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KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Sunday | 04-05-2025

2

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: Sage IT Scholarship India 2025

Description: Sage IT Scholarship India 2025 is offered by Sage IT (a privately held global organisation) to graduate and postgraduate students. Indian students between 17 to 30 years old can participate in an article-writing contest and win



a one-time prize of 50,000. Eligibility: This is open for citizens/legal residents of India between 17 to 30 years old. Participants must be a regular/part-time college student in a recognised institution in India. Prizes & Rewards: 50,000 (one-time).

- Last Date to Apply: 25-05-2025
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SGIT2
- QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/sage-it-scholarship-india-20251745222742.png>

Scholarship Name 2: IET India Scholarship Award 2025

Description: The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) invites undergraduate engineering students to showcase their creativity, innovation, and leadership. This scholarship recognizes and nurtures India's future engineering leaders, empowering them to excel. Eligibility: Open to full-time 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th-year UG engineering students from AICTE/UGC-approved

institutions across all branches. Applicants must have cleared all credit courses in a single attempt with a minimum of 60% marks in aggregate (or 6.0 CGPA on a 10-point scale). There is no age limit. Prizes & Rewards: Scholarships worth INR 10,00,000

- Last Date to Apply: 31-05-2025
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/IET5
- QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/20251744626967.png>

Scholarship Name 3: Oxford and Cambridge Society of India Scholarship (OCSI), UK 2025

Description: Oxford and Cambridge Society of India Scholarship (OCSI), UK 2025 is offered by the Oxford and Cambridge Society of India to Indian students pursuing undergraduate, graduate, or research programs at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge for the 2025-26 academic year. Eligibility: This is open to Indian students below 30 years of age as of 1st September 2025. Applicants must have secured admission in one of the specified full-time courses at the University of Cambridge or Oxford. They must have secured this admission in the university through normal procedures. Prizes & Rewards: Up to 4,00,000 (one-time).

- Last Date to Apply: 31-05-2025
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/OCSO1
- QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/oxford-and-cambridge-society-of-india-scholarship-ocsi-uk-20251745842104.png>

Study Finds Lab-Created Antibody Effective In Preventing Severe Respiratory Illness In Infants

Press Trust Of India

A monoclonal antibody -- a protein created in a lab which mimics the work of a natural antibody -- could be highly effective in preventing severe RSV, a respiratory infection and major cause of serious illness in infants, according to a research. Findings of the study, published in The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health journal, show that injecting infants with the antibody 'nirsevimab' reduces risk of RSV-related hospitalisations by 83 per cent and intensive care admissions by 81 per cent. Infant immunisation programmes could, therefore, help address the health and economic burden due to RSV in the high-risk period following birth, a team of researchers from Canada and the US said. RSV, or respiratory syncytial virus, is one of the leading causes of serious respiratory ill-health in the early years of one's life, and is usually prevalent during early winter months. Globally, the condition is estimated to cause 36 lakh hospitalisations a year among children aged under five, according to the World Health Organization. Nirsevimab was approved in 2023 by regulatory agencies, including the US Food and Drug Administration and European Medicines Agency, after the lab-created antibody was found to be safe and effective in clinical trials. Through national programmes, infants



in high-income countries, such as in the US and European Union, have been injected with nirsevimab. The researchers said that efficacy of nirsevimab seen in the controlled settings of a clinical trial may not fully reflect how the lab-created antibody performs in real-world settings. Real-world effectiveness studies are essential to evaluate the effectiveness of nirsevimab across diverse infant populations and clinical settings, the team added. For this study, the researchers analysed 27 previously published studies, which were conducted during the RSV seasons of 2023-2024 across five countries -- France, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and the US. The team mainly focussed on infants aged under 12 months. "Nirsevimab is highly effective in preventing RSV-related outcomes in infants, with a pooled real-world effectiveness

of 83 per cent against hospitalisation, 81 per cent against ICU admission, and 75 per cent against LRTI (lower respiratory tract infections)," the authors wrote. The lab-created antibody was also found to be more effective among infants aged over three months, compared to those aged under three months. The researchers noted that nirsevimab is not a vaccine, despite being delivered as an injection. A monoclonal antibody is created in a lab to mimic how an antibody works, whereas a vaccine empowers the body's immune system to produce an immune response, which involves creating antibodies, they said. The findings indicate that the benefits of nirsevimab seen in clinical trials could be translated into real-world settings, potentially reducing the burden of RSV disease among infants and use of health-care resources, the authors said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- **23.05.2025** up to **15:00 Hrs**. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in.

Tender Type		Tendering Section		Bidding System	
Open		Works		Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Starting Date		Bid Closing Date/Time	
30.04.2025		09.05.2025		23.05.2025/ 15:00 Hrs	
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1.	10-2025-26-ADEN-II-ASR	Construction of 5 unit Type-II quarters in lieu of old dilapidated and abandoned quarter of Gang no 25/26 on JUC-ASR and 5 nos. quarters at Boparai on ASR-KEMK section under ADEN-II/ASR.			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	2,15,64,571.64/-		2,57,800.00/-	60 Days	06 Months
	Similar nature of work :- "Construction of building/ quarters."				
Note 1:- Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender No:- 10-2025-26-ADEN-II-ASR					
Date: 01.05.2025					
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Dignified Farewell

Transforming Kashmir's Final Rides

In Kashmir, it is a painful irony that the departed, who leave behind a lifetime of earnings, are often transported to their final resting place in load carriers – vehicles they would never have used for commuting while alive. This stark contrast raises a profound question: shouldn't every soul be granted a dignified farewell, just as they lived with dignity? It is time to ensure that the last journey of our loved ones reflects the respect and honor they deserve. Since launching a dedicated funeral service in Islamabad in 2014, Mother Helpage now invites you to donate generously to provide these services for Srinagar, Budgam, and Baramulla.



Donate Now!



- Account Name: **Mother Helpage**
- Ac Number : **0472010100001092**
- IFSC : **JAKA05AAADIQ**
- Branch: **Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd, Sadiqabad, Anantnag.**



For queries call
Farooq A Ashai (Coordinator)
Ph: +91 788-9402837
Email : farooq.ashai@motherhelpage.org

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Fertilizer Licence . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she ma file them in the office Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rifat Farooq
W/O Tariq Ahmad Teali
R/O Shirbugh sultanpora pattan

fko

Office of the Advocate Aaman Haris

Lic. No: JK421/19

In the case of
Abdul Kareem Bhat S/o Asadullah Bhat R/o Shouch Palpora
Pattan (Caveator)

V/s
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 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

NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that in my wards Aadhaar Card with adhaar No. 747677814205 has been wrongly mentioned my wards name as Adeen Shabir S/O Shabir Ahmad Dar R/O Samboora and While as his correct name is Mohammad Salim Dar S/O Shabir Ahmad Dar R/O Samboora and DOB 25-11-2017 instead of 27-03- 2019 Now they needed to be corrected So,in this regard have anybody any objection he/she may file his /her objection at concerned office within a period of one week from the date of publication of this notice after due date no objection will/shall be accepted or entertained.

Name:Shabir Ahmad Dar.
F/O:Mohammad Salim Dar.
R/O:Samboora Pampore
District:Pulwama.

fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub.. issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice..

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Zainab Hameed D/o Abdul Hameed Dar R/o Daraie deer jagir sopore with verified date of birth 09/02/2012 occurred at SDH pattan 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

SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

The DOB of my son, Azhar Hilal, has been wrongly written in his school records as 03-02-2014 while his correct DOB is 08-06-2011 Which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Headmaster Govt Girls Middle School Mazhama within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Hilal Ahmad Khan
F/o Azhar Hilal
R/o Buchpora Kawoosa Khalisa Tehsil Narbal

bmgr

PUBLIC NOTICE

I AB Rehman Digoo father of FAZIL REHMAN R/o WATHOO Shopian want to correct my ward namely FAZIL REHMAN name in Aadhar record bearing Aadhar No 271714760937 which has wrongly entered as FAZIL Ahmad instead of FAZIL REHMAN. Now correction required if any body has any objection may contact Concerned Aadhar Centre Jammu / Srinagar or Concern Authorities within 7 days.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Pesticide Licence . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she ma file them in the office Plant Protectio Officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rifat Farooq
W/O Tariq Ahmad Teali
R/O Shirbugh sultanpora pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The DOB of my daughter in her school records has been wrongly written as 25-07-2013 while her correct DOB as per adhaar is 07-03-2013 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.

Hilal Ahmad Dar
F/o Ubaira Hilal
R/o Hanjibugh District Budgam

bmgr

SKIMS Director Visits Skill Centre, Stresses Life-Saving Skills For Staff

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, Director SKIMS and Ex-Officio Secretary to Government, visited the Skill Development Centre (SDC) SKIMS today to inspect the ongoing Basic Life Support (BLS) training being imparted to healthcare professionals. The training sessions envisages critical components such as high-quality chest compressions, the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), and the immediate management of choking incidents.

The Director commended the efforts of the faculty members for delivering structured and impactful BLS and other comprehensive Cardiac Life Support courses. He noted that the simulation-based, hands-on approach adopted by the centre boosts the confidence and capability of participants to respond effectively in high-pressure emergency situations.

Recognizing the importance of widespread emergency preparedness, Prof. Ganie directed the Faculty In-Charge of the SDC to ensure that all employees of SKIMS undergo such life-saving training. "Equipping every employee with basic life support skills will not only enhance in-hospital response but also enable staff to act as first responders in emergency settings," he emphasized.

ers in emergency settings," he emphasized.

He further stated that such training programmes are vital in equipping participants with the practical skills and knowledge necessary to respond to cardiac arrests and other life-threatening situations, both within hospital premises and in public settings. "With this initiative, SKIMS aims to build a culture of readiness and responsiveness that extends beyond the walls of the hospital," he added.

Since its inception, the Skill Development Centre has trained over 650 post-graduate students, residents, paramedics, and nursing students in life-saving protocols. The Director underscored that BLS training is essential for all healthcare workers and increasingly relevant for the general public as well, reaffirming SKIMS' commitment to public health and safety.

Prof. Ganie also directed concerned departments to upgrade the infrastructure of the Skill Development Centre. Plans are underway to establish a state-of-the-art Simulation Laboratory and introduce advanced training modules including Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS), Neonatal Advanced Life Support (NALS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) in the near future, he added.

GHSS Zadibal Excels, Secures Top 9 Positions

Agencies

Srinagar: The Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Zadibal witnessed jubilant scenes soon after the announcement of Board of School Education results in Jammu and Kashmir, as the school once again glowed with splendid success in the twin Board Examinations.

