

## Srinagar Airport Reopens Today

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Normal flight operations will soon be restarted at the Srinagar International Airport, officials said on Monday.

The decision follows the Airports Authority of India's announcement regarding the resumption of civilian flights at 32 airports that were temporarily shut last week in view of the military standoff between India and Pakistan.

The Airports Authority of India, along with other aviation authorities, had issued a series of Notices to Airmen (NOTAM), announcing the closure of airports across northern and western India.

"Aerodrome closure NOTAM has been revoked and the Srinagar airport is ready to facilitate flight operations," an official said on Monday.

He said the airlines will resume normal operations from Tuesday.

"Spicejet is going to operate additional flights to cater to the backlog," the official said.

Haj flights from Srinagar were also | [More on P6](#)

## Hajj Flights To Resume From May 14

After days of uncertainty caused by heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, which led to the cancellation of seven Hajj flights from May 7 to 12, the pilgrimage flights from Srinagar airport are set to resume from May 14, with two flights scheduled on Wednesday, officials announced. The Executive Officer of the J&K Haj Committee, Dr Shujhat Qureshi said that the flights were temporarily halted due to the prevailing | [More on P6](#)

## Schools, College To Reopen In Non-Border Districts

Observer News Service

Srinagar: All schools and colleges in the non-border districts of Jammu and Kashmir will reopen on Tuesday after remaining closed for nearly a week.

"All schools and colleges will reopen from tomorrow in non-border districts of Jammu as well as Kashmir," Education Minister Sakina Ittoo said in a post on X.

The schools, colleges and universities in the Union Territory were temporarily shut last week in view of the military standoff between India and Pakistan.

The University of Kashmir has postponed all examinations till May 14.

# Operation Sindoor New Policy Against Terror: PM

## 'Any talks with Pakistan only on terrorism & Pakistan-occupied Kashmir'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: In his first address to the nation after Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday sternly warned Pakistan that India will not succumb to nuclear blackmail and sent a clear message to the world: terror and trade, terror and talks cannot go together.

"Operation Sindoor is India's new policy against terrorism. It is the new normal. We have only kept in abeyance our operations against Pakistan and the future will depend on their behaviour," Modi said in a 22-minute address.

He also had an advice to Pakistan's rulers: "The terrorists they have been feeding and nurturing all these years will swallow Pakistan itself. If Pakistan wants to survive, it will have to root out terrorism."

India will not differentiate



» Terror and talks cannot go together

» Water and blood cannot flow together

» Pakistan has to dismantle its terror infrastructure

» Gave armed forces full liberty to raze terrorists to dust.

» More than 100 dreaded terrorists were slaughtered.

» If dialogue happens, it will only be on terrorism and PoK.

» The terrorists will swallow Pakistan itself.

between the government sponsoring terrorism and terrorists, Modi said, warning of decisive action in case of any misadventure.

"This is not an era of war, but this is not the era of terror either," Modi said, as he paid glowing tributes to the armed forces for successfully forcing Pakistan to plead for peace after eight of their airbases were heavily damaged.

"Any talks with Pakistan can happen only on terrorism and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir," the prime minister said.

Modi's assertions about not doing trade with Pakistan came minutes after US President Donald Trump said that he told India and Pakistan that his administration will do trade with them only if they end the conflict.

Trump also suggested that the conflict between the two countries could have spiralled into a nuclear war, killing millions of people. | [More on P6](#)

**OPERATION SINDOOR IS INDIA'S NEW POLICY AGAINST TERRORISM.** It is the new normal. We have only kept in abeyance our operations against Pakistan and the future will depend on their behaviour"

## DGMOs Of Pak, India Hold First Round Of Talks

### Ceasefire, Troop Pullback On Table

Islamabad: The Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of Pakistan and India held the first round of talks on Monday.

Defence sources confirmed that DGMO Maj Gen Kashif Abdullah and his Indian counterpart Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai spoke to each other over a hotline.

Sources said that "the DGMOs discussed issues relating to continuing the commitment that both sides must not fire a single shot or initiate any aggressive or inimical action against each other."

"It was also agreed that both



sides will consider immediate measures to ensure troop reduction from the borders and forward areas," sources added.

Earlier addressing a joint press conference in New Delhi, Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai (Army), Air Marshal AK Bharti (Indian Air Force), and Vice Admiral AN Pramod (Navy)

said, "India's fight was and will always be aimed at terrorists and terrorists' infrastructure in Pakistan, and not against the country's army or civilians."

The top military commanders said India's air defense grid—featuring a layered, integrated command and control system operated by the

Indian Air Force—successfully repelled multiple aerial threats over the past week.

"Pakistani attempts to strike Indian forward positions on May 9 and 10 were entirely foiled," they added.

"Not a single enemy aircraft could breach our multi-tier defense system," Air Marshal Bharti asserted, adding that "our pilots, drones, helicopters, and air defense systems operated seamlessly both day and night to protect vital assets."

They confirmed the successful downing of several enemy drones and loitering munitions, including Turkish-origin UAVs that attempted incursions.

Vice Admiral AN Pramod emphasized the role of the Indian Navy in ensuring maritime security. | [More on P6](#)

### All Military Bases Fully Operational

India on Monday said all its military bases and systems continue to remain fully operational and ready to undertake any mission if the need arises.

At a press briefing here, Director General of Air Operations, IAF, Air Marshal AK Bharti said India's robust air defence system effectively thwarted Pakistani

attempts to target Indian installations. Another highlight was the stellar performance of indigenous air defence weapons like | [More on P6](#)

## Poonch Faced Worst Shelling, Time To Rebuild: Omar

### Calls For Bunkers, Promises Compensation In Border Areas



Observer News Service

Jammu: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that the recent Pakistani shelling in Jammu and Kashmir created a "war-like situation", with Poonch district bearing the brunt of the attack. He said those who had left their homes can return as a military understanding between the two

countries is in place now.

Abdullah also dismissed the Pakistani military's ongoing propaganda, saying the neighbouring country will continue to push it, but the reality is known to the world.

"They (border residents) should now try to return to their homes. Eighty to 90 per cent of Poonch town is vacant. They had left their homes when | [More on P6](#)

## Border Villagers Return Home As Ceasefire Holds

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As the thunder of shelling gave way to an uneasy calm, villagers living along the volatile India-Pakistan border have started returning to their homes after days of displacement triggered by fierce cross-border hostilities.

In Jammu and Kashmir's Uri sector, where Pakistani shelling had forced mass evacuations, residents cautiously made their way back on Monday after bomb disposal squads cleared the areas of unexploded ordnance. "We are happy that a ceasefire has been reached between the two countries. We are also hopeful that Pakistan will not resort to such activities again," said Arshad Ahmad, a resident of Kamalkote.

Security officials confirmed that over 1.25 lakh residents from Baramulla, Bandipora, and Kupwara districts had been evacuated over the past week as their homes came under direct fire from across the LoC.

More than 1.25 lakh

residents of villages close to the LoC in Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts were evacuated to safety as their homes were at a very high risk of being targeted in Pakistani shelling.

"Do not return to frontline villages. Lives are at risk as unexploded munitions remain (scattered) after Pakistani shelling," police said in an advisory on Sunday.

"As many as 41 lives were lost in explosions of leftover shells near the LoC in 2023 alone," they had said, highlighting the dangers of civilians rushing back to villages.

Poonch district accounted for 18 of the 25 total fatalities since Wednesday. It also recorded injuries to 50 people.

While the authorities have urged continued caution, the emotional return of families to familiar ruins underscored the longing for normalcy. Mehak Khursheed, another resident of Uri, praised the army's role. "They are our heroes. Even now, when we are going back, they're checking | [More on P6](#)

## Operation Sindoor Lesson For Pakistan: LG Meets Families Affected Due To Cross-border Shelling



### India Will Not Compromise on Sovereignty & Territorial Integrity

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asserting that India has always stood for peace, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said the recent attack in Pahalgam was nothing short of an "act of war" perpetrated by Pakistan.

He said the Indian armed forces avenged the attack through Operation Sindoor, a mission that he said should serve as a lesson to the neighbour.

"India always advocated for peace. It never wants a war but what happened in Pahalgam was an act of war by terror state Pakistan", Sinha said during his visit to the shelter and lodgement centre at Sahib Bandgi ashram in Mishriwala area of Jammu.

"With Operation Sindoor, we have avenged Pahalgam. I am proud of our soldiers and armed forces. | [More on P6](#)

### Pays Tributes To BSF Constable Killed In Pak Firing

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Minister Satish Sharma on Monday joined the wreath-laying ceremony of BSF Constable Deepak Chingakhm who died in cross-border firing by Pakistani troops. BSF Inspector General (Jammu Frontier) Shashank Anand and other senior BSF officials, police and civil officers also attended the ceremony to pay floral tributes to the slain constable. Constable Deepak Chingakhm suffered fatal injuries during cross-border firing along the international border in the R S Pura area of Jammu district on May 10 and attained martyrdom on May 11. A solemn wreath-laying ceremony was held at BSF headquarters | [More on P6](#)

## GMC Rajouri Staff To Face Salary Cut For Fleeing 'War-Like Situation'



Observer News Service

Rajouri: The Government Medical College (GMC) & Associated Hospital in Rajouri has issued a stringent order stating that the salaries of staff members who have fled from Rajouri and remained absent from their duties without biometric attendance since May 7, 2025, due to a "war-like situation," will not be released. The order, issued by Principal Prof. (Dr.) A S Bhatia, applies to a wide range of employees, including faculty, consultants, residents, nurses, paramedical, technical, ministerial, multi-tasking staff, and interns.

The official order explicitly states that these absent staff members "who have fled from Rajouri" during the unspecified emergency will have their period of absence marked as "unauthorized absent" in their service records, in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

The directive implies that a considerable number of hospital staff left their posts and failed to follow attendance protocols during this period.

