Nabi Dar has made it clear that the affidavit has been “submitted in a distorted way, without taking into consideration the ground realities.”

But this has not convinced the opposition. The Peoples Democratic Party legislator Waheed Para said that the cabinet sub-committee on reservations “seems to be a façade.” And the People’s Conference leader Sajad Lone tweeted the lack of the mention of the sub-committee in the affidavit, terming this “a legal mystery.”

The petition in the court argues that the 2024 amendments made by the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory government are unconstitutional and violate principles of equity and fairness. According to the petition, the amendments have restructured reservation percentages, reducing the open merit category from 57% to 33% and the Resident of Backward Areas (RBA) category from 20% to 10%. In contrast, reservations for Scheduled Tribes have been increased from 10% to 20%, social castes from 2% to 8%, the Area Line of Control from 3% to 4%, and physically handicapped candidates from 2% to 4%. New categories introduced include children of defense personnel (3%), police personnel (1%), and sports achievers (2%), among others.

The issue also dominated the budget session of J&K Assembly, with opposition parties, except the BJP, aggressively raising the issue. This calls for the elected government to take the issue seriously. Any backpedaling on the issue and it risks alienating a substantial part of its support base in the Valley.



Did You Know?

Digital Investing: Smart, Secure, and Diversified

Irshad Mushtaq

In an era driven by technology, investing has evolved far beyond traditional methods, offering secure, flexible, and accessible options for investors at every level. Physical gold and silver, once stored in lockers, can now be held digitally via Demat accounts. Gold Mutual Funds and ETFs provide a seamless way to invest in precious metals without the risks of physical storage, offering liquidity and convenience at the click of a button.

Real estate, too, has undergone a transformation. Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) allow individuals to invest in commercial properties by owning shares, earning dividends without managing properties directly. This opens doors to diversification and passive income with low entry barriers.

The global investment landscape has also become more inclusive. Investors can now access international markets, putting money into companies like Amazon and Meta through integrated platforms, often linked with retirement accounts like EPFs. This provides not only global exposure but also higher growth potential and portfolio balance.

Ethical investing is gaining ground through Shariah-compliant Mutual Funds, which adhere to Islamic principles while delivering competitive, stable returns. Easily accessible online, these funds appeal to socially responsible investors seeking transparency and ethics.

Ultimately, successful investing hinges on informed decisions, patience, and the willingness to learn. With digital tools and diversified options, the modern investor holds unprecedented power to build wealth securely and smartly.

- The author is a reputed financial advisor based out of Srinagar.

The Soda Bottle Syndrome of JK’s School Reforms

It’s time to ask a hard question: Do government school teachers believe in the public education system?



Muntashir Kifayat Hussain

“The government must implement a clear policy requiring government teachers to enroll their children in public schools. This will serve as a powerful endorsement of the system and inspire public confidence.

Education is the soul of any enlightened society. No society can truly thrive without significant advancements in its educational infrastructure. In Jammu and Kashmir, government schools have long been the backbone of education for children from economically weaker sections who cannot afford the high fees of private institutions. Imagine a student from a remote rural area, with no literate family members and limited resources—how would such a child ever dream of becoming a doctor or a teacher if government schools were taken out of the equation?

I speak from experience. Coming from a village and growing up with financial hardships, I completed an M.Sc. in Biochemistry and pursued research before becoming a teacher. This journey would have been impossible without the foundational support of a government school. As someone who owes everything to the public education system, it pains me deeply to witness the decline in its quality.

Bringing government schools up to the standards of private institutions is not an impossible task. Every government teacher is aware of this potential. What’s missing is a sustained push and collective effort from all stakeholders.

A Grim Picture Emerges

The situation in J&K is alarming. Government school numbers have plummeted—from 23,874 in 2014-15 to 18,785 in 2023-24. Many primary schools have been shut down or merged due to dwindling enrollment. Some now function with barely any students.

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 paints a grim picture. Only 47.2% of students at the middle level in government-run schools can read a second-grade-level text. Over 70% struggle with basic division problems. Even more

concerning is the decline in reading ability from 55.5% in 2018 to 47.2% in 2024.

These figures point to systemic failure. Reforms cannot be seasonal, activated with soda-bottle enthusiasm after long winter breaks. What is needed is consistent, year-round commitment.

Infrastructure Woes

Many government schools lack basic amenities such as drinking water and toilets. Several primary schools still operate in rented buildings, without playgrounds or proper infrastructure. In my own locality, at least five such schools function under these substandard conditions. The government must phase out rented accommodations and invest in purpose-built school infrastructure to foster a more conducive learning environment.

Do We Trust Our Own System?

It’s time to ask a hard question: Do government school teachers believe in the public education system? Under the RET (Rehbar-e-Taleem) scheme, many are posted in their own villages, yet over 90% enroll their own children in private schools. If we ourselves don’t trust the system, how can we expect the community to?

The government must implement a clear policy requiring government teachers to enroll their children in public schools. This will serve as a powerful endorsement of the system and inspire public confidence.

Staffing Imbalance and Accountability

Another issue is the irrational distribution of teachers—some schools suffer from acute shortages, while others have a surplus. Official data reveals that 119 schools in J&K operate with zero student enrollment, yet 238 teachers are posted in such institutions. The teacher-student ratio must be enforced rigorously. The comfort-zone

culture, particularly among some female staff seeking transfers near their homes, is hurting the sector.

Moreover, leadership at the school level is often determined by seniority alone, without any assessment of skills or suitability. This must change. Promotions should be merit-based, and prospective heads of institutions should undergo evaluations for leadership, teaching pedagogy, and inclusive education practices.

Flawed Implementation of Policy

The role of Resource Persons (RPs) in improving education has largely failed in J&K. Though the policy itself was promising, the selection of RPs at zonal, district, and state levels remains questionable. ASER 2024 results clearly indicate that RPs have not succeeded in addressing learning gaps or providing effective on-the-spot teacher support.

RP appointments must be made through national-level selection panels, and for fixed terms, as originally envisioned in policy documents.

Time to Act

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is still in its early stages. All stakeholders within the School Education Department (SED) must engage sincerely and strategically to realize its vision. If the reforms discussed above are implemented earnestly, government schools in J&K can become truly competitive with private institutions.

Only then will we be able to serve the vast population of underprivileged children who rely on us for their future.

- Muntashir Kifayat Hussain is an educator at Boys Secondary School, Narbal. Views expressed are personal and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer.



OBSERVER
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer’s name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O.Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

SKIMS Cardiologists Heal with Heart and Humanity

I recently had the privilege of witnessing the unmatched professionalism and compassion of the Cardiology Ward at SKIMS, Soura. My mother, who suffers from multiple ailments, developed a sudden heart-related issue. Based on prior OPD advice, I administered emergency medicine and rushed her to SKIMS. She was promptly attended in the Casualty

Section and later shifted to the Cardiology Ward.

There, I met Dr. Mansoor, whose calm demeanour and attentive care brought immense relief to us. His approach went beyond treatment—he truly healed with his heart. Over the next few days, I observed several doctors and staff, and was moved by their tireless dedication. Dr. Mehraj ul Islam,

always smiling and deeply focused, stood out with his warmth and skill. Dr. Sadiya impressed with her grace, professionalism, and quiet confidence. Dr. Nayeem, too, reflected calm and commitment in every interaction.

Nurses, paramedics, and food staff all displayed remarkable discipline and compassion. I’ve visited many hospitals, but none matched

the humane and healing touch I witnessed here.

This letter is a humble tribute to the angels in white coats at SKIMS. Their mentors, teachers, and families should take immense pride in shaping such noble professionals.

- Bilal Ahmad Khanday
Ganderbal

Trouble in Kashmir's Trade Heartland

Historic Lal Chowk, once a thriving business hub of Valley, is now in crisis.

Mehren Baba

Hilal Ahmad can't shake the feeling of being jobless despite running a garment store in Lal Chowk. His tribe has served customers for decades, but now they're losing their livelihoods. If this trend continues, Hilal fears, Lal Chowk may soon become a shadow of its past.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Hilal had two employees and a stable clientele. But when the lockdowns hit, his business was badly affected. Just as things began to recover, the Smart City project brought a new set of challenges. Constant road construction and barricades outside his shop reduced footfall drastically. "Even if someone wanted to come, the dust and blocked roads kept them away," he said.

Then came the flood of online sellers—many of them unregistered, selling cheaper and often unauthentic products through Instagram and Facebook. "They don't pay taxes or rent, yet sell at low prices. People think they're getting a deal, but they don't realize the hidden costs," Hilal explained.

To make things worse, the closure of Sumo services a couple of years ago cut off a significant portion of daily shoppers who used to travel from nearby areas. Now, Hilal sits idle most of the day, seeing a maximum of six to seven customers—on a good day.

With no choice, he had to let go of his employees. "Now I handle everything myself, but the expenses keep piling up—shop rent, electricity, school fees for my children, medical bills for my parents, and daily needs for my family," he said. "On top of that, I still have to pay taxes, EMIs, and debts to suppliers."

The weight of this pressure has gone beyond financial pain—it's affected his mental health. "We are not just losing income, we are losing peace of mind," Hilal said quietly. He, like many others, has started experiencing anxiety and signs of depression. "There are people who think this is all our fault—that we used to overcharge. But they don't see the full picture. Running a shop isn't just about sales, it's about surviving after paying everyone else first," he added.



Recently, Hilal placed his last hope in the government. "Trader associations have had meetings, but we haven't seen any change. Right now, all I have is faith in God. I pray that things get better for Kashmir."

Shopkeepers in Lal Chowk bear heavy costs—rent, electricity, employee salaries, and taxes—while many online sellers operate without such burdens. "We have been paying taxes and following government regulations for years, but now these online pages sell the same products at lower prices without any accountability," says Abdul Rahim, another garment shop owner in Lal Chowk.

Online sellers who avoid GST and business registration enjoy an unfair edge, drawing customers away from physical markets. COVID-19 further accelerated this trend, pushing people online while local shops bore the brunt.

According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Jammu & Kashmir has the highest unemployment rate in India—reaching 45.3% in December 2023. With limited job opportunities, many young Kashmiris have turned to social media to start informal businesses.

While this offers a form of self-employment, it's also deeply hurting traditional shopkeepers like Hilal who cannot compete without government support. "Earlier, I employed two workers in my shop, but now I can't afford them," says Mohammad Yasin, a

footwear seller. "They lost their jobs because business has collapsed."

This domino-effect shows how online markets are not only affecting shopkeepers but increasing unemployment as well.

Some recent viral videos show empty markets and frustrated traders speaking about their losses. Yet, authorities have taken little action to regulate these online sellers or support those struggling in the physical market.