With meticulous efforts, grit and the collaborative team spirit, the school bagged a total of nine top positions across all the streams in class 12th examination, including 3rd, 4th, 7th, 9th and 10th positions in the stream of Science, 6th position in Commerce Stream and 8th, 9th and 10th positions in the stream of Humanities.

Officials said that with hard work and dedication, 233 students of GHSS Zadibal secured distinctions and 70 students excelled in the Higher Secondary Part-II examination with first divisions. Besides, 14 students cleared the examination with second divisions.

As the school secured

an overall pass percentage of more than 90 percent in Higher Secondary Part-II and more than 81 percent in the Class 10th examinations, the management and the faculty have described these ranks, positions and numbers as not merely figures but the symbol of many hours of learning, determination and the students' unrelenting quest for the knowledge.

The Principal of the institution, Mohammad Shafi Lone, and the staff members have sent out huge praiseworthy messages to their students, highlighting the fact that the achievement is made possible only with a harmonious combination of diligent teachers, industrious students and the conducive management team.

Their message to the students was unequivocal, "Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you. Keep striving for excellence and reaching new heights in future"—(KNO)



Body Of Missing Youth Recovered From Dal Lake. KO PHOTO

Dal Lake Disaster: Rescue Effort Recovers Body of Young Vendor

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A 24-year-old boy lost his life on Friday when the boat he was traveling in capsized during sudden gusty winds near Duck Park.

Taufeeq Ahmad Chopan, a resident of Chopan Mohalla in Rainawari, had been missing since the mishap occurred. His body was recovered on Saturday morning following a search operation carried out by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and local volunteers.

According to locals, the boat overturned after strong winds swept across the lake in the afternoon, tossing two men into the water. While 55-year-old Abdul Majeed Khosa was rescued quickly, Taufeeq was nowhere to be found despite hours of searching. The operation had to be called off Friday evening due to poor visibility and resumed at daybreak.

Back in Rainawari, sorrow gripped the Chopan household as news of Taufeeq's death spread.



While 55-year-old Abdul Majeed Khosa was rescued quickly, Taufeeq was nowhere to be found despite hours of searching. The operation had to be called off Friday evening due to poor visibility and resumed at daybreak.

His mother broke down, mourning the loss of the only breadwinner of the family.

"He was the pillar of this home," she sobbed. "He sold ice cream on Dal Lake and sometimes drove an auto-rickshaw—whatever it took to feed us. My elder son is sick and needs regular hospital visits. Now we have no one."

Witnesses said the weather had turned abruptly, giving the boatmen no chance to react. "One moment it was calm, and the next, the winds roared across the water," said a local shopkeeper near the lake.

An SDRF official involved in the rescue said that despite using all available resources, they were unable to locate Taufeeq on Friday. "We had to halt the operation at night. As soon as daylight broke, the search resumed, and his body was found," he said.

Taufeeq was laid to rest later that day, as neighbors and community members gathered in large numbers to console the grieving family and offer prayers.

آہ! ریاض احمد شاہ انتقال کر گئے

اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی منگوار کو انجام دی جائے گی



یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ اور افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ **ریاض احمد شاہ** (سابقہ ڈپٹی کنسلٹنٹ انکسپیکٹور یونیورسٹی) ولد مرحوم غلام قادر شاہ ساکنہ تارہ بل نو اکمل سرینگر 3 مئی ۲۰۲۵ بروز منگلوار کو مختصر علالت کے بعد اس دار فانی سے رحلت کر گئے۔

مرحوم کا نماز جنازہ عید گاہ میں ادا کیا گیا جہاں کثیر تعداد میں لوگوں نے شرکت کی۔ مرحوم کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی 6 مئی ۲۰۲۵ بروز منگلوار صبح ساڑھے نو بجے (9:30) آن کے آبائی مقبرہ واقع تارہ بل نزد یک احمد صاحب تارہ بل میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ بعد میں مرحوم کے دولت خاں (شاہ منزل) میں ایک تعزیتی مجلس منعقد ہوگی۔

سوگواران: ڈاکٹر یونس ریاض شاہ (فرزند) فیصل بشیر بھٹری،
توفیق احمد نقاش (فرزند انیسٹی) شہباز شہباز غلامی الدین شاہ (برادر ان)

نوٹ: مستورات سے گزارش کی جاتی ہے کہ وہ اپنے ساتھ کسی بھی قسم کا میوہ وغیرہ ساتھ نہ لائیں

Cell No.9906720323



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 distress myths and stigma associated with OCD

KASHMER | 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.

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


9070806160



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- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200


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HIGHWAY STATUS

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





HIJRI CALENDAR

06 Zil-Qadah
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 06
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	5: 18
Magrib	7:19
ISHA	8: 50

This Day In History

- 1256- Augustinian monastic order constituted at the Leceto Monastery when Pope Alexander IV issues papal bull Licet ecclesiae catholicae
- 1303- Flemish forces conquer Middelburg in Zeeland
- 1415- Religious reformers John Wycliffe and Jan Hus are condemned as heretics at the Council of Constance
- 1471-Wars of the Roses: Battle of Tewkesbury- final battle between Lancaster and York sees the Prince of Wales, Edward of Westminster killed and King Edward IV restored to his crown thus extinguishing the Lancastrian of Plantagenet line
- 1493- Spanish Pope Alexander VI divides America between Spain & Portugal
- 1540-Venice & Turkey sign Treaty of Constantinople
- 1776- Rhode Island declares independence from Britain
- 1799- Fourth Anglo-Mysore War: The Battle of Seringapatam: The siege of Seringapatam ends when the city is assaulted and the Tipu Sultan killed by the besieging British army, under the command of General George Harris.
- 1814- Bourbon reign restored in France
- 1818- Netherlands & Britain sign treaty against illegal slave handling
- 1869- The Naval Battle of Hakodate takes place in Japan.
- 1878- Phonograph shown for 1st time at Grand Opera House
- 1888-Italy & Spain sign military covenant
- 1912- Italian mariners occupy Turkish Island of Rhodes
- 1915- Italy drops Triple Alliance with Austria-Hungary & Germany
- 1916- At request of US, Germany curtails its submarine warfare
- 1924- German Republic election fascists & communists win
- 1925- League of Nations conference on arms control & poison gas usage
- 1931- Mustafa Kemal Pasja becomes Turkish president
- 1942- Battle of Coral Sea begins in the Pacific (1st sea battle fought solely in air) between Japanese, US and Australian navies and air forces
- 1945- German troops in Netherlands, Denmark & Norway surrender
- 1960-1st great Delta dam closes, North-South Beveland
- 1961- 1st on-the-road Spacemobile lecture given.
- 1962- US performs atmospheric nuclear test at Christmas Island
- 1964- 70 GATT-countries confer in Geneva
- 1967-Lunar Orbiter 4 launched by US;begins orbiting Moon May7
- 1978- Russian leader Brezhnev visits West-Germany
- 1979- Margaret Thatcher becomes the first woman to be elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- 1979- NASA launches Fltsatcom-2
- 1983- China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1989- US launches Magellan to Venus
- 1989-US space shuttle STS-30 launched
- 2013- 77 people are killed by the Syrian Army in Baniyas
- 2013 Juventus F.C. win their 29th Serie A football title
- 2014- Juan Carlos Varela is elected President of Panama
- 2018- California overtakes Great Britain to become the worlds fifth largest economy
- 2019- Mexican boxer Canelo Alvarez unifies a trio of middleweight world titles in a close, unanimous decision over Daniel Jacobs at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, NV
- 2020- Countries in Europe begin cautious reopening after COVID-19 lockdown, Italy restarts construction and takeaways, Germany reopens schools
- 2020- India begins lifting some restrictions in regions with fewer COVID-19 cases
- 2020- World leaders pledge \$8 billion to research treatments and a vaccine for COVID-19, with the US and Russia not taking part
- 2021- Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador makes an historic apology to the Mayan people for abuses against them in the five centuries since the Spanish conquest [1]

The God Question

On a quiet afternoon in Kashmir, a teacher contemplates a student’s question about God. Not in argument, but in the silent eloquence of the mountains.

Dr. Javid Ahmad Mallah

The air on campus carried the scent of pine and earth, sharpened by late autumn. From where I stood, the buildings of the Islamic University of Science and Technology rose with clean lines, deliberate and modest. Behind them, the mountains stood ancient and aloof: tall, weathered, and disinterested in human architecture. I had thirty minutes before my next lecture, enough time to let a question settle in my chest: How do we find God?

A student had asked it that morning. “How do we know God exists?” she said, quietly but without hesitation. Not a rhetorical challenge. More like a hand reaching. I offered her what I had: names—Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Avicenna—and their arguments, arranged like chess moves. But she wasn’t asking for logic. She was asking for something deeper. Maybe I was, too.

I looked again at the buildings around me. Everything in them—bricks, beams, proportions—was the result of thought. They reflected a design, a mind, a will. But then I looked at the mountains and saw something else: not design in the human sense, but intention. Their shapes weren’t calculated, but they weren’t accidental either. They belonged to something larger, older. And standing before them, I couldn’t help but feel they were telling me something.

As a philosophy teacher, I’m supposed to guide students through questions like this. Questions that feel too big for answers. God is the biggest of them all. Some students come armed with belief. Others carry doubt like a second skin. But the ones who ask sincerely—who want to know not just what to think, but how to feel the truth—those are the ones who linger in my mind.

Kashmir complicates everything. It’s hard to live here and not feel the world is speaking. The Qur’an calls mountains “pegs,” stabilizing the earth, anchoring chaos. I think of that often when I look at them. They hold still while everything else trembles. Faith here is not abstract. It’s ambient. It drifts in the call to prayer, in the way



elders speak of the land, in the silence between sentences. Still, questioning is alive. It breathes alongside devotion.

The teleological argument, design implies a designer, is too neat on paper. But out here, it hums beneath the surface. The heart, the fingerprint, the balance of the tides—these things feel choreographed. Not perfect, but tuned. I’m not convinced by the idea that such precision is coincidence. Not when I see how the moon holds the ocean in its rhythm, how trees know when to bloom, how children arrive in the world already reaching.

Skeptics ask: where is God? Why can’t we see Him? I understand that. But we don’t see love either. We don’t see time. Yet both shape our lives. We sense them in their effects. We build entire systems around them. Perhaps the divine is similar: not visible, but deeply felt. Not a figure on a throne, but something written into the grammar of being.