The order has been circulated to key administrative and health officials, including the Secretary to the Government Health & | [More on P6](#)





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## Heart Rhythm Disorder Traces To Bacterium Lurking In Gums: Study

ANI

New research shows that the gum disease bacterium *P. gingivalis* can slip into the bloodstream and infiltrate the heart. There, it quietly drives scar tissue buildup -- distorting the heart's architecture, disrupting electrical signals, and raising the risk of atrial fibrillation (AFib). Clinicians have long noticed that people with periodontitis, a common form of gum disease, seem more prone to cardiovascular problems. One recent meta-analysis has linked it to a 30% higher risk of developing AFib, a potentially serious heart rhythm disorder that can lead to stroke, heart failure, and other life-threatening complications. Globally, AFib cases nearly doubled in under a decade, rising from 33.5 million in 2010 to roughly 60 million by 2019. Now, scientific curiosity is mounting in how gum disease might be contributing to that surge. Researchers have discovered DNA from harmful oral bacteria in heart muscle, valves, and even fatty arterial plaques. Among them, *P. gingivalis* has drawn particular scrutiny for its suspected role in a growing list of systemic diseases, including Alzheimer's, diabetes, and certain cancers. It has previously been detected in the brain, liver, and placenta. But how it manages to take hold in the heart has been unclear. This study, published in *Circulation*, provides the first clear evidence that *P. gingivalis* in the gums can worm its way into the left atrium in both animal models and humans, pointing to a potential microbial pathway linking periodontitis to AFib. "The causal relationship between periodontitis and atrial fibrillation is still unknown, but the spread of periodontal bacteria through the



bloodstream may connect these conditions," said study first author Shunsuke Miyauchi, assistant professor at HU's Graduate School of Biomedical and Health Sciences. "Among various periodontal bacteria, *P. gingivalis* is highly pathogenic to periodontitis and some systemic diseases outside the oral cavity. In this study, we have addressed these two key questions: Does *P. gingivalis* translocate to the left atrium from the periodontitis lesion? And if so, does it induce the progression of atrial fibrosis and AFib?" added Miyauchi. To simulate how *P. gingivalis* might escape the mouth and create problems elsewhere, researchers created a mouse model using the bacterium's aggressive W83 strain. They divided 13-week-old male mice into two groups: one had the strain introduced into the tooth pulp, the other remained uninfected. Each was further split into subgroups and observed for either 12 or 18 weeks to track the cardiovascular risks of prolonged exposure. Intracardiac stimulation -- a diagnostic technique for arrhythmia -- revealed no difference in AFib risk between infected and uninfected mice at 12 weeks. But by week 18, tests showed that

mice exposed to the bacterium were six times more likely to develop abnormal heart rhythms, with a 30% AFib inducibility rate compared to just 5% in the control group. To see if their model accurately replicated periodontitis, the researchers examined jaw lesions and found its telltale signs. They detected tooth pulp decay and microabscesses caused by *P. gingivalis*. But the damage did not stop there. They also spotted the bacterium in the heart's left atrium, where infected tissue had turned stiff and fibrous. Using loop-mediated isothermal amplification to detect specific genetic signatures, the team confirmed that the *P. gingivalis* strain they had introduced was present in the heart. In contrast, the uninfected mice had healthy teeth and no trace of the bacterium in heart tissue samples. Twelve weeks after infection, mice exposed to *P. gingivalis* already showed more heart scarring than their uninfected counterparts. At 18 weeks, scarring in the infected mice had climbed to 21.9% compared to the likely ageing-related 16.3% in the control group, suggesting that *P. gingivalis* may not just trigger early heart damage, but also speed it up over time.

### CHAIRMAN COOPERATIVE TAJ HOUSING HANDICRAFTS LTD

Ref: 326-2025

Date: 12-05-2025

On date, election was held by Builder Association and Cooperative members, in which Nazir Ahmad Rather was chosen as the President and Vinod Shekhar as Vice President for J&K. Legal advisor Gh. Ahmad Wani. In this meeting all builders were present. We inform all DCs, Registrar Cooperative. Inform all builders and members of Cooperative Society that on 11 May 2025 we are conducting an election to elect our President for Builder Association Kashmir Valley. If anybody has to take forms so he/she will contact Adv. Gh. Mohd. Wani (High Court). All builders are requested to attend this programme on above date.

Chairman  
Tajhousing Cooperative

### From Office of the Advocate M.A Sofi

In the case of  
Abdul Quyoum Rather  
Son of Mohammad Munawar Rather  
R/o Bochu Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla Kashmir.  
(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

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have Lost the Number Plate of my vehicle bearing Reg. No JK05N 8581. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the ARTO Sopore within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gh Mohiuddin Magrey  
S/o.. Habibullah Magrey  
R/o.. Zaloora

fko

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#### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th/11th/12th) under Roll No. 850254 Session: Oct-Nov Year: 1992 through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by me against my Name and Caste as: UMBREENA ZERNIL D/O GHULAM MOHAMAD ZERNEIL instead of UMBREEN ZERNEIL D/O GHULAM MOHAMAD ZERNEIL.

Now I have applied for correction in The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates Kashmir Division within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public.

The correction particulars be recorded as under:

Name: Umbreena Zerneil  
Father's Name: Ghulam Mohamad Zerneil  
Date of Birth: 24-11-1976  
Residence: Soura  
Mobile No.: 9149432891 / 7006129686



Media Line Advt

## NOTICE

The electricity connection with consumer ID 0202050009714 & Installation No.12747\_R1-SM registered in the Name of Abdul Aziz Qasba R/o Sector B, Canal Avenue Rawalpura, Srinagar is to be transferred in Name of Mohammad Mushtaq Qasba R/o Canal Avenue, Rawalpura Extension, Sanat Nagar, Srinagar - 190005. Objections, if any, to the same must reach Electric Division II (Rajbagh) & Electric Sub-Division (Baghat), within a week at the most.

Media Line Ads

# 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, Boddgam, and Baramulla.



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## Big Announcement Soon, Say Kashmir Hoteliers

Kashmir Belongs To India's People: Chaya

#### Agencies

Srinagar: The Kashmir hoteliers on Monday said a big announcement will be made in the tourism sector soon and that they will soon meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Addressing a press conference here, prominent hotelier and president of Hoteliers Club Kashmir, Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya said there is a good news that 32 airports have started functioning again and the people of Kashmir, like other parts of India, are happy with the decision as it will mark a beginning of tourist arrival again.

“We are expecting a flow of tourists again. Many families are dependent on the tourism sector. We appeal to the people across India to visit Kashmir again,” he said.

He added that the sector has witnessed huge losses, but none of the employees have been fired by the hoteliers or others so far, as everyone is hopeful of resumption in tourism activities. “Time is the best healer. The situation has improved and

they (tourists) will come to the Valley again to enjoy. Kashmir is theirs and they are ours,” he said while replying to a query.

When asked about the arrival of tourists again following the Pahalgam tragedy that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead, Chaya said, “We are meeting the Lieutenant Governor soon and a big announcement will be made by him and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. I can’t share the details at present, but you will be informed of it shortly. We will also meet the Prime Minister soon; his voice is strong for the whole nation.”

He clarified that advisories have been issued by America and not India. “India is enough for us,” he said, adding that the reply to the Pahalgam carnage has been given and there was no issue now that could deter the tourists from visiting Kashmir.

Pertinently, the tourist footfall declined in the valley following the Pahalgam killings on April 22, 2025. The tour operators had reported cancellation of bookings, which affected the tourism sector—(KNO)

## NIT To Hold Online Classes From May 13 To June 6

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: In view of the recent developments along the Line of Control (LoC), the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has announced that online classes for all undergraduate and postgraduate students will commence from May 13 and continue till June 6, 2025.

Institute’s Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman said that the move follows a week of heightened tensions on the borders, during which many students were facilitated in returning to their homes for safety reasons.

“A number of faculty members also travelled to their respective hometowns amid the uncertainty. With the situation now stabilizing, the institute has opted for a phased and structured return to normal academic operations,” he said.

Prof. Rehman said that online classes will commence on Tuesday, May 13, and continue till June 6, college hostels will reopen on June 9, to facilitate students’ return to campus.

“On the directions of Di-

rector NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, offline (physical) classes will start from Wednesday, June 11, 2025,” he said.

Prof. Rehman said that administration underscored the importance of maintaining academic continuity during this period. Conducting online classes is aimed at minimizing disruption to the curriculum while prioritizing the safety and well-being of both students and staff, he added.

Meanwhile, as per an official notification issued by the Dean Academic Affairs, after a meeting with the Dean Students Welfare, Registrar, and Director (in-charge), hostels will reopen on June 9, 2025, allowing students adequate time to return and settle on campus.

“Subsequently, physical classes will resume on June 11, 2025, restoring full in-person academic engagement,” it said. The notice has been circulated among all departments and students are urged to attend online classes regularly and begin preparing for the return to offline classes next month.

## Stray Dog Population Surges

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar- The increasing population of stray dogs in various parts of Srinagar has instilled fear among residents, particularly in areas like Bhorikadal, Khanyar, Eidgah, Nawakadal and Dalgate. Residents complain that venturing out during morning and evening hours has become a daunting task, as packs of stray dogs roam the streets, often chasing pedestrians and creating a sense of insecurity.

A resident from Bhorikadal expressed concern over the growing menace. “We are afraid to step out early in the morning or late in the evening. The dogs chase us, and even our children fear going to their tuition classes. We often have to accompany them to ensure their safety,” he said.

The uncontrolled growth of stray dogs has become a pressing issue, with frequent cases of dog bites being reported from different localities. Elderly individuals, children, and women are particularly vulnerable, as aggressive canines are often seen blocking pathways and chasing vehicles and pedestrians. Several instances of dog attacks on school-going

children have been reported, raising serious safety concerns.

Despite repeated appeals to the concerned authorities, residents claim that no substantial action has been taken to address the menace. A shopkeeper from Khanyar voiced his frustration, stating, “Every day, we witness people, especially children and the elderly, being chased by these stray dogs. We have approached the authorities multiple times, but no concrete steps have been taken.”

The presence of uncollected garbage on roadsides and in residential areas is being cited as one of the main reasons for the surge in the stray dog population. The lack of proper waste disposal management has turned many streets and bylanes into feeding grounds for canines, further worsening the situation. “Until the authorities implement an effective waste management strategy, this problem will persist,” said another resident from Nawakadal.

An official from the Srinagar Municipal Corporation department responsible for managing the stray dog population, acknowledged the issue but wished to remain anonymous.



A group of children enjoy a swing ride at Lal Chowk bringing life and laughter to the bustling city square. KO Photo Faisal Khan

# Sgr Police Intensify Crackdown Under UAPA

#### Observer News Service

Srinagar: In yet another significant move aimed at dismantling the terrorist ecosystem and acting against individuals associated with proscribed outfits, Srinagar Police on Monday said to have intensified its crackdown under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Continuing its focused campaign, police teams have conducted extensive searches across the city targeting residences of terrorist associates and in the furtherance of investigation of UAP Act cases, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

Pertinently, the searches of residences of more than 150 terrorist associates have been conducted till now.

In continuation wrt the same, Srinagar Police has conducted searches at the residences of Adil Manzoor Langoo son of Manzoor Ahmad Langoo resident of Zaldagar involved in case FIR No. 08/2024 U/S 7/27 I A Act 302 IPC 16,18,20 ULAP Act of Police Station Shaheed Gunj, Basit Bilal Makaya son of Bilal Ahmad Makaya resident of DoomKadal involved in Case FIR No 156/ 2024 U/S 13, 19 , 39 UAP Act, Waseem Tariq Matta son

“Police teams have conducted extensive searches across the city targeting residences of terrorist associates and in the furtherance of investigation of UAPA cases

of Tariq Ahamd resident of Rampora involved in Case FIR No. 46/2023 U/S 7/25 A,Act 4/5 Exp Act 18,23,38 UAP Act of Police Station Chanpora, Fayaz Ahmad Lone (Ex Militant) son of Gh Nabi lone resident of Kaw Mohalla involved in case FIR No. 31/2024 7/25 A.Act 13, 18, 20, 23, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanyar, Mohd Ashraf Kaloo Son of Ab Gani Kaloo resident of Aabi Gurpora involved in case FIR No. 31/2024 7/25 A.Act 13, 18, 20, 23, 39 UAP Act of Police Station Khanyar, Qazi Usman son of Qazi Muzaffar resident of Devi Angan Hawal involved in case FIR No. 31/2024 7/25 A.Act 13, 18, 20, 23, 39 UAP Act of Police Station

Khanyar, Muzaffar Ahmad Magray son of Gh. Mohi-Ud-Din resident of Qalandanpora involved in case FIR No. 49/2006 U/S 7/25 A Act of Police Station M.R.Gunj and Shahbaz Farooq Bhat son of Farooq Ahmad Bhat resident of Palpora Noorbagh involved in case FIR No. 11/2024 13, 39 ULAP Act of Police Station M.R.Gunj.