Many blame the changing consumer habits for the growing trouble in Kashmir's iconic trade centre. They argue that people now prefer lower prices from online sellers, the convenience of home delivery and a wider variety



THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO THINK THIS IS ALL OUR FAULT—THAT WE USED TO OVERCHARGE. But they don't see the full picture. Running a shop isn't just about sales, it's about surviving after paying everyone else first."

of options online.

Without intervention, it's said, physical shopkeepers are being pushed out of business. If this crisis is not addressed, the heart of Kashmir's economy—Lal Chowk—may not survive. "The government must ensure fair competition and regulate online sellers by registering and taxing social media businesses, and by creating policies that ensure fair pricing and accountability," argues another Lal Chowk trader.

Local traders, the shopkeeper said, should be supported through subsidies or relief packages and must be offered digital marketing and e-commerce training. "As a welfare initiative," he said, "government must promote hybrid models and help shopkeepers blend online and offline sales, besides given access to platforms and tools to expand reach."

Lal Chowk is not just a market—it's a symbol of Kashmir's resilience, economy, and culture. But without action, these shops may fade away, taking with them not just livelihoods, but a way of life.

As Hilal Ahmed rightly concluded, "We can't survive just by sitting in our shops hoping to make a few hundred rupees a day. We need help before it's too late."

- The author is a social worker, passionate about highlighting social and economic issues.



Mothers, Masters of Kitchen Chemistry

Every day, a series of scientific experiments take place in the kitchen, showcasing the fascinating applications of chemistry.

Mudasir Ali

A mother is usually engaged in kitchen chores, and cooking is one of the tasks that involves both physical and chemical processes. Every day, a series of scientific experiments take place in the kitchen, showcasing the fascinating applications of chemistry. However, our mothers may not always observe these processes while cooking, as they were never formally taught about them. Knowledge is a tool that masters art, and it can be acquired both formally and informally. Everything our mother prepares in the kitchen operates on principles of chemistry.

Achieving mastery over cooking requires a series of steps, and chemistry plays a fundamental role in this process. Although chemistry has a vast scope, many of us fail to recognize its true worth and applications.

The kitchen is the best laboratory where one can observe countless science experiments. Every morning and evening, our mothers engage in cooking, which is nothing but a practical demonstration of chemistry. Most of the time, they unknowingly perform basic chemistry experiments. Cooking is not just a daily chore; it is a process deeply connected to the person who plays a key role in the kitchen—our mother.

She eagerly waits in the kitchen to prepare multiple cuisines with the help of her loyal friend—chemistry. She learns chemistry by sharing her social learning experiences with it. As we know, cooking consists of both physical and chemical processes, which follow a series of steps: washing (a physical process involving cleaning), boiling (a chemical and physical process where heat causes water absorption and softens the rice) and decantation (the process of separating the boiled wa-

ter from rice after vigorous heating).

Similarly, cooking vegetables and meat involves several chemical changes that occur when food is heated and prepared for consumption.

Another common process in the kitchen is the dissolution of sugar in water to form a sugar solution. Our mothers perform this task effortlessly, combining two different substances—a solvent (water) and a solute (sugar or salt)—to create a solution. Although they may not be aware of the scientific terms, they instinctively understand the process.

Dilution is another simple physical process where the concentration of sugar or salt is reduced by adding more water. This process helps adjust the taste of food. In chemistry, concentration refers to the amount of solute in a solution. This is a fundamental concept that connects chemistry with kitchen chores, especially cooking.

We, as students, can help our mothers

learn basic chemistry terms in a simple and engaging way. Teaching them about solvents, solutes, dilution, concentration, and decantation can enhance their understanding of what they already do daily. There should be no hesitation in introducing them to scientific concepts. Cultivating a habit of learning in the kitchen can make cooking a more scientific and insightful process for our mothers. Basic chemistry knowledge can help them understand solutions, mixtures, sieving, and decantation—all of which involve physical and chemical changes. These concepts are fascinating and easy to grasp when connected to real-life kitchen activities.

Our mothers are truly kitchen-scientists, engaging in daily experiments without realizing it. Every day, they handle chemical reactions while cooking, just as a laboratory scientist performs experiments in a lab. While a lab scientist follows scientific procedures, a kitchen scientist

carries out experiments through simple steps, using heat, mixing, and separation techniques. The kitchen is like a mini-laboratory, where chemistry plays an essential role in food preparation. An educated son or daughter can greatly assist their mother by teaching her basic terms.

Let's expose our mothers to the world of chemistry. There is no hard-and-fast rule for learning scientific concepts but daily practice and observation can make a difference. Chemistry is a loyal friend to our mothers, guiding them in their cooking journeys. We should not hesitate to teach them new scientific terms. Providing them with scientific awareness in cooking will not only make their work more meaningful but will also enhance their learning experience.

- The writer is a columnist and can be reached at ahangermudasir911@gmail.com

Ants In Your House? Here’s How They Get Everywhere – Even High Up In Tall Buildings

The Conversation

Ants are among nature’s greatest success stories, with an estimated 22,000 species worldwide.

Tropical Australia in particular is a global hotspot for ant diversity. Some researchers believe it could hold some of the richest ant biodiversity on the planet, with an estimated 5,000 species in the tropics alone.

But if ants are so successful out in nature, why do they so often turn up in our homes and even upper-level apartments?

And what can we do to keep them out? There’s probably an ant near you right now. Ants dominate the planet in terms of sheer abundance.

At any given moment, there are an estimated 20 quadrillion ants alive — that’s 20 followed by 15 zeros.

In fact, for every human being, there are roughly 2.5 million ants.

So the short answer to “Why are there ants in my house?” is simply this: there are a lot of ants.

We live on a planet where ants outnumber us by an almost unimaginable margin. The fact that a few occasionally wander into our homes shouldn’t come as a surprise.

Ants work from home (yours, that is). Ants owe much of their success to their highly social nature.

Within the colony, some individuals (female queens and male drones) are responsible for reproduction, while others (workers) are busy caring for the young, cleaning or foraging for food. Workers ants are always female.

Ant colonies do not have leaders. They are an excellent example of collective behaviour and swarm intelligence, where individuals following relatively simple rules can collectively achieve far more than any individual could alone.

Just as the individual neurons in your brain can’t compose music, play football, or read articles, the brain as a whole can achieve all these feats and more.

Colonies of co-operating ants are capable of amazingly sophisticated behaviours such as:

- building efficient trail networks
- building living bridges with their bodies, and
- “farming” fungi and aphids (small, sap-sucking insects that feed on plants).

Ants even outperform humans on some co-operative cognition tasks.

The highly social nature of ants is a big part of their success — and a key reason why they are so good at finding their way into our homes.

Each colony contains thousands of intrepid workers, many of which are constantly searching for new food sources. If even a single ant discovers a valuable resource in your home, it can quickly share that information with its nest mates.



Different ant species use different methods of communication, but the ones that most often invade our homes tend to use “pheromone trails”.

When an ant finds a food source, she returns to her nest leaving little drops of pheromones as she goes; this trail guides other ants from their nest directly to the food source.

This highly efficient communication system means a single ant can rapidly recruit thousands of its nest mates to any food it finds.

Ants may also come inside in search of water, particularly when the weather is hot.

Some species prefer to build their nests in

humid environments, which might explain why they are often found in bathrooms.

I once discovered an entire colony of sugar ants nesting inside my aquarium filter! The combination of high humidity and an enclosed structure made it an ideal place to build a nest.

On the flip side, heavy rains can flood ant nests, prompting colonies to seek drier ground — sometimes leading them straight into our homes.

I live in an upper-floor apartment. How did ants get in?

Many ant species are exceptional climbers, thanks to tiny adhesive pads and fine hairs on their feet.

These specialised structures allow ants to stick to walls and find footholds even on surfaces that appear smooth to the human eye.

Remarkably, some canopy-dwelling ants have evolved a behaviour known as “controlled descent” which protects them when they fall. By adjusting the position of their abdomens, falling ants can steer their trajectory, directing themselves back toward the tree trunk and safety.

How do I keep ants out of my house? Well, good luck. No matter what you do, ants will probably enter your house at one time or another.

Finding a few ants in your home doesn’t mean your house is dirty. We simply live on a planet that is absolutely teeming with ants.

To minimise unwanted ant visits, start by eliminating any potential food sources that could feed a hungry ant.

Store all food in sealed airtight containers, clean behind the fridge and inside/under the toaster, avoid leaving pet food out longer than needed and make sure your bins are securely sealed.

Ants have tiny stomachs, so even small crumbs or the residue from spilled sugary drinks can be enough to entice them back.

If ants seem to be following each other in a line, try disrupting their chemical trail using vinegar or bleach. Be warned, however: ants are very good at repairing broken trail networks.

'Increased Screen Time Found To Increase Depression Risk In Teen Girls By Disrupting Sleep'

Press Trust Of India

Excessive screen time can affect one’s sleep, thereby increasing risk of depressive symptoms — especially among teenage girls, according to a new study.

Studies have consistently linked use of screens and devices with a poorer quality of sleep and a higher chance of mental health conditions, such as anxiety and depression.

However, researchers from Sweden’s Karolinska Institutet said that sleep problems and depression can often coincide, and the direction of these links has been unclear. For the study, findings of which are published in the journal ‘PLOS Global Public Health’, the team tracked 4,810 Swedish students aged 12-16, collecting data on sleep quality and quantity, depressive symptoms,



and screen usage over the course of a year.

An increased screen time led to deteriorated sleep within three months, impacting both the duration and quality of sleep, the study found.

Screen time was also found to postpone sleep times towards later hours — disrupting multiple

aspects of the human sleep-wake cycle at once.

Further, the researchers found that among boys, screen time directly increased their risk of depression after twelve months, while among girls the depressive effect was caused through sleep disturbances.

Sleep was found to explain

about 38 per cent to 57 per cent of the link between screen time and depression in girls.

Boys who spent more time on screens also experienced sleep disruptions, but these were not strongly associated to later depression, the researchers said.

The study showed that “screen-sleep displacements impact several aspects of sleep simultaneously. Displacements led to elevated depressive symptoms among girls but not boys,” the authors wrote.

“Boys may be more prone to externalising symptoms due to sleep loss,” they wrote.

In September 2024, the Swedish Public Health Agency announced guidelines that teenagers should not use more than two-to-three hours of daily leisure screen time, partly to promote better sleep.