The student who asked the question might not have realized she was echoing centuries of inquiry. Or maybe she did. But her voice pulled something loose in me. I’ve taught for years, argued through every position, challenged every assumption. But there are moments when the world says more than words ever can. That afternoon, the mountains didn’t offer me proof. They offered presence.

I watched the light shift on their ridges. Shadows moved like time made

visible. I thought of my students—brilliant, restless, burdened with questions that won’t be settled by footnotes or citations. They want to touch the idea of God, not just diagram it. I understand that hunger. It’s the same hunger that brought me to philosophy in the first place.

The call to prayer echoed across campus, soft but insistent. It reminded me that there are rituals for returning—when language fails, when reason falters. In Kashmir, the earth itself feels like part of that ritual. The valleys curve like verses. The silence holds space for belief.

When I turned back toward the lecture hall, the question hadn’t been answered. But maybe it didn’t need to be. Maybe it was enough to ask it while surrounded by things that endure—mountains, curiosity, and the stubborn beauty of a world that refuses to be random.

I walked back to class. Another hour of trying to say what can’t quite be said. But I carried something with me: not certainty, but the comfort of mystery. And in that mystery, perhaps, a kind of knowing.

Dr. Javid Ahmad Mallah is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the Islamic University of Science and Technology in Kashmir. His work explores the intersection of metaphysics, faith, and place.

Abandoned Abode

In Kashmir’s highlands, a crumbling home reveals a quiet erosion of sustainability, and a chance to bring it back.

Ir. S. Wani and Dr. K. M. N. Saquib Wani

It was a quiet summer afternoon in 2024 when we reached Vevan, a remote mountain village tucked deep into Kashmir’s Bandipora district. We had come as engineers, hoping to learn from the land. But what stopped us in our tracks wasn’t a new building or some eye-catching innovation. It was an old, broken mud house, abandoned and half-swallowed by wild grass.

The roof had caved in. Wooden beams, once solid and proud, were now warped and splintered. The mud walls were scarred with water damage. No one lived there anymore, but it was clear that someone once had.

We stood there for a long time, quietly taking it in.

That house, built entirely from local materials—earth, straw, timber—was more than a structure. It was a memory of how people once built homes in tune with the land and climate. Warm in winter, cool in summer. Designed for survival. It blended into the landscape so seamlessly, it might not even show up on a satellite map.

Now, it sat in ruins, surrounded by cement homes with metal-sheet roofs. These new constructions didn’t feel like they belonged.

As we walked through Vevan, we saw more



of these modern houses. They were built fast, designed to last, but often poorly insulated and miserably cold in winter. The kind of cold that seeps into your bones because the house traps none of the heat. Firewood becomes a lifeline. Warmth escapes before it can settle.

This wasn’t just about one village. Across Kashmir’s high-altitude regions, traditional homes are disappearing. And with them, an entire way of living that worked—quietly, efficiently—for generations.

We’ve often asked ourselves: how did we get here?

Some of it comes down to perception. Concrete is seen as modern, a sign of progress. Mud? That’s old. Poor. Fragile. But we know that’s not the whole story. Mud homes do need care. The one in Vevan likely failed because the roof wasn’t waterproofed properly. Once the rain got in, the wooden beams started to rot. Add the weight of snow, and collapse becomes inevitable.

But what if we didn’t abandon these homes—what if we improved them?

In our research, we’ve seen promising alternatives. Bio-bricks, for instance—made with plant-based enzymes or microbes—are low-carbon, self-healing and long-lasting. Rammed earth and cob construction techniques use local materials and offer natural insulation. Green roofs, recycled timber, living walls—these aren’t buzzwords. They’re workable ideas that could transform rural housing.

Sustainability isn’t just about buildings. It’s how people live inside them. Imagine homes with rainwater harvesting, off-grid solar power, composting systems, and reused construction debris that becomes the base for roads or retaining walls. It’s not only doable, it’s desperately needed in places like Vevan, where services are few and terrain makes transport difficult.

This also speaks to something bigger. India’s sustainability goals and the push for Atmanirbhar Bharat—a self-reliant nation—can’t succeed without including places like Vevan. That’s where institutions like SKUAST-Kashmir and SKS Group B.V. come in. One leads critical research in agriculture and environmental science. The other builds green infrastructure around the world. Together, we’re trying to connect the dots between traditional wisdom and modern sustainability.

But none of this matters if people don’t see the value in what’s being lost. In Vevan, the

broken house is a cautionary tale, but also a kind of blueprint.

Before we left, we documented the site. Took photos, sketched out the structure, made notes about the materials. Not for nostalgia. For understanding. That house, even in its brokenness, had lasted decades with minimal input.

Can we say the same for many of the new homes being built?

The answer to Kashmir’s housing crisis won’t come from a single technology or policy. It will come from remembering what worked, and adapting it to what we need now. That’s how sustainability grows: slowly, thoughtfully, and from the ground up.

The mud house in Vevan couldn’t survive. But its story might help the next one stand a little longer.

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Kashmir’s Domestic Divide

As gender laws empower women, some men in Kashmir find themselves caught in legal battles they claim are rooted in false allegations. Their stories reveal a side of domestic conflict rarely told.

M.M. Shuja

On a grey autumn morning in South Kashmir, Riyaz (name changed), a government schoolteacher, was taken into a local police station after his wife accused him of domestic violence. The case fell under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, which criminalizes cruelty by a husband or his relatives. His alleged crime: questioning his wife’s frequent overnight stays at her parental home without informing him.

“The officer didn’t even listen to my side,” Riyaz said. “They just filed the complaint. I spent two nights in custody.”

That was two years ago. The case is still dragging in court, and Riyaz has been suspended from his job. He hasn’t seen his two sons since.

In Kashmir, as across India, Section 498A was introduced to protect women from dowry-related abuse. But some legal voices and men’s rights advocates argue the law is now being misused in cases where disputes are less about cruelty and more about personal vendettas.

“Justice must be gender-neutral,” said Advocate Shafqat Nazir, who practices at the J&K High Court. “We see rising instances where the law is used as a weapon, not a shield. And it’s the silence of the men that makes these stories invisible.”

According to Nazir, it often starts with marital disagreements, arguments over lifestyle choices, financial obligations, or in-laws. But once a complaint is filed, it can spiral. “A man is guilty until proven innocent. That’s the reality on the ground,” he said.

In Srinagar’s Civil Court, Advocate Shabir Ahmad Bhat has witnessed numerous such cases over two decades. “There are men who’ve lost everything—their homes, jobs, children. The emotional toll is never calculated,” he said.

He recalled a case involving a local businessman whose wife accused him of mental and physical torture. During proceedings, it was revealed she had

“In Kashmir, as across India, Section 498A was introduced to protect women from dowry-related abuse. But some legal voices and men’s rights advocates argue the law is now being misused in cases where disputes are less about cruelty and more about personal vendettas.”

filed similar complaints against two previous husbands. “Still, the man was jailed for three months before the truth surfaced,” Bhat said.

In Kashmir’s joint family system, tensions between wives and in-laws often lead to deeper fractures. “Sometimes, it’s not the husband but his parents who are targeted,” Bhat added. “There’s pressure to leave the joint family, to transfer property, or to send money. And if not, then the threat of police action looms.”

Yet, not all complaints are false. Women’s rights activists stress that Section 498A remains a vital safeguard in a deeply patriarchal society where many women still face real abuse.

“Misuse must not overshadow genuine suffering,” said Mehnaz, a counselor with a local women’s NGO. “But we do need better mechanisms to verify complaints before taking harsh action.”

The Supreme Court of India has acknowledged these concerns. In a landmark observation, the court warned against using Section 498A as a tool for revenge. “Vague allegations,” it noted, “can lead to abuse of the legal process.”

In response, some police units in Kashmir have adopted mediation before registering FIRs, especially in urban centers. “We try to understand both sides now,” said a senior officer in Srinagar’s Women’s Police Station. “But the pressure is real—from families, politicians, even activists.”

Still, stories like Riyaz’s continue to unfold.

One evening in Pulwama, Farooq (name changed), a 28-year-old lab technician, was called to the station after his wife filed a harassment complaint. They had been married just eight months. “I had no clue what went wrong,” he said. “She left one day and then the legal notices started arriving.”

His parents, both in their 60s, were named co-accused. “We had to mortgage land to get bail,” Farooq said. “We live in fear now—of one wrong word, one misunderstood gesture.”

Legal scholars, like Supreme Court advocate Ashok Bhan, say reform is needed. “We must distinguish between genuine cases and those fueled by animosity. Every false complaint weakens the cause of justice for real victims.”

For now, the law remains unchanged.

In a valley where tradition and modernity often clash, marriage is no longer just a private bond. It is a potential legal battlefield. And while women continue to fight for rightful space in public life, a quiet group of men, mostly voiceless, are navigating their own fight for fairness.

“I am not against laws for women,” Riyaz said, holding a worn photograph of his sons. “But don’t make me the villain just because I am a man.”

The author is a senior journalist and rights activist based in Kashmir.

Humanity over Hostility

After the Pahalgam attack, Kashmir was tested again. This time, it answered with silence, strength, and synergy.

Arsalan Ahad Reshi

In a narrow lane of Srinagar, a boy barely ten years old is asked about the Pahalgam attack by a man holding a camera. The boy hesitates. He says something, unsure of its meaning. The man nods and walks away, satisfied. Later, the clip goes viral.

This is the new front line: not battlefields or borders, but busy markets and quiet corners, where content creators roam with questions laced in accusation. They are not here to understand. They are here to extract outrage.

A woman once asked to leave Kashmir for stoking tensions returns after the attack. She films again—an out-of-context monologue, painting suspicion with a calm voice. There’s no effort to listen. The lens is not curious. It’s conclusive.

In Lal Chowk, three men post a video mocking Islam. They call themselves ex-believers, speak of truth, and laugh. It is not truth they seek, but reaction. They get none. No protests, no violence. Instead, Kashmir responds online—measured, dignified. The law follows. They are arrested and later released. Once safe, they post another video, claiming harassment by the police. The camera edits accountability into victimhood.

Elsewhere, a man confronts two women out on a morning walk, asking them to chant a slogan. They refuse, citing their faith. He calls them traitors. His video too finds an audience. That is all it takes now: a moment of resistance framed as rebellion.

In this world, people are not interviewed. They are baited. Those chosen are often the young, the unguarded, the soft-spoken. The questions are never innocent. They are traps.