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 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.

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.

Srinagar Police remains committed to safeguarding 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 statement added.



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ANANTNAG: 01932-228243


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BUBHERA: 01932-228243


PAMPORE: 01933-294132

PATTAN: 01954-293507

QAZIGUND: 01951-296153




HIGHWAY STATUS



Sgr-Jammu highway - ( Open )

Mughal Road - (Open )

Srinagar- Leh- (Open)



HIJRI

CALENDAR

15 Zil-Qadah

1446

PRAYERS

FAJR

3: 56

ZUHR

12:27

ASR

5: 21

Magrib

7:26

ISHA

8: 59

### This Day In History

- 535- St Agapitus I begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1110- Crusaders march into Beirut causing a bloodbath
- 1643- Battle of Grantham: English parliamentary armies beat royalists
- 1643- Heavy earthquake strikes Santiago Chile; kills 1/3 of population
- 1648- Construction of the Red Fort at Delhi is completed.
- 1779- War of Bavarian Succession ends
- 1830- Republic of Ecuador is founded, with Juan Jose Flores as president
- 1835- 1st foreign embassy in Hawaii forms
- 1846- US declares war on Mexico, 2 months after fighting begins
- 1861- Queen Victoria announces Britain's position of neutrality
- 1861- The Great Comet of 1861 is discovered by John Tebbutt of Windsor, New South Wales, Australia.
- 1865-Battle of Palmito Ranch, near Brownsville, Texas: final engagement of the American Civil War, Private John Jefferson Williams of B Company, 34th Regiment Indiana Infantry is last man killed
- 1884- Institute for Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE) forms in New York
- 1890- Lord Salisbury offers Helgoland to Germany in exchange for Zanzibar, Uganda & Equatoria
- 1913- 1st four-engined aircraft built and flown (Igor Sikorsky, Russia)
- 1915-US Secretary of State Bryan sends a note to Germany demanding that Germany disavow the attacks on the Lusitania and make immediate reparations; however, the note is written only to 'pacify exited public opinion', according to Bryan

### From KO Archives

### Drunk CRPF Jawan 'Escapes' From Kotbhalwal Jail

Shoots at Two Govt Employees, Goes Absconding

Jammu- Two government employees were injured when a Central Reserve Police Force personal posted in highly guarded Koth Bhalwal jail- opened fire on them with his service weapon in Purkhoo area, here this morning.

The assailant reportedly fled with the official weapon and four magazines from Kot Bhalwal jail before attacking the government employees. Though police and CRPF have launched a massive man hunt for his arrest he was said to be absconding till the last report came in.

Sources quoting, eyewitnesses said that Constable Dhokuo Dhmingel from Manipur of 26 Battalion was on guard duty when he went out of control and entered into verbal dual with his seniors at around midnight today.

"Dhmingel was dead drunk and all of a sudden he started teasing his senior officers", sources said adding, "The jawan fired few shots in air and later ran away with his official weapon and four magazines".

On reaching Purkho area along Jammu-Poonch road the accused entered into the premises of reservoir-cum-overhead water tank and demanded some cash from the employees of PHE posted on duty on gun-point.

It was reliably learnt that one of the employees Sham Lal gave him Rs 50 but it did not satisfied the dunked jawan. "He opened the nozzle of his gun injuring the PHE employees", sources said.

They injured were identified as Sukhdev Singh Daily-wager and Sham Lal Pump operator, bot employees of the PHE. They were rushed to Government Medical College Hospital Jammu, where their condition was stated to be critical.

The accused trooper; ran away with the gun from the spot and disappeared from the area. A massive man hunt was immediately launched by police and CRPF to track down the jawan but no breakthrough made till filing of this report.

(Kashmir Observer, 13 May, 2007)



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KO VIEW

India’s Strikes  
Achieve Goal

The guns have finally fallen silent - at least for now. And it is something to be celebrated. More so, when it ended after India achieved all its political objectives. After four days of intense cross-border hostilities that brought India and Pakistan to the brink of a wider war, both nations agreed to halt all military actions on land, air, and sea on May 10. The escalating spiral alarmed the world, forcing the countries like the United States, Saudi Arabia and Turkey to mediate to defuse the crisis. However, the announcement of truce followed a rare direct call between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two countries, marking a much-needed de-escalation after the launch of India’s Operation Sindoor in response to the brutal terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22 that killed 25 tourists and one pony operator. This forced the Indian government to act against the terrorists and their sponsors behind this gruesome attack, a goal that was accomplished. The Indian government was unequivocal: any misadventure would be met with decisive force. If anything, Operation Sindoor reaffirms India’s resolve to strike back hard when provoked, but also its preference for calibrated action over escalation.

India’s strikes, which targeted nine terror camps across Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), were described as precise, premeditated and aimed solely at terror infrastructure. The operation reportedly eliminated over 100 terrorists, including high-value individuals linked to the Pulwama bombing and the hijacking of IC 814. According to armed forces, the terrorist bases in Pakistan suffered significant losses, including damage to airbases. But through it all, the Indian army maintained a restrained yet firm posture, even after Pakistan army retaliated. India has made it clear that its fight was against terrorists and not against Pakistan military, expressing dismay that the latter should have got involved in what was a just response to Pahalgam attack. This stance leaves open a window for Pakistan to join hands with India to tackle terrorism emanating from its soil. Should Pakistan do so, this could pave the way for a bilateral dialogue and hopefully normal relations between the neighbours.

But for that to happen, Pakistan must act decisively against terror outfits operating on its soil. And India must remain vigilant while keeping diplomatic channels open. Neither side can afford the cost—human, political or economic—of another spiral into violence. Ceasefires are moments of opportunity. What comes next will depend on the courage to act not just in combat, but in statesmanship.



Think Bigger Than School

Irshad Mushtaq

We’ve all heard it: “Get a good degree, and success will follow.” But life doesn’t quite work that way. A diploma may open a door, but it rarely guarantees the room you hoped for. Success today is shaped by more than what you studied. It’s about what you do with what you know. Skills like communication, leadership, and emotional intelligence often outpace textbook knowledge. A positive mindset and the ability to adapt go further than a static certificate. Honesty and integrity aren’t just virtues, they’re assets. People trust and invest in those they believe in. Add vision, and you begin to steer your own ship. Add patience and dedication, and you start weathering storms without losing sight of the shore. Working hard is noble. Working smart is essential. Efficiency, not exhaustion, often drives results. Combine the two, and you’ll outperform those relying on just one. Financial literacy is another missing piece. Learn to save, invest, and understand how money grows. One crore invested wisely, doubling every four years, can become 32 crores in two decades. That’s the power of compound growth. It’s slow, but steady. And it works. Mentors help you navigate this journey. Confidence keeps you moving. Time, if managed well, becomes your greatest ally. Waste it, and you may never catch up. In the end, success is personal. It’s not handed out with a degree. It’s built through habits, mindset, and action. So yes, stay in school, but don’t stop there. Invest in yourself, learn outside the classroom, and play the long game. Because the real exam isn’t on paper. It’s how you live your life.

The writer is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Hammered by Machines

Machine-made knockoffs are killing  
Kashmir’s living heritage. I watched it happen.



Faizaan Bashir

Ghulam’s workshop, hidden in a web of lanes, felt like a relic. Tools, worn from years of use, hung on the walls. He showed me a machine-made tray: shiny, lifeless. “People want cheap,” he said.

I stood in Ghulam Mohammad’s workshop in Shehr-I-Khaas, Srinagar’s ancient core, as his hammer struck a copper tray. The clang, sharp and alive, filled the tiny room.

Over months studying Kashmir’s crafts, I’d grown to love that sound. But Ghulam’s scarred hands and weary eyes told a different story.

“Machines make this in hours,” he said, pointing to a cheap jug. “Mine takes a week. Who buys it?”

His question hit me hard, a warning of what’s slipping away in this historic neighborhood.

For two years, I roamed Shehr-I-Khaas as an ethnographer, drawn to its coppersmiths, shawl weavers, and woodcarvers. I wanted to learn their art. Instead, I found artisans on the brink, fighting machines, greed, and a generation’s apathy. Their struggle isn’t just Kashmir’s, it’s a global cry to save what makes us human.

Ghulam’s workshop, hidden in a web of lanes, felt like a relic. Tools, worn from years of use, hung on the walls. He showed me a machine-made tray: shiny, lifeless. “People want cheap,” he said.

A 2023 Jammu and Kashmir Handicrafts Department survey confirms it: 60% of Srinagar’s copperware is machine-made, despite 2006 and 2008 laws banning such goods.

I saw it in bazaars. Fake trays everywhere, real ones rare. “Enforcement’s a joke,” Ghulam muttered.

The data is brutal. Copper-smith jobs have fallen 40% since 2010, per the survey. Artisans, trained for years, lose to untrained workers making imitations.

At a tea stall, I met Ali, a former coppersmith now selling vegetables. “Machines took my livelihood,” he said, eyes down. I cringed, wondering if I’d ever bought a bargain piece, blind to

its cost.

Shawl weavers fare no better. In a dim room, Nisar Ahmad, 62, worked a loom, crafting a shawl with the twill-tapestry technique, months for one piece. He held up a machine-made “Kashmiri” shawl from Amritsar, its threads loose. “They sell this as ours,” he said.

In 2022, the Kashmir Handicraft Exporters Association reported 70% of “Kashmiri” shawls sold globally aren’t from Kashmir. Holding the fake, I felt Nisar’s unseen labour vanish.

Papier-mâché artisans face

engineering student, won’t touch a loom. “No one wants to be a labourer,” he said. I thought of my peers, chasing tech jobs, and felt a pang of guilt.

The government offers little help. The State Handicraft Department provides loans and training, but artisans curse the red tape.

At Baghi-Ali-Mardan, a craft estate, I saw empty workshops. A 2022 audit found 60% of artisan funds unspent, stuck in delays. “Loans don’t cover materials,” one coppersmith said. The 2006 and 2008 bans? Ignored, with fake

In 2022, the Kashmir Handicraft Exporters Association reported 70% of “Kashmiri” shawls sold globally aren’t from Kashmir. Holding the fake, I felt Nisar’s unseen labour vanish.

their own woes. In Zadibal, Zaffar Hussain, 55, told me why he quit in 2020. “The wostikaar—master craftsmen—take everything,” he said. “We get scraps.”

In the 1990s, he earned 90 rupees of every 100. Now, it’s 10, while dealers thrive.