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan	Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan
Sub .. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Death.....	Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice	Public Notice
The registrar DeathBDO Khore Sherabad has submitted a case file pertaining to Death of Haja Begum w/o Ghulam Mohi ud din Mir R/o Hanjiwera Bala Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of Death 26/12/2020 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 07 days after that no objection shall be entertained..	The registrar birth BDO Khore Sherabad has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Shabir Ahmad Lone s/o Ab Aziz Lone R/o Hanjiwera Tehsil Pattan distt baramulla with verified date of birth 08/01/1983 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
FKO	FKO
Naib Tehsildar Pattan	Naib Tehsildar Pattan

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT BANDIPORA					
Sub:- Withdrawal/cancellation of advertisement notices. NOTICE					
The advertisement notices issued for recruitment of AWWs for below mentioned AWC are hereby withdrawn and cancelled abinitio.					
S. No.	Name of the I	Name of the Ward	Name of AWC	Advertisement Notice No. & date	S. No. in the notice
01	Panchayat Gamroo	04	Dar Mohalla	03 of 2023 of [2023 Dat- ed:-03.10.2023 under endorsement No:-346-55 Dated:-03.10.2023	S.No. (04)
02	Nadihal-C	05	Dar Mohalla	03 of 2023 of 2023 Dat- ed:-03.10.2023 under endorsement No:-346-55 Dated:-03.10.2023	S.No.(07)
03	Onagam-B	03	Onagam-B	03 of 2023 of 2023 Dat- ed:-03.10.2023 under endorsement No:-346-55 Dated:-03.10.2023 & 04 of 2023 dated:-18.12.2023 issued under endorsement No.CDPO/ Poshan/Bpr/Estt/2023/431-41 dated:-18.12.2023.	S.No(2) AWW S.No./4 AWH S.No (2) AWW S.No.(5) AWH
No: CDPO/Poshan/Bpr/2025/15-18					
DIPK-144/25 DATED: 07-04-2025				Child Development Project officer Poshan Bandipora	

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRIC DIVISION- GANDERBAL.		
Email: Edgbl123@gmail.com Tel No. 0194-2416237 Fax No. 0194-2416237 e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE e-NIT No. EDG/V/013 of 2025-26, dt:05.04.2025		
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-Ganderbal invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Electrical Contractors/firms for as under:		
S.No	Particulars	Estimate d Cost (In Lacs)
1	Providing of back-up Power supply & Installation of LED Street Lights/ poles and Illumination arrangements along Brarimarg to Kalimata Track and Sangam Down/Top Track including Carriage from Divisional Store of portable Gen sets (7kVA/2.8KVA) and LED Lights, their operation and maintenance for Entire SANJY 2025..	23.80
The complete tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in . Interested bidder/ tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.		
i)	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document	05.04.2025; 16:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	25.04.2025; 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	05.04.2025; 16:00 Hrs to 25.04.2025; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	26.04.2025 at 13:00 Hrs
v)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
vi)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical BidOpening	Electronically on J&K Government e-Procurement System website http://jktenders.gov.in
vii)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand Only) (Non-refundable) [Treasury Receipt/Demand Draft]
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 47,600/= (Rupees Forty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Only)
DIPK-NB-99/25 dated: 07-04-2025		
Sd/- Executive Engineer Electric Division Ganderbal		

From Office of Advocate M.A Sofi	
In the case of 1) Ghulam Nabi kaloo 3) Abdul Majeed Kaloo All Sons of Abdul Rehman kaloo All Residents of Kaloo Mohalla Pattan 5) Rafiq Begum R/Kaloo Mohalla Pattan	2) Habibullah Kaloo 4) Abdul Hamid kaloo W/o Abdul Majeed Kaloo S/o Abdul Majeed Kaloo Khaloo Mohalla Pattan
Vs Public at large	
In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A	
The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.	
fko	Sd/advocate
Caveator...	

Subject: - Grant of Registration of the Paying Guest House / Home Stay under the name & style "AZUL DAL RETREAT" Situated at 11A Kralasangri Brane Nishat, Srinagar. Ph. No 9797938311
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, I Mr, Syed Suhail S/ODR Syed Abdul Rahim .R/O 11A Kralasangri Brane Nishat, Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the Directorate of Tourism for registration of my proposed paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name and style " AZUL DAL RETREAT" Situated at 11A Kralasangri Brane Nishat, Srinagar. Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011. Whereas, I will submit Building Permission (Residential) with site plan approved by Competent Authority, Revenue Documents, land ownership certificate from concerned Teh- sildar, Character Certificate of Competent Authority/Police, PHE/PDD Bill (Current), Two passport size photograph of the applicant, Photograph of the residential house and kitchen with family, Non conviction affidavit on prescribed format, ID proof, Pan Card. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011 before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institution/Bank/ organizational for objection, etc, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration TRC Sri- nagar. Kashmir (e-mail id: ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the alley. Objections beyond a period of 7 days shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules.
PD

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION KAKAPORA

Email ID:- fcdkakapora@gmail.com

Phone No:- 01933265052

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT NO 01 OF 2025-26

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K, e-Tenders are invited on percentage basis (%) from approved and Eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. for following Stage contract works for the year 2025-26.

S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (In Lakhs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Cost of Tender Doc. In Rs.	Class of Contract	Head of Account
1	Flood Precautionary Measures on River Jhelum during the year 2025-26 along with left protection bund from Goripora to Sempora and along right protection bund Kadlabal Bridge Pampore to Sempora including confluence points of Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora (Flood Control Sub. Division Pampore)	3.50	7000/-	200/-	DEE	2711-M&R
2	Flood Precautionary Measures on Romshi Nallah Khrew Nallah for the year 2025-26. Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora (Flood Control Sub. Division Pampore)	3.00	6000/-	200/-	DEE	2711-M&R
3	Flood Precautionary Measures on Rambhara Nallah, Vedji Nallah and Tongri Nallah & other allied Nallahs tributaries in district shopian including removal of encroachments for the year 2025-26 of Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora (Flood Control Sub. Division Shopian)	2.70	5400/-	200/-	DEE	2711-M&R
4	Restoration ,Maintenance &Removal of encroachment on Lar Nallah & Sasara Nallah including their tributaries and gates for the year 2025-26 Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora (Flood Control Sub. Division Pulwama).	2.50	5000/-	200/-	DEE	2711-M&R
5	Restoration, Maintenance & Removal of encroachment on Wankran Nallah including their tributaries and gates for the year 2025-26 Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora (Flood Control Sub. Division Pulwama	1.00	2000/-	200/-	DEE	2711-M&R
6	Restoration ,Maintenance &Removal of encroachment on River Jhelum under jurisdiction of Flood control Sub Division Awantipora for the year 2025-26. Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora (Flood Control Sub. Division Awantipora).	1.00	2000/-	200/-	DEE	2711-M&R
7	Restoration, Maintenance & Removal of encroachment on WatalAra- Nallah & its tributaries for the year 2025-26 Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora (Flood Control Sub. Division Awantipora).	0.50	1000/-	200/-	DEE	2711-M&R
8	Restoration, Maintenance & Removal of encroachment on Aripal Nallah & its tributaries for the year 2025-26 Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora (Flood Control Sub. Division Awantipora).	1.80	3600/-	200/-	DEE	2711-M&R

Position of Funds: - Budgetary provision of 2025-26 (2711- M&R).

Position of AAA: - S.E.Hydl. Circle Pulwama HQ: Shopian' order No. SE/HYd/spn/DB/ 49 of 03/2025-26 dated 08-03-2025

Technical Sanction:- Sanctioned

No of works Advertized:- (08) NO's

1.The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, Set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.

01	Date of issue/uploading of Tender Notice	05-04-2025 (18.00 PM)
02	Date of start of downloading.	05-04-2025 (18.00 PM)
03	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial.	05-04-2025 (18.00 PM)
04	Bid submission end date.	16-04-2025 (18.00 PM)
05	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	17-04-2025 (11.00 AM)

a. Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

All other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form).

SD/-
(Er.Sami ullah Naik)
Executive Engineer
Flood Control Division
Kakapora

No.-:FCDK/Camp/1387-1411
Dated:- 07-04-2025.

J&K Bank Signs MoU With JKRLM To Empower Rural Women Through ‘Lal Ded Stree Shakti Loan’



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- In a major step towards promoting financial inclusion and economic empowerment of rural women, J&K Bank today entered into a strategic partnership with the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) for effective implementation of the Bank's newly launched product, 'J&K Bank Lal Ded Stree Shakti Loan'. The microfinance product has been specially tailored for extending holistic support to women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across Jammu & Kashmir.

Mission Director (JKRLM) Shubra Sharma signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) along with the Bank's DGM Rakesh Magotra in the presence of State Project Manager (JKRLM) Zubair Hassan, General Manager (NAB-ARD) Vikas Mittal, AGM (NAB-ARD) Kanav Sharma and senior functionaries of the Bank and JKRLM.

Pertinently, the MoU establishes a framework for cooperation between the Bank and JKRLM in identifying, supporting and extending credit to individual women members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) who aspire to start or expand small income-generating activities like Agri based enterprises, handicrafts, boutiques etc.

Outlining the vision for the meaningful intervention through such an innovative

loan product, the Bank's General Manager (Credit) Ashutosh Sareen said, "This partnership with JKRLM is a reflection of our deep-rooted commitment to women empowerment and grassroots entrepreneurship through financial inclusion. The collaboration aligns with the vision of J&K Government to make banking more inclusive and impactful. With the 'Lal Ded Stree Shakti Loan', we aim to empower women-led SHGs by providing them financial wings for their entrepreneurial journeys."

"Through this initiative", he added, "Bank looks forward to enabling thousands of rural women to chart their path towards economic self-reliance, thereby contributing meaningfully to the socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir."

Under the MoU, JKRLM will identify eligible SHG members and provide training, hand-holding and support; while the Bank will evaluate and sanction loans under a simplified and time-bound process. The Bank will also rely on the group dynamics and community support mechanisms to ensure effective repayment and ongoing financial discipline.

Notably, the agreement—valid initially for three years—also provides for periodic joint reviews and progress monitoring to ensure impact measurement and sustained outcomes.

Gold Tumbles ₹1,550 To ₹91,450/10 G On Trade War Fears

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices tumbled by Rs 1,550 to Rs 91,450 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid heavy selling by jewellers and stockists as well as weak global trend, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

On Friday, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had finished at Rs 93,000 per 10 grams.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity plunged by Rs 1,550 to Rs 91,000 per 10 grams. It had closed at Rs 92,550 per 10 grams in the previous market close.

"Gold price slipped...on Monday as panic selling in the equity market and other asset classes continues to weigh down on safe-haven precious metals," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Continuing the losing streak for the fifth consecutive day, silver prices slumped by Rs 3,000 to Rs 92,500 per kg from Friday's closing level of Rs 95,500 per kg.

In the past five sessions, the metal had tanked by Rs 10,500 per kg.