While this unfolds online, Kashmir’s real story plays quietly in the background. In Pahalgam, a Kashmiri man dies saving tourists. He was a father, the only earner in his family. His name

doesn’t trend. His story doesn’t fit the script. Nor does the rescue of 11 others, including a BJP leader, by local Kashmiris during the same attack. Their bravery goes unreported. The narrative has no room for compassion.

The widow of a slain army officer asks for peace. “No hate against Muslims or Kashmiris,” she says. For this, she is vilified. Online, someone says she should’ve died instead of her husband. Another calls her more dangerous than terrorists. In this twisted space, love is betrayal, and hate is patriotism.

Even television joins in. On a prime-time debate, someone suggests a “Palestine-like solution” for Kashmir. A genocidal fantasy is aired as casual commentary. As if lives here are lines on a map, waiting to be erased.

But the people don’t bite. The provocation passes. Shops open. Fields are tilled. Children walk to school. Hate came looking for a spark. It found rain.

In a land that has seen more than its share of pain, silence has become strength. There are no crowds shouting in the streets. There is restraint, not because there is no anger, but because there is understanding. Reaction is what the camera craves. And Kashmir refuses to perform.

Tourism resumes slowly. Shikaras return to the lake. The scent of bread drifts again through the morning air. Online, some still try to set the valley ablaze with words. But their reach is thinning.

The game of views and virality cannot rewrite what is real. That in the face of provocation, Kashmir chose dignity. That amid tragedy, its people saved lives. That truth, though quieter, endures. Cameras will move on. The headlines will shift. But the people here will remain—weathered, wiser, and still willing to hope.

And in that quiet refusal to hate, they have already won.

Arsalan Ahad Reshi is a BBA student and political activist from Kashmir, writing on media, identity, and resistance.

Beneath the Green

As the Global North champions green innovation, regions like Kashmir grapple with extractive models, hidden environmental costs, and unanswered questions of equity and access.

Falak Aslam

In a sleepy hamlet of Gurez, where apple trees bloom against receding snowlines, Abdul Rehman tends to his orchard with quiet worry.

"Snow used to fall in November," he says, pulling his shawl tighter. "Now it waits till January, and the flowers bloom too early." The shift has disrupted pollination, lowered yields, and deepened uncertainty.

Rehman is no climate policy expert. Yet, his life, like millions across the Global South, is shaped by a crisis born far from his orchard and intensified by solutions that increasingly exclude him.

As the world accelerates toward "green" innovation, the reality beneath the slogans is more complicated. Behind every electric car and solar panel lie hidden environmental costs, extractive supply chains, and deepening inequalities.

In places like Kashmir, where clean energy transitions are hailed as the future, questions persist: who gets to be green, and who pays the price?

The historical imbalance is stark. The United Kingdom, often celebrated for its 2008 Climate Change Act and global climate diplomacy, remains the fifth-largest historical emitter of carbon dioxide, according to the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit. Its industrial ascent relied on coal-fired progress, resource extraction from colonies, and vast deforestation campaigns.

Today, even as it cuts emissions domestically, it exports much of its environmental footprint through supply chains anchored in the Global South.

Green technology has become the new frontier of global power. Developed nations dominate patents, set prices, and impose tariffs.

In India, solar energy, a sector with vast potential, is slowed by a 40% customs duty on imported solar modules and 25% on solar cells. The goal is to encourage domestic manufacturing, but the result is delayed adoption and inflated costs for startups and communi-

ties eager to transition.

Shazia Qadir, an engineering graduate in Pulwama, South Kashmir, runs a modest rooftop solar installation business. "We want to build locally," she says, "but the components are still imported, and prices have risen. People are interested, but affordability is a hurdle."

In Kupwara district, an off-grid village near the Line of Control recently installed a micro-hydel power unit funded by a grassroots NGO. For the first time, students are studying at night under consistent lighting. Yet such projects remain rare and underfunded. Kashmir, despite its topographical potential for hydro and solar power, is still heavily dependent on electricity imported from the northern grid. In winters, daily power cuts last up to 10 hours in many rural areas.

Even more troubling is the human cost behind green commodities. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, an estimated 40,000 children work in hazardous cobalt mines, according to UNICEF. Cobalt is essential for electric vehicle batteries. A 2024 investigative report, Beneath the Green, revealed that 56 percent of women living near industrial mining zones have experienced severe reproductive health issues — conditions linked to prolonged exposure to toxic metals.

In theory, green technologies are designed to reduce harm. In practice, they often relocate it.

An electric vehicle, for instance, emits up to 60 percent more carbon during production than a conventional petrol car, largely due to the energy-intensive mining and refining processes of lithium, cobalt, and nickel. For every tonne of lithium extracted, between five and fifteen tonnes of carbon are released. Water use is equally intensive. In South America's lithium triangle, evaporation ponds used in lithium mining have contributed to groundwater depletion, threatening indigenous farming communities.

India, meanwhile, has set an ambitious target: 80 million elec-



tric vehicles by 2030. Yet much of the electricity to charge them still comes from coal-fired power plants. While EVs may reduce tailpipe emissions, they don't eliminate upstream pollution. And they risk sidelining simpler, lower-impact alternatives like public transport, cycling infrastructure, or biogas — solutions that are accessible, affordable, and time-tested.

In Ladakh, high in the Trans-Himalayas, 32-year-old schoolteacher Sonam Angmo commutes daily by bicycle. "It's not about being modern or backward," she says. "It's about what works without hurting the mountains."

Kashmir, despite its potential, remains largely excluded from national-level green pilot projects. There is no major EV policy tailored to the region's terrain and climatic needs. Srinagar, a city of over 1.2 million people, continues to battle choking winter smog — made worse by diesel-run gensets and unregulated brick kilns that emit particulate matter in large quantities. In a 2023 study by the

Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Board, PM2.5 levels in Srinagar exceeded safe limits on over 60 percent of winter days.

The problem extends beyond urban centers. In Pahalgam, a famous tourist spot in South Kashmir, the introduction of more diesel-run transport vans to meet visitor demand has spiked local air pollution. "Tourism boosts our economy," says Fayaz Ahmad, a hotelier in the area, "but no one is talking about sustainable practices. There's no electric public transport option. No incentives. Not even a waste segregation system."

Meanwhile, in the wetlands of Hokersar, one of Kashmir's designated Ramsar sites, degradation has accelerated. Once a thriving bird sanctuary and natural flood buffer for Srinagar, the wetland now struggles under encroachments, waste dumping, and shrinking water levels. Green transitions that ignore local ecosystems are not only incomplete — they can be actively destructive. Some countries have taken dif-

ferent paths. Norway, often cited as a model, generates 96 percent of its electricity from hydropower — much of it designed to minimize methane emissions by locating reservoirs in high-altitude, low-vegetation zones.

These projects are decades in the making, built with long-term environmental safeguards. India's approach, in contrast, increasingly leans on expanded mining initiatives under the newly launched Critical Mineral Mission. The 2024–25 Union Budget allocates significant resources toward domestic extraction of rare earths. The aim is strategic autonomy; the risk is replicating old, extractive patterns in a new key.

International agreements like the Sustainable Development Goals call for "the promotion, transfer, and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies" to developing countries. But mechanisms for meaningful technology sharing remain vague, underfunded, or politically blocked. A recent UNCTAD report noted that

fewer than 20 percent of green tech patents are shared across borders — and most of those flow between wealthy countries.

"If the Global North is serious about equity," says a climate policy researcher at Jawaharlal Nehru University, "then it must dismantle the barriers to access. Until then, the Global South is being asked to green its future with tools it cannot afford."

In Budgam, central Kashmir, a pilot project converting cow dung into biogas has enabled 14 families to cook without firewood or LPG. "It's clean, it's ours, and it works," says Ruqaya Bano, a mother of three. Such small-scale, community-based projects often achieve more impact with fewer resources — yet receive less attention and funding than flashy tech solutions.

In the village of Larnoo in Anantnag district, local youth have started a volunteer-led afforestation drive after flash floods swept through their fields in 2022. "The floods destroyed our crops. We realized we had to protect our own," said Bilal Dar, a recent graduate. Over 2,000 saplings have been planted so far, mostly local species like walnut, willow, and deodar.

India's transition must be more than a change of engines. It must include systemic changes in urban design, rural livelihoods, and lifestyle aspirations. Instead of mimicking the consumer-heavy models of the West, policymakers could draw from grassroots practices — from community forests in the Northeast to off-grid solar co-ops in Rajasthan — and certainly from Kashmir's own underreported innovations.

Going green is not just about technology. It's about justice. And justice requires listening — to orchardists in Gurez, to miners in Katanga, to engineers in Pulwama, to wetland watchers in Hokersar, to mothers in Budgam, to sapling planters in Larnoo.

The green revolution will only be clean when it is shared.

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Learning Illusion

In Kashmir's exam-obsessed system, children master memorization, but miss out on meaning.

Ikkiz Ikbal

The exam results in Kashmir are out. Social media is glowing with pictures of mark sheets and shiny percentages. Parents update their bios with their children's scores. Schools send out press releases. Coaching centers take credit.

But beneath the celebration is a quiet concern: Is this what education is supposed to be?

In Kashmir, and much of South Asia, exams have become the centerpiece of learning. The system rewards memory over meaning, speed over understanding. Students are trained to produce perfect answers, not to ask good questions. That isn't just outdated, it's unfair.

Each year, I meet students who top their classes but cannot explain a concept without referring to their notes. I've seen average scorers thrive in life because someone finally told them it's okay to think differently. Yet the pressure to perform on a single test day continues to shape how children study, how teachers teach, and how families dream.

This obsession with marks isn't unique to Kashmir, but it's amplified here by economic uncertainty and limited opportunities. In a place where many see education as the only route to mobility, exams become a kind of lottery ticket. Success is measured by ranks, not by reflection. Students grow up thinking their worth lies in a report card. That belief comes at a cost. Children stop learning for learning's sake. They grow afraid of being wrong. Creativity is smothered under sample papers and last year's question banks.

It doesn't have to be this way. Across the world, education is changing. The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), a global benchmark, shows that countries focused on conceptual learning consistently outperform rote-based systems. Finland delays formal exams but produces engaged, capable students. In Singapore and Japan, critical thinking is built into the curriculum. Even India's National Education Policy 2020 recognizes the need for a shift toward skill-based, multidisciplinary learning.

But implementation is slow, especially in conflict-affected regions like Kashmir. Schools lack trained teachers, parents lack awareness, and children bear the brunt. They're judged on answers they can memorize, not ideas they can build.

As a school principal, I see how hard it is to change this mindset. Parents want results. Teachers are overburdened. Students feel trapped between expectation and exhaustion. But I also see sparks. Children who write beautifully when no one is watching, who ask why the sky is blue when they're not afraid to look foolish. That's the kind of curiosity we need to protect.