A 2024 Craft Development Institute study shows artisans’ wages down 30% since 2000, dealers’ profits up threefold.

Nazir Khan, a woodcarver, echoed Zaffar’s anguish. He sells a box for 1,000 rupees, dealers get 10,000. “They leave us bones,” he said. I winced, picturing his skill reduced to scraps.

The youth aren’t coming to their rescue either. Most artisans I met were over 50. “Kids see crafts as poor man’s work,” Nazir said.

A 2023 University of Kashmir poll found 5% of students interested in handicrafts. Mohammad Yousuf, a weaver, said his son, an

shawls flooding markets.

Yet there’s hope. I met Shahzia, 32, teaching papier-mâché to kids in a courtyard. “If we don’t pass it on, it’s gone,” she said fiercely.

Artisans want craft classes in schools, bigger loans, and real enforcement. “Teach our history,” Ghulam urged. I pictured kids with looms, proud of their roots.

Leaving Shehr-I-Khaas, I passed a shop with machine-made shawls. Tourists haggled, clueless about the hands that never touched them.

I left haunted, wondering if we’ll act before the looms and hammers fall silent.

Author is PG History and an Independent researcher. The article is an ethnographic study of craft traditions at Shehr-I-Khaas, Srinagar.



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The Cost of Digital Overload in Kashmir

Silence once shaped the way we thought. Snowfall slowed time. Rivers set a pace for reflection. Now, that stillness is slipping away. It’s replaced not by noise from war or politics, but by the pull of screens.

This generation isn’t just growing up in uncertainty. It’s growing up in constant distraction. Every reel, every ping, pulls us away from the world around us. What once inspired awe, like the first snow of winter, is now just a background for a selfie. The moment is captured but not lived. The change is subtle but deep.

Mornings begin with glowing screens, not prayer or fresh air. Nights end with scrolling, not thought. We think we’re informed, but we rarely feel grounded. We’re overwhelmed, yet bored. Surrounded by content, yet starving for meaning.

Even time with books, nature, or people is fractured. A message flashes. A headline tempts. Something “urgent” demands our thumb’s attention. Slowly, our ability to sit with stillness, so central to Kashmiri life, starts to fade.

But beneath it all, something quiet resists.

It’s the part of us that remembers who we were before the feed. It knows a snowfall can still stop us in our tracks, if we let it. That our minds are sharper when not scattered. That a walk by the river, without a phone, can offer more insight than any trending clip.

This isn’t a plea to abandon technology. It’s a call to use it on our terms. To build habits that protect our inner lives. To remember that we are more than data points, and that our attention is worth defending.

Small steps matter. Turning off notifications. Reading for an hour

without reaching for the phone. Watching snowfall with bare eyes, not filtered lenses.

Kashmir has always been a place of patience and power. That spirit is still here. But it needs our attention, literally.

The future won’t belong to those who were always online. It will belong to those who knew when to log off, look around, and stay present.

Sincerely,  
Shahzaib Al-Qudsi  
Anantnag



# Addiction Aftershock

With alarming data and no time to spare, Kashmir must confront the kidney crisis now.

Raqif Makhdoomi

Heroin, cocaine, and synthetic drugs are ravaging kidneys in Kashmir, leaving young people on the edge of extermination.

This isn't just a health crisis, experts say, it's a betrayal of an entire generation. Time is already running out, they warn, as the scale is staggering.

A 2023 study by the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) in Srinagar found that over 60,000 people in Kashmir are addicted to hard drugs, with heroin use spiking by 30% in five years.

Every 12 minutes, someone walks into one of Srinagar's de-addiction centers. A decade ago, one center sufficed. Now there are four, with plans for more. These aren't just numbers, they're lives unraveling.

Addiction fuels a surge in diseases like HIV and hepatitis B and C, but the real devastation is in the kidneys.

Doctors report that 70-80% of chronic addicts suffer severe kidney damage, with some cases reaching 90% loss of function. Many are too frail for dialysis, let alone transplant.

Notably, heroin and synthetic opioids like fentanyl overload the body's filtration system. Over time, toxins build up, scarring the kidneys' delicate tissues.

A 2024 report from Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) noted that 40% of young addicts admitted for kidney issues had glomerulonephritis, a condition linked to drug-induced inflammation.



Intravenous drug use makes it worse. Shared needles introduce infections that further batter the kidneys.

And by the time symptoms like swelling or fatigue appear, the damage is often irreversible.

Most addicts can't afford treatment, and hospitals are overwhelmed. SKIMS alone sees 20-30 such cases monthly, a number doubling yearly.

Many blame free passage of drugs for this health crisis. Reportedly, heroin from Afghanistan and Pakistan flows in, often mixed with cheaper synthetics to maximize profits. Peddlers move with chilling ease, reaching Srinagar's alleys and beyond.

It's believed that becoming a peddler is horrifyingly simple. Dealers prey on addicts, offering free hits for distribution. The cycle spins on, wrecking more lives and crumbling families.

Mothers weep for sons who've forgotten how to smile, siblings haunted by a stranger in their home.

Overdoses are grimly common. In 2024, Jammu and Kashmir Police reported 150 overdose deaths, a 25% jump from the prior year.

Unemployment, broken homes, and the scars of strife play a big role.

Drugs have long been weapons in places like Punjab or Afghanistan, dulling minds and breaking spirits. A 2022 survey by the J&K Health Department found 65% of addicts cited stress from the region's volatility as a trigger.

But the ease of access is what keeps one awake. Heroin shouldn't be easier to find than a job in a place like Kashmir, many argue, yet it is. And that's not an accident, observers reckon, as it's a crisis people have ignored.

Enforcements—arrests, seizures, property seals—are largely seen as efforts to chase shadows. In 2024, authorities confiscated 270 kilograms of heroin, yet the supply barely flinched. A senior officer told me, "By the

time drugs reach us, they're already everywhere."

For many, it's a gut-punch of truth.

But then, a sense prevails, this isn't just a local fight. It's a global web of cartels and power brokers, demanding more than government action.

Therefore, schools are expected to teach kids the real cost, not just of addiction but of kidney failure and lives cut short. Communities similarly are exhorted to rally around the struggling, not shun them.

The alternative is unthinkable. SKIMS doctors warn that without intervention, kidney failure cases could triple by 2030. That's thousands more young people lost, thousands more families broken.

Clearly, the kidneys failing today are a siren. Tomorrow, it'll be worse.

*Raqif Makhdoomi is a law student and rights defender based out of Srinagar.*

# Nurses Need Care Too

With rising burnout and understaffing, Kashmiri nurses need more than just recognition.

Sayima Wani

In the second year of my nursing studies in Kashmir, I already know what burnout looks like.

I've seen senior nurses work double shifts without complaint. I've watched them skip meals, hold back tears, and stay calm while managing chaos.

This is not just about professional commitment, it's survival in a broken system.

In hospitals across Kashmir, nurses are doing far more than what their job descriptions ask. They comfort patients whose families can't visit. They monitor oxygen levels, deliver medication, assist in surgeries, and often become the only source of emotional support for the sick.

But despite this critical role, we are undervalued, overworked, and, most of the time, invisible.

The staffing crisis in Jammu and Kashmir is no secret. More than 3,000 nursing posts have been vacant for years, according to the region's health department. The remaining workforce is stretched thin.

Many nurses are managing entire wards alone, sometimes looking after more than 40 patients during a single shift. That kind of load isn't just unsafe. It's inhumane.

India, as a whole, has only 1.9 nurses for every 1,000 people, falling well below the World Health Organization's recommended minimum of three. In Kashmir, the numbers are even worse.

But this isn't just about numbers on a page. It's about exhausted nurses making critical decisions under extreme pressure, and patients who suffer when care becomes rushed or inconsistent.

What's frustrating is how little this conversation shows up in the public discourse. We praise



nurses once a year on International Nurses Day, celebrate Florence Nightingale's legacy, and then go back to ignoring the real, everyday struggles of those in uniform.

Even in nursing school, I feel the weight of what's ahead. We are taught technical skills, patient care protocols, and the importance of empathy. But no one prepares us for the mental toll.

No one talks about how common it is for nurses to experience anxiety, depression, or emotional fatigue.

In 2020, a national survey found that nearly 60 percent of Indian nurses reported moderate to severe burnout. In Kashmir, where infrastructure is weaker and strife adds another layer of stress, that number may be even higher.

The profession is also deeply gendered. While more men are now entering nursing, it's still widely seen as "women's work." That perception means we are often dismissed, poorly paid, and rarely promoted.

Many nurses, mostly women, remain stuck in junior roles for years with no clear path forward. Others face harassment or discrimination but keep quiet because speaking up might cost

them their job.

Still, we keep going. We continue because when a patient smiles in relief, or recovers after a long illness, we feel we've done something that matters. We continue because we believe in the value of care.

But that shouldn't mean we accept being neglected.

If Kashmir's healthcare system is to survive, nurses must be treated as the core professionals we are. Not just assistants to doctors, not just helpers, but skilled, essential workers who keep hospitals running.

That means filling vacant posts without further delay. It means paying fair wages and offering mental health support. And it means changing public attitudes that continue to see nursing as less than what it truly is: a foundation of healing.

I want to stay in Kashmir and serve my people as a nurse. But I also want to be respected, protected, and paid fairly for it.

That's not asking too much. It's asking for what should already be in place.

*The writer is a nursing student based in Kashmir. She can be reached at sayimawani131@gmail.com*

# The King Leaves Whites

Virat Kohli's red-ball retirement isn't just the end of an era, it's a personal loss for Kashmir's young cricketers who saw their dreams in his fierce eyes and fearless game.

Mohamad Yasin Malik

When Virat Kohli walked out in whites, chest out, eyes burning, the game felt different. More serious. More alive. More ours.

But now, that scene and statement has ended, as Kohli finally decided to hang up his Test cricket boots.

For much of the cricketing world, it was a gut-punch. But for Kashmir, the news felt like the end of something more personal.

Ask any young cricketer in Kashmir, and they'll tell you how Kohli shaped their game. Not just through cover drives and century celebrations, but through attitude. Through the idea that you could come from anywhere and lead with fire. In a region where sport often has to fight for space, Kohli gave red-ball cricket a fresh, fierce identity.

He brought back seriousness to a format many were ready to forget. And in doing so, he brought Kashmir along.

There was a time not too long ago when the whites were fading into the background. Five-day games had empty seats, tired narratives, and little glamour. Kohli changed that with sweat and swagger. Under his captaincy, India won in Australia, fought hard in England and South Africa, and built a pace attack that looked the world in the eye.

But more than records and rivalries, it was his intent that struck a chord with fans here. His stare-downs with bowlers, his celebration of wickets and his refusal to back down weren't just moments for TV. They became posters on hostel walls from Kupwara to Kulgam.

In Srinagar's college grounds and Shopian's muddy lanes, kids started dreaming of Tests, not just T20 leagues. It wasn't just about playing cricket, it was about playing with purpose.