On the global front, spot gold fell USD 10.16 or 0.33 per cent to USD 3,027.20 per ounce.



"Sentiment remained cautious with investors looking for further clarity from the US on its next course of action, especially amid escalating trade tensions," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency at LKP Securities, said.

The upcoming US Consumer Price Index (CPI) data is expected to play a crucial role in shaping rate interest cut expectations, which could influence gold's direction globally, Trivedi said.

For domestic markets, he stated that investors will also closely watch the Reserve Bank of India's policy meeting later this week, he added.

However, spot silver in the Asian market hours rose 1.65 per cent to USD 30.04 per ounce.

According to Kotak Securities, gold prices saw a sharp decline, in line with a broader market slump, as US President Donald Trump's tariffs and China's retaliatory measures dampened market sentiment.

Trump's Tariff 'Medicine' Injects Turmoil Into Global Markets

Reuters

TOKYO- US President Donald Trump warned foreign governments they would have to pay "a lot of money" to lift sweeping tariffs, characterising the duties as "medicine" and triggering further carnage across global financial markets on Monday.

Asian stocks posted steep losses in early trading and US stock market futures opened sharply lower as investors registered concerns that Trump's tariffs could lead to higher prices, weaker demand, lower confidence and potentially a global recession.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One on Sunday, Trump indicated he was not concerned about losses that have already wiped out trillions of dollars in value from share markets around the world.

"I don't want anything to go down. But sometimes you have to take medicine to fix something," he said as he returned from a weekend of golf in Florida.

Trump said he had spoken to leaders from Europe and Asia over the weekend, who hope to convince him to lower tariffs as high as 50% due to take effect this week.

"They are coming to the table. They want to talk but there's no talk unless they pay us a lot of money on a yearly basis," Trump said.

Trump's tariff announcement last week jolted economies around the world, triggering retaliatory levies from China and sparking



fears of a global trade war and recession.

Investors and political leaders have struggled to determine whether Trump's tariffs are here to stay, or part of a permanent new regime or a negotiating tactic to win concessions from other countries.

On Sunday morning talk shows, Trump's top economic advisers sought to portray the tariffs as a savvy repositioning of the U.S. in the global trade order.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said more than 50 nations had started negotiations with the U.S. since last Wednesday's announcement. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said on CBS News' 'Face the Nation' the tariffs would remain in place "for days and weeks."

Japan, one of Washington's closest allies in Asia, is among countries hoping to strike some deal but its leader Shigeru Ishiba said on Monday results "won't come overnight".

Investors, however, are

not hanging around.

As Ishiba spoke in parliament, Tokyo's Nikkei cratered to a 1-1/2-year low, led by stocks in the country's banks - some of the biggest lenders by assets globally - which have shed almost a quarter of their market value over the last three trading days.

The broad market sell-off seen on Monday comes as investors wagered that the mounting risk of recession could see US interest rates cut as early as May.

White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett sought to tamp down concerns that the tariffs were part of a strategy to pressure the U.S. Federal Reserve to lower interest rates, saying there would be no "political coercion" of the central bank.

JPMorgan economists now estimate the tariffs will result in full-year U.S. gross domestic product declining by 0.3%, down from an earlier estimate of 1.3% growth, and that the unemployment rate will climb to 5.3% from 4.2% now.

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO GO DOWN. BUT SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO TAKE MEDICINE TO FIX SOMETHING,"

Sensex, Nifty Record Steepest Single-Day Decline In 10 Months

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty logged their worst single-day decline in 10 months, as fears that Trump's policies on reciprocal tariffs may lead to recession and higher inflation in the US going ahead unnerved investors.

With Monday's sharp fall, the benchmark indices suffered one of their worst declines in five years.

In a horrible day for investors, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 2,226.79 points, or 2.95 per cent, to settle at 73,137.90. During the day, the benchmark index slumped 3,939.68 points, or 5.22 per cent, to 71,425.01.

The NSE Nifty tumbled 742.85 points, or 3.24 per cent, to settle at 22,161.60. Intraday, the benchmark dropped 1,160.8 points, or 5.06 per cent, to 21,743.65.

Prior to Monday's debacle, on June 4 last year, the Sensex nosedived 4,389.73



points, or 5.74 per cent, to close at 72,079.05. In the day trade, the barometer tanked 6,234.35 points, or 8.15 per cent, to 70,234.43.

The Nifty ended at 21,884.50, a sharp decline of 1,379.40 points, or 5.93 per cent on June 4, 2024. Intraday it tumbled 1,982.45 points, or 8.52 per cent, to 21,281.45.

Sensex and Nifty had previously tumbled over 13 per cent on March 23, 2020 when lockdown was imposed due to

the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Equity markets witnessed a sharp fall, tracking global sell-off sparked by the US reciprocal tariffs and China's announcement of retaliatory tariffs of 34 per cent on US goods. At the market opening, Nifty 50 tanked 5 per cent -- its worst opening since March 2020 (Covid-19 pandemic). This marked the sharpest single-day fall since June'24, when the indices had plunged more than 8 per cent.

Indian Banks Recovered Over Rs 14,000 Crore, Twice What He Owed, Claims Vijay Mallya

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Fugitive liquor baron Vijay Mallya has claimed that Indian banks have got access to his properties worth Rs 14,131.6 crore, more than twice the amount that he owed to public sector banks.

Mallya cited purported reference to the details of restoration done by the Enforcement Directorate against wilful defaulters in the Finance Ministry's annual report 2024-25 to say that banks have already recovered Rs 14,131.8 crore against Rs 6,203 crore awarded by the Debt Recovery Tribunal.

"Finally, against a DRT judgment debt of Rs 6,203 crore, admitted recovery of Rs 14,131.8 crore, which will be evidence in my UK bankruptcy annulment application. Wonder what banks will say in an English Court," Mallya said in a post on X.

Sharing details of fugitive economic offenders, including Mallya and 10 others, the report said a total of 44 extradition requests have been sent to various countries in respect of 36 individuals.

As per the annual report of the ministry, a complete amount of attached properties worth Rs 14,131.6 crore has been successfully restored to the Public Sector Banks in the case of Vijay Mallya.

The efforts of the ED have resulted in successful representation before Competent Court abroad in the extradition of



various fugitive economic offenders and other accused, the report said.

"In this regard, it is pertinent to mention that the UK Court has approved extradition of few high profile accused persons to India following effective representation of the Directorate in coordination with other LEAs (law enforcement agencies) and Indian mission abroad," it said.

The DRT bench of Bengaluru in 2017 had ordered the SBI-led consortium of banks to start the process of recovering Rs 6,203 crore, at an annual interest rate of 11.5 per cent, from embattled Mallya and his companies in the Kingfisher Airlines case.

Mallya, who fled to the UK in March 2016, is wanted in India over a default of Rs 9,000 crore that was loaned to erstwhile Kingfisher Airlines (KFA) by several banks.

India has been seeking Mallya's extradition from the UK.

He had in the past offered to repay 100 per cent of "public money" but accused the banks and government of refusing his offer.

Govt Stepping Up Efforts To Help Exporters; Group To Monitor Possible Import Surge



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The government has set up an inter-ministerial group to monitor a possible surge in imports from countries like China, Vietnam and Thailand, fearing a surge in inbound shipments following the imposition of high reciprocal tariffs by the US on these countries, sources said.

The product categories that may see an upsurge in diversion of imports from the US to India include consumer goods, electronics, chemicals and steel.

The clear signals for these rises in imports are likely to manifest from June to July, they said, adding the "import monitoring group" will include officials from the departments of commerce, revenue and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The concerned line ministries and industry associations have also been asked to provide inputs on the surge in imports and its impact on the domestic

industry.

"The idea is to observe these imports and see if any measures need to be taken. It will look at all the data points closely, including shipments coming from air and sea routes. While intense watch is required, volatility in imports is normal," the sources added.

As sweeping tariffs have been imposed on India's competitors including China, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia, their goods become expensive in the US market and this would lead to diversion of goods into countries like India after some months.

While the US has imposed an additional 26 per cent import duty on India, its competitor Vietnam is facing 46 per cent tariff, China 34 per cent, and Indonesia 32 per cent, and Thailand 36 per cent.

However, they added that this situation also provides an opportunity to the domestic industry to procure intermediate goods at affordable rates.

Rupee Drops 32 Paise To Settle At 85.76 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The rupee declined 32 paise to settle at 85.76 against the US dollar on Monday amid the widespread global turbulence over escalated tariff war and fear of a global economic slowdown.

A steep decline in crude prices and a weaker American currency failed to arrest the fall in domestic currency due to the withdrawal rush by foreign as well as domestic equity investors, forex traders said.

They said the currency exchange markets globally faced extreme volatility as investors tried to escape risks, following the US administration's sweeping reciprocal tariffs on multiple countries and China's retaliatory move on the American imports.

On the domestic macroeconomic front, market participants were watchful as the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) monetary policy committee began its three-day deliberations on key interest rates. The

decision of the six-member rate-setting panel will be announced on Wednesday.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 85.79 and moved in a wide range between the high of 85.57 and the low of 85.90 against the greenback during the day. The unit ended the session at 85.76 against the dollar, registering a loss of 32 paise from its previous closing level.

On Friday, the rupee settled 14 paise lower at 85.44 against the US dollar, a day after gaining 22 paise on Thursday, following the implementation of the US' reciprocal tariff on about 60 countries.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said the rupee declined on risk-off sentiments in global markets and a strong US dollar.

He said the rupee is expected to trade with a negative bias due to weak global markets and ongoing uncertainty around trade tariffs.

India, Portugal Agree To Deepen Trade & Investment Ties

Press Trust Of India

LISBON- India and Portugal have agreed to deepen bilateral ties, particularly in trade and investment, renewable energy and connectivity, as President Droupadi Murmu and her Portuguese counterpart Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa held talks here on Monday.

During the talks held at the Portuguese President's official residence, Palácio de Belém, the two sides also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the United Nations and other multilateral forums.

"We also discussed global and regional issues of common interest. We resolved to build further on our longstanding bilateral ties, especially in trade and investment, science and technology, information and digital technologies, renewable energy, connectivity and mobility, and to promote people-to-people contacts further," Murmu said.

Her visit comes in the backdrop of

significant global economic change, with trade tariffs recently imposed by the US reshaping international commerce and India's growing engagement with Europe.

Trade between India and Portugal is valued at USD 1.5 billion and has been growing steadily, with a 50 per cent increase over the last five years.

A statement issued after their meeting said the two leaders discussed "all important aspects of our bilateral relationship".

President Murmu, who is on a two-day State Visit to Portugal, held a tete-a-tete with her Portuguese counterpart followed by delegation-level talks during which all matters pertaining to "mutual interests" were discussed.