Education is not about producing doctors, engineers, or civil servants. It's about preparing young people to live with purpose, kindness, and clarity. It's about giving them tools to think, question, and adapt in a world that won't stop changing.

We need to reframe success. A student who paints with emotion or repairs a radio with care deserves as much praise as one who gets a 95 in science. Ranks and medals are temporary. Curiosity lasts.

Parents must stop pushing children into careers they neither enjoy nor understand. Schools must celebrate effort, not just outcome. And teachers must be trained to nurture minds, not just finish syllabi.

We have a long way to go. But it starts with asking a simple question: not what the child scored, but what the child learned.

If we keep chasing marks, we'll keep raising students who can write answers, but not their own stories.

Ikkiz Ikbal is a school principal holding a master's degree in Biotechnology.

Kashmir's Lost Diary

Beyond broken infrastructure and absenteeism, it's the loss of this small but powerful habit that may be hurting Kashmiri students the most.

Muntashir Kifayat Hussain

I stood in a dusty classroom, flipping through a teacher's diary that felt more like a checklist than a tool. As an academic monitor in remote Jammu and Kashmir, I'd seen this before. Diaries once meant to reflect a teacher's heart and hustle now reduced to bureaucratic formality. It hit me hard: we were letting something vital slip away.

When I began teaching, I carried a worn notebook. It wasn't just lesson plans. It was a record of my students' lives. Their strengths, struggles, and even their parents' numbers lived in those pages. One evening, a parent stopped me on the road: "How's my daughter doing?" I opened my diary, found her name, and read notes on her shy but steady progress. He smiled, kissed my forehead. In that moment, I felt trusted, respected, fulfilled.

That diary wasn't paper. It was connection. But now, I see diaries forgotten, blank, neglected. Teachers are exhausted. Some teach ten classes a day. "When do I have time to write?" one asked me. And I get it. Society blames us for everything: students dropping out, indiscipline, even drug abuse. Expectations crush us. Yet we're still asked to perform miracles.

But I believe in the teacher's diary. I think of Kahlil Gibran's words: Dig with faith, and you will find treasure. The diary is that buried treasure, full of clues to each child's growth.

In some schools, I've seen the diary used as it should be. Teachers with no smartboards or gadgets still outshine private schools. Their

diaries are detailed: lesson plans aligned with NEP 2020, notes on kids with special needs, test scores, parent feedback. These teachers are present, alert, committed. Others, sadly, just go through the motions.

We are paid to teach, to care, to stay accountable. The diary sharpens us. It's not punishment, it's purpose.

Mine is my compass. It holds my timetable, responsibilities, student profiles, parent contacts. I mark kids who need extra attention, log their scores, note behavior shifts. If I have a large class, I track ten students closely. I can call parents from home, share updates, build trust. This isn't admin work. It's outreach. My lesson plans follow NEP 2020's spirit—activity-based learning, critical thinking, multiple intelligences. I write what worked, what didn't, how kids responded. Sometimes I paste in student drawings or photos of model work. At home, I flip through pages, smiling. This is my reward.

But too many colleagues see the diary as a burden. If we let that attitude grow, we lose more than a tool. We lose our link to students, our edge, our relevance. Yesterday, a teacher handed me her diary. Except for a signature, it was blank. My heart sank. I wanted to say, "This is your story, your students' story!" But I just smiled, closed the book, and walked away wondering: how long before this lifeline disappears?

Muntashir Kifayat Hussain is a teacher and academic monitor in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lessons We Forgot

Kashmir is at a crossroads. The cost of ignoring moral education is no longer hidden. It echoes in homes, schools, and the streets.

Faizan Mushtaq

Arif was the kind of student teachers liked to mention in staffrooms. Neat notebook margins, good grades, no disciplinary issues. His parents, both government employees, often said he would "go far" one day. And he did—straight into a bribery scandal in the municipal office where he landed his first job.

He was twenty-three when they caught him. Not for anything clever or complicated, just a routine file delayed for money. The story didn't make it to headlines, but the neighborhood WhatsApp groups buzzed for days. When asked why he did it, Arif answered calmly: "Everyone does it. It's how things work."

This wasn't a story of poverty or desperation. Arif came from a stable home, went to a decent school, and had a shelf full of academic certificates. But something essential had been missing.

Across Kashmir, children are growing up with lessons in science and coding, business studies and English grammar. But few are learning the quiet discipline of right and wrong, the unspoken rule that what you do when no one is watching matters more than a test score.

A generation ago, moral education wasn't a classroom subject; it was absorbed. Through Friday sermons, grandmother's parables, stories told on kangri-warmed evenings. Those were lessons wrapped in folklore and faith.

Today, those voices have quieted. Moral instruction, if it exists, is outsourced to textbooks so dry no child remembers the content five minutes after the bell rings.

It shows. In the rising impatience on roads, in the loudness of arguments at bank counters, in the way boys jostle through queues without apology. The most telling sign is the fading shame.

Once, being caught cheating in school brought public embarrassment; now it brings a shrug.

A principal in Baramulla admitted they stopped suspending students for exam malpractice because it didn't "make a difference." The same boy would return the next week, unbothered.

Social scientists like Thomas Lickona and Michael Fullan have long argued that moral education doesn't just belong in school; it must involve parents and communities. But in Kashmir, families are frayed, schools under strain, and the sense of shared responsibility is thinning. Everyone's too busy coping.

There are exceptions. A teacher in Anantnag started a weekly storytelling circle for her class, sharing real-life accounts of people who stood for something: a bus conductor who returned a lost wallet, a nurse who treated patients in the pandemic without complaint. She says the children listened differently to these stories. Some even told their own.

But these are isolated sparks in a darkening room.

Moral education isn't about creating saints. It's about giving young people a compass before they step into a world full of noise and shortcuts. It's about making sure that when they have to choose between right and easy, they at least pause.

Arif didn't pause. He made a choice that came easy to him. Not because he was evil or broken, but because the idea of integrity had never been rooted deeply enough to resist the current. His education had prepared him to succeed, but not to stand alone.

And when the knock came at his door, there was no teacher left to ask why.

Faizan Mushtaq is a Kashmir-based writer, focusing on social issues and cultural shifts in the region.

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Committed to Decisive

from the national carrier SriLankan Airlines said the aircraft was thoroughly inspected and subsequently cleared for further operations.

India Cuts All

not visit any ports of Pakistan. The DGS said the order has been issued to ensure “safety of Indian assets, cargo and connected infrastructure” and “any exemption or dispensation from this order shall be examined and decided on case-to-case”.

The restrictions have been put into place with immediate effect, officials said. Meanwhile, an order by the Department of Posts that operates under the Ministry of Communication, said: “(The) government of India has decided to suspend exchange of all categories of inbound mail and parcels from Pakistan through air and surface routes.”

The new moves came a week-and-half after India announced a raft of punitive measures against Pakistan including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down of the only operation land border crossing at Attari and downgrading of diplomatic ties following the terror attack.

In response, Pakistan shut its airspace to Indian airliners and suspended all trade with India, including through third countries.

Pakistan rejected India’s suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and said any move to stop the flow of water will be seen as an “act of war”.

Citing “cross-border linkages” to the April 22 attack, India has promised severe punishment to those involved in the strike.

In a high-level meeting with the top defence brass, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that the armed forces have “complete operational freedom” to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India’s response to the terror attack.

Under the first set of punitive measures, India also revoked all visas issued to Pakistani nationals. However, the revocation of visas does not apply to the long-term visas already issued.

India’s decision to impose a fresh ban on all Pakistan-origin imports will prohibit the entry of Pakistani goods routed through third countries as a 200 per cent import duty imposed on Pakistani goods in 2019 after the

Pulwama terror attack had effectively halted direct imports.

India’s exports to Pakistan in April-January 2024-25 stood at USD 447.65 million, while imports were meagre USD 0.42 million. These imports were limited to niche items like figs (USD 78,000), Basil and Rosemary herbs (USD 18,856), certain chemicals, and Himalayan pink salt. The imports were USD 2.88 million in 2023-24.

A provision has been added in Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 “to prohibit direct or indirect import or transit of all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan with immediate effect until further orders”, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification dated May 2.

It added this restriction is imposed in the interest of “national security and public policy”.

Many global powers including the US and European Union have called on both India and Pakistan to de-escalate tensions while unequivocally condemning the terror strike.

It added that this restriction is imposed in the interest of “national security and public policy”. Any exception to this prohibition will require approval of the Government of India, the order said.

Inserting the provision under the heading “Prohibition on Import from Pakistan” in the FTP, it said: “Direct or indirect import or transit of all goods originating in or exported from Pakistan, whether or not freely importable or otherwise permitted, shall be prohibited with immediate effect, until further orders”.

Commenting on India’s decision, think tank Global Trade Research Initiative(GTRI) said that India does not depend on Pakistani goods, so the economic impact is minimal.

“However, Pakistan still needs Indian products and may continue accessing them through third countries through recorded and unrecorded routes. India’s already minuscule imports from Pakistan will now drop to zero. No one in India will miss anything except perhaps Himalayan pink salt (sendha Namak), extracted from salt deposits of Pakistan,” GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said.

Besides banning entry of Pakistani ships into Indian ports, India also barred Indian ships from visiting Pakistani ports, according to the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS).

The restrictions were put into place with immediate effect, officials said.

The DGS said the order has been issued to ensure “safety of Indian assets, cargo and connected infrastructure” and “any exemption or dispensation from this order shall be examined and decided on case-to-case”.

An order issued by the Department of Posts that operates under the Ministry of Communication said the government has decided to suspend exchange of all categories of inbound mail and parcels from Pakistan through air and surface routes.

The fresh moves came a week-and-half after India announced a raft of punitive measures against Pakistan including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down of the only operation land border crossing at Attari and downgrading of diplomatic ties following the terror attack.

In response, Pakistan shut its airspace to Indian airliners and suspended all trade with India, including through third countries. India has also banned Pakistan air carriers from using its airspace.

Pakistan rejected India’s suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and said any move to stop the flow of water will be seen as an “act of war”.

Citing “cross-border linkages” to the April 22 attack, India has promised severe punishment to those involved in the strike.

Under the first set of punitive measures, India also revoked all visas issued to Pakistani nationals.

First Hajj Flight

rounds of training and orientation for pilgrims on safety protocols, rituals, and travel instructions. A vaccination drive was also completed, with pilgrims receiving mandatory vaccines, including those for influenza and polio. Pilgrims were also informed about baggage limits.