Local coaches noticed it too. "Earlier, every boy wanted to be a finisher like Dhoni," says Adil, a coach in Anantnag. "Now, many want to bat long like Kohli. Leave balls outside off. Build innings. That's Kohli's legacy here."

Kohli made the red ball cool again. His retirement, though, feels sudden. And slightly unreal. At 36, he still looked sharp. His last few innings had the same



**Now, many want to bat long like Kohli. Leave balls outside off. Build innings. That's Kohli's legacy here."**

grit, the same elegance. But the game moves on, even when fans aren't ready.

With senior players like Rohit and Ashwin also stepping away, India's Test team now looks younger, and slightly lonelier. The England tour coming up needed his calm in chaos. But maybe Kohli had made up his mind long ago.

Fans in Kashmir hope it's not final. In this region, resilience is more than a word—it's a way of life. Maybe Kohli, who built his career on fightbacks, will find a way back too.

For now, there's just gratitude. For the matches he made us watch till stumps. For the belief he gave to kids playing under snowfall and strife. For making red-ball cricket not just relevant, but desirable.

Virat Kohli didn't just play Tests. He made them feel like something worth waking up for. And in Kashmir, that meant everything.

*The author is a Teacher at School Education Department. Views personal.*

# India's Icebreaker

With a sharp eye and steady hands, a Srinagar techie-turned-athlete is breaking barriers in IcestockSport and lighting a path for Kashmir's next generation.

Syed Mohammad Burhan

The café in uptown Srinagar is slowly filling up, but Faheem Masood Shah sits quietly in a corner, his tea cooling as he talks about the ice. That's where his mind is: on frozen rinks, steel sticks, and a puck-like stock that slides across the surface toward a distant target.

At 32, Faheem is India's top name in IcestockSport, a high-precision winter sport played in the Olympics.

He's competed in nearly 200 international matches and won medals on three continents. And yet, he talks more about kids picking up the sport than his own victories.

"I want them to see that this is possible," he says, watching a short clip on his phone—a young boy in Gulmarg landing a perfect shot. "That it's real."

From Batamaloo to the Big Leagues,

Faheem grew up as a happy-go lucky fellow. He played football on rough roads, raced homemade sleds down icy lanes, and found joy in movement.

Sports were always calling, but Faheem answered the call of academics too. He earned a degree in Computer Engineering and followed it up with a master's in Data Science and AI. A comfortable tech job was right there for the taking. But in 2014, everything changed.

He was in Gulmarg for a snow rugby match when he was introduced to a new sport by Manfred Schafer, then head of the International Federation of IcestockSport. Faheem was handed a stick and asked to aim at a distant target on the ice.

His first shot hit the mark. "I didn't know the rules, but I knew how it felt," Faheem says. "It felt right."

In the years that followed, Faheem trained relentlessly, often on poorly maintained ice with no coaches, little gear, and zero fanfare. But the results spoke for themselves.

In 2015, Faheem announced his



arrival at a local event in Gulmarg, striking gold in the Team Game and silver in Individual Target—a sign of what was coming.

Three years later, in 2018, at the World Championship in Austria, he helped India clinch 9th place, its first major finish on the world stage. A year later, in Harbin, China, Faheem powered India to a bronze at the China Cup, earning the title of Asia's top team in the Team Game.

Competing in Germany in 2020, he pushed India to 8th in Team Game and 9th in Team Target globally—its strongest ranking yet. At the 2023 national level, Faheem dominated the Khelo India Winter Games with a gold, two silvers, and a bronze, setting the bar for domestic competition.

Back home in 2024, he racked

up three golds and two silvers, underlining his consistency on Indian ice.

And early this year, at the World Championship in Austria, Faheem returned with a bronze and a fourth-place finish in Team Long Distance, helping India climb to 7th globally in Team Game—its best ever.

"Faheem's like a laser on the ice," says a teammate. "He sees the path, and he hits it."

His background in rugby sharpened his reflexes. His tech training refined his strategy. But it's his mental game that makes him different.

"He's not just playing for himself," says a coach who's watched his rise. "He's trying to lift the whole system."

That's not easy in India, where

winter sports receive minimal support. In Kashmir, it's even harder.

Faheem has competed with borrowed gear. He's trained on thin ice, literally, and traveled abroad with barely enough money to cover basic costs. There's little infrastructure, and even less recognition. Still, he keeps showing up. Keeps winning.

At a recent local tournament in Srinagar, Faheem did what he usually does—dominated. Gold in Team Game. Silver in Long Distance. Bronze in Individual.

But it was after the matches that the real show began.

He stayed behind as kids wandered onto the rink. One young boy struggled to get his footing. Faheem stepped in, adjusted his grip, showed him the stance, and smiled as the boy's next shot came close.

"This is what matters," Faheem says. "Helping them believe they belong here."

He's already become a local icon. Kids follow him on Instagram. Parents call him a role model. Shopkeepers recognize him and celebrate his medals like they're their own.

At a school event last month, he held up a medal and said, "This is not mine. It's yours, if you're ready to work for it."

Faheem isn't done. Not even close. His next stop is the European Championships, and after that, Olympic qualification.

"I want to bring that medal home," he says, eyes sharp. "Not for me, for every kid who thinks they can't make it because they're from Kashmir."

He's campaigning hard for better rinks, proper coaching, and serious investment in winter sports. "We're not that far behind," he says. "We just need people to believe in us."

It's late evening when Faheem finally gets up, leaving behind a story that makes one feel that his rise is beyond medals and records. It's about a path of change.

And on that path, the ice is just beginning to crack.



# Israeli-American hostage released by Hamas in goodwill gesture toward Trump administration

Deir al-Balah, May 12: An Israeli-American soldier held hostage for more than 19 months in the Gaza Strip was released Monday by Hamas in a goodwill gesture toward the Trump administration that could lay the groundwork for a new ceasefire with Israel.

The Israeli military confirmed that Edan Alexander was turned over to the Red Cross and then to Israeli forces.

Wearing shirts emblazoned with his name, Alexander's extended family gathered in Tel Aviv to watch the release. They cheered and chanted his name when the military said he was free. His grandmother, Varda Ben Baruch, beamed. In Tel Aviv's Hostage Square, hundreds of people broke out into cheers.

Alexander was 19 when he was taken from his military base in southern Israel during Hamas' cross-border attack on October 7, 2023, which set off the war in Gaza.

His release was the first since Israel shattered an eight-week ceasefire with Hamas in March, unleashing fierce strikes on Gaza that have killed hundreds.

Israel has promised to intensify its offensive, including by seizing the territory and displacing much of its population again. Days before the ceasefire

ended, Israel blocked all imports from entering the Palestinian enclave, deepening a humanitarian crisis and sparking warnings about the risk of famine if the blockade isn't lifted.

Israel says the steps are meant to pressure Hamas to accept a ceasefire agreement on Israel's terms.

Israel says 58 hostages remain in captivity, with about 23 of them said to be alive. Many of the 250 hostages taken by Hamas-led militants in the 2023 attack were freed in ceasefire deals.

Television footage showed Alexander's mother, Yael Alexander, arriving at the Reim military base in southern Israel, where her son was expected to be taken first.

Trump calls expected release 'hopefully' a step toward ending war

Hamas on Sunday announced its intention to release Alexander, shortly before US President Donald Trump is set to arrive Tuesday in the Middle East on the first official foreign trip of his second term.

Trump on Sunday called the planned release "a step taken in good faith towards the United States and the efforts of the mediators — Qatar and Egypt — to put an end to this very brutal



war and return ALL living hostages and remains to their loved ones."

"Hopefully this is the first of those final steps necessary to end this brutal conflict. I look very much forward to that day of celebration!" Trump said on social media.

Trump, who is travelling to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, is not

scheduled to stop in Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Monday with the US special envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff and the US ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, and discussed efforts to release the remaining hostages, his office said.

"To this end, Prime Minister Netanyahu directed that a

negotiations team leave for Doha tomorrow," the prime minister's office said, adding that Netanyahu had "made it clear that the negotiations would only take place under fire."

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum, a group representing relatives of hostages, welcomed the news that an Israeli delegation was headed to Doha for talks.

"While Edan Alexander's release gives us hope, all 58 of our loved ones must come home. Time is running out. These negotiations must bring everyone back," the group said in a statement.

"Trump's plan offers a real path to freeing all hostages immediately. Every passing day puts their lives at greater risk. We cannot wait any longer."

Israel says it still plans to escalate its offensive

On Monday, a statement from Netanyahu's office said Israel was not granting any concessions for Alexander's release.

The statement said Israel did not commit to a ceasefire or the freeing of Palestinian prisoners as part of the release and that it had only agreed to create a "safe corridor" to allow for Alexander to be returned.

The statement said Israel would carry on with plans to ramp up its offensive in Gaza. Israel says it won't launch that plan until after Trump's visit to the Middle East, to allow for a potential new ceasefire deal to emerge.

A statement by the office on Sunday said the US had told Israel that Alexander's release could lead to a new deal with Hamas to free more hostages. Netanyahu faces criticism for

not freeing all hostages

Israel's involvement in Alexander's expected release wasn't immediately clear. But it created a backlash against Netanyahu, with critics accusing him of having to rely on a foreign leader to help free the remaining hostages.

At the opening of his trial for alleged corruption, where he is giving testimony, a woman in the courtroom asked whether he was "ashamed that the president of the United States is saving his citizens, and he is leaving them to die there in captivity."

Critics assert that Netanyahu's insistence on keeping up the war in Gaza is politically motivated. Netanyahu says he aims to achieve Israel's goals of freeing the hostages and dismantling Hamas.

Hamas-led militants killed 1,200 people in the 2023 attack. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 52,800 Palestinians, many of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were combatants or civilians.

Israel's offensive has obliterated vast swaths of Gaza's urban landscape and displaced 90 per cent of the population, often multiple times.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Operation Sindoor

Modi said that while Pakistan pleaded with India to stop the military offensive, New Delhi considered it only after they promised to stop their misadventure.

The prime minister termed the Pahalgam attack as the most "barbaric face of terrorism", saying it was personal pain for him, but the enemy has now realised the consequences of removing "sindoor from the forehead of our women".

Addressing the nation, Modi said Operation Sindoor was not just a name but, through it, the whole world saw India's resolve turn into action and more than 100 dreaded terrorists were slaughtered.

"Pakistan wiped the sindoor off our sisters' foreheads. We wiped out the universities of terror running in Pakistan," he said, dedicating the valour of armed forces to mothers, sisters and daughters of this country.

Outlining the 'new normal', he said India will give a befitting response to any terror attack on its own terms by targeting the terror havens.

He said, "Secondly, India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail. India will launch precise attacks on terror sites being nurtured under the protection of nuclear blackmail."

Thirdly, he added, the country will not differentiate between the government sponsoring terrorism and the patrons of terrorists.

"Pakistan has to dismantle its terror infrastructure. There is no other way to peace," the prime minister said.

With terror infrastructure destroyed in a big way and terror sites left in ruins, India considered stopping military actions after Pakistan said it would desist from any terror or military action, he said.

"The Pahalgam attack was the most barbaric face of terrorism, it was a personal pain for me. We gave the armed forces full liberty to raze terrorists to dust," he said.