"We agreed to strengthen our co-ordination and cooperation in the United Nations and other multilateral fora," she said.

The President said she had "a constructive and productive meeting" with President Marcelo Rebelo.

‘Manufacturers In India Not Overly Concerned With US Tariffs’

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- The electronics and IT sector manufacturers are not "overly" concerned about the recent hikes in import duty by India's largest trading partner the US, a top government official said on Monday.

However, the impact will depend on how the tariff situation plays out ahead, Electronics and IT Secretary S Krishnan said.

"We've been in regular consultation with manufacturers in India. That is something that we are speaking to them on an ongoing basis. They are not overly concerned right now, but it also depends on how this whole situation plays out. It's a dynamic situation," Krishnan told reporters at a Cert-In event.

The US on April 3 imposed an additional 26 per cent tariff on Indian goods, effective April 9.

The sector players are of the view that the Indian industries are better placed as compared to their competitors in the electronics segment.

While the US has imposed an additional 26 per cent import duty on India, its competitor Vietnam is facing a 46 per cent tariff, China 34 per cent, Indonesia 32 per cent, Taiwan 32 per cent and Thailand 36 per cent.

Mobile phone is the biggest contributor to India's electronics manufacturing landscape, with Apple and Samsung being the top exporter in the country.

The majority of iPhones are made in China followed by India, while Samsung has its biggest factory in Vietnam after India. Commenting on the possible impact of these tariffs, telecom gear maker GX Group CEO Paritosh Prajapati said the 26 per cent tariff will impose a notable cost barrier on Indian hardware exports to the US.

"However, this remains comparatively lower than tariffs levied on other major Asian manufacturing hubs. As a result, India-based manufacturing still holds a competitive edge -- given that there is already a significant focus on scale, quality, and 'Make in India' incentives," Prajapati said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Speaker Refuses

was formally submitted by nine members from the NC, Congress, and Independents.

“This concerns our faith. There is no matter more urgent than this,” said Tanvir Sadiq during the uproar. NC’s Kaiser Jamshed Lone also demanded a half-hour discussion on the issue.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary supported the demand for open expression, stating, “If members want to speak, they should be allowed to.”

As the Speaker instructed legislators to return to their seats, tempers flared. NC and Congress members raised slogans like “BJP haay haay” and “Bill wapis karo.” BJP members responded with chants of “Bharat Mata Ki Jai,” “Vande Mataram,” and “Jahan hua balidan Mukherjee, woh Kashmir hamara hai.” Counter-slogans of “Allah hu Akbar” and “Nara-e-Takbeer” followed from the NC, Congress, and PDP benches.

In the heat of the moment, NC legislators Salman Sagar and Aijaz Jan tore question papers and flung them into the air.

Amid the chaos, Speaker Rather invoked Rule 58, sub-section 7, stating that issues currently under judicial consideration cannot be discussed in the Assembly. “The Bill is sub judice before the Supreme Court. I have received writ petitions related to it. We cannot debate it here,” he said, adding that the constitutional validity of the Bill lies within the court’s domain.

PDP’s Wahid Para argued that the matter’s religious sensitivity warranted Assembly attention. “It is a significant issue. Even the Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a resolution on it. We should do the same,” he urged.

In response, the Speaker clarified that Tamil Nadu’s resolution predated the case’s judicial proceedings. “It is now under court consideration. I cannot allow an adjournment,” he reiterated.

The situation escalated further when NC member Majid Larmi’s black achkan was torn during the melee. Party members raised the torn garment in protest while shouting, “Bill wapis lo, kanoon ko khatam karo,” to which BJP legislators countered with, “Dramabazi ko bandh karo.”

Gurezi maintained that the issue is religious at its core. “We are ready to sacrifice anything for our faith. If we are not allowed to speak, we will not let the House function,” he said.

Scuffles nearly broke out between BJP members Satesh Sharma, Vikram Randhawa, Arvind Gupta, and Congress MLA Irfan Hafeez Lone, but the Assembly’s security staff intervened to prevent a physical confrontation.

Sensing the deteriorating atmosphere, the Speaker finally adjourned the House for the day.

Outside the Assembly gates, NC, Congress, and CPI(M) members staged a protest.

“BJP indulged in manhandling and religious sloganeering. We reminded them this is not a wrestling arena but a constitutional space,” said NC’s Altaf Kaloo.

He questioned why a similar resolution could not be passed in a Muslim-majority region like Jammu and Kashmir, when Tamil Nadu — with just 6% Muslim population — had done so.

CPI(M)’s M Y Tarigami condemned attempts to communalise the issue. “We are here as legislators, not as Hindus or Muslims. We are protesting against the Waqf Bill. This Bill undermines secularism,” he said.

He also urged the people to unite against the BJP’s “divisive” politics.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 — recently passed by Parliament after intense debates — received presidential assent from Droupadi Murmu on Saturday.

NC Accused

Kiren Rijju, who presented the (Waqf) bill in Parliament, at Tulip Garden here.

“If NC’s song and dance performance in the assembly is not theatre, why is NC not bringing a no-confidence motion against its own speaker for disallowing their adjournment motion. And is the Waqf bill really sub-judice.

“The petition against the Waqf bill has not been admitted yet. So how can it be sub-judice?” Lone said in a post on X.

Earlier in the day, J&K Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather rejected an adjournment motion on the Waqf Amendment Act on the grounds that the matter was sub-judice.

The Peoples’ Conference chief said an adjournment motion is a censure motion against the government, and is brought to discuss the failures of government.

“You cannot bring adjournment motion on Waqf Bill. Adjournment means discussion and reply by the

Minister in-charge concerned. The only legislative device to condemn the move was resolution. It was the only tool available to us to express our collective disapproval against this law,” he added.

Lone also said three resolutions in the assembly seeking restoration of statehood lapsed on Monday.

“This is similar situation when resolution brought on (Parliament attack convict) Afzal Guru lapsed in 2013 when NC speaker adjourned House after Congress, then ally of NC-led government, created pandemonium out of blue.

“So, was this song dance about Waqf or about stalling and delaying statehood resolutions? By all accounts things don’t add up,” he said.

Referring to Assembly Speaker Rather, Lone said the speaker who disallowed the adjournment motion belongs to NC and added that the members who brought in the adjournment motion were also from NC.

The Peoples’ Conference chief said the single Muslim majority province in India “fails” to collectively condemn the Waqf Amendment Act, and also “lapses” three bills on restoration of statehood.

Peoples’ Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti also accused the National Conference government of yielding to the BJP’s “anti-Muslim” agenda, after an adjournment motion on the Waqf Amendment Act was rejected in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

Lashing out at Omar Abdullah, she said Muslims in the country expected that a Muslim chief minister in the only Muslim-majority state “would raise his voice or at least say that they will not implement this law in J&K”.

“It’s profoundly disappointing that the Speaker J&K Assembly has rejected the motion on the Waqf Bill,” she said in a post on X.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J&K said the NC could learn from the Tamil Nadu government which has “firmly opposed” the Waqf Bill.

“Despite securing a strong mandate, the government appears to have completely yielded to the BJP’s anti-Muslim agenda, cynically attempting to appease both sides,” Mehbooba Mufti said in her post.

“In J&K, the only Muslim-majority region, it’s alarming that a supposedly people-centric government lacks the courage even to debate this critical issue,” she added.

Speaking to reporters here, the PDP president said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has failed to come up to the expectations of the Muslims of the country.

“Muslims across the country today expected that a Muslim chief minister, having 50 seats, in the only Muslim majority state, would raise his voice or at least say that they will not implement this law in J&K. But, nothing like that happened. I feel ashamed today,” she said.

Mufti said the Muslims in the country are “helpless and in minority, but, J&K is a Muslim majority and the most secular state”.

“People had expectations from the leadership here, from the government that it would vocally oppose the bill, take the matter to the Supreme Court or bring a resolution in the assembly.

On J&K Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather rejecting the motion on the Waqf Amendment Bill on the grounds that the matter was sub-judice, the PDP chief retorted, “How is this sub-judice when the Supreme Court has not taken cognisance and notice of this case?”

“There should have been no problem in discussing the resolution brought by Para,” she said.

She said the NC did not stand up for the people of J&K and has “disrespected” them.

“Unsolicited advice should not be given, but today, I am giving advice to the people of NC and Omar Abdullah. The BJP might have many shortcomings, but they respect those who respect themselves and stand for their people. You (Abdullah) not only did not stand for your people but have disrespected them,” she added.

Terrorism Curbed

of the district since March 23, when police and other security forces intercepted a group of five terrorists who had infiltrated from across the International Border in the Hiranagar sector.

Four policemen -- head constable Jagbir Singh and selection grade constables Jaswant Singh, Balvinder Singh and Tariq Hussain -- and two terrorists were killed in a fierce gunfight in the district on March 27.

The wives of the slain policemen hailing from Kathua, Jammu and Reasi districts, along with relatives of six other police personnel were present at the event, the officials said.

Ruchi Abrol, wife of engineer Shashi Bhushan Abrol of the Talab

Tillo area of Jammu, also met Shah. Abrol was among the seven workers of a construction company killed in a terror attack at Gagangir in Ganderbal district in October last year.

Addressing the families, Shah said for more than three and a half decades, Jammu and Kashmir has suffered the devastating effects of terrorism.

“We are proud of the sacrifice of our brave policemen who laid down their lives to protect our country, our homes and our future. Today under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, significant progress has been achieved in tackling terrorism and ending separatist ideology.

“Our mission is still not accomplished because terrorism has been curbed, but it has not been completely eliminated,” he said.

The Home Minister urged the J&K Government to take positive steps for the “compassionate appointment” of 12-year-old Yuvraj Singh, son of martyr Jaswant Singh, upon attaining adulthood (18 years of age).

Shah also paid his respects and gratitude to the family of Abrol, Deputy Manager-cum-Designer, APCO Construction Company, Gagangir.

The minister said no amount of words can take away the pain being felt by the bereaved, but the government’s gesture symbolises “our deep gratitude and the government’s unwavering commitment to stand with the families of the brave martyrs, just as the loved ones of the martyrs have stood by the nation”.

He urged everyone to “follow the ideals of the martyrs and have an eternal love for duty, honour and ‘Maa Bharti’”.

“The sacrifice, courage and commitment of the martyrs will always remain etched in our hearts and will continue to inspire us to build the India of their dreams,” he said.

Shah also met the families of 10 police personnel and an engineer who lost their lives in various terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir over the past year and handed over job appointment letters to the next of kin, officials said.

Among the families who met the Union minister included the next of kin of four policemen who recently sacrificed their lives in a fierce gunfight with Pakistani terrorists in Kathua district.