Although there were concerns following Saudi Arabia’s recent suspension of Umrah, tourist, and visit visas ahead of the Hajj season, officials clarified that it was a routine measure to prevent the misuse of non-Hajj visas and ensure better management of facilities for officially registered pilgrims. Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, Executive Officer of the J&K Hajj Committee, explained that the measure helps reduce overcrowding and logistical issues, as seen during Hajj 2024.

To ensure smoother movement,

especially for pilgrims from North Kashmir, authorities have created a dedicated traffic crossing near the Haj House in Bemina.

LoC Firing Continues

nights, totalling approximately 25-30 incidents. These violations occurred across multiple sectors, including Poonch, Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, Akhnoor, Naushera, Sunderbani, Tangdhar, Tutmari Gali, Rampur and the Pargwal sector along the International Border.

The Indian Army responded proportionately, with no casualties reported, amid heightened tensions following the attack. (KNO)

Kashmir Will Always

the aftermath of the attack. “Our prime minister will take such a decision.”

On Pakistan Peoples Party leader Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari’s threatening remarks against India, the National Conference chief said, “He (Bhutto) will continue to issue statements ... If we care about his statements, we cannot move forward.”

After India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack, Bhutto-Zardari was quoted as saying by The News, “The Indus is ours and will remain ours -- either our water will flow through it or their blood.”

Abdullah also called for the treaty to be revisited.

“We have been saying for a long time that we need to revisit the IWT. We are suffering losses because of it. The rivers are ours but we are suffering. I am not saying that water be stopped but we also have a right over it,” he said.

Jammu faces water shortages and water from the Chenab cannot be diverted for residents of the region because of the treaty, Abdullah said.

“We had tried to divert water from the Chenab to them but the World Bank did not help us, saying it came under the IWT. Today, we have an opportunity to get water to Jammu from there (Chenab). We have a right over the rivers as well, not just them (Pakistan),” he added.

Brokered by the World Bank, the IWT governed the distribution and use of the Indus river and its tributaries between India and Pakistan from 1960.

Abdullah said India could not build any projects on its rivers without Pakistan’s

permission because of the treaty.

“Are you not deprived of electricity? We have rivers from where we can generate thousands of megawatts of electricity and can never be deprived of electricity. But we cannot build any projects as they (Pakistan) do not permit us. So, we have to revisit it and, God willing, we will,” he said.

Asked about the war-like situation prevailing between the two nuclear powers in wake of the attack, Abdullah said, “I have no answer to such questions.”

Speaking on the Pahalgam massacre, the National Conference chief urged people not to be afraid of such attacks and said those behind it would rot in hell.

“Those who did that and those behind it murdered humanity. The doors of hell are open for them. They cannot enter heaven,” he said.

During his visit, Abdullah presented one month’s basic salary of Pahalgam MLA Altaf Kaloo to Hyder Shah, the pony ride operator’s father.

Hyder Shah expressed his gratitude to Abdullah and National Conference leaders for their support and solidarity during this time.

Abdullah later travelled to Pahalgam and interacted with several tourists. He also clicked selfies with them.

Mufti Accuses

In a post on X, Mehbooba Mufti said, “Farooq sahab’s statement implicating Kashmiris in the Pahalgam terror attack is deeply disturbing & regrettable. As a senior leader, that too as a Kashmiri, his statement risks fuelling divisive narratives, providing ammunition to certain media channels to further stereotype and stigmatise Kashmiris and Muslims.”

She further added that at a time when Kashmiri students and traders are facing increasing hostility across India, such statements could worsen their vulnerability. “We should draw inspiration from Himanshi Narwal who, despite the martyrdom of her husband, urged Indians not to blame or target Kashmiris or Muslims,” she noted.

However, the National Conference rejected the claim outright. NC’s Chief Spokesman and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq, told reporters that Mehbooba Mufti was “lying” and misrepresenting Dr Farooq Abdullah’s words.

“It’s shocking that someone who has served as CM would stoop this low.

Dr Farooq Abdullah never mentioned ‘Kashmiris’ or ‘locals’. At a time when we are trying to protect Kashmiri students, traders, and families across India, it’s shameful to twist his words in a way that could endanger them further,” Sadiq said.

He demanded that Mehbooba either apologise and delete the tweet or provide evidence to support her claim. “This is not politics, it’s recklessness,” he added.

Earlier, while addressing reporters in Pahalgam, Dr Farooq Abdullah had asserted that Kashmir was and would always remain an integral part of India. “Pakistan and terrorists have failed in their ploy to create a wedge between Muslims and Hindus. The people of Kashmir have shown they are not afraid,” he said.

Referring to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead, Dr Farooq said, “Those who wanted to scare us and divide us have failed. Today it has been proven that people are not scared. We are seeing tourists arriving here without fear.”

Green Signal Likely

the highway, it would make little sense to abandon such a critical component of the project.

Earlier this year, several reports suggesting the project’s rejection had gone viral on social media, causing confusion and outrage. But today’s official clarifications appear to have revived public confidence.

If approved, tendered, and awarded in the coming weeks, the Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel could soon move from dream to reality—promising faster travel, safer roads, and a fresh chapter in Kashmir’s infrastructure development story.

CRPF Fires Jawan

through video conferencing by clerics in India and Pakistan. (KNO)

NMC Cancels

concerned colleges to suspend the 26 students immediately,” the source stated.

The Commission reaffirmed its zero-tolerance stance against academic fraud and underscored its commitment to transparency and integrity in the admission process.

The directive comes just a day before NEET-UG 2025, scheduled for May 4.

28th year OF PUBLICATION



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Sajad Calls For Temporary Pause On Political Infighting

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on Saturday called for a pause for political infighting among regional parties.

Taking to X, Lone expressed concern over the "political mudslinging", stating that while parties would have ample opportunities to engage in political discourse, the current situation demands restraint.

"We will have many more moments to fight it out politically. But these are trying circumstances. We have lakhs of students and traders outside Kashmir who are scared. There are war clouds. There are You-Tubers who have descended here in Kashmir to create a narrative that fits the typical stereotype of a hostile Kashmiri. In the midst of all this, accusations and counter-accusations



by local parties will not help. It is most unwanted and undesirable," Lone said.

He urged politicians to momentarily pause politicking for at least the coming month.

"Let us face it—there is nobody squeaky clean out here. Time to take a hiatus for at least the coming month. This is not a sermon. Trust me—I too am itching for a fight. But not now," he added.

Lone said he would refrain from engaging in political mudslinging during these tense moments.

Locals demand Macadamisation Of Sangam-Lassipora Road

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Sangam-Lassipora road, a key link between Pulwama and Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, continues to remain in a deplorable state, causing immense hardship to commuters and residents for several years.

Locals and daily commuters alleged that despite the road's importance—particularly for the Lassipora Industrial Estate—the authorities have consistently ignored the demands for proper repair and macadamisation of the road.

The stretch, riddled with pot-holes and prone to water logging, has become increasingly hazardous, leading to frequent traffic snarls, vehicle damage, and a rise in accidents.

"The road has been in a pathetic condition for years," said Sameer Ahmad, a resident of Litter. "Even a short spell of rain renders it impassable. It's hard to believe this stretch was ever macadamised at several spots."

Tawseef Ahmad, a local driver, said the deteriorating road is taking a toll on their vehicles.

"We spend a lot more on maintenance now. It's shocking that a road so vital to the industrial hub of Lassipora is being neglected."

Residents stated that the authorities only carry out temporary patchwork every year, which wears out within days, leaving the road in worse condition than before.

"Daily traffic congestion, especially during peak hours, has made commuting a nightmare. The road's condition worsens each passing day, but officials remain indifferent," said another local.

Locals along with daily commuters have appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, local MLAs and the Deputy Commissioner of Pulwama to intervene into the matter and ensure the road is properly and fully macadamised this year.

Locals insisted that only full-scale macadamisation—not temporary repairs—will solve the issue, pointing out that the road was last properly macadamised nearly six years ago—(KNO)

KCCI Assures Support To Pahalgam Brave Heart's Family

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A team of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) led by President Javid Ahmad Tenga visited the family of Syed Adil, who was killed at Baisaran by terrorists on 22nd of April at Hapatnada to offer condolences.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the team comprising Junior vice president, Fayaz Punjabi, Secre-

tary General Faiz Bakshi, Treasurer Zubair Mahajan and the Executive Committee Member Tauseef Bhat expressed solidarity with the father of the deceased Syed Hyder Shah and other members of the family.

The KCCI told the family that Syed Adil had played a heroic role in rescuing tourists which is being commended across the globe. "The KCCI assured the family of its meaningful support," the statement reads.

Pahalgam Terror Attack Aftermath: Sonamarg Sees Dip In Tourist Footfall

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The persistent flow of tourists at Sonamarg, one of the most scenic hill stations in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, has declined following the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, thereby casting a shadow over the region's tourism sector.

A deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22 claimed the lives of 26 people, mostly tourists, and left many others injured.

In the wake of the attack, the major tourist destinations across the Kashmir Valley, including Sonamarg, have witnessed a significant decline in tourist arrivals.

Once-busy streets and marketplaces have fallen quiet. Shops are deserted, and hotels have reported near-total cancellations.

Following the attack, the government swiftly heightened security measures across the region. Increased security deployments are now in place, especially at major tourist hotspots, in a bid to reassure visitors and prevent further incidents.

Despite the drop in numbers, a few tourists remain undeterred.

Over the past couple of days, Sonamarg has continued to host a small number of tourists,

who have taken in the breathtaking beauty of the snow-covered landscape.

Among them is a family from Ahmedabad, who described the Pahalgam incident as "an unfortunate and tragic event," but emphasized that such acts should not prevent people from experiencing Kashmir.

"We have visited Kashmir along with our family and the hospitality of the Kashmiri people is unbelievable. They welcomed us with smiles. We urge the people of India: don't be afraid—come to Kashmir and enjoy its beauty."

It's worth mentioning that prior to the attack, Sonamarg witnessed a surge in tourism. In early 2025, from January 1 to March 10, a total of 1,33,854 tourists visited the picturesque place.

In January alone, 55,934 tourists arrived, including 1,114 foreign nationals and an equal number of domestic travellers.

February maintained the momentum with 57,186 tourists, comprising 2,019 foreign visitors and 1,565 local tourists. The first 10 days of March added another 20,734 visitors to the count.