"When our missiles and drones destroyed terror sites in Pakistan, not only their buildings but their spirit was also demolished. When 'Nation First' is our resolve, steely decisions are taken," he said.

Pakistan slumped into gloom after the Indian attack on terror camps, "but they dared to attack us rather than helping fight terrorism. More than 100 dreaded terrorists were slaughtered in the Indian attack", Modi said.

"The entire world saw how Pakistani drones were downed by our military might. India has struck at the heart of Pakistan, our missiles attacked with precision to damage their air bases," he said.

Modi reiterated that terror and talks, and terror and trade cannot go together. Blood and water, he added in a reference to India putting in abeyance the Indus Waters Treaty, cannot flow together.

"I will tell world leaders too that this is our stated policy that if dialogue will occur, then it will be on terrorism and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir," he said, adding that terror sites targeted by India were also linked to the 9/11 terror attacks in the US and the London tube bombing.

In the broadcast, Modi saluted the armed forces, intelligence agencies and scientists and ended his speech by raising the slogan of "Bharat mata ki jai" three times.

The prime minister lauded the unity shown by the country against the terror attack, which he said was aimed at creating communal divide as well because the terrorists carried out religious profiling of victims. "Our unity is our biggest strength," he added.

After India eliminated dreaded terrorists roaming freely in Pakistan in one strike, Pakistan sank into despair and attacked India in desperation instead of cooperating in the action against terrorism, he said.

Religious places like gurdwaras and temples, civilians in their homes and military facilities

were targeted, he said, adding that Pakistan ended up unmasking itself as the world saw its drones and missiles being brought down like "straws" by India's air defence system.

He said Operation Sindoor has unveiled a new dimension of India's capabilities as the armed forces not only put up a "glorious performance in deserts and mountains but also proved their superiority in the new age warfare".

PM Modi said destruction was inflicted on Pakistan beyond its imagination in three days and began pleading across the world for an escape route.

Asserting that India will continue to take decisive steps to protect itself and its citizens, he said indigenous weapons have proved their superiority in the conflict and added that their time has come.

Lord Buddha, whose birth anniversary fell on Monday, showed the path to peace but "it passes through shakti" (power), he said, adding that it is a must for India to be powerful to be peaceful and prosperous.

Using power is also at times necessary for peace and this is what India has done in the past few days, he said.

### Stopped India-Pak

going at it hot and heavy, and it was seemingly not going to stop."

"I'm very proud to let you know that the leadership of India and Pakistan was unwavering, powerful, but unwavering in both cases, having these they really were from the standpoint of having the strength and the wisdom and fortitude to fully know and to understand the gravity of the situation," Trump said.

The US President said he told India and Pakistan that America will do "a lot of trade" with them if they stop the conflict.

"And we helped a lot, and we helped also with trade. I said, 'Come on, we're going to do a lot of trade with you guys. Let's stop it. Let's stop it. If you stop it, we're doing trade. If you don't stop it, we're not going to do any trade.'"

Trump added that "People have never really used trade the way I used it, that I can tell you. And all of a sudden they (India and Pakistan) said, 'I think we're going to stop.'"

"And they have, and they did it for a lot of reasons, but trade is a big one. We're going to do a lot of trade with Pakistan. We're going to do a lot of trade with India. We're negotiating with India right now. We're going to be soon negotiating with Pakistan, and we stopped a nuclear conflict," Trump said.

"I think it ... could have been a bad nuclear war. Millions of people could have been killed. So I'm very proud of that. I also want to thank Vice President (J D) Vance and Secretary of State (Marco) Rubio for their work and efforts, they worked very hard on that," Trump said.

Trump went on to say that "we did some great things with trade with India and Pakistan. Really helped the situation. Very heated situation. Could have lost millions of people, more than millions, I mean, many millions of people. And they want to do business with America, but we never used our powers that way. Never knew how. We never had people that knew how to do that."

On Saturday, Trump announced that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after a "long night of talks mediated by the United States."

Later, in a post on Truth Social, Trump offered to work with India and Pakistan for a "solution" on Kashmir, while crediting Washington for helping the two nations arrive at the "historic and heroic decision" of stopping the conflict.

Trump went on to say that even though this has not been discussed, he is going to "increase trade, substantially, with both of these great Nations."

India has always maintained that the Kashmir issue is a bilateral matter and there is

no space for any third party. India asserts that the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the Union Territory of Ladakh are and always will be integral and inalienable parts of it.

### Srinagar Airport

affected due to closure of the Srinagar airport, he added.

### Haji Flights To

situation. However, with improvements in security and operational conditions, Hajj flight operations are now being restored.

"Flights will operate from May 14, with two flights scheduled that day," Dr Qureshi said. "Each flight will carry approximately 320 pilgrims."

This development brings much-needed relief to hundreds of pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir, who had been anxiously awaiting updates on their travel plans following the suspension of flight operations at Srinagar airport.

### DGMOs Of Pak,

confirming that Indian naval air defense systems and fleet patrols remained alert and active.

"If needed, we have the capability to strike at will across maritime or land-based targets. Pakistan could not threaten us during maritime operations either," he said.

Officials confirmed that offensive operations were carried out across "the length and breadth of enemy territory," including high-impact strikes near Nur Khan Air Base and Rambhaya. These precision attacks were aimed at disrupting terrorist command hubs and logistics networks.

They praised the perfect synergy between the Army, Air Force, Navy, Border Security Force, and intelligence units during recent operations. "From the DG to the last jawan, the BSF played a vital role in securing the borders," said Lieutenant General Ghai.

He also acknowledged the unwavering support from the Indian government and the collective will of India's 140 crore citizens. "This is not just a military effort. Every domain—air, land, sea, and cyber—is involved, and every Indian stands behind the forces," the commanders said.

Responding to reports from across the border, the Indian military dismissed Pakistani claims that a terror leader reportedly killed in a targeted strike, was still alive. "They will say whatever it takes to manage their internal narrative. But facts speak louder. Our fight is not with Pakistan's people—it is with the terrorists they shelter," Air Marshal Bharti said.

In a symbolic gesture, he also quoted a Hindi poem to reaffirm India's resilience and self-reliance, adding that indigenous systems were fully capable of countering modern threats, including drone swarms and cyber warfare.

The military commanders said that while India remains open to dialogue through DGMO-level talks, its forces are "ready for the next mission—anytime, anywhere."

"Every war is different. What matters is staying ahead of your adversary. We were ready, and we remain ready," they added.

It was decided by the two sides that the DGMOs would hold talks on May 12.

Tensions between India and Pakistan soared after the Indian Armed Forces hit terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) last week in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

### All Military Bases

the Akash system, he said.

The Integrated Air Command and Control system thwarted Pakistan's military offensives.

"Our fight was against terror infrastructure and terrorists but the Pakistan military chose to support terrorists and widened the conflict," the top IAF officer said.

The Indian Army said earlier this morning, "The night remained largely peaceful across Jammu and Kashmir and other areas along the International Border".

"No incidents have been reported, marking the first calm night in recent days," it said in a statement.

India launched Operation Sindoor on early May 7 to destroy nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack.

All subsequent retaliations to Pakistani offensives were carried out under 'Operation Sindoor'.

India and Pakistan on Saturday last announced reaching an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with effect from 5 pm that day. (PTI)

### Poonch Faced

shelling was taking place. Now that the shelling has stopped, they can return to their homes," Abdullah told reporters here.

Accompanied by his cabinet colleague Javed Rana, Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and MLA Aijaz Jan, the chief minister on Monday reached out to those affected by the Pakistani shelling in the Poonch and Surankote areas, and emphasised the need for setting up bunkers in the region.

Abdullah, who was also accompanied by his sons Zamir and Zahir, described the recent escalation along the Line of Control (LoC) as a "war-like" situation, with Poonch district suffering the heaviest shelling.

"For the last three-four days, there was a kind of war-like atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir. Among all the areas that faced the brunt of the cross-border shelling, Poonch was the worst affected," he said.

The National Conference (NC) leader said this is the first time that shells have fallen right in the middle of towns and heavy bombardment has taken place. "We have lost 13 precious lives. My purpose for coming here today is, at the very least, to reach those homes where this tragedy occurred," he said.

Abdullah met with members of the local civil society and commended the people of Poonch for maintaining communal harmony in the face of adversity. "Despite the difficult circumstances, they upheld the legacy of unity among Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs," he said.

Replying to a question on the indiscriminate nature of the shelling, the chief minister clarified that religious places were not specifically targeted, but areas near madrasas, temples, dargahs and gurdwaras were hit. "Their firing was random and reckless," he said.

Abdullah emphasised the need for preparedness to prevent future casualties. "If such a situation arises again, we must ensure that such loss of lives does not happen. We have received several constructive suggestions from the civil society and we will be working on their implementation," the chief minister said.

Replying to a question on Pakistan's motives, he said, "I do not have a magic wand to read their intentions. I can only comment based on ground realities. It has been 24 hours since the ceasefire began and so far, it is holding."

He dismissed the Pakistani military's propaganda, saying, "They will continue to push propaganda, but the reality is known to you, to me and to the world."

Abdullah said the administration in all the affected districts -- Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu, Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora -- have been directed to assess the structural damage and submit reports for compensation.

"Our priority so far has been saving lives, but now that the ceasefire is in place, assessments will begin and relief will follow. As per the proforma, we will give compensation," he said.

The chief minister rejected reports that officials had deserted their posts during the shelling. "Not a single DC (deputy commissioner)

left his station. These rumours being spread by some in the media are unfortunate and untrue," he asserted.

### Border Villagers

every corner to make sure it's safe."

Uri MLA Sajjad Shafi advised villagers not to touch any suspicious items and report such sightings immediately to authorities.

The current lull follows Operation Sindoor, in which India launched precision strikes on terror launch pads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam. The Pakistani military responded with heavy shelling and drone incursions, plunging the border belt into fear and darkness.

A temporary ceasefire was announced on Saturday after four days of intense drone and missile exchanges, but India later accused Pakistan of breaching the understanding. Nonetheless, the guns have fallen silent—for now.

### Operation Sindoor Lesson

Our war was to teach Pakistan a lesson," he said.

Sinha met the families displaced by the recent cross-border shelling and reassured them of the government's full support.

"Our armed forces have time and again demonstrated their capability to respond decisively to any threat posed by Pakistan. This country harbours and exports terror, causing immense suffering through its actions in our territory," he added.

He said the nation stands in solidarity with the victims and reaffirmed the Government of India and Union Territory administration's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of all citizens.

Speaking on the retaliatory military action, the LG said, "On the night of May 6-7, our armed forces executed a precise and powerful strike through Operation Sindoor."

"The operation not only demonstrated our unwavering resolve and commendable restraint but also demolished terror factories across the border and avenged the killing of innocent civilians in Pahalgam," Sinha said.

"Our armed forces have made it clear: any threat to the safety of our people will be met with such a response that it will be remembered for seven generations in Pakistan," Sinha said.