A massive search operation has been underway in the forest area of the district since March 23 when police and other security forces intercepted a group of five terrorists who had infiltrated from across the International Border in the Hiranagar sector.

Four policemen, head constable Jagbir Singh and selection grade constables Jaswant Singh, Balvinder Singh and Tariq Hussain, and two terrorists were killed in a fierce gunfight in the district on March 27.

The wives of the slain policemen hailing from Kathua, Jammu and Reasi districts, along with relatives of six other police martyrs, were present at the event, the officials said.

Ruchi Abrol, wife of engineer Shashi Bushan Abrol of the Talab Tillo area of Jammu, also met Shah. Abrol was among seven workers of a construction company killed in a terror attack at Gagangir in Ganderbal district in October last year. (inputs from PTI)

Technology Will Be

with BSF personnel, lauded the contribution of the force and praised the troops for performing their duties in challenging circumstances. He asserted that the central government is fully committed to the welfare of security forces and their families.

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Director of the Intelligence Bureau and Director-General of the Border Security Force along with several other dignitaries were present.

“Two models of electronic surveillance systems have been developed for deployment on the border. After their installation across the entire border, soldiers will find it much easier to receive information and respond immediately to any actions by the enemy, using technology,” the home minister said.

Shah said that several tests have been conducted to detect infiltration and identify tunnels using technology.

In a few years, the Home Minister said, the security forces deployed on the entire India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders will be fully equipped with technical assistance.

“The sacrifice, bravery, valour and courage of our soldiers form the shield that protects India against enemies from across the border, and this is why the people of the country hold deep respect for the

BSF,” he said.

Shah said over 26 initiatives related to technology are currently being tested, including anti-drone technology, tunnel identification technology and electronic surveillance, as he expressed confidence that the results would be achieved by next March, which would make it easier for the soldiers to fulfil their duties.

During his visit, the Home Minister paid tribute to BSF Assistant Commandant Vinay Prasad, who made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty at the international border in Kathua district in 2019.

Earlier, in 2021, Shah had also visited the Makwal Border Post along the Jammu frontier.

He also inspected the forward border post and inaugurated newly built facilities at the border, including eight women’s barracks, high-mast lights, a G+1 tower and a composite BOP, all constructed at a cost of Rs 47.22 crore.

These initiatives have strengthened the security arrangements during the Border Security Force personnel’s duties and have also improved their living conditions.

During his interaction with the soldiers, Shah said that after visiting this place one realises the difficult conditions under which the BSF personnel ensure the security of the country’s borders.

He said that “despite extreme cold, heavy rainfall or temperatures reaching 45 degrees Celsius, and regardless of the geographical or climatic challenges, our soldiers remain vigilant and dedicated to securing the borders with preparedness and alertness”.

“The BSF has a glorious history when it comes to the country’s security,” he said, adding that the entire nation knows that the BSF is the first line of defence and it has always fulfilled this responsibility exceptionally well.

He noted that in every war with Pakistan, the contribution of our BSF soldiers has been as significant as that of the Indian Army.

“The Modi government is working to reduce the difficulties faced by soldiers in the discharge of their duties and will continue to do so,” he said.

Shah emphasised that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central government is fully committed to the welfare of security forces and their families.

The Centre has launched several welfare schemes for security forces, including Ayushman CAPE, ex-gratia payments, accidental death insurance coverage under the CAPF salary package scheme, the Unified Pension Scheme, the Prime Minister Scholarship Scheme (PMSS) and E-Housing, he said.

HM Arrives

sources, the Home Minister will stay in Srinagar until Tuesday afternoon. On Tuesday at 11 am, he will preside over a key meeting focused on developmental projects. Later, he will lead a comprehensive security review with senior officials from the J&K Police, Army, CAPFs, central intelligence agencies, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, and top officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

LPG Price Up

Rs 75.09 per kg, Indraprastha Gas Ltd - the city gas retailer - said in a post on X.

This follows the price of input natural gas being hiked from USD 6.50 per million British thermal units to USD 6.75 from April 1.

Alongside, the government hiked excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 2 per litre each to raise about Rs 32,000 crore additional tax revenue. However, there will be no change in retail prices as the increase will be adjusted against the price cut that was warranted because of falling international oil prices.

Puri said prices of crude oil - which is turned into petrol and diesel in refineries - have fallen to about USD 60 per barrel from USD 70-75, and a reduction in the retail selling price of petrol and diesel is possible if the international oil prices stay at those levels.

The special additional excise duty (SAED) on petrol has been increased from Rs 11 per litre to Rs 13, and that on diesel from Rs 8 to Rs 10 a litre. With this, the total incidence of taxes imposed by the central government on petrol has increased to Rs 21.9 a litre (Rs 1.40 a litre basis excise duty, Rs 13 SAED, Rs 2.50 agriculture cess and Rs 5 road and infrastructure cess) from Rs 19.9 a litre.

On diesel, the total incidence has gone up from Rs 15.80 per litre to Rs 17.80 (Rs 1.80 per litre basic excise duty, Rs 10 special additional excise duty, Rs 4 agriculture cess and Rs 2 road and infra cess).

Puri defended the move, saying oil companies had been incurring losses on LPG sales and the increase

in retail price and revenue from excise hike will be used to make up for that.

The average Saudi CP - the international benchmark used for LPG pricing since India is majorly import-dependent to meet its needs - has risen by 63 per cent to USD 629 per tonne in February 2025 from USD 385 in July 2023, he said.

This necessitates LPG to be priced at Rs 1,028.50 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi.

“But the public sector oil marketing companies have been so far modulating the prices,” he said, adding that the oil PSUs suffered under-recoveries or loss of Rs 41,338 crore in the fiscal year ended March 31 (2024-25) on account of selling LPG below cost.

In view of the mounting losses, the prices have been moderately increased.

“At current prices, the cost of cooking per day using LPG for Ujjawala households is around Rs 6.10 and that for general users is Rs 14.58, which is reasonable,” Puri noted.

The rates, he said, will be reviewed every month and any softening will be passed on to consumers.

The Rs 50 per cylinder hike will only cover the future cost and for the past cost, the oil ministry will seek budgetary support from the finance ministry.

The additional accruals from the excise duty hike can be used to compensate the oil companies for their losses, he said.

“It is our commitment to make good their losses.”

As much as 16,000 crore litres of petrol and diesel is consumed annually in the country and the Rs 2 a litre excise hike could yield up to Rs 32,000 crore to the government.

While the mop up from excise duty hike on petrol and diesel will be solely at the disposal of the central government, as SAED is out of the divisible pool with the states, the LPG price hike of Rs 50 per cylinder is likely to mop up Rs 5,000-7,000 crore.

“The #ExciseDuty increase of Rs 2 per litre on #petrol and #diesel by the Central Government will not be passed on to the consumers. On the one hand, this will insulate the customers from the price hike, while on the other hand, the collected amount may be utilised towards under-recovery of #LPG, providing relief to Oil Marketing Companies,” Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) - the nation’s largest oil firm - said in a post on X.

The increase in duties will “come into force on the 8th day of April 2025”, an official order on the excise duty hike said.

While any change in taxes is normally passed on to consumers, there will be no change in retail selling price of petrol and diesel as the excise hike will be set off against the reduction in retail prices that was warranted from fall in international oil prices.

International oil prices have slumped to their lowest since April 2021 as escalating trade tensions between the United States and China stoked fears of a recession that could cut oil demand.

Brent futures lost USD 2.43 or 3.7 per cent to USD 63.15 a barrel on Monday while US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were down USD 2.42, or 3.9 per cent, at USD 59.57.

India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs.

“PSU Oil Marketing Companies have informed that there will be no increase in retail prices of #Petrol and #Diesel, subsequent to the increase effected in Excise Duty Rates today,” the oil ministry said in a post on X.

The Modi government during its 11-year rule hiked excise duty whenever international oil prices fell.

The government had between November 2014 and January 2016, raised excise duty on petrol and diesel on nine occasions to take away gains arising from plummeting global oil prices.

In all, duty on petrol rate was hiked Rs 11.77 per litre and that on diesel by 13.47 a litre in those 15 months helped the government’s excise mop-up more than double to Rs 2,42,000 crore in 2016-17 from Rs 99,000 crore in 2014-15.

The government cut excise duty by Rs 2 in October 2017 and by Rs 1.50 a year later. But, it raised excise duty by Rs 2 per litre in July 2019. It again hiked excise duty in March 2020 by Rs 3 per litre each.

The excise duty was raised by Rs 13 and Rs 16 per litre on petrol and diesel between March 2020 and May 2020.

But in the following years, it rolled back the Rs 13 and Rs 16 per litre excise duty hike, as international oil prices soared. This helped bring down petrol prices from a record hike of Rs 105.41 a litre in Delhi and the highest-ever diesel rate of Rs 96.67.

Just before general elections were

announced last year, the government had cut petrol and diesel prices by Rs 2 a litre each.

Petrol currently costs Rs 94.77 a litre in Delhi and Rs 87.67 is the price for a litre of diesel.

LG Gives Assent

These bills pertain to amendments in the state’s GST framework and financial appropriations for the upcoming fiscal year, marking a key legislative milestone in the functioning of the newly restored Assembly.

Rijiju-Omar’s ‘Chance

saying opposition parties were “fishing in the desert.”

The opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Peoples Conference targeted the National Conference over the meeting, accusing it of surrendering to the BJP without even a pretence of opposition to the Waqf Amendment Bill.

“Waqf Law bonhomie! So soon. Not even a pretence while the ruling party members indulge in a drama in assembly over the issue. Mr Rijiju piloted the bill in Parliament as minority affairs minister,” PDP leader Naeem Akhtar said.

Another PDP leader, Waheed Para, said the Muslims of J&K have been “reduced to props” in the government’s “political theatre” — useful on stage, but far too inconvenient to represent when real decisions are to be made.

“Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu has rejected the Waqf Bill outrightly because they have the spine to show opposition. But the NC keeps surrendering for political gains at the cost of our people and institutions,” Para charged on X.

The Pulwama MLA said the NC had rolled out a red carpet at the Tulip Garden for the Union minister who introduced and defended the Waqf Amendment Bill in Parliament.

“Let’s be clear: No resolution on Waqf is silent approval. And the NC MLAs can protest for optics all they want. But we know that the CM and NC patron have rolled out a red carpet in the Tulip Garden for none other than Kiren Rijiju — the very minister who introduced and defended the bill in Parliament,” he said.

“Who would have thought that ‘defending minority rights’ looks like a giggling photo op in full bloom? Talk about abandoning the so-called sweeping mandate!” Para added.

Peoples Conference chief Sajad Lone said the chief minister should have stayed away from the Union minister as a mark of protest.