Notably, nearly 8 lakh tourists had visited Sonamarg throughout 2024 — a sign of strong recovery and growing interest in the Valley's tourism offerings. —(KNO)

Police Intensify Searches At Residences Of Terrorist Aides

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In its continuing persistent action against terrorist associates of proscribed terrorist outfits and in the furtherance of investigation into cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Srinagar Police on Saturday intensified searches across multiple locations in the city with the aim to dismantle terror-supporting infrastructure in the district.

A spokesman in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer reads that Srinagar Police has conducted searches at the residences of Imtiyaz Ahmad Parray son of Gh Rasool Pararay resident of Kalamdanpora area Zainakadal involved in Case FIR 29/005 U/S 7/25 A Act of Police Station M.R.Gunj, Arsh Koul son of Ashiq Ahmad Koul resident of Dalal Mohalla Zaina Kadal Srinagar involved in case FIR No. 35/2022 U/S 13, 18, 20, 23, 49 ULAP Act 7/25 A Act, Mutaib Zahoor Bhat son of Zahoor Ahmad Bhat resident of Bilal Colony Soura involved in Case FIR No. 41/2021 U/S 13 UAPA 188, 269 IPC of Police Station Soura, Basit Ashraf Malik resident of Nowpora Safak-



adal involved in Case FIR NO 156/2024 U/S 13, 19, 39 UAP Act Police Station Safakadal and Mohd Rafiq Shah son of Noor Mohd Shah resident of Hazari Bazar Rainwari involved in case FIR No. 48/2024 U/S 109 BNS 13,16,19,20,39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanyar.

The searches were conducted in accordance with proper legal procedures in the presence of Executive Magistrates and independent witnesses under the supervision of the officers of J&K Police, the statement reads.

"The searches were carried out to seize arms, documents, digital devices etc. with the objective of evidence collection and intelligence gathering

to detect and deter any conspiratorial or terrorist activity against the security of the Nation," police said.

This decisive action of J&K Police aims to dismantle the terrorist ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir by identifying and taking legal action against individuals engaged in such anti-national and criminal activities, police added.

"Srinagar Police remains committed to maintaining peace and security in the city. Any individual found furthering the agenda of violence, disruption, or unlawful activities will face strict legal consequences under the law," the spokesman said.

THE SEARCHES WERE CARRIED OUT TO SEIZE ARMS, DOCUMENTS, digital devices etc. with the objective of evidence collection and intelligence gathering to detect and deter any conspiratorial or terrorist activity against the security of the Nation,"

Govt Will Not Spare Pahalgam Terror Attack Perpetrators: LoP Sharma

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Saturday said the Government of India will not spare those behind the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians, mostly tourists.

Speaking to reporters in Bandipora, Sharma condemned the terror attack, calling it a "humiliation of humanity" and the first such incident in India's history where tourists were deliberately targeted. "Tourists are the backbone of Kashmir's economy. They are now scared and uncertain," he said.

Describing the brutality of the incident, Sharma said, "To shoot a husband in front of his wife, to kill a father in front of



his son—there can be no worse act than this."

He asserted that the Government of India, under BJP leadership, would ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice. "Even if I say this from a small corner of Bandipora, I am saying it with full responsibility. The terrorists will be killed and buried," he said.

Sharma added that the Union Home Minister has already made it clear that those responsible for the Pahalgam terror attack will be dealt with

strictly. "Whoever wants to continue such incidents will also meet the same fate. This is our oath," he said.

Commenting on recent remarks by National Conference leader Dr Farooq Abdullah, Sharma said he does not take them seriously. "In the last few years, he has spoken in the language of China, of Pakistan, of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Sometimes he said Modi will need ten births to abrogate Article 370," he said.

While welcoming Abdullah's latest statement that Pakistan should be taught a lesson, Sharma urged consistency. "If you have taken a stand against Pakistan—which I haven't seen before—then stick to this statement and don't say something else in the evening," he added.

‘Asthma Affects Up To 10% Of Kashmiri Population’

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Asthma, a chronic and potentially life-threatening respiratory condition, is impacting between 5 to 10 percent of the population in Kashmir, mirroring global trends, doctors have warned. They are urging the public to take early symptoms seriously and adopt preventive measures against the disease, which, along with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), has emerged as the third leading cause of death worldwide.

Dr Tanvir Ahmad, a chest disease specialist, said chronic lung diseases like asthma and COPD are responsible for an estimated 4.5 lakh deaths globally each year. "Many of these deaths are preventable with timely intervention," he said.

Dr Tanvir said that while manageable, asthma continues to pose a significant health burden, particularly in Kashmir, where approximately 8% of the adult population and a substantial number of children are affected. He added that asthma appears to affect women more than men, attributing this trend to environmental, genetic, and occupational factors.

In Kashmir, the cold climate, increasing pollution levels, frequent use of biomass for heating, and exposure to allergens have been identified as key contributors to the rising incidence of asthma, Dr Tanvir

further explained.

Dr Khurshed Ahmad, another doctor, said early diagnosis and proper management can improve the quality of life for individuals with asthma. "Unfortunately, myths and social stigma still surround asthma, deterring people from seeking timely help," he said. "Many fear using inhalers, thinking it shows weakness or dependency, which is absolutely untrue."

He cautioned that if left untreated, asthma can lead to severe respiratory distress, permanent lung damage, or even death. "Delayed diagnosis or irregular medication use increases the risk of frequent hospitalisations and long-term complications."

Comparing the situation globally, Dr Khurshed added, "India records ten times more deaths due to COPD than Western countries. This disparity is largely due to a lack of awareness, poor compliance with treatment, and limited access to specialised care."

Dr Javid Ahmad echoed this concern, saying non-adherence to medications is one of the major reasons behind increasing fatalities. "People often stop using prescribed inhalers once they feel better, without understanding that asthma is a chronic condition requiring continuous management," he said. "Inhalers are safe, effective, and have minimal side effects when

used properly."

Doctors identified several contributing factors to the rising burden of asthma in Kashmir, including cold and dry climate, which triggers bronchial inflammation; use of wood and coal for heating, leading to indoor air pollution; outdoor air pollution from vehicles and industrial activity; allergens like pollen, mold, and dust mites; smoking, both active and passive, significantly worsening the condition and poor ventilation in homes, especially during winter.

They strongly advocate for increased public awareness and proactive health practices. They recommend timely diagnosis through spirometry and other tests; regular use of prescribed inhalers, especially corticosteroids; avoidance of known triggers, including smoke, dust, and cold air; proper home ventilation and use of air purifiers if necessary; vaccination against flu and pneumonia and education campaigns to remove stigma and myths.

Experts have urged the government and healthcare institutions to enhance asthma surveillance, promote screening, and incorporate asthma education in public health policy. "People living with asthma can lead normal, productive lives if they understand the disease and adhere to treatment," doctors said, adding, "Awareness is the first step towards control."—(KNO)

ACB Arrests Incharge PP, GMC Jammu, For Accepting Bribe

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday said to have trapped and arrested Incharge Police Post, Government Medical College, Jammu and his driver for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 13,000.

A spokesman in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer said that Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau received a complaint alleging therein that public servant namely PSI Murtaza Rehman, Incharge PP GMC Jammu and his driver/SPO namely Himanshu Sharma had demanded illegal gratification for running Rehari at the exit Gate of GMC Jammu from the complainant.

"The accused had demanded illegal gratification from the complainant for running Rehari. Since, the complainant didn't want to pay bribe and he approached Anti-Corruption Bureau for taking legal action against the accused public servant under law," the statement reads.

On receipt of the complaint, the spokesman said that a discreet verification was conducted, which confirms the demand

of bribe by the public servant concerned and accordingly, a case under FIR number 06/2025 under section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and section 61(2) BNS, 2023 was registered in Police Station ACB Jammu and investigation taken up.

"During the course of investigation, a trap team headed by a Gazetted rank officer was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and accused public servant PSI Murtaza Rehman and his driver/SPO Himanshu Sharma were caught red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs 13,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses," he said.

"The accused was arrested on the spot by the ACB team after following due process of law. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team. Moreover, searches are being conducted in the residential houses of both the accused in presence of independent witnesses and Magistrates," the statement reads, adding that further investigation of the instant case is going on.

VIOLATION OF TRAFFIC NORMS

79 Vehicles Fined In Sopore

Agencies

SRINAGAR: To streamline vehicular movement and tackle growing traffic congestion in Sopore, Police on Saturday intensified the traffic enforcement drive across the town, issuing 79 challans and shutting down unauthorised vehicle stands.

An official said that a total of 79 challans were issued against those found flouting various traffic regulations during the day-long operation. These included 72 two-wheelers, 2 three-wheelers, and 5 four-wheelers.

The drive was carried out under the supervision of the newly appointed Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sopore, Iftkhar Talib.

The police also dismantled several unauthorised Sumo and Eco Van stands that were

reportedly causing major obstructions and public inconvenience. Residents had complained about traffic snarls, blaming the existence of unregulated vehicle stands for the worsening situation.

Speaking at a public gathering earlier on Friday, SSP Iftkhar Talib reaffirmed his commitment to enforcing the rule of law, saying that violators, irrespective of their identity, will be dealt with firmly. "The action will apply to everyone—even police vehicles must follow traffic rules. No sirens or rule-breaking will be allowed unless it's an emergency," the SSP said.

Meanwhile, police urged the general public to cooperate with authorities and strictly adhere to traffic regulations to ensure safer and smoother commuting for all—(KNO)

Javid Dar Conducts Extensive Tour Of Rafiabab, Zaingair



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj Javid Ahmed Dar Saturday conducted an extensive tour of Rafiabab and Zaingair areas of Baramulla to review progress on various ongoing development works in the district.

During his visit, the Minister assessed the pace and quality of infrastructure projects, interacted with locals and had a firsthand account of the issues faced by the residents and farmers of the area.

While reviewing developmental works, the Minister expressed concern over the slow pace of work on some projects. He directed the officers to accelerate the pace of progress on these vital work, ensuring completion within fixed timelines. He emphasized the need for ensuring high quality infrastructure that meets the needs of the local community.

The Minister also listened

to the grievances of the locals and assured them of prompt redressal of the same. He instructed the officials to work in tandem with the local community to address their concerns and ensure that the benefits of development reach the ground level.

The Minister met various delegations, including the general public, youth groups and farmers. They raised concerns related to irrigation, road infrastructure, water supply, power supply and employment opportunities.

The Minister assured them that the Government is committed towards addressing these concerns and urged the community to actively engage with the government to ensure effective development in their respective areas.

Dar stated that the government's commitment towards transparency, accountability and citizen-centric governance is incomplete without the public participation. He urged the public to be part of every initiative of the government.

Gbl Residents Demand Repair Of Vital Link road

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Residents of Ganderbal district have voiced strong concerns over the dilapidated condition of a vital two kilometres link road connecting the District Hospital to the SSP Office.

The road, which passes through Duderhama and connects to main Bus Adda in Ganderbal, has fallen into severe

disrepair, making commuting difficult for thousands of daily users.

Locals said that the road serves as a crucial alternative route for traffic movement between Beehama and Duderhama, areas often plagued by heavy congestion. "Due to the frequent traffic jams in Beehama, a large number of vehicles opt for this link road to reach their destinations."—(KNO)

Pant's Form In Focus As PBKS Eye Crucial Win Over LSG

Press Trust of India

DHARAMSALA: Lucknow Super Giants skipper Rishabh Pant's woeful form with the bat and Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer's sublime touch have made Sunday's mid-table clash an engrossing contest—one that could decisively shape the fortunes of either side as the IPL enters its business end.

Iyer's understanding of game situations and his evolution as a captain, without compromising on his batting, have served PBKS well. In their last game, the PBKS captain struck his fourth half-century of the season, helping his side to a creditable fourth spot on the table with 13 points from 10 games.

Pant, on the other hand, has endured a disappointing run with the bat, registering six single-digit scores for a total of 110 runs in 10 matches. His only noteworthy knock this season



has been a 63 against Chennai Super Kings.

Pant's poor form has placed his side in a virtual must-win situation against PBKS, with LSG currently sixth on the table with 10 points.

Iyer, who played a key role in Kolkata Knight Riders' title-

winning campaign last season but was released before the mega auction, was snapped up by PBKS for a staggering Rs 26.75 crore. Since then, he has made an immediate impact with sharp tactical leadership.

Once vulnerable against the short ball, Iyer has made notable

technical adjustments to overcome that long-standing weakness.

With all-rounder Glenn Maxwell ruled out of the remainder of the tournament due to a fractured finger, Iyer will have to find a suitable replacement—something easier said than done.

Iyer could turn to Azmatullah

Marzai, the yet-to-feature Aaron Hardie, or even Xavier Bartlett, depending on conditions.

With a well-set top and middle order featuring Priyansh Arya, Nehal Wadhwa, and Sha-shank Singh, PBKS's batting looks solid.

A well-rested LSG will look to reboot their season after a week-long break—their last match was on April 27 in Mumbai.

While the return of pacer Mayank Yadav after a long injury layoff was a positive, they were still handed a 54-run thrashing by Mumbai Indians, exposing flaws in a batting unit packed with power-hitters like Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram, Nicholas Pooran, and David Miller.

Pooran (377 runs), Marsh (344), and Markram (326) have often formed the bedrock of LSG's batting success, and their performance on Sunday will be key to the team's prospects.

Match starts at 7:30 PM IST.

Short TAKES

KKR Eye Must-Win At Eden As RR Aim To Spoil Party

Riding high on their new-found confidence, defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders will look to finally get it right at home and keep their playoff hopes alive when they take on a struggling Rajasthan Royals in their IPL match here on Sunday.

With four league matches remaining, KKR's equation is straightforward—win all four and reach 17 points, a total that should secure a spot in the top-four without relying on the other results. The challenge, though simple on paper, is steep in reality.

The final leg of their campaign includes two home matches—against Rajasthan Royals on Sunday and Chennai Super Kings on Wednesday—followed by two away fixtures, against Sunrisers Hyderabad on May 10 and an in-form Royal Challengers Bengaluru (May 17).

While SRH have lost steam, RCB are charging up the table, making that final clash in Bengaluru potentially a high-stakes encounter. Match starts: 3:30pm.

Khelo India Youth Games: PM Modi To Virtually Inaugurate

More than 6,000 athletes will compete in 27 medal sports in the seventh edition of Khelo India Youth Games which will be inaugurated virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday.

The Games, an under-18 event this time, will be held in five cities of Bihar, as well as in New Delhi, and will run till May 15. Thirty-six states and Union Territories will feature in KIYG 2025. In Bihar, the main venue of the Games will be the Patliputra Sports Complex here. Day 1 action starts with archery (in Bhagalpur), kabaddi (in Rajgir) and volleyball (in Patna).

Athletes will compete for 284 gold medals. The maximum number (38) of gold will be in swimming. Athletics will have 34 while wrestling, weightlifting and boxing will have more than 20 gold each.

Bihar, which will be staging its biggest multi-discipline sporting event, will field more than 450 athletes.

Kimi Antonelli Becomes F1's Youngest Polesitter In Any Format

Mercedes' Italian rookie Kimi Antonelli became Formula One's youngest polesitter in any format after a mighty final lap in Miami Grand Prix sprint qualifying on Friday.

The 18-year-old, preparing for only his sixth grand prix weekend, lapped with a best time of one minute 26.482 seconds to pip McLaren's championship leader Oscar Piastri by 0.045 seconds.

McLaren's Lando Norris was third fastest with Red Bull's four-times world champion Max Verstappen completing the second row on the day he announced he had become a father for the first time.

YSS Budgam Organises Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam, under the directions of District Youth Services and Sports Officer G.H. Hassan Lone, continues to organise Inter-School Zonal Level competitions across various zones of the district. These events aim to promote sportsmanship, physical fitness, and talent development among school children.



In Zone Beerwah, the Zonal Physical Education Office conducted an Inter-School Zonal Level Volleyball competition for Boys Under-17 at the Synthetic Turf, BHSS Beerwah. A large number of students from both government and private institutions participated in the event.

Zone B.K. Pora hosted an Inter-School Zonal Level Kho-Kho Competition for Girls U-14 and Boys U-17 at GHS Wagoora. The event was inaugurated by Bupinder Singh, Headmaster of GHS Wagoora, in the pres-

ence of overall incharge Peer Javaid Hassan (PEM, GHS Chattergam) and other officials from the zone.

Meanwhile, the Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Dreygam organised a Zonal Level Kho-Kho competition at B.Ed College Wager. The event was inaugurated by DYSO Budgam, G.H. Hassan Lone, along with Activity Incharge G.H. Hassan Khan-dar, and other dignitaries.

In Zone Hardpanzoo, an

Inter-School Zonal Level Kabaddi Tournament for Boys Under-14 was held. The event was inaugurated by Mukhtar Ahmad, headmaster of HS Arizal, along with Activity Incharge Farooq Ahmad Sheikh and other zonal officials.

Similarly, Zone Charar-i-Sharief organised an Inter-School Zonal Level Kho-Kho Tournament for Boys in the U-14 and U-17 age groups at the Sports Stadium Charar-i-Sharief.

Sports Events Held Across Various Zones Of Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services & Sports Anantnag Zone Bijbehara concluded the Inter-School U-14 Zonal Level Football Tournament on Saturday at DPS Sangam, Anantnag.

In a thrilling match that ended 2-2 in regular time, Educator School Bijbehara emerged victorious against DPS Sangam in a nail-biting penalty shootout followed by sudden death. The tournament saw 320 students take part overall, with 96 participating on the final day.

Meanwhile, Zone Qazigund hosted U-17 Boys Badminton competitions at HS Sangran. Zone Doru organised Baseball events for U-14 and U-17 Boys and Girls at MS Chakpath with a total of 570 participants.



Zone Verinag concluded Badminton tournaments for U-14 and U-17 Boys with 36 participants at GDC Verinag. Zone Mattan held cricket selection trials for U-14 and U-17 Boys at Sports Stadium Mattan, witnessing participation from around 160 students.

These events collectively aim to nurture young talent, instill discipline, and foster a culture of healthy competition and physical well-being.

After India's Withdrawal, Volleyball Tournament Shifted From Pak

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: The Central Asian Volleyball tournament from which India has withdrawn in the aftermath of the terror attack in Pahalgam has been shifted from Islamabad to Tashkent in Uzbekistan, an official of the Pakistan federation said on Saturday.

A senior official of Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) said the Central Asia Volleyball Association (CAVA) has taken the decision to shift the event to Uzbekistan.

"It is a huge disappointment for Pakistan volleyball even though India had withdrawn. But we fully understand the CAVA's General Body's decision," the official said.

The scheduled dates of the tournament, to be contested among Pakistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, have not been changed.

On April 27, PVF official Abdul Ahad said India has withdrawn from the tournament which was earlier to be held in Islamabad from May 28.

Tension between the two neighbouring countries has grown following the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, where 26 civilians, mostly tourists, were killed.

"The Indian volleyball officials have informed the regional body that their government has cancelled the NOC issued to them for the tournament after the incident in Pahalgam," Ahad had said.



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Heartiest Congratulations to all Achievers!



489 SANA FIRDOUS

Heartfelt congratulations, Sana! And to all the achievers, congratulations on your success!"

NO. OF STUDENTS:- **27** NO. OF DISTINCTIONS:- **19**



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494 SEEREEEN SHOWKAT



495 ZAINAB SHAFI



494 UROOSH FAROOQ

 493 ZARMAIN SAJAD	 491 HOORIYA	 490 RAOIBA AMIN	 489 SOLIHA NISAR	 489 SADIYA NAZIR BHAT	 489 SHAYAAN HUSSAIN	 488 ZARKA IQBAL	 488 AYESHA JAVAID
 488 HURAIN MUKHTAR	 488 HULAIL AHMAD	 487 MIR FAKIRA BASHARAT	 487 SHEEMA	 487 ZENAB BATOOL	 487 SYED AIZA BUKHARI	 487 EMAAN UL ISLAM	 486 AROOJ ZEHRA
 486 WAFATANVEER	 485 SADIYA ROUF BHAT	 485 SYED AISHA SAJAD	 485 HUZAIFAH RAFIQ	 485 FASIL HASSAN	 485 SYED MD. SHEHRIYAR	 484 MEHREEN TARIQ	 484 UMAIR UL ISLAM
 483 SULIHA SARTAJ	 483 AIDA BINTI ARIF	 483 AHMED BIN A.JAZ BAZAZ	 482 HUDAA BASHARAT	 482 AYAAN BIN WAHID	 482 MOHAMMAD ATIF	 482 YAMIN MUZAFFAR	 482 AB. MUSQIT MASHOOR
 480 MAHOOR ZAHOOR	 480 HINZAL KHATEJAH						

STUDENTS SCORING 400 OR ABOVE 144

NO. OF STUDENTS **196** NO. OF POSITIONS **40**

GIRLS CAMPUS 

Gogji Bagh, Srinagar

BOYS CAMPUS 

Gulshan Nagar Nowgam