He also underlined India's firm stance on its sovereignty and territorial integrity and said, "We will never compromise on our sovereignty. Our resolve is to dismantle the entire terror ecosystem from Jammu and Kashmir."

He expressed gratitude to individuals and organisations extending help to the affected families.

He assured that new bunkers would be constructed as per updated assessments to ensure the safety of residents living near the border.

### Pays Tributes To

in Jammu, and later his mortal remains were dispatched to his family for the last rites.

The LG laid a wreath at the mortal remains and said "I salute the brave son of Mother India, BSF Constable Deepak Chingakhem, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty."

He further said, "We share the grief of the family and stand in solidarity."

After the wreath-laying ceremony, the tricolour-wrapped coffin carrying the body of the constable was dispatched to his hometown for the last rites.

### GMC Rajouri Staff

Medical Education Department, and the Finance/Chief Accounts Officer of GMC Rajouri, for necessary action. Heads of all departments within the medical college and the Medical Superintendent of the associated hospital have also been informed.



## Traffic Resumes On Mughal Road



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Following days of tension and disruption caused by cross-border shelling, the historic Mughal Road has reopened to vehicular traffic after a ceasefire was announced along the Line of Control (LoC), offering much-needed relief to commuters, transporters, and local businesses.

The Mughal Road, a crucial link connecting the Kashmir Valley to the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu, had witnessed minimal movement over the past week due to fears sparked by intensified shelling near the LoC. The route, particularly vulnerable due to its proximity to volatile areas in Poonch, had become a zone of anxiety for travellers and traders alike.

"We are relieved that the ceasefire has been announced," said Bilal Ahmad, a transporter who frequently operates on the route. "We've resumed our services, but people are still cautious. It will take a few more days for full confidence to return."

The road's reopening has resumed the flow of essential goods and services, restoring a lifeline for many in remote regions who depend on the route for daily necessities and economic activity. Local businesses that had come to a halt during the shelling are gradually re-

turning to normalcy.

Shopkeepers and hoteliers, particularly in Shopian's Hirpora area and nearby regions, are hopeful about a revival in business. "The last few days were very difficult," said Tariq Mehmood, a local shopkeeper. "No customers, no traffic. Everything came to a standstill. Now that the ceasefire has been announced, we hope it holds and our businesses can bounce back."

The Mughal Road, with its rich historical significance as a trade corridor used by Mughal emperors, is often considered a strategic alternative to the frequently disrupted Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, especially during natural events like landslides in Ramban.

Despite the reopening and resumed traffic, locals remain wary. "We want the peace to last," said Feroz Khan, a resident of Poonch. "Ceasefires have been broken before. We can only hope this one brings lasting calm."

The recent flare-up along the LoC had led to around 20 casualties in the Poonch and Rajouri sectors, including an Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) in Rajouri, underscoring the toll of the ongoing conflict and the fragile nature of peace in the region.

As normalcy cautiously returns to the Mughal Road, residents and commuters alike are watching developments with hope—and guarded optimism.

## Satish Sharma Visits Meets Displaced Border Residents



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Demonstrating government's commitment towards welfare of citizens affected by recent conflict, Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today visited multiple makeshift relief camps set up for residents displaced due to cross border shelling by Pakistan.

The Minister visited several key locations currently housing displaced families including Basawa Dev Shthan, GHS Dhanna Chapri, GPS Amblian, Little Flower Public School, Dhanna, Panchayat Ghar, Dhanna, Bright Future Public School, Dhanna, GMS Dhanna Ambo Shani, GPS Dhanna Dhanu, Panchayat Ghar, Dori, Baba Mai Mal Dev Shthan, Dager and several adjoining temporary shelter sites.

During the visit, the Minister interacted with the affected families to assess their immediate needs and ensure adequate provision of relief services including food, clean drinking water, medical aid, sanitation

and temporary education facilities for the children.

"The plight of our border residents is deeply concerning. We are taking all necessary steps to ensure their safety, dignity and timely rehabilitation," stated the Minister. "Every displaced family will receive the support they need until they can safely return home."

The Minister directed the officials to strengthen supply chains for essential items, deploy additional health workers and improve the overall conditions within the shelters. He also emphasized the need to safeguard children's education during this crisis by utilizing local schools as temporary learning centers.

Accompanied by the officials from administration, local leaders, emergency response teams, NGO Society for Scheduled & Backwards with its General Secretary Tariq Mirza, Minister Sharma reaffirmed Omar Abdullah government's resolve to provide both immediate relief and long-term support to the displaced communities.

## Rana Visits Zia Ul Uloom, Assesses Damages



Observer News Service

**POONCH:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, visited Jamia Zia Ul Uloom Poonch, and assessed the damage caused there caused to recent cross border firing in the region.

The Minister expressed deep shock and concern over the unfortunate loss of Qari Muhammad Iqbal due to shelling from

across the LoC.

Maulana Syed Habib briefed the Minister on the extent of damage caused by shelling in Poonch and specifically at Zia Ul Uloom.

The Minister praised the institute's management who along with NGOs and administration made commendable efforts in assisting the people during adversity.

HAJJ-2025

## J&K HC Mulls Addl Flights As 2240 Pilgrims Left Stranded

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** While the Hajj-2025 flight operations are set to resume, the air travel disruptions amidst the closure of airports have left at least 2,240 Haj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir stranded, prompting the J&K Haj Committee to consider operating additional flights to clear the backlog.

Executive Officer Haj Committee, Dr Shujhat Qureshi said that while pilgrims scheduled for May 14 and 15 will depart as planned, efforts are underway to accommodate those who were unable to fly earlier due to the situation.

"The ones scheduled will go first. Those who could not go earlier will be accommodated if an additional flight is arranged," Dr Qureshi said.

The Hajj flight from Srinagar, originally slated for May 7 with 320 pilgrims onboard, was cancelled due to flight disruptions after tension between India and Pakistan escalated. Since then, cancellations continued daily, with the last flight cancellation date on May 12.

According to official data, a total of 2,240 pilgrims are now waiting to be rebooked after their scheduled flights were cancelled over the past week. The Committee is currently in talks with concerned agencies to arrange special flights aimed at clearing the backlog.



### NC Welcomes Resumption Of Hajj Flights

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Chief Spokesperson and MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq Monday welcomed the resumption of Hajj flights from Srinagar Airport, set to begin on May 14. He emphasised the urgent need to increase the number of flights to ensure that pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir can complete all Hajj rituals in a timely manner.

In a statement issued to KNS, Sadiq expressed that the resumption of flights has brought immense joy to thousands of pilgrims

from Jammu and Kashmir who have long awaited the opportunity of a lifetime to perform Hajj.

"I extend our heartfelt gratitude to the relevant authorities for this timely action. It is imperative that the airport authorities and the Hajj committee collaborate to devise a comprehensive plan to increase the number of flights from Srinagar Airport. This initiative will not only save valuable time for the pilgrims but also ensure that they can fully participate in all Hajj rituals alongside their counterparts from around the globe," he added.

The disruptions had sparked anxiety among intending pilgrims and their families. Meanwhile, the J&K

Haj Committee has assured that all affected pilgrims will be accommodated as soon as logistics are finalised—(KNO)

## Life Returns To Normal In Jammu

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Life in Jammu is gradually limping back to normalcy following a tense standoff between India and Pakistan, triggered by the April 22, Pahalgam terrorist attack that claimed 26 lives.

The ceasefire agreement reached on May 10, has brought a calm to the region, with markets reopening, streets buzzing with activity, and educational institutions in all non-border districts of Jammu as well as Kashmir divisions set to resume operations from tomorrow.

The recent escalation, marked by India's 'Operation Sindoor' on May 7, targeted terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, followed by retaliatory drone and missile exchanges.

Jammu faced significant disruptions, including blackouts, sirens and explosions near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch and Rajouri districts.

Schools and colleges in border districts like Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri, and Poonch were closed from May 7 as a precautionary measure.

### BJP Holds High-Level Organizational Meeting In Jammu

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir unit, under the leadership of General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, convened a crucial organizational meeting at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. The meeting focused on the prevailing security situation in the region, following recent cross-border aggression by Pakistan and India's assertive military response.

The meeting saw the presence of several prominent BJP leaders, including DDC Chairperson Bharat Bhushan, MLA Arvind Gupta, former Minister Bali Bhagat, J&K BJP Secretary Veenu Khanna, Treasurer Prabhakar Singh Jamwal, Rakesh Mahajan, Balbir Ram Rattan, Sunil Prajapati, Ved Sharma, Basant Raj Thakur, Parduman Singh, Reema Padha, and other senior party members.

In his address, Ashok Koul expressed deep anguish over the damage and suffering caused by



The Jammu and Kashmir Education Department, however, announced the reopening of schools and colleges in non-border districts starting tomorrow (May 13), signaling a return to normalcy.

"After reviewing the situation, educational institutions in non-border districts of Jammu and Kashmir will resume classes on May 13," stated Education Minister Sakina Itoo.

However, border districts will continue to see closures as a precautionary measure due to lingering security concerns.

Local residents expressed relief as the city began to recover. "It will take some time,

but everything will be fine," said a Jammu local, reflecting the cautious optimism in the air. Markets, which had shuttered during the height of tensions, are now bustling again, and no sirens or drone sightings have been reported since the ceasefire took effect.

The Indian Army reported that the night of May 11-12 remained largely peaceful across Jammu and Kashmir, with no significant ceasefire violations. The Border Security Force (BSF) also foiled a major infiltration bid in Samba district on May 8, underscoring the continued vigilance of security forces—(KNO)

### Dr Karan Singh Lauds 'Operation Sindoor'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Former Sadre Riyasat Dr Karan Singh has welcomed the India-Pakistan ceasefire, calling it a much-needed step that prevented a dangerous escalation of the conflict. In a statement issued Monday, he praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian Armed Forces for the execution of "Operation Sindoor", describing it as "matured, professional and effective."

Dr Singh said the Prime Minister showed "wisdom" by granting the forces a free hand during the operation, which reportedly targeted militant infrastructure and military bases inside mainland Pakistan, including Rawalpindi.

"I congratulate the Prime Minister and all ranks of the Armed Forces for their efficient and determined handling of the situation. The lethal strikes on terrorist headquarters and military installations achieved their objectives," he said.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

## 'Nurses Are Unsung Heroes, Backbone Of Healthcare'

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Nurses, who play a vital role in hospitals by communicating with patients, understanding their needs and providing exceptional care alongside administering medicines, remain largely unsung heroes. Whenever patients recover, credit is primarily given to doctors, often overlooking the crucial contributions of nurses.

Medical experts said that while doctors are credited for a patient's recovery, nurses are the ones who offer continuous, round-the-clock care, bridging the gap between treatment and healing. They said it is no exaggeration to say that imagining healthcare without nurses is not just difficult but impossible.

Nurses are the heart and backbone of hospitals, providing physical, emotional, and psychological support during some of the most vulnerable moments in patients' lives, they added.

Several nurses across Jammu and Kashmir shared their experiences and the daily challenges they face.

Bilkees Akhter, a nurse posted in the remote Khanshab area of Budgam, is stationed over 120 kilometres from her home. Due to the distance, she lives in a rented room near her workplace, far from her family.

"Living away from home for weeks at a time is emotionally draining. It often leads to loneliness and even depression. But we keep going because our patients depend on us," she said.

Tabasum Jan, another nurse from south Kashmir, spoke about managing both professional duties and family responsibilities. "I'm a mother of three daughters. When my daughters were infants and still breastfeeding, I

had to leave them at home with their father to fulfil my duty. It's heartbreaking to leave your baby behind, especially during night shifts," she said.

Akhter said that during those nights, her infants would cry inconsolably, and her family would stay awake to comfort them.

Beyond emotional and familial struggles, nurses also face a host of professional challenges—heavy workloads, long and irregular shifts, stressful environments, and dealing with uncooperative patients. Many feel that despite their hard work, they are underappreciated and underpaid.

A 2021 study published in the International Journal of Research in Medical Sciences revealed that approximately 67% of nurses in Kashmir suffer from symptoms of depression—a stark reflection of the psychological burden they silently bear.

Principal of GMC Anantnag, Dr Rukhsana Najeeb, said that despite all odds, nurses remain the unwavering pillars of the healthcare system. "Nurses are the true backbone of every healthcare institution. They are often the first point of contact and the constant companions of patients throughout their journey to recovery. Their compassion, resilience, and dedication form the foundation of quality patient care," she said.

She added, "At GMC Anantnag, we are immensely proud of our nursing staff. On this International Nurses Day, I pledge our continued support for their welfare, professional development, and the recognition they so rightly deserve. As we celebrate International Nurses Day, let us not just offer words of thanks but ensure that these frontline warriors receive the dignity, respect, and support they have long been denied."—(KNO)

## CS Visits Dr Thapa's Home To Pay Homage

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** In a solemn gesture of solidarity and respect, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Monday visited the residence of Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa (JKAS), Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty due to cross-border shelling in Rajouri.

Expressing profound grief over the untimely loss, the Chief Secretary extended his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, acknowledging the officer's exceptional dedication and sacrifice. He emphasized that Dr. Thapa's service to the community and his unwavering commitment towards his responsibilities will always be remembered with deep respect and admiration.

On the occasion, Dulloo ob-

served that his service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. The government stands firmly with his family in this hour of grief, he added.

The Chief Secretary assured the family of all possible support from the administration, reiterating the commitment to stand by the family during this difficult time. He also interacted with the family members, offering words of comfort and assurance of continued support.

Dulloo also said that the tragic loss of Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa has not only created a void in the administrative fraternity but has also left a lasting impact on all those who knew him for his dedicated service and kind nature. His contributions towards development of Rajouri and his selfless service will always be remembered as a testament to his commitment and courage.

## Police Arrests 3 Drug Peddlers In Budgam, Sopore

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing its unwavering drive against the drug menace, Police achieved success by arresting 3 drug peddlers in Budgam and Sopore and recovered a significant quantity of contraband substances from their possession.

A police team from Police Post Soibugh at a checkpoint established near Soibugh Diyar Bridge, intercepted two suspicious individuals who tried to flee but were apprehended tactfully. Upon search, a heroin-like substance was recovered from their possession. They have been

identified as Mohd Imran Khan son of Abdul Rahman Khan and Waris Rashid Dar son of Abdul Rashid Dar, both residents of Narkara, Budgam. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 108/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Budgam, and further investigation is underway.

Similarly in Sopore, Police Station Dangiawacha apprehended notorious drug peddler namely Mohammad Iqbal Dar son of Mushtaq Ahmad Dar resident of Drusoo Khalisa Rafiabab, in connection with FIR No. 22/2025 under sections 8/22 and 29 of the NDPS Act.

## NH-44 Remains Shut As Restoration Work Continues

Agencies

**RAMBAN:** The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) has been blocked yet again—this time due to a road collapse at Marog in Ramban district—cutting off vital road connectivity between Kashmir and the rest of the country.

Officials confirmed that restoration work is currently underway, but have strongly advised travelers not to undertake any journey on the route until it is fully restored.

According to traffic authori-

ties, the collapse occurred amid unstable ground conditions, likely worsened by ongoing inclement weather in the region. The damage has left the highway unfit for vehicular movement, forcing suspension of both passenger and freight traffic.

"No vehicle movement will be allowed on NH-44 until the damaged portion is repaired and declared safe," said an official from the Traffic Control Unit. "People are advised in their own interest to refrain from travelling on the highway."



# Virat Kohli Announces Test Retirement; Says It's Not Easy But Feels Right

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** India's most successful Test captain and the fulcrum of its batting for over a decade, Virat Kohli announced his retirement from the format on Monday, ending his passionate love affair with the five-day game which celebrated him as its saviour during a global T20 surge.

The 36-year-old Kohli, who admitted that it wasn't an easy call to make, turned up in 123 Tests for India, scoring 9230 runs with 30 hundreds and 31 half centuries at an average of 46.85.

He will now only be seen in ODIs, having already retired from T20 Internationals last year after having a significant role in India's T20 World Cup win in the Caribbean.

"I'm walking away with a



heart full of gratitude - for the game, for the people I shared the field with, and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way," Kohli announced on his Instagram page.

Since making his debut in 2011 as the nation's Test cap number 269, Kohli captained India to the world number one position in the format and fetched a historic series tri-

umph in Australia in 2018-19.

Under his leadership, India won 40 of 68 Tests, making him the most successful for his country and fourth most successful overall, behind South African Graeme Smith, Ricky Ponting and Steve Waugh. He also logged 20 hundreds as captain, making it the highest by an Indian in that position.

The megastar's last Test assignment was a largely underwhelming tour of Australia in which he managed just one hundred. He ends his career well short of the 10,000 run mark, which was, at one stage, considered a formality.

The right-hander nonetheless signs off as a giant of the format with seven double hundreds, the highest for an Indian and well ahead of the legendary

quartet of Sunil Gavaskar (4), Sachin Tendulkar (6), Virender Sehwag (6) and Rahul Dravid (5).

At a time when T20 leagues became the most sought after and watched showpiece in international cricket, Kohli's aura played a significant role in keeping fans hooked to Test cricket.

"There's something deeply personal about playing in whites. The quiet grind, the long days, the small moments that no one sees but that stay with you forever," Kohli wrote in his farewell note for the format.

"As I step away from this format, it's not easy - but it feels right. I've given it everything I had, and it's given me back so much more than I could've hoped for. I'll always look back at my Test career with a smile," he added.

## Real Kashmir Defeats Downtown Heroes In Srinagar Premier League



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Real Kashmir FC (Reserves) secured a narrow 1-0 victory over Downtown Heroes FC in the ongoing 2025 Srinagar Premier Football League at TRC Ground on Monday.

The win came after a tightly contested match that showcased determination and skill from both sides.

The My Youth My Pride Srinagar Premier Division Football League is being organised by the District Football Association Srinagar and features the top football clubs from the district. Monday's match saw the Snow Leopards' reserve team put up a strong fight to clinch the win.

The team management of Real Kashmir FC praised the squad for

their spirited performance, especially highlighting their discipline and teamwork on the field.

The stands buzzed with excitement as fans cheered their teams in what was arguably one of the most anticipated fixtures of the league so far.

The club, owned by Arshid Shawl, has been steadily making a mark in Indian football circles.

RKFC's reserve team continues to impress, coming off the back of a commendable run in the recently concluded I-League, where the senior team secured third place among the country's top football clubs.

With this win, Real Kashmir has added crucial points to their campaign in the Srinagar Premier League, boosting morale as they aim for the title.

## CA Will Back Players Who Don't Want To Return To India For IPL: Report

Press Trust of India

**MELBOURNE:** Australian players who have returned home after the suspension of the IPL and don't want to return to India for the remainder of the high-profile tournament will get support from Cricket Australia, according to a media report here.

All the Australian players in various IPL teams have already reached home. Only some former players like Ricky Ponting and Brad Haddin, who are among the coaching staff, are still in India. Other coaches, including Justin Langer and Mike Hussey, have also landed back due to border tensions between India and Pakistan.

But the players may be asked to return as the IPL is set to resume within this week after the announcement of ceasefire on Saturday.

"Shaken Australian players will be defended by Cricket Australia should they refuse to return to the Indian Premier League on safety



grounds," the 'Sydney Morning Herald' declared.

"Fear and anxiety remained prevalent emotions among Australian players ... as all made their way home from the IPL, leaving the likes of Ricky Ponting and Brad Haddin among coaching staff still in India."

Not just safety issues, the players are also concerned about the prospect of "being pressured to return to the tournament and then frozen out of future editions of the IPL should they choose not to".

"In that light...CA will defending the rights of players to make their own calls about returning to the IPL on a case by case basis, taking the view that their decisions should not be held against them for the future," the report said.

There is also the issue of a tight cricket calendar and if the IPL continues beyond the originally planned May 24. All the Australian players would require fresh "no objection" certificates from CA in order to return, the report said.

### Short TAKES

#### J&K Sports Council Cricket Academy Wins Inter-School T20



**J**&K Sports Council Cricket Academy won the Inter School T20 Cricket Tournament Sheikhpora on Monday. The JKSC academy boys defeated ARCC Cricket Club by six runs in the final match. Shariq Shafi was declared player of the match, he took four wickets.

The tournament was organised by Sheikh ul Aalam Sports Development Association Sheikhpora, Budgam.

#### PCB Plans Resumption Of Pakistan Super League

**P**akistan Cricket Board is preparing to resume the suspended Pakistan Super League even if the foreign recruits do not come back and host the final before Bangladesh arrive for a T20 series later this month.

A reliable PCB source said following the 'ceasefire' with India, the PCB plans to resume the PSL by May 16.

"We have eight games, including the final, remaining in the PSL and the plan is to resume by May 15-16 with or without foreign players and wrap up the event," a PCB source said. The official said some of the overseas players are still in Dubai and some had left for their homes.

"The PCB is in touch with the Bangladesh Cricket Board and both are monitoring the situation but with the situation limping back to normalcy the series is on now."

Bangladesh are scheduled to play matches in Rawalpindi, Faisalabad and Lahore. PCB plans to complete the remainder of the PSL in Rawalpindi and Lahore.

#### Carlo Ancelotti Appointed Brazil Head Coach

**C**arlo Ancelotti will become Brazil manager after leaving Real Madrid at the end of the season, the Brazilian FA (CBF) said on Monday.

The 65-year-old Ancelotti has enjoyed four hugely successful years in his second tenure at the Spanish giants but they are set to finish this season without a trophy.

Brazilian soccer sources said Ancelotti will sign a one-year deal to become the world's highest-paid national team coach ahead of the 2026 World Cup, with the option to extend his contract. Real have yet to announce Ancelotti's departure. He is set to be replaced by former Real midfielder Xabi Alonso, with sources close to the 41-year-old former Spain international saying he has agreed a three-year deal.

Alonso, 43, who announced earlier this month that he was leaving Bayer Leverkusen after guiding them to a domestic double last term, will join Real before the inaugural Club World Cup in the United States from June 14 to July 14, club sources said.

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