“The least Muslims of India deserved was that in J&K, the only Muslim majority province in India, the CM as a mark of protest stays away from Mr Kiren Rijiju, who presented the Waqf bill. Instead, he tags along Farooq sahib as well. What a shame,” Lone said in a post on X.

Union Minister Rijiju posted photographs of his meeting with the Abdullahs and said the captivating Tulip Garden is the grandest in Asia.

“A refreshing morning walk amid the vibrant hues of the Tulip Garden in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, with Hon’ble CM Shri @OmarAbdullah ji and also glad to meet Dr Farooq Abdullah sahab,” he said on X.

“With an astonishing number of varieties, this garden is a true masterpiece. Let’s cheer for the record visitors each year as they immerse themselves in the beauty of these vibrant blooms,” he added.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill was passed by Parliament last week. The Act aims to streamline the management of Waqf properties — assets permanently donated by Muslims for religious or charitable purposes — with provisions to safeguard heritage sites and promote social welfare. It also seeks to improve governance by enhancing transparency in property management, streamlining coordination between Waqf boards and local authorities, and protecting stakeholders’ rights.

Kashmir Records

April 09 & 10, generally cloudy weather with intermittent spells of light rain and snow (higher reaches) is expected at many places of Kashmir division & scattered places of Jammu division with possibility of thunderstorm and Gusty winds (30-40 KMPH) at few places.

On 11th April, he said that generally cloudy weather with light rain and snow (higher reaches) is expected at scattered places towards morning & improvement thereafter.

He added that from April 12 to April 17, the weather would remain generally dry while from April 18 to 20, fresh spells of rain and snow (higher reaches) is expected during the period.

In its advisory, the MeT has advised travellers, tourists and transporters to follow administration and traffic advisory.

Besides, the farmers have been advised to suspend farm operations during 9-10th April. (KNO)

IPL: Dhoni Affecting Balance As CSK Face Tricky PBKS Test

Press Trust of India

MULLANPUR: The distinct lack of firepower in Mahendra Singh Dhoni's death overs batting is a sensitive area that Chennai Super Kings need to address ahead of their away IPL clash against Punjab Kings here on Tuesday.

In one of their worst starts to an IPL season, CSK have now completed a hat-trick of defeats, all while chasing.

While Punjab Kings lost their previous game against Rajasthan Royals at home but on current form as well as on paper, Shreyas Iyer's side looks more well-rounded than CSK who are grappling with combination problems.

Dhoni's presence at the back-end, which once was considered a boon, is turning into bane for the 'Yellow Brigade'.

But such is the aura of the man playing his 18th IPL season (only one apart from Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma), that no one in the CSK ranks can probably



walk up to the man and show him the mirror.

While 'Brand Dhoni' still rules the hearts of CSK aficionados and cheer is deafening when he enters the turf, the game against Delhi Capitals

was certainly an awakening for his supporters that there is more to a team than their 'Beloved Thala' and probably it's time to move on.

The opposition teams now expect to bat first and some-

how score anything above 180 knowing that it would be an uphill task for CSK unless Shivam Dube fires.

Now Dube is a muscular hit and miss kind of a player and odds of his success with

his template will always be 50-50.

Dhoni's greatness in all these years has been his immaculate sense of timing whether it is bidding adieu to captaincy or retiring from international game. Will he decide himself once again or wait for the nudge?

With Dhoni being the same player and no one to "bell the cat", CSK are in unusual mess with a mis-firing top-order where the skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad has had to give up his opening slot.

"No, that's not my role to put an end to it. I have no idea. I'm just enjoying working with him. He's still going strong. I don't even ask these days. You guys are the ones that ask (about retirement)," head coach Stephen Fleming's helplessness was evident after the 25-run loss to DC where the former skipper didn't even try at times to go for big shots.

Match Starts at 7:30 pm.

Short TAKES

Virat Kohli Completes 13,000 Runs In T20 Cricket

Virat Kohli on Monday became the first Indian to complete 13,000 runs in T20 cricket during the Indian Premier League contest between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Mumbai Indians here.

Kohli reached the landmark with his second half-century this IPL season to become only the fifth batter overall to have scored 13,000 runs in the shortest format of the game.

The right-handed modern day great achieved the feat in a little over 400 matches in his career.

Kohli had retired from T20 Internationals in the middle of last year after helping India win their second T20 World Cup in the Americas, having played 125 matches to score 4,188 runs with one century and 38 fifties at an average of 48.69 and strike rate of 137.04.

He is the third-highest run scorer in T20Is after Rohit Sharma (4,231 runs) and Pakistan's Babar Azam (4,223). Rohit is the second in the list among highest run-scorers in overall T20 cricket with 11,851 runs in 451 matches.

Narine Meets Rathi As KKR, LSG Look To Sustain Momentum

Sunil Narine will come face-to-face with his 'clone' and biggest fan Digvesh Rathi when Kolkata Knight Riders host Lucknow Super Giants in a high-stakes IPL afternoon clash at the Eden Gardens here on Tuesday.

Both sides are locked at four points from as many games -- two wins apiece -- going into the contest.

For the home side, it has been a season of mixed returns so far. After early defeats to Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Mumbai Indians, KKR roared back to form in their last outing -- a commanding win over Sunrisers Hyderabad -- following a long-awaited middle-order resurgence. LSG come into this contest riding high after a 12-run win over Mumbai Indians in Lucknow.

Mitchell Marsh has been striking the ball cleanly at the top, while Aiden Markram, after a quiet start to the season, returned to form with an impactful fifty against MI. Match starts: 3.30 pm.

Real Kashmir Hosts AIFF U-15 Junior League In Srinagar, 2 Matches Played

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC is hosting the Under-15 Junior League 2024-25, with two matches played on Monday at the TRC Ground in Srinagar.

The league is organized by the All India Football Federation (AIFF), and several U-15 teams from across the country are participating.

In the first match, Inter Kashi faced Delhi FC, with Delhi FC winning convincingly 7-0. In another match, Sreenidi Deccan FC defeated Corbett FC.

The Real Kashmir management, with support from vari-



ous government departments, including the J&K Sports

Council, has made all necessary arrangements for the tournament.

Real Kashmir FC's U-15 team will play its first match against Sreenidi Deccan FC on April 9.

The Snow Leopards have been hosting I-League matches for several years. On Sunday, the club hosted its most recent I-League game against Churchill Brothers, which was attended by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Real Kashmir is the only team from the region playing in the I-League and has been actively promoting football at the grassroots level. The club is owned by Arshid Shawl.

I Have 10 Months To Decide: MS Dhoni On IPL Future



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The legendary MS Dhoni stayed immune to the growing clamour around his future in the IPL, saying the decision to bring curtains on his career depends on how his body reacts to the demands of top-flight cricket and he has "10 months" to take a call.

In this IPL, Dhoni has not been able to make the kind of impact that he usually does while batting in the lower middle-order.

His lack of timing and ineffectiveness, evidenced in the 76 runs that he made from four matches, have prompted several experts to urge the multiple World Cup-winning skipper to move on.

"I am still playing the IPL and it is one year at a time for me. I am 43 now and by the end of this IPL season, I will be 44," Dhoni said on entrepreneur Raj Shamani's podcast recently.

"So, I have 10 months to decide whether I want to play one more year and it's not me to decide as it is my body that decides whether I can play or not," he added.

However, the former Chennai Su-

per Kings skipper, who led CSK to five IPL titles, said he is quite content with his achievements on the field.

"It is not about whether I am happy or unhappy. Whatever has happened has happened. It cannot be changed. It's about accepting all of it. You know, whatever happens I will not be able to add one more run to my international runs, and no one will be able to reduce them," he said.

Dhoni has always been a man of the present. But, for once, he set aside that pragmatic side to reveal his wish of seeing legends like Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Virender Sehwag and Yuvraj Singh assemble in the same team once again.

"I will stick to Indian players. Viru pa opening the innings, Sachin, Dada... and now you imagine everyone at their prime. Then you will get this feeling that there can't be anyone better than them."

"It's tough to pick an all-time eleven. Now, when you see Yuvi hitting six sixes, you will feel that I don't want to watch any other batsman. It's all about enjoying what they have done for India. Some of those talents we have seen are mind blowing," he added.

District Tennisball Cricket Championship Ends In Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: District Tennisball Cricket Championship concluded on Monday at BHSS ground Bijbehara. In the championship, more than 40 teams participated in Senior, Junior and Sub Junior Boys and girls categories.

In Sub Junior boys, Wizkids Batengoo Anantnag emerged as winner and Wonder Boys Arwani emerged as runners up. In Junior boys, Badshah Zirpora emerged as Winner and Blood Donors Qazigund emerged as Runners up.

In Senior boys, Friends XI Napora emerged as winner and Adlash Magam emerged as runners up. In Senior girls, Anantnag Rebels emerged as win-



ner and GDC Women Anantnag emerged as runners up.

On the final presentation ceremony of the championship, senior lecturer BHSS Bijbehara Nadeem Asger was the chief guest along with Peer Muneeb Hussain, Mushtaq Ahmad Tak and Khurshid Ahmad War.

Besides them Sports Incharge of Stadiums Anantnag Bashir Ahmad, Senior Sports Analyst Lal Mohammad Ganie,

J&K's Senior Women Cricketer Rubiya Syed, Sports Presenter Dr. Riyaz Veeri and Journalists Raja Shafi and Ashraf Nengroo were present on the occasion.

Later, the chief guest and other guests distributed the trophies and medals among the winners and runners up teams. The championship was organised by District Tennisball Cricket Association Anantnag and was sponsored by J&K Sports Council.

YSS Anantnag Hosts Inter-School Sports Events & Run For Unity

Zone Bijbehara concluded the Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions for Under-14 and Under-17 girls in Chess, Table Tennis and Badminton on Monday at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Bijbehara. A total of 109 girl students participated in the competitions.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports, Zone Shangus, on Monday, celebrated the "Run for Unity" programme at MS Bongam to commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and mark 75 years of the adoption of the Constitution of India. The event witnessed participation of 40 students, who actively took part in the unity pledge.

Meanwhile, Zone Bidder successfully organised the Inter-School Chess Competition for U-14 and U-17 boys at HS Sagam. The event drew a remarkable participation of 33 boys in the U-14 category and 28 boys in the U-17 category, showcasing their enthusiasm and competitive spirit throughout the event.

Yellow Card For Players Who Stand On The Ball: Brazilian FA

Brazil's soccer federation (CBF) has directed referees to punish players who stand on the ball with yellow cards, after a similar move by Dutch forward Memphis Depay in the Paulista Championship final sparked a brawl.

Three days after Dutch striker Depay's act, two players were given yellow cards for standing on the ball during a match between Bolivia and Brazil in the South American U17 Championship.

The CBF clarified they had followed CONMEBOL's recommendation in implementing the regulation, after Depay criticised them following media reports about the new rule, saying he did not see an issue with what he did.

Depay stood on the ball in front of opposing defenders on March 27 as his club Corinthians closed in on the Paulista title during a goalless game against Palmeiras, after his team won the first leg 1-0.

Two defenders ran up to the former Manchester United and Barcelona player, who went down near the touchline where Corinthians substitutes were warming up, leading to a brawl between the two teams.

Refreshed & Ready, Arsenal Star Saka Gunning For Real Madrid

Agencies

Injury lay-offs are rarely welcomed by players but Arsenal winger Bukayo Saka believes his enforced break could benefit him and his club as they prepare to face holders Real Madrid in the quarter-finals of the Champions League on Tuesday.

Saka has emerged as arguably the most irreplaceable player in Mikel Arteta's squad and while his return from a serious hamstring injury has probably come too late to salvage Arsenal's Premier League title hopes, European glory is a realistic aim.

"I think mentally it was really good for me," the 23-year-old Saka, who missed more than three months after sustaining an injury before Christmas, said on Monday.

"Obviously it was really tough for me initially to find out the extent of my injury, that I was going to have surgery, it was really tough for me to hear the news at first but once it was done and successful I was just focused on coming back stronger and I had a lot of time."

Saka missed England's opening two World Cup qualifiers

last month but scored on his return for Arsenal in the Premier League win against Fulham last week.

If Arsenal are to stun Real Madrid, they will need Saka firing on all cylinders and he believes his relative freshness will give him an edge against the Spanish giants.

"The past five years I've been playing game after game so it was the first proper break I've had," he said. "It was really good for me. I got to do a lot of things that I don't normally do. It's really nice to be back and I feel fresh mentally."

"I'm just focused now on the positives and I couldn't ask to come back at a better time of the season than now."

Saka's importance to Arsenal is underlined by his statistics this season -- 10 goals and 14 assists in 26 matches in all competitions, including four goals in the Champions League.

Arsenal were stopped at the quarter-final stage last year by Bayern Munich when they were still neck and neck with Manchester City in the battle for the Premier League title.

This time, all their eggs are in their European basket and



Saka says Tuesday's first leg could be one of the best occasions ever witnessed at the Emirates Stadium.

"It's a very big night and the stakes are high against one of the best teams in the competition," he said.

"It's the first time the club has

been in back-to-back Champions League quarter-finals for a while, so tomorrow night we want to take the next step and try and get over the line."

Arsenal Will Go For It Against Real Madrid, Says Arteta

Arsenal have not made it past

the Champions League semi-finals since 2009, but manager Mikel Arteta wants his side to write their own history when they host Real Madrid for the first leg of their quarter-final at the Emirates on Tuesday.

Madrid, the record 15-times European champions, have won

six Champions League titles since 2009 while Arsenal continue their hunt for a first crown.

Arteta, whose team last year bowed out of the competition after a quarter-final loss to German side Bayern Munich, urged his side to back themselves.

"It's a club (Madrid) that has

set new standards in world football. This is where we want to be, where we want to belong," Arteta told reporters on Monday.

"It's part of their history. We have to write our own history. We have to focus on our thing. They can hurt us a lot but we can too."

"With a lot of hope that we can get a result, that we can do it. We need to be convinced that we can do it. We need to just enjoy it."

"It will be just the first leg, the intention is clear for tomorrow. We're going to go for it."

Winger Bukayo Saka did not start in Arsenal's 1-1 Premier League draw at 15th-placed Everton on Saturday, only coming on in the 46th minute.

The 23-year-old England international, who has scored 10 goals and provided 14 assists in 26 matches in all competitions for Arsenal this season, had only made his long-awaited return from a hamstring injury on Tuesday.

Arteta said Saka was in a much better place now.

"We have built his minutes and he's coped with that really well," the Spaniard added.

Delhi's rickshaw pullers, roadside vendors suffer as heat, pollution take a toll

Agencies

As we observe World Health Day under the theme "My health, My right", thousands of outdoor workers across the national capital — from auto-rickshaw drivers and rickshaw pullers to roadside vendors — are grappling with a growing health crisis due to extreme heat and air pollution.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for the city, forecasting a heatwave to persist until Wednesday. Delhi's maximum temperature settled at 38.2 degrees Celsius, 3.1 degrees above the seasonal average on Sunday. The minimum temperature was 18.5 degrees Celsius, and the Air Quality Index (AQI) remained in the 'poor' category at 209.

Highlighting the physical toll of the heatwave, auto-rickshaw driver Santosh Hazra said, "Skin gets burnt during a heatwave; too also affects health. There's ample availability of free water in Delhi but there's a shortage of shaded areas to rest." Another auto driver,

Prashant Kumar (24), complained of feeling drowsy during the hot season.

"I've been working for 8 years now, and summers have always been difficult, as it greatly affects health. We get tired quickly, which limits our working hours. Delhi pollution also impacts us; we can feel it even in summer." However, the scorching heat doesn't only bring physical hardships but also financial distress.

As we observe World Health Day under the theme "My health, My right", thousands of outdoor workers across the national capital — from auto-rickshaw drivers and rickshaw pullers to roadside vendors — are grappling with a growing health crisis due to extreme heat and air pollution.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for the city, forecasting a heatwave to persist until Wednesday. Delhi's maximum temperature settled at 38.2 degrees Celsius, 3.1 degrees above the seasonal average on Sunday. The minimum temperature was



18.5 degrees Celsius, and the Air Quality Index (AQI) remained in the 'poor' category at 209.

Highlighting the physical toll of the heatwave, auto-rickshaw driver Santosh Hazra said, "Skin gets burnt during a heatwave; too also affects health. There's ample availability of free water in Delhi but there's a shortage of shaded

areas to rest." Another auto driver, Prashant Kumar (24), complained of feeling drowsy during the hot season.

"I've been working for 8 years now, and summers have always been difficult, as it greatly affects health. We get tired quickly, which limits our working hours; Delhi pollution also impacts us;

we can feel it even in summer." However, the scorching heat doesn't only bring physical hardships but also financial distress.

Sarabjeet Singh, 45, who runs a fruit cart near Red Fort, complained of heatwave impacting his income. "Due to the scorching heat, we get tired very easily. It impacts our income. Also, there are no customers from 12 to 4 pm." On the other hand, 42-year-old Mohammad Haseem said the compounded effects of heat and humidity reduce work and increase costs. "There's low income because people don't step out. We also end up spending money on buying water and lemon juice." Highlighting the environmental factors contributing to rising temperatures, environmentalist Bhavreen Kandhari told PTL, "The expansion of concrete landscapes at the expense of tree cover has intensified the urban heat island effect, aggravating temperature to extremes." Kandhari suggested that a comprehensive, long-term strategy is needed that includes

the protection and expansion of tree cover to enhance biodiversity and sustainable urban planning to mitigate excessive concretisation.

Meanwhile, a report by the NGO Sustainable Futures Collaborative has warned that while cities are taking short-term emergency actions like distributing water and adjusting work hours, long-term heat resilience strategies remain weak or absent. These include occupational cooling, insurance for lost wages, heat mapping of urban hot spots and improving electricity reliability, their recently-released report suggested.

The IMD's yellow alert also signals moderate health concerns, particularly for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, infants, and those with chronic conditions.

Thirty-four-year-old Jaspreet Singh, who has been running a food cart in the Red Fort area for 11 years, said, "We are habituated to this heat now, but we witness people fainting now and then due to the weather." Narendra Shah,

a 70-year-old rickshaw puller, is among the vulnerable populations most affected during heatwaves.

"This time, the weather has become worse very early. I'm the sole breadwinner in the family, and earnings get affected during this time. However, I must mention that there is ample availability of free water across the city," Shah told PTL. Medical professionals have also warned that the impact of such heat exposure is often underestimated.

Dr Vivek Nangia, a senior pulmonologist, said, "First, the stage is heat cramps, second is heat exhaustion wherein people could develop dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and stage three is heat stroke, where people land up in hospitals and ICUs. It's like a medical emergency. The overall impact is dehydration, loss of salt and minerals from the body." He added that extreme heat can worsen pre-existing heart, lung or kidney diseases, and, in severe cases, it may lead to confusion, organ failure or even death.

IIM, IIT study slams global ranking race in B-schools as echo of capitalist imperialism

Agencies

Management academia's obsession with rankings contributes to imperialistic aspects of capitalism, particularly in the Global South, and reinforces condemnable scholarly practices, according to a research by faculty members from IIM Lucknow, IIM Calcutta, and IIT Delhi.

The research published in the journal "Management Learning" argues that the pursuit of globally ranked excellence is at the core of contemporary management education, often at the expense of generating knowledge that is significant and pertinent to the society.

"Indian management institutes attempt to create an 'Indian' identity internationally while simultaneously seeking global recognition through rankings. This obsession with rankings results in a series of academic challenges," Priyanshu Gupta, assistant professor of business sustainability, IIM Lucknow, said.

The researchers argued that



rankings create an artificial scarcity of excellence, focusing only on elite institutions, while ignoring the need for stronger academic infrastructure across thousands of higher education institutes in the country.

"The pressure to publish in high-impact journals has also led to a proliferation of predatory research practices, along with an increasing tendency for Indian scholars to mimic Western academic frameworks, instead of fo-

cusing on the pressing contextual issues.

"Academic research is built on voluntary labour, with scholars spending unpaid hours writing, reviewing and editing for corporate publishing houses that make massive profits while the faculty members increasingly struggle with job insecurity," Gupta said.

The research was conducted after the faculty noticed a troubling pattern in everyday conversations among academics, he said.

"We no longer talk about what we are working on but about the ranked journal where our work is getting published. And we noted that this often detracts the question of whether the work itself is important for our society, to a question of whether it can get published in top journals," Gupta said.

The research recommends a shift in management education, advocating for scholars to challenge rigid academic norms, reject ranking-driven pressures, and focus on producing contextually relevant and impactful research.

Write, Create, Innovate
Join

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Kashmir Observer is calling passionate storytellers, sharp writers, and creative multimedia enthusiasts to join our Editorial & Multimedia Internship Program!

What's in it for you?

» Hands-on newsroom experience » Learn from media professionals » Work on real stories & creative projects » Build a portfolio that stands out

If you've got the talent, send your resume to onlineko@outlook.com and take the leap into the world of media!



28th year OF PUBLICATION
KASHMIR
OBSERVER®

The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

Kashmir Observer, with 28 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV's across the world.

Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

VISIT

<https://www.youtube.com/c/kobserver>

OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR