

'Born Five Minutes Apart, Died Five Minutes Apart' Twins Killed In Poonch Shelling Weeks After Moving For School

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A couple in their 40s moved from their remote village to a rented accommodation in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch town with a hope to provide better education to their 12-year-old twin children, but fate had something else stored for them.

More than two months after being admitted in a school, the two children -- Zain Ali and Urwa Fatima -- now lay buried in a graveyard adjacent to their house while their father Rameez Khan is recuperating at the Government Medical College, Jammu.

The tragedy struck the family on May 7 when they found



FILE Photo

themselves in the middle of intense Pakistani shelling at their rented accommodation in Poonch which was badly hit by the cross-border shelling.

Pakistan army launched the heavy shelling soon after Indian armed forces carried out a missile strike on terror infrastructure in the neighbouring country in retaliation

to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Of the total 28 deaths in Jammu and Kashmir due to the cross-border shelling, over 20 fatalities were reported from the Poonch and Rajouri districts. Besides, large scale damage was caused to houses and places of worship.

"They were moving in search

of a safer place when a shell exploded in the compound of their rented accommodation, resulting in on-the-spot death of the girl and critical injuries to father-son duo. The boy also breathed his last within minutes of the incident while being evacuated to hospital," Khan's brother-in-law Adil Pathan told PTI. | [More on P6](#)

6

SHE PERFORMED THE LAST RITES OF HER CHILDREN and is standing with her husband who does not know anything about the children's death"

Akash Missiles To Suicide Drones

How Homegrown Tech Steered Operation Sindoor

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) in the first phase of "Operation Sindoor" completely jammed Pakistan's Chinese-supplied air defence systems and wiped out the nine terror camps in Pakistan and the Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) within a span of 23 minutes, officials said on Wednesday.

An official spokesperson said that all strikes were executed without loss of Indian assets. "These strikes underscored the effectiveness of our surveillance, planning, and delivery systems. The use of modern indigenous technology, from long-range drones to guided munitions, made these strikes highly effective and politically calibrated," he added.

The official said, "Indian Air Force bypassed and jammed Pakistan's Chinese-supplied air defence systems, completing the mission in just 23 minutes, demonstrating India's technological edge."

According to the officials "Operation Sindoor" also produced concrete evidence of

hostile technologies neutralized by Indian systems: Pieces of PL-15 missiles (of Chinese origin) Turkish-origin UAVs, named "Yiha" or "YEEHAW" Long-range rockets, quadcopters and commercial drones

These were recovered and identified, showing that despite Pakistan's attempts to exploit advanced foreign-supplied weaponry, India's indigenous air defence and electronic warfare networks remained superior.

The officials said, "Operation Sindoor emerged as a calibrated military response to an evolving pattern of asymmetric warfare, one that increasingly targets unarmed civilians along with military personnel. The terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam on 22 April 2025 served as grim reminder of this shift. India's response was deliberate, precise, and strategic. Without crossing the Line of Control or international boundary, Indian forces struck terrorist infrastructure and eliminated multiple threats."

They said, "Beyond tactical brilliance, what | [More on P6](#)



President Praises Armed Forces

Tri-services chiefs, including General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff; General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff; Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, Chief of the Air Staff; and Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff called on President Droupadi Murmu here on Wednesday. A Rashtrapati Bhavan statement said, "They briefed the President on the successful conduct of Operation Sindoor"

"The President praised the bravery and | [More on P6](#)

AS PART OF OPERATION SINDOOR, THE FOLLOWING WERE USED: BATTLE-PROVEN AD (AIR DEFENCE) systems like the Pechora, OSA-AK and LLAD guns (Low-level air defence guns), Indigenous systems such as the Akash, which demonstrated stellar performance.



KO Photo | Faisal Khan

Hajj Flights Resume At Srinagar Airport

Agencies

Srinagar: After a brief but tense pause in Hajj operations triggered by rising tensions between India and Pakistan, the flights ferrying pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir

resumed on Wednesday, with 642 pilgrims successfully departing for the holy city of Madeena.

Executive Officer J&K Hajj Committee, Dr Shujhat Qureshi, confirmed the resumption and said, "Today,

we operated four flights from Srinagar Airport to New Delhi. From there, two Hajj flights departed directly to Medina, carrying a total of 642 pilgrims."

Dr Qureshi noted that the committee was working

round-the-clock to clear the backlog caused by the suspension. "We have written to the Ministry of Minority Affairs, requesting additional flights to manage the pendency. Tomorrow, we have scheduled two more | [More on P6](#)

Pain Of My People Is Deeply Personal: CM Visits Shelling-Hit Uri, Promises Relief & Bunkers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday assured every possible help to rebuild homes of people affected by Pakistani shelling near the Line of Control, and said "the pain of my people is deeply personal".

Abdullah, who visited the shelling affected areas of Uri, including Salamabad, Lagama, Bandi and Gingal in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, also said that he would take up the demand for building individual bunkers in these areas with the Centre.

"It is our responsibility to provide you help from the government so that your houses are rebuilt," Abdullah, who was accompanied by his advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Uri Sajad Uri and senior officials



of the district administration,

said while interacting with the families whose houses were damaged by the shelling in Uri.

The chief minister said the people of Uri have endured pain several times but have risen every time with courage

and resilience.

"Visited shelling affected areas of Uri including Salamabad, lagama, Bandi and Gingal. This land has endured so much --from the impact of the 2005 earthquake to the pain of cross-border shelling. | [More on P6](#)

Northern Army Commander Briefs LG, CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma on Wednesday called on Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here and briefed him on the prevailing security scenario in the union territory.

The meeting was held at the Raj Bhavan, an official spokesperson said.

General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GoC-in-C), Northern Command, Lt Gen Sharma apprised Sinha of the latest developments and different aspects pertaining to the prevailing security situation in the valley, the spokesperson said.

He said Lt Gen Sharma was accompanied by Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, GoC 15 Corps.

The Northern Army Commander also called Chief

Minister Omar Abdullah and briefed him about the prevailing security situation in the Union Territory and recent developments along the Line of Control and other border areas.

The Lieutenant General called on him a day earlier, Abdullah said in an X post on Wednesday.

"Yesterday, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Northern Command, Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, called on me and briefed about the prevailing security situation and recent developments along the Line of Control and other border areas," the chief minister said on his official X handle.

He said the army commander was accompanied by General Officer Commanding 15 Corps, Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava.

"Our forces are doing a commendable job

Cancer Breakthrough Patients In England Offered 5-Minute Cancer Jab

Observer News Service

London: In a major breakthrough for cancer care, patients in England will be the first in Europe to receive a quick, injectable form of the immunotherapy drug nivolumab, NHS England announced on Tuesday.

The injection, which takes just three to five minutes to administer, will benefit up to 15,000 patients each year and is approved for use across 15 types of cancer, including lung, bowel, kidney, bladder, oesophageal, skin, and head and neck cancers.

The move follows the approval of injectable nivolumab--also known by its brand name Opdivo--by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Previously, the



drug was administered intravenously, a process that could take up to an hour. Now, with patients needing doses fortnightly or monthly, the new method is expected to save the NHS over a

year's worth of treatment time annually.

"This innovation will make cancer treatment faster and more convenient for thousands of patients, freeing up hospital

capacity and allowing teams to treat more people," said Prof. Peter Johnson, NHS England's national clinical director for cancer.

Nivolumab works by helping the immune system identify and attack cancer cells. It blocks a protein called PD-1 on T-cells, which tumours use to hide from immune responses.

NHS England confirmed that the injectable option will not cost more than the intravenous version, following a negotiated deal with the manufacturer, Bristol Myers Squibb.

"This is an important example of how our health system can adapt to deliver cutting-edge treatment efficiently," said Naser Turabi, director of evidence and implementation at Cancer Research | [More on P6](#)

J&K Govt Amends Prison Manual Redefines Habitual Offender, Bans Caste Bias In Jails

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has introduced key amendments to the 'Prison Manual, 2022', redefining the term "habitual offender" and strictly prohibiting caste-based discrimination within jails and correctional institutions.

The changes, notified by the Home Department under the authority of the Lieutenant Governor, were made in exercise of powers under Section 59 of the Prisons Act, 1894.

According to the new amendment in Chapter I of

the manual, a habitual offender is now defined as a person who, during any continuous five-year period, has been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment on more than two occasions for offences committed on different occasions and not part of the same transaction. Importantly, any period spent in prison under sentence or detention will not be counted in the five-year duration. Only convictions not reversed on appeal or review will be considered.

This amendment is expected to impact how repeat offenders are | [More on P6](#)

No Compensation For Aerial Transmission Lines: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said that the aerial right of way in respect of power transmission lines continues to be with the state and individual owners cannot claim compensation for it

A bench of Justice Sindhu Sharma made the observation while dismissing a plea by a resident of Uri Wagoora in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, seeking the court's directions to the authorities to assess and pay compensation of Rs 20 lakh for his residential house which according to him has been rendered uninhabitable due to the installation of a High-Tension Transmission | [More on P6](#)



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Worsening Allergies Aren't Your Imagination

Windy Days Create The Perfect Pollen Storm

The Conversation

Evolution has fostered many reproductive strategies across the spectrum of life. From dandelions to giraffes, nature finds a way.

One of those ways creates quite a bit of suffering for humans: pollen, the infamous male gametophyte of the plant kingdom. In the Southeastern US, where I live, you know it's spring when your car has turned yellow and pollen blankets your patio furniture and anything else left outside. Suddenly there are long lines at every car wash in town.

Even people who aren't allergic to pollen – clearly an advantage for a pollination ecologist like me – can experience sneezing and watery eyes during the release of tree pollen each spring. Enough particulate matter in the air will irritate just about anyone, even if your immune system does not launch an all-out attack. So, why is there so much pollen? And why does it seem to be getting worse?

2 ways trees spread their pollen
Trees don't have an easy time in the reproductive game. As a tree, you have two options to disperse your pollen. Option 1: Employ an agent, such as a butterfly or bee, that can carry your pollen to another plant of the same species. The downside of this option is that you must invest in a



showy flower display and a sweet scent to advertise yourself, and sugary nectar to pay your agent for its services.

Option 2, the budget option, is much less precise: Get a free ride on the wind. Wind was the original pollinator, evolving long before animal-mediated pollination. Wind doesn't require a showy flower nor a nectar reward. What it does require for pollination to succeed is ample amounts of lightweight, small-diameter pollen.

Why wind-blown pollen makes allergies worse Wind is not an efficient pollinator, however. The probability of one pollen grain landing in the right location – the stigma or ovule of another plant of the same species – is infinitesimally small. Therefore, wind-pollinated trees must compensate for this inefficiency by producing copious amounts of pollen, and it must be light enough to be carried. For allergy sufferers, that can mean air filled with micro-

scopic pollen grains that can get into your eyes, throat and lungs, sneak in through window screens and convince your immune system that you've inhaled a dangerous intruder. Plants relying on animal-mediated pollination, by contrast, can produce heavier and stickier pollen to adhere to the body of an insect. So don't blame the bees for your allergies – it's really the wind. Climate change has a role here, too.

Plants initiate pollen release based on a few factors, including temperature and light cues. Many of our temperate tree species respond to cues that signal the beginning of spring, including warmer temperatures. Studies have found that pollen seasons have intensified in the past three decades as the climate has warmed. One study that examined 60 location across North America found pollen seasons expanded by an average of 20 days from 1990 to 2018 and pollen concentrations increased by 21%.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Naseer Ahmed Dar S/o Gulam Mohammad Dar R/o Miripora is applying for contractor card DEE Class in the office of Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Srinagar-SOUTH. Any person having objection in this regard may please submit it in the office of Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Srinagar-South within three days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform of all the general public that I have lost the Number Plate of my Scooty bearing Registration number. JK15A 6967 while I was travelling from Wangipora to Sumbal Colony, Bandipora few days ago, if anybody have found it may please be return back on the below mentioned address otherwise, I am applying for duplicate of the same from the concerned Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Bandipora, if anybody having any objection in this regard, may submit the same to the concerned Department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Farooq Ahmad Parry
S/O Sonallah Parry
R/O Wangipora, Sumbal, District Bandipora
Mobile Number: 9149797072

inf

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My name has been wrongly written in my bank account as Shahabnazah while my correct name is Nazeema Begum which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the J&K State Co-operative Bank Magam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nazeema Begum

W/o Nisar Ah Dar R/o Check Razak Khan Merchama (Abrakpora)

A/C NO: 00283400100224

bmg

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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 Kasba R/o Sector B, Canal Avenue, Rawalpura Extension, Sanat Nagar, Srinagar - 190005. Objections, if any, to the same must reach Electric Division II. (Rajbagh) & Electric Sub. Division. (Baghat), maximum within a week from the date of its publication.

Media Line Ads

از نیابت یومی زینگیر

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب غلام محمد شیخ ولد غلام احمد شیخ ساکنہ سیکوئیل زینگیر بغرض حصول وارثان جائز سرٹیفکیٹ

اشہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ ایک درخواست بغرض وارثان جائز سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ شیخ سلیوک سکونت دار ہے اور ساکن کا ولد سی غلام احمد ولد محمد ستان شیخ برطانیق ذہنتہ سرٹیفکیٹ مورخہ 11-08-2009 کو فوت ہوا ہے اور متوفی کے وارثان جائز بذیل ہے

غلام محمد شیخ ولد غلام احمد 60 سال مزدوری پر متوفی

عبدل احد شیخ ولد غلام احمد 57 سال -- --

عبدل عزیز شیخ ولد غلام احمد 50 سال -- --

مسماہ بیبلہ بیگم دختر غلام احمد 50 سال گھریلو کام دختر متوفی

مسماہ حفیظہ بیگم دختر -- 43 سال -- --

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کہ نہیں ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشہر اخبار رسالت دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض وادالت حذ کو دفتر کی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

FKO

از نیابت یومی

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب انشاء اکبر دختر محمد اکبر چٹام ساکنہ واڈوہہ برادر اجرائی OBC بکن تحت SRO 294 بکن ساکنہ واڈوہہ

اشہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمہ چٹام پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ واقعی حجام ذات سے تعلق رکھتی ہے اور ساکنہ واڈوہہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکنہ کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

محمد اکبر چٹام ولد غلام احمد چٹام مزدوری 55 سال 8000

تکلیف بیگم زوجہ محمد اکبر چٹام گھریلو کام 52 سال

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نائب تحصیلدار

FKO

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Department Of Information And Public Relations District Information Centre Kupwara

email ID : dickupwara1131@gmail.com

Telephone: 01955-252203; 9622724473

RESCHEDULING OF AUCTION

In view of the prevailing situation, the auction which was scheduled to be held on 13.05.2025 shall be now held on 17.05.2025 (SATURDAY) from 12:00 Noon onwards. The terms & conditions of the auction and the venue shall remain the same.

For any enquiry, contact on 01955-252203; 9622724473.

District Information Centre
Kupwara

No:INF/DIC/K-212-13 /2025
DIPK-1390/25
Dated 14.05.2025

Dignified Farewell

Transforming Kashmir's Final Rides

In Kashmir, it is a painful irony that the departed, who leave behind a lifetime of earnings, are often transported to their final resting place in load carriers – vehicles they would never have used for commuting while alive. This stark contrast raises a profound question: shouldn't every soul be granted a dignified farewell, just as they lived with dignity? It is time to ensure that the last journey of our loved ones reflects the respect and honor they deserve.

Since launching a dedicated funeral service in Islamabad in 2014, Mother Helpage now invites you to donate generously to provide these services for Srinagar, Budgam, and Baramulla.



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For queries call
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Email : farooq.ashai@motherhelpage.org



Hajj Flights from Sgr airport resume, 640 pilgrims departed on Wednesday. KO Photos Faisal Khan

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- PDD: 0194-2450213
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HIGHWAY STATUS
Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Open)
Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR 17 Zil-Qadah 1446	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	3: 54
	ZUHR	12:27
	ASR	5: 20
	Magrib	7:28
	ISHA	9: 02

This Day In History

- 756 Abd-al-Rahman I becomes emir of Cordova, Spain
- 1213 - King John of England names Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury
- 1492 - Cheese & Bread rebellion: German mercenaries kill 232 residents of Alkmaar, Netherlands
- 1514 - Jodocus Badius Ascensius publishes Christiern Pedersen's Latin version of Saxo's Gesta Danorum, the oldest known version
- 1525 - The battle of Frankenhausen: German peasant army surrounded, 5,000 slaughtered ; ends the peasants' uprising
- 1572 - Louis van Nassau & huguenots occupy Valenciennes
- 1618 - German astronomer Johannes Kepler discovers the third of his three planetary laws his "harmonics law"
- 1648 - Treaty of Munster ratified by Spain & Netherlands
- 1701 - The War of the Spanish Succession begins
- 1718 - James Puckle, a London lawyer, patents world's 1st machine gun
- 1796 - France & Sardinia sign Peace treaty of Paris
- 1796 - First Coalition: Napoleon enters Milan in triumph with French troops
- 1862 - Battle of Drewry's Bluff (Fort Darling), Virginia
- 1864 - Battle of New Market, Virginia
- 1883 - Italy signs military treaty with Austria-Hungary & Germany

From KO Archives

Clamour For Jobs Intensifies; Govt Replies With Force, Jail

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Overwrought by long years of unemployment, the jobless educated youth of the valley now feel increasingly compelled to take to the streets to give vent to their frustrations.

Contractual Rehbar-e-Taleem teachers, teachers of ICS centers, and jobless engineers, doctors and dentists have been holding demonstrations for the past several weeks to remind the government of its promises, but the government uses force asking the police to bundle them into vehicles and cart them off to jail.

Contractual teachers, dentists and electricians, all jobless, held a protest demonstration in the press enclave on Wednesday. And when the police told them to end their agitation, they refused, determined as they were to air their grievances forcefully.

Eventually scores of teachers were taken to the police lock-up. A large contingent of jobless dentists, too, was arrested when it made an unsuccessful bid to present a memorandum to the chief minister.

The police said that all arrested agitators were later released.

But even the arrests did not stem the flood of protests. Jobless electricians assembled next to decry the policy of recruiting on the basis of crash courses, and asked the chief minister to "come to his senses."

Every protest features angry and indignant slogans against the chief minister, but the government appears to be unmoved. Qualified electricians have been protesting against "crash course appointees" for the past year. Observers make various interpretations of the intensifying clamour for jobs.

Sources close to the government claim that the protests are a part of a conspiracy, while public circles feel that the administration promised by the chief minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, has not become a reality. They fed that to save their skins, ministers and bureaucrats are misleading the unemployed youth by making irresponsible statements.

On the one hand, the government harps on the "insufficiency of funds" tune, and on the other hand favoured candidates are being given jobs by creating suspect categories such as crash courses, the public feels.

There is intense anger, among the public in general and the jobless youth in particular, about the callous and arbitrary approach of the government.

A citizen, who did not want to be named, said that he, had stopped believing in any claim or promise the government makes, and having seen the condition of the government, had advised his children to sell second-hand clothes on the pavements.

One of his sons is roaming around with an engineering diploma, while the other holding a master's degree in education, is earning the princely sum of Rs 1200 as teacher in a private school.

(Kashmir Observer, 15 May, 2007)

Two Die In Motorcycle Accident Near TRC

Agencies

Srinagar: Two young men from Kupwara lost their lives in a fatal motorcycle accident near the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) in Srinagar.

Officials said the accident occurred when a motorcycle, registered under number JK04C 5524, crashed into an electric pole. The collision left both riders with critical injuries.

A police team from the

Kothibagh station responded swiftly and rushed the injured to SMHS Hospital. However, doctors at the facility pronounced them dead on arrival.

The victims have been identified as 25-year-old Ghulam Mohammad Lone, son of Ali Mohammad, and 23-year-old Reyaz Ahmad Tantray, son of Mohammad Yousuf Tantray. Both hailed from Machil area of Kupwara district.

Police have initiated proceedings and are investigating the matter. (CNS)

Two Houses Destroyed In Devastating Guru Bazar Blaze

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A massive fire broke out on Wednesday afternoon in the densely populated Guru Bazar area of Srinagar, leading to the complete destruction of two residential houses, partial damage to a third, and injuries to three individuals. The fire, which erupted at around 4:17 PM, spread swiftly through the multi-storey structures, prompting an immediate response from the Fire and Emergency Services who eventually brought the flames under control after a tense operation.

According to official reports, the fire gutted a four-storey residential house belonging to Rashid Mahmood, son of the late Ali Mohammad Najar. The adjoining house, jointly owned by Mohammad Shafi Dar and Feroz Ahmed Dar, sons of Ghulam Rasool Dar, was also completely consumed by the flames. A third house, owned by Mohammad

The fire, which erupted at around 4:17 PM, spread swiftly through the multi-storey structures, prompting an immediate response from the Fire and Emergency Services who eventually brought the flames under control after a tense operation.

Yousuf Jan, son of the late Mohammad Maqbool Jan, suffered partial damage due to the intensity and spread of the fire.

Three individuals sustained injuries during the incident and were immediately shifted to a nearby medical facility for treatment. They have been identified as Manzoor Ahmed Dajoo,

Suhaib Shafi, and Riyaz Ahmed Sofi. All three are reported to be in stable condition.

Following the incident, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, directed a swift response from the district administration. A team led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed visited the fire-hit locality in Tehsil South to provide on-ground support and assess the damage. As an immediate measure of relief, essential items such as blankets and mattresses were distributed among the affected families. This interim relief was sanctioned by the Deputy Commissioner and provided from the District Red Cross Fund.

The district administration expressed deep sympathy with the affected families over the loss of property and assured them of further assistance. Meanwhile, the exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained and remains under investigation.

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**Office of the Executive Magistrate
1st Class Narbal District Budgam**
Tele fax: 01951.260.276 Pin Code 193401
Notice for the General Public

It is hereby notified that applicant namely Mohammad Umar Bhat S/o, Ghulam Ahmad Bhat R/o Kawoosa Khalisa , Tehsil Narbal, Distt. Budgam Had applied for the issuance of birth certificate The applicant intends to register the his D.O.B. as per school record/ vaccination card 16-10-2005. If anybody is having any objection/ claim regarding the same, he/she may approach the office of undersigned within a period of seven days (07) days from the date of publication of this notice or else any such claims/objections shall not be entertained.
Dated: 14/05/2025

Executive Magistrate
1st Class Narbal

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mohammad Saleem Bhat father of Mohammad Riyan Bhat hereby mention that my ward's mother's name has been wrongly entered in School records as Nasreena Saleem instead of Nasreena .Now I want to change it in School records of Lawrence Vidhya Bhawan, Srinagar.If anybody is having any objection may please contact School Administration of Lawrence Vidhya Bhawan, Srinagar within seven (7) days.

inf

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Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of
Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
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RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No: L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
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Editorial: (0194) 2502327
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KO VIEW

Lakshman Rekha Drawn

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s speech at the Adampur Air Base, delivered with an S-400 missile system in the backdrop, was more than just a moment of triumphalism. It was a carefully choreographed message to India’s adversaries, allies, and citizens alike: the days of strategic restraint in the face of terrorism are over. Operation Sindoor, described by the PM as the “new normal” has redrawn India’s doctrine on counter-terrorism and military deterrence in response to Pakistan.

The location of the PM’s visit had a symbolic significance: Adampur, a critical air base just 100 km from the Pakistan border, was reportedly targeted by Pakistani forces during the recent escalation and was claimed to have suffered damage. But by delivering the speech from the base, the PM proved to one and all that no damage was done. This highlights India’s strong defences. The PM once again made it clear that India will not tolerate another terror attack and will respond decisively. This signals a hardened red line, in his own words a “Lakshman Rekha.”

At the same time, New Delhi has made it clear that it won’t tolerate any mediation on Kashmir. This follows the US president Donald Trump’s offer of mediation in the wake of ceasefire with Pakistan. It has been India’s longstanding position that the issues between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally. As for Kashmir, India has withdrawn it from the table in future discussions with Pakistan. Only issue as for Kashmir is the return of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, as the PM himself underlined. Also, the External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal’s remarks reinforced India’s longstanding position that Kashmir is a bilateral issue.

India’s refusal to entertain third-party mediation on Kashmir is not new. What stands out, however, is the simultaneous projection of military muscle and diplomatic maturity. While Pakistan continues to rely on international pressure to frame the conflict as a global flashpoint, India appears determined to prevent external players from muddying the waters.

But the challenge ahead lies in sustaining this equilibrium—military assertiveness without escalation, and diplomatic firmness without isolation. If India’s strategic messaging post-Operation Sindoor is to be effective, it must be matched by long-term policy coherence, especially in how it deals with Pakistan’s deep state and its enablers abroad. For now, though, the Lakshman Rekha has been drawn—and it appears the world is beginning to take notice.



Slow Money Wins

In a world obsessed with shortcuts, real financial security still comes from slow, steady, practical choices.

Irshad Mushtaq

We live in a time when everything looks perfect online. Everyone seems to be winning. But behind the scenes, many are struggling, especially when it comes to money.

The problem isn’t just lack of cash. It’s the illusion that wealth is easy, instant, and aesthetic.

Financial stability has nothing to do with trends. It starts with small, consistent steps: saving a bit from each paycheck, investing wisely, and resisting the urge to spend just to impress. These habits may not be glamorous, but they build real security.

What you buy matters too. Stick with verified, legal products and services. Pay attention to taxes, certifications, and what’s regulated.

Avoid anything that promises too much, too fast, especially online schemes dressed up as success stories. Most of them are traps.

You don’t need to know everything, but you do need to keep learning. Build skills that can grow with you: communication, adaptability, financial literacy. They will matter more than any trend-driven tip.

And above all, change how you think about money. Real wealth isn’t what you show. It’s what you quietly build.

Mindset matters more than income. If you can think clearly, plan practically, and stay grounded, you’re already ahead.

The illusion is loud, fast, and addictive. Reality is quieter, but much more rewarding. Focus on what lasts.

The writer is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Trash Trouble in Paradise

Despite rules on paper and growing piles of garbage on the ground, Kashmir’s waste problem is spinning out of control. What’s missing isn’t awareness. It’s will, coordination and accountability.

Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

The mess is everywhere. In cities like Srinagar and towns across Kashmir, waste piles up in drains, open fields, and riverbanks. Most of it is unsegregated, unchecked, unregulated.

Despite having rules and guidelines on how to manage this waste, enforcement is patchy, infrastructure is missing, and the people supposed to act either don’t know how or don’t care enough.

Take Srinagar for instance. The city generates close to 450 metric tons of solid waste daily, of which 62% is organic and around 7% is plastic. That’s just one city.

Across the valley, the daily solid waste tally reaches 1,550 metric tons. Officially, only 606 metric tons are said to be processed, but this number is questionable.

In most places, collection is mistaken for processing. And the waste that escapes both ends up in the open or flows into water sources without any record.

The sewage situation is no better. Most of the region lacks proper sewerage networks. Even in areas that do have them, the infrastructure is old, overburdened or simply not maintained.

Raw sewage from colonies in places like Natipora and Barzulla finds its way into canals like Doodh Ganga, which provides drinking water to Srinagar.

How much untreated sewage flows into our rivers and lakes is not known to anyone. Not the authorities, not the public, not even those responsible for water supply. That’s both frightening and unacceptable.

In North Kashmir, towns like Baramulla and Sopore, home to over two million people, have no formal waste management system. The garbage is often dumped near rivers such as the Jhelum, affecting not just aquatic life but also human health. In the rainy season, the situation worsens as waste clogs drainage systems, increasing the risk of floods.

The failure is not just of infrastructure. It’s also about coordination. There’s no unified system in place. Waste is handled by scattered municipal bodies that lack resources and training. Different departments work in silos, with little communication or accountability.

Even the rules that exist, like the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016, are implemented inconsistently.

The example of the Achan landfill in Srinagar is a case in point. Spread over 65 acres, it receives around 80 truckloads of waste daily, almost all of it unsegregated. This unscientific dumping has raised concerns about contamination of both soil and groundwater.

But Achan is not the only one. Every village, every neighbourhood in Kashmir has its own “mini-Achan”, an open dumping ground that no one talks about.

Plastic waste adds another layer



In North Kashmir, towns like Baramulla and Sopore, home to over two million people, have no formal waste management system. The garbage is often dumped near rivers such as the Jhelum, affecting not just aquatic life but also human health. In the rainy season, the situation worsens as waste clogs drainage systems, increasing the risk of floods.

of concern. In 2021–22, J&K generated over 34,000 tonnes of plastic waste. That figure came down slightly the next year, but not necessarily because of better practices. It could be due to underreporting or slower economic activity.

Meanwhile, there is little effort to process the waste. A few private plastic recycling units could make a big difference, but they need encouragement and support.

The bigger picture is grim. Last year, nine new solid waste processing units were inaugurated, with a combined capacity of just 40 metric tons per day. An action plan was also rolled out for 40 urban local bodies at a cost of nearly Rs 240 crore.

These are good steps on paper but don’t scratch the surface of the actual waste load. Srinagar still lacks enough dumpers, bins or treatment facilities. The gap between policy and practice is vast.

One of the most overlooked aspects of this crisis is public behaviour. In every town and village, waste of all kinds, including expired medicines and pesticides, is dumped into streams, canals, and fields.

Many people treat water sources as dumping bins. Even awareness campaigns seem to have hit a wall. Everyone knows waste is a problem, but few act. The need now is not for more posters or slogans, but real community participation.

Tourism, ironically, adds to the problem. Places like Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam see a flood of visitors, especially during peak seasons. With them comes a mountain of additional waste: plastic wrappers, bottles, leftover food. But the infrastructure at these spots remains woefully inadequate.

Plastic bans exist, but they’re rarely enforced. The long-term damage to the environment and the tourism economy is hard to ignore.

Years of political instability have also played a role. Plans get made, then abandoned or delayed due to frequent bureaucratic reshuffles. Implementation suffers. Rural areas, meanwhile, remain entirely off the radar. Agricultural and domestic waste are dumped and burned openly, harming both the soil and the air.

So what needs to change? First, we need a single, autonomous authority with real power, free of government interference, to oversee all aspects of waste management.

Every related department, from municipal bodies to irrigation and public health, should be answerable to this body. One authority, many workers. That’s the only way coordination will work.

Second, we need to invest in scientific landfills, region-specific sewage treatment plants, and

plastic recycling units. Kashmir’s cold weather demands technologies that can function in sub-zero conditions. Jammu, with its hot climate, will need a different approach. The one-size-fits-all model will only fail both regions.

Third, people must be part of the solution. Community composting, door-to-door segregation, and volunteer-driven models like the Indore system should be brought in. Tourist hubs must have seasonal waste plans. Or else, we must take tougher calls, like banning plastic-packaged food items altogether.

I proposed a sewage treatment system based on artificial wetland technology back in 2018. It still hasn’t been implemented. I’m willing to offer free consultation for the project, provided there’s sincerity in moving forward.

The truth is, we’ve run out of excuses. Waste is not someone else’s problem. It’s our shared responsibility. Left unchecked, it threatens not just our environment, but our water, our livelihoods, and our future. Action must replace announcements. Systems must replace slogans. Because this crisis won’t wait.

The writer is a teacher-researcher based in Gouhar Pora Chadoora, J&K.



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A Valley That Fed Itself Is Now Selling Its Soil

Every year, from May through the end of June, Kashmir comes alive with a kind of quiet energy. It’s paddy seedling season—one of the most cherished and defining rhythms of life in Kashmir.

You can feel it in the air. Families prepare their fields. Tools like spades and mattocks are pulled out, sharpened, or repaired by local blacksmiths. Sometimes we buy new ones. Neighbors lend a hand. Children join their parents in the fields, laughing and playing between the rows. Even government and private employees take a day off to help. It’s not just work, it’s tradition.

It all starts in early April, when rice seeds are first sown in specially prepared seedbeds. After about 40 days, these seeds grow into seedlings, ready to be transplanted. Before that happens, a lot of groundwork is needed, literally.

Fields are cleaned, weeds are removed, and the soil is cut and dug in careful shapes to prepare it for tillage. Manure is added to improve fertility and support upright seedling growth.

In the next stage, tractors and tillers replace oxen as fields are ploughed and soaked with water over two to three days.

Not all fields are the same. Some are marshy, naturally rich in water. Others are dry and depend on canals and drains for irrigation. Once the soil is saturated, final tillage begins.

Then comes leveling. Water must flow evenly, so the land is smoothed out, and mud walls, called Bare Baren, are built and polished to prevent leakage. A special fertilizer is applied to keep weeds at bay.

And then it begins. Farmers fan out across the fields, carrying the young green seedlings in baskets or on their backs. Women, often the most

skilled in this work, plant each one with care. As they do, they sing songs, often in praise of Sufi saints.

It’s hard, wet, muddy work, but the atmosphere is filled with joy. It’s one of the most soulful scenes in our agricultural life.

But things have changed.

Over the past decade, fewer people want to get involved. Some are too busy. Others just don’t care anymore. Many now see the paddy season as an inconvenience, especially when June rolls around. They assign the work to migrant laborers from Bihar, who arrive in groups to take over planting duties.

There’s no doubt that technology has changed life in the Valley, for better and worse. With new tools and new jobs, farming seems less appealing. As a result, land that once produced rice and fed families is being sold for commercial purposes. Warehouses, shops,

and housing developments rise where paddy once grew.

This is not just about land use. It’s about who we are.

These customs, passed down through generations, are part of our culture. They reflect a way of life built on connection to the soil, to each other, to something greater. When we lose that, we lose more than tradition. We lose memory. We lose identity.

The land still holds value, yes. But not just as real estate. It is our natural inheritance. A resource meant for growing, feeding, sustaining. If we keep selling it off, what will our children inherit? A memory of fields that once were?

Paddy season used to bring people together. It still can. But only if we choose to hold on to it.

Sincerely
Mudasir Ali

A Pharmacy Hidden in the Hills

High in the Himalayas, the villagers of Gurez rely on hundreds of medicinal plants to survive isolation and illness. Now, the world is taking notice.



Bhat Tawheed

At the northern tip of Kashmir, where snow buries roads and phone signals vanish, Gurez Valley disappears from the map each winter. For six months, it survives in near-total isolation. Yet within this silence, something extraordinary thrives: a living pharmacy of wild medicinal plants. Gurez is home to more than 570 species of medicinal and aromatic plants. From fevers and infections to asthma and anxiety, the people here have learned to heal themselves using what grows on their hillsides. It's a tradition as old as the valley itself, and one that may hold promise far beyond its borders.

"We trust these plants more than pills," said an elderly villager from Dawar, the main settlement. "They've treated our families for generations." Across Kashmir, medicinal flora are nothing new. The region holds over half the plant species listed in the British Pharmacopoeia. But in Gurez, where modern healthcare remains hours, or sometimes days, away, plant-based medicine is not a backup. It's a lifeline. In homes across the valley, roots hang from rafters to dry. Leaves are ground into powders. Pastes are stirred in metal bowls, and decoctions bubble quietly over open flames. The knowledge travels by memory:

from grandmothers to daughters, from shepherds to boys who will one day take their flocks higher into the hills. Some plants, like Inula racemosa, known locally as Poshkarmul, are used for asthma and fatigue. Its root, when pounded into paste, eases inflammation and boosts stamina. Others, like Podophyllum hexandrum, are now studied for their cancer-fighting compounds, though villagers have long used it for skin diseases. There's Valeriana jatamansi, steeped as tea for headaches and rubbed into scalps to prevent hair loss. Dioscorea deltoidea, a vine that helps deworm children. Rheum emodi, a plant with healing powers for both bones and blood. Even the vibrant purple roots of Arnebia benthamii double as a fever remedy and natural hair dye. Each plant has a purpose. Each one is collected with care. But this delicate system is under pressure. Climate change is warming the valley. Snowmelt comes earlier. Some plants flower too soon, while others struggle to survive at all. At the same time, there's a growing demand from global pharmaceutical companies searching for natural compounds. And in Gurez, some herbs now fetch high prices, tempting overharvesting. "If we're not careful, we'll lose them," said a botanist working with researchers in Srinagar. "These aren't

just plants, they're part of a cultural and ecological balance." Efforts are underway to protect what remains. A handful of NGOs are helping locals map and conserve plant species. Solar dryers and oil extractors have been introduced in some villages. Workshops on ethical harvesting and value addition are being held. The idea is to let the community lead, and benefit, without stripping the land. Still, progress is slow. Most traditional knowledge remains undocumented. Conservation zones haven't been formally established. And many in the valley worry that, without support, this heritage will fade with the older generation. But the hope is there. Gurez, with its untouched forests and alpine meadows, could one day become a center for herbal medicine research and sustainable ecotourism. The potential stretches far beyond borders. "These plants are our wealth," said another villager. "Not just for us, for anyone who believes in healing." Gurez is more than a postcard of untouched beauty. It's a pharmacy in the clouds. And the world, it seems, is finally ready to listen.

Bhat Tawheed teaches in the Department of Education and is currently a student of Biotechnology.

Bandipora's Literary Legacy

From Persian poets to social reformers, Tariq Shabnam's latest work uncovers the remarkable stories of Bandipora's influential figures.

Rayees Ahmad Kumar

Bandipora is a treasure trove of untold stories, home to poets, historians, and reformers whose legacies have shaped the region. Yet for years, these literary giants remained hidden from the younger generation, until now. Tariq Shabnam, a young literary figure from Bandipora, has changed that with his new book, Bandipora Ki Aham Shakhshiyaat (Important Personalities of Bandipora).

Compiled with the help of Gh Rasool Rather Kohi, a retired government official and literary enthusiast, the book shines a light on thirteen key figures from the district, many of whom had been forgotten in the rapid march of time.

Published by GNK Publications, the 91-page book is a heartfelt tribute to Bandipora's intellectual and cultural heritage.

The book cover features photographs of these unsung literary giants, giving the reader a glimpse of the faces behind the words that shaped Bandipora's cultural landscape.

Each profile is meticulously crafted, offering insight into the lives and contributions of these figures.

Shabnam dedicates the work to his parents, with praise from prominent critics like Dr Riyaz Tawhidi, who commends the effort to preserve this invaluable literary history for future generations.

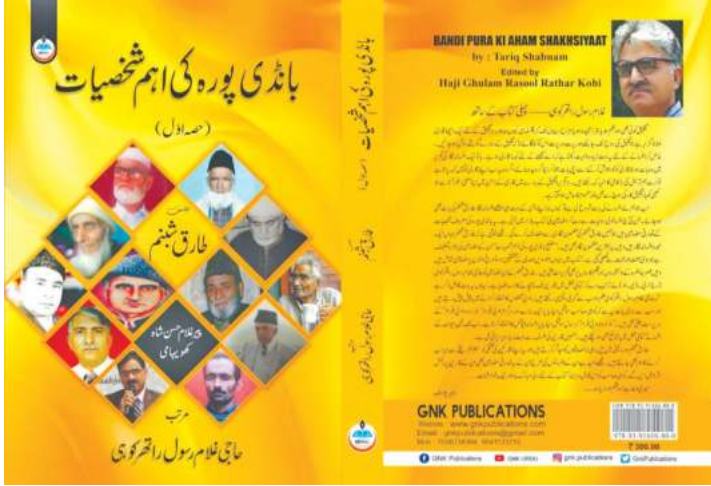
The earliest figure explored in the book is Pir Gh Hassan Shah Khoihami, a Persian poet and historian from the village of Gamroo. He authored Tawarikh-e-Hassan, an important historical account of Kashmir.

His work was instrumental in helping British official Sir Walter Lawrence write The Valley of Kashmir, a key text in understanding Kashmir's history.

Khoihami's role in preserving the region's historical narratives is remembered by Shabnam, who underscores the deep intellectual roots of Bandipora.

Another notable figure is Professor Mohiuddin Hajini, a prominent literary figure and social reformer from Hajin, Bandipora.

Hajini's contributions to Kashmiri literature are vast, with his



drama Greas Sund Ghara (Peasant's Home) gaining widespread popularity. He was also a key figure in the establishment of the Adbi Markaz Kamraz, an influential literary forum.

Shabnam highlights how Hajini's work in both literature and social reform earned him a lasting place in Kashmir's intellectual tradition.

Professor Rashid Nazki, part of the renowned Nazki family, is another significant figure in Bandipora's literary history.

Nazki was a poet and translator, best known for his Kashmiri version of Qasida Burda Sharif, a revered Persian poem. His work helped bridge linguistic and cultural gaps, making classical Arabic and Persian literature accessible to Kashmiris.

Shabnam's portrayal of Nazki paints him as a towering figure who contributed immensely to the intellectual life of the region.

Shabnam also explores the life of Mohammad Ahsan Ahsan, a founding member of the Adbi Markaz Kamraz, whose unique writing style in both prose and poetry left an indelible mark on Kashmiri literature.

Ahsan's contributions are reflected in his multidimensional works, which have inspired generations of writers.

Ghulam Nabi Jan, a socio-political figure and freedom fighter, is another person featured in the book. Jan's activism led to his imprisonment, but his influence on local politics and his role in the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Trust between 1962 and 1965 cemented his place in history. Shabnam's account of Jan's

life brings to light his crucial role in shaping the region's socio-political landscape.

Dr Aziz Hajini, a poet and academic, is perhaps the most celebrated figure in the book. His work to preserve and promote the Kashmiri language, along with his extensive involvement in literary organizations, has made him a cornerstone of modern Kashmiri literature.

Shabnam's writing on Dr Hajini captures his contributions to education and his role in elevating Kashmiri poetry to new heights.

The book also highlights lesser-known figures like Mohammad Yousuf Rather, an engineering genius whose contributions to Kashmir's infrastructure were vast.

His untimely death in an explosion in 2004 led to the naming of the road from Jahangir Chowk to Batamallu as Er Mohammad Yousuf Rather Avenue. It was a tribute to his service.

Other profiles in the book include Syad Kashmiri, Shabnam's own schoolteacher, who was an unsung poet and educator, and Ghulam Ahmad (Ama), Ab Khaliq Bhat, Ataullah Bhat, and Moulana Gulzar Ahmad Lone, whose work in their respective fields had a lasting impact on the community.

Bandipora Ki Aham Shakhshiyaat is not just a book, it is an act of preservation and a reminder that literature and history are as much about people as they are about stories.

Rayees Ahmad Kumar is a Kashmir-based writer and columnist. His work focuses on culture, language, and education in the region.

The Silent Erosion

As bulldozers climb mountains and lakes fight for breath, a young Kashmiri wonders if developmental dreams must come at the cost of its most fragile lands.

Mohsin Gulzar

Kashmir has always spoken softly. In the rustle of chinar leaves. In the stillness of mountain air. And in the hush before the snowfall. But these days, that signature serenity is changing.

Explosions echo through the hills, roads snake across ridgelines, and forests are falling to the rhythm of machines.

India is building fast. And Kashmir, long isolated by geography and politics, is being pulled into that momentum.

Projects like the Zojila Tunnel and the four-lane Srinagar-Jammu highway promise better travel and economic access. But as the dust rises and trees fall, many here are wondering: what are we leaving behind?

In Ramban and Anantnag, locals speak of landslides in places where the ground once held firm. Farmers watch fields slide downhill. Debris from highway work clogs natural water channels.

A single storm now leaves roads cut off for days. It's hard not to connect the dots.

Then there's Dal Lake. The lake once mirrored the sky so clearly that poets lost themselves in it. Now, it reflects something else: plastic waste, dying lilies, and shrinking borders.

Despite years of clean-up drives and fancy promises, Dal is still struggling. And yet, shikarawalas show up every day, paddling through weed-choked waters, because that's the only life they've known.

In Gulmarg and Sonamarg, hotels are climbing higher into the hills. Tourists and locals arrive by the thousands, leaving behind plastic, pressure, and footprints.

Meadows that once bloomed with wildflowers now serve as parking spots.



The worry is simple: how much can the mountains take before they stop giving back?

But Kashmir is not just a story of loss. Quietly, without fuss, people are pushing back.

In villages near Shopian and Ganderbal, some farmers are turning to indigenous seeds and natural farming. They're saving water, keeping chemicals out of the soil, and trusting the old ways again.

Groups like Youth Convention J&K and J&K ECO Watch are cleaning water bodies, holding workshops, and planting hope.

These are young people who've grown up seeing more bunkers than butterfly gardens. Still, they've chosen to believe in change.

Across India too, similar stories unfold. Ladakh is betting big on solar energy. Sikkim has banned chemical farming altogether. And in far-off Indore, garbage once piled sky-high is now being turned into compost and clean parks.

All of it proves that change doesn't need to shout. It just needs to start.

The country's larger climate pledges, like the 2070 net-zero promise, sound impressive on global stages. But in places like Kashmir, those dates feel distant.

People here want action they can

touch. Roads that don't wreck rivers. Tourism that respects nature. Jobs that don't trade away jungles.

It's not an impossible ask. Development isn't the enemy. But blind development—without local voices, without environmental checks—is.

What Kashmir needs isn't less progress. It needs better progress.

Because progress that buries rivers and mountains in concrete doesn't last. And in places like Kashmir, the environment isn't just scenery. It's livelihood. It's culture. It's memory.

So maybe it's time we ask different questions. Not "How fast can we build?" but "Who benefits?" Not "How much can we take?" but "How much can we give back?"

In the end, the goal shouldn't just be a \$5 trillion economy. It should be a future where our children can still walk in clean air, drink from safe rivers, and hear the silence of the mountains, not the drilling.

And if we get that right, we won't just save Kashmir. We'll save the idea of India itself.

Mohsin Gulzar is a fourth-year law student at the University of Kashmir and currently a judicial intern with Hon'ble Justice P.S. Narasimha at the Supreme Court of India.

A Tale of Faith and Family

A heartfelt story of overcoming personal tragedy, finding strength in faith, and embracing life's challenges.

Syed Majid Gilani

I was born in the old city of Srinagar, in the heart of Khanqah Moulla. The streets there are narrow and alive, lined with shops, voices, prayers, and memory.

My earliest days were wrapped in the scent of fresh bread from local bakeries and the rhythm of footsteps on centuries-old stone.

Our family later moved to Gilan House in Lalbazar, a quieter part of town, where apple and pomegranate trees filled the air with sweetness. The house was my grandfather's dream. He built it not just for shelter, but as a legacy.

Even now, it feels like the center of who we are. Each corner holds a story, a prayer, or a piece of laughter from long ago.

I was a soft-spoken, shy child. Not particularly bright in school. But my family, especially my father and grandfather, never let that define me. They reminded me often that being kind, honest, and faithful mattered more than grades. That strength of character could carry you farther than talent alone.

When I was 24, my father died of a heart attack. He was just 50. It was sudden. One day we were having tea together. The next, I was at his funeral, trying to understand how the world could keep spinning with-



out him. He was my best friend, my role model. Losing him was like losing the floor beneath my feet.

I had just started a government job at the time. That job became a lifeline, not just financially but emotionally. It gave me structure in the middle of chaos. My grandfather stepped in too. He was already a steady presence in our lives. He was a retired officer, a poet, a man of great patience. His calmness gave me something to hold on to.

Education wasn't a straight road for me. I switched schools a few times, dropped out of college, and faced plenty of setbacks. But I kept going.

I finished my degrees through IGNOU and took up journalism and creative writing courses. It wasn't fancy, but it was enough.

I was learning, growing, staying afloat.

My first real job was as a casual copyist at Doordarshan Kendra. I didn't know much, but I paid attention. Eventually, I passed exams, earned promotions, and found my way into the Excise and Taxation Department.

It took years of persistence. The kind where no one is watching, but you keep showing up anyway.

All through this, writing stayed with me. As a student, I'd handwrite articles and walk them to newspaper offices, just hoping they'd get printed. Computers were rare back then. Seeing my name in print felt like being heard for the first time. My grandfather saw my passion and gifted me a Remington typewriter. I still have it. It's old, but to me, it's sacred.

Life didn't stop testing me. I've known betrayal too, the kind that leaves a deep wound. A close friend turned away without warning. The pain from that still lingers. Some things you never understand fully. But I've learned to keep my peace. Some hurts are not yours to carry forever.

What keeps me grounded now is my family. My three children—Arshad, Sarah, and Murshad—are everything. They give meaning to each day. My mother, Shahida, even in her late sixties, is our strength. Her prayers echo through our home like protection.

I'm 49 now. The hair on my head is graying. The beard too. Each strand holds a story. Of mistakes, survival, prayers, and long nights. I live simply. I write when I can. I pray often. And I try to be honest, with myself and with others.

This isn't a story of great success. It's not meant to impress. It's just what happened. One man's path through faith, loss, love, and writing. I'm still walking it. Some days are heavy. Some feel light. But every day, I believe the same thing: the best is yet to come.

Syed Majid Gilani is a government officer and writer based in Srinagar. He reflects on faith, family, and the resilience built through everyday life.

Paras Health Srinagar Cures 36-Year-Old Woman of Rare Hormonal Disorder Through Minimally Invasive Surgery

Srinagar, 14 May 2025: A 36-year-old woman suffering from severe hormonal imbalance, high blood pressure, diabetes, and unusual physical changes has been successfully treated at Paras Health Srinagar, thanks to timely diagnosis by Dr. Mohsin Bin Mushtaq Shah (Consultant, Internal Medicine) and a successful minimally invasive surgery led by Dr. Mufti Mahmood Ahmed, a senior

urological surgeon. The team followed established clinical guidelines to manage the case, and the patient underwent a laparoscopic adrenalectomy for the cortisol-secreting adrenal adenoma – a highly advanced, minimally invasive procedure that brought her much-needed relief.

The patient had previously consulted multiple specialists, including an ophthalmologist

who operated on the fat around her eyes without a comprehensive evaluation. She also visited an endocrinologist, but her condition remained undiagnosed and was managed only with symptomatic medications for hypertension and diabetes. When she visited Paras Health Srinagar, Dr. Mohsin conducted a detailed clinical evaluation and admitted her for a few days for further investigations. Based

on specific tests and scans, he strongly suspected Cushing's Syndrome, a rare condition caused by excessive cortisol (a stress hormone) in the body. Additional assessments confirmed the diagnosis and identified a cortisol-secreting adrenal lesion as the root cause.

After completing the diagnostic work-up, Dr. Mohsin referred the patient for surgical intervention. Under the leadership of

Dr. Mufti, a renowned expert in urological surgeries with over 35 years of experience, the medical team performed a laparoscopic right adrenalectomy, a highly advanced and minimally invasive technique. This keyhole surgery involves making very small incisions instead of a large open cut, resulting in faster recovery, reduced pain, and fewer complications. Assisting him during the surgery was Dr. Ishaq Nabi

(Consultant, GI & Laparoscopic Surgery), while Dr. Khawar and Dr. Zahid led the anesthesia team to ensure the patient's comfort and safety. The operation was completed successfully in just two hours with minimal complications.

“The use of laparoscopic surgery in such cases significantly reduces pain, hospital stay, and recovery time for patients. This success reflects our strong

foundation in advanced urology and minimally invasive surgical treatments at Paras Health Srinagar,” said Dr. Mufti.

Following the surgery, the patient showed immediate clinical improvement. Her cortisol levels normalized, and within days, her blood pressure and diabetic symptoms began to stabilize. Over the next few months, further reversal of physical changes like facial fat and weight gain is expected.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Twins Killed In Poonch

He said it was the girl who came five minutes before her brother in this world 12 years ago and that she died almost five minutes before her brother.

“They celebrated their 12th birthday recently and were happy about their new school where they had got admission in class 5. They called me on the fateful day, frightened and in panic,” Pathan said.

Mohammad Farooq, another relative of Khan, said they never witnessed such a fierce cross-border shelling.

“This is a big tragedy for our family. Khan was working as a library assistant in a government school in Mandi,” he said, adding the family's dreams shattered in the Pakistani shelling.

The relatives lauded Khan's wife Ursa Fatima for presenting a brave face to meet the tragedy.

“She performed the last rites of her children and is standing with her husband who does not know anything about the children's death,” Pathan said, adding Khan gained consciousness on Saturday when India and Pakistan reached the understanding to end the four-day-long conflict and observe a ceasefire.

Pathan said the injured father is regularly asking about his children but “how long can we hide the reality from him?”

Khan is going to be discharged from the hospital soon, he said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reached out to the family on Monday and expressed his sympathy with them.

“They are enveloped in grief and I am here only to offer my condolences, sympathies and support to the administration. They raised no demand. This is a tragic time for the family,” Abdullah had said.

Leaders of various political parties including the Congress and the BJP also visited the grieving family to express their sympathies over the tragic loss of lives.

Senior Aam Aadmi Party leader Safer Choudhary, meanwhile, organized a programme here to pay tributes to the Pakistani shelling victims.

Choudhary also released a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on behalf of civil society of the Pir Panjal region, seeking martyr status to those killed in Pakistani shelling and financial support to their families.

The letter also requested for a special package for the Pir Panjal region and the establishment of a Government Medical College in Poonch.

This would greatly enhance healthcare accessibility for the local population and serve as a lasting tribute to the fallen heroes, Choudhary said.

How Homegrown

stood out was the seamless integration of indigenous hi-tech systems into national defence. Whether in drone warfare, layered air defence, or electronic warfare, Operation Sindoor marks a milestone in India's journey towards technological self-reliance in military operations.”

Providing details about how the adversary tried to escalate the tension, the officials said, “On the night of 07-08 May 2025, Pakistan attempted to engage a number of military targets in Northern and Western India including Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj, using drones and missiles. These were neutralised by the Integrated Counter UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) Grid and Air Defence systems.”

They said that Air Defence systems detect, track, and neutralise threats using a network of radars, control centres, artillery, and both aircraft- and ground-based missiles. “On the morning of May 8, the Indian armed forces targeted air defence radars and systems at a number of locations in Pakistan. An air defence system at Lahore was neutralized.”

“As part of “Operation Sindoor,” the following were used: Battle-proven AD (Air Defence) systems like the Pechora, OSA-AK and LLAD guns (Low-level air defence guns).Indigenous systems such as the Akash, which demonstrated stellar performance.

AKASH is a Short Range Surface to Air Missile system to protect vulnerable areas and vulnerable points from air attacks. The AKASH Weapon System can simultaneously engage Multiple Targets in Group Mode or Autonomous Mode. It has built in Electronic Counter-Counter Measures (ECCM) features. The entire weapon system has been configured on mobile platforms,” they added.

The officials said, “India's Air Defence Systems, combining assets from the Army, Navy, and primarily the Air Force, performed with exceptional synergy. These systems created an impenetrable wall, foiling multiple attempts by Pakistan to retaliate. The Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) of the Indian Air Force brought all these elements together, providing the net-centric operational capability vital for modern warfare.”

According to the officials India's offensive strikes targeted key Pakistani airbases- Noor Khan and Rahimyar Khan with surgical precision. Loitering munitions were used to devastating effect, each finding and destroying high-value targets, including enemy radar

and missile systems. “Loitering munitions also known as “suicide drones” or “kamikaze drones”, are weapons systems that can hover or circle a target area, searching for a suitable target before attacking,” they added.

“All strikes were executed without loss of Indian assets, underscoring the effectiveness of our surveillance, planning, and delivery systems. The use of modern indigenous technology, from long-range drones to guided munitions, made these strikes highly effective and politically calibrated,” they said.

On May 12, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, Director General Military Operations, in the ‘Operation Sindoor’ press briefing highlighted the excellent performance of a mix of legacy and modern systems.

“Since precise strikes on terrorists were conducted without crossing the Line of Control or International Boundary, it was anticipated Pakistan's response would come from across the border.

A unique blend of counter Unmanned Aerial Systems, Electronic Warfare assets, and Air Defence Weapons from both Army and Air Force Multiple defensive layers from the International Boundary inward: Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems Shoulder-Fired Weapons, Legacy Air Defence Weapons, Modern Air Defence Weapon Systems. This multi-tier defence prevented Pakistan Air Force attacks on our airfields and logistic installations during the night of May 9-10. These systems, built over the last decade with continuous government investment, proved to be force multipliers during the operation. They played a crucial role in ensuring that both civilian and military infrastructure across India remained largely unaffected during enemy retaliation attempts,” the officials added.

At an event on May 11, ISRO Chairman V Narayanan mentioned that At least 10 satellites are continuously working round-the-clock for the strategic purpose to ensure the safety and security of the citizens of the country. To ensure the safety of the country, the nation has to serve through its satellites. It has to monitor its 7,000 km seashore areas. It has to monitor the entire Northern part continuously. Without satellite and drone technology, the country can't achieve that.

Business of Drone Power

A Rising Indigenous Industry, the Drone Federation India (DFI), is a premier industry body representing over 550 drone companies and 5500 drone pilots[4]. DFI's vision is to make India a global drone hub by 2030, and it promotes the design, development, manufacturing, adoption and export of Indian drone and counter-drone technology worldwide. DFI enables ease of doing business, promotes the adoption of drone technology, and hosts several programs like Bharat Drone Mahotsav[5] Some companies involved in the drone space are: Alpha Design Technologies (Bengaluru): Partnered with Israel's Elbit Systems to build SkyStriker.

Tata Advanced Systems offers a full range of integrated solutions across Defence & Security and has served as a trusted partner to India's armed forces for over six decades[6]

Paras Defence & Space Technologies operates within the Defence and Space segments, distinguished by Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured (IDDM) capabilities.

IG Drones is a Drone Technology Company for manufacturing and R & D of Drones specialized in defence and other industry applications along with provider of drone related services like drone surveying, mapping & inspection by industry experts. The company has partnered with Indian Army, Government of India , multiple State Governments, among others.

The Indian drone market is projected to reach \$11 billion by 2030, accounting for 12.2% of the global drone market.

The integration of drone warfare into India's military doctrine owes its success to years of domestic R&D and policy reform. Since 2021, the ban on imported drones and the launch of the PLI (Production Linked Incentive) scheme have catalyzed rapid innovation. The scheme of Production Linked Incentive for drones and drone components of Ministry of Civil Aviation was notified on 30th September, 2021 with a total incentive of Rs 120 crores spread over three Financial Years (FYs), FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24.[10] The future lies in autonomous drones with AI-driven decision-making, and India is already laying the groundwork.

Defence exports crossed the record figure of about Rs 24,000 crore in Financial Year 2024-25. The aim is to increase the figure to Rs 50,000 crore by 2029, and make India a developed nation and the world's largest defence exporter by 2047.

Make in India continues to power the growth of the defence sector.

India has emerged as a major defence manufacturing hub, driven by the “Make in India” initiative and a strong push for self-reliance. In FY 2023–24, indigenous defence production reached a record 1.27 lakh crore, while exports soared to 23,622 crore in FY 2024–25, a 34-fold increase from 2013–14. Strategic reforms, private sector involvement, and robust R&D have led to the development of advanced military platforms like the Dhanush Artillery Gun System, Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun, Light Specialist Vehicles, High Mobility Vehicles, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas,

Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Light Utility Helicopter (LUH), Akash Missile System, Weapon Locating Radar, 3D Tactical Control Radar, and Software Defined Radio (SDR), as well as naval assets like destroyers, indigenous aircraft carriers, submarines, frigates, corvettes, fast patrol vessels, fast attack craft, and offshore patrol vessels.

The government has backed this growth with record procurement contracts, innovations under iDEX, drives like SRIJAN, and two Defence Industrial Corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Key acquisitions such as LCH (Light Combat Helicopters) Prachand helicopters and the ATAGS (Approval for Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System) highlight the shift towards indigenous capability. With targets of 3 lakh crore in production and 50,000 crore in exports by 2029, India is firmly positioning itself as a self-reliant and globally competitive defence manufacturing power.

Operation SINDOOR is not just a story of tactical success. It is a validation of India's defence indigenization policies. From air defence systems to drones, from counter-UAS capabilities to net-centric warfare platforms, indigenous technology has delivered when it mattered most. The fusion of private-sector innovation, public-sector execution, and military vision has enabled India to not only defend its people and territory but also assert its role as a hi-tech military power in the 21st century. In future conflicts, the battlefield will increasingly be shaped by technology. And India, as shown in Operation SINDOOR, is ready, armed with its own innovations, backed by a determined state, and powered by the ingenuity of its people. (inputs from KNO)

President Praises

dedication of the Armed Forces, which made India's response to terrorism a resounding success.”

“General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff, along with General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff, Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, and Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, called on President Droupadi Murmu and briefed her about Operation Sindoor. The President commended the valour and the dedication of the Armed Forces that made India's response to terrorism a sterling success,” the statement reads.

Notably, “Operation Sindoor” was a series of precision missile strikes conducted by the Indian Armed Forces on May 7, 2025, targeting nine terrorist infrastructure sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

The operation was a direct response to the Pahalgam attack, aimed at neutralizing terrorist camps linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and Hizbul Mujahideen.

The strikes were carried out at around 1:00 AM on May 7, lasting 23 minutes, using Indian Air Force (IAF) jets, including Sukhoi-30MKI fighters armed with BrahMos missiles, SCALP cruise missiles, Crystal Maze-2 missiles, Hammer precision-guided munitions, and Spice-2000 bombs.

Hajj Flights Resume

flights, one as per the regular schedule and another dedicated to accommodating those whose departures were delayed,” he said.

According to the plan, 641 pilgrims are set to fly out on Thursday around 320 from Jammu & Kashmir and 242 from Ladakh. An additional group of 80 pending pilgrims, initially scheduled to travel on May 9 from Ladakh, will also be accommodated.

“We are addressing the backlog in a phased, date-wise manner, starting with May 7, followed by May 8 and onwards,” Dr Qureshi said, adding that both J&K and Ladakh pilgrims affected by the disruption are being prioritised.

Notably, the temporary suspension of Hajj services had created concern among intending pilgrims, particularly those scheduled to travel earlier in the week.

However, with the situation easing, the authorities have swiftly reinstated operations, ensuring that no pilgrim is left behind.

Dr Qureshi added that they were hopeful that the entire backlog will be cleared soon, and the regular Hajj flight schedule will be back on track.(KNO)

Convinced India,

in New Delhi have been maintaining that the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOS) of India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect. They said no third party was involved.

“Well, I've been busy, but I've enjoyed it, because we're getting things accomplished. You can have times when you're working very hard and not getting things done. That happens too, but we're getting a lot done,” Trump said in an interview to Fox News' Sean Hannity.

Trump was responding to a question that it has been “an amazing week so far”, with the President getting a trade deal with China, playing a big role in India and Pakistan and slashing prescription drug prices.

“I don't think there's ever been a little period like this with the potential nuclear war. And two countries (India and Pakistan), they have very good leaders, people I know very well.

And, yeah, it was, it was a very important process. We got involved with India and Pakistan,” Trump said.

When asked to give an insight into what happened behind the scenes, Trump said, “Well, I didn't like what was happening. And you know, they're two very strongly nuclear countries, with very, very powerful amounts of nuclear, too, serious stuff.

“And if that ever started, boy, that's the beginning of something that could be really bad. Even a minimal minimum, you could have millions of people killed and with one shot, two shots. And I just thought it was something we could get involved in,” he said.

“And I did a good job. (Secretary of State) Marco (Rubio) did a good job, and (Vice President) JD (Vance) did a good job. We sort of were a team. And we, I think, convinced them to let's have peace and let's go and make trade deals. If we can make trade deals, we like that much better than nuclear weapons. And that was a great thing.”

Hours earlier, addressing a high-level audience at the Saudi-US investment forum in Riyadh, that he doesn't like war and wants to be a peacemaker and unifier.

With Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the audience, along with senior members of the Saudi and American governments, Trump said, “Just days ago, my administration successfully brokered a historic ceasefire to stop the escalating violence between India and Pakistan.”

“And I used trade to a large extent to do it. And I said, ‘Fellows, come on. Let's make a deal. Let's do some trading,’” Trump, who was in Saudi on the first leg of his four-day Gulf region trip, said to applause from the audience.

Sitting in the audience were billionaire Elon Musk, Rubio and other senior members of the Trump administration as well as the Saudi leadership.

“Let's not trade nuclear missiles. Let's trade the things that you make so beautifully. And they both have very powerful leaders, very strong leaders, good leaders, smart leaders. And it all stopped. Hopefully, it'll remain that way, but it all stopped,” Trump said.

India carried out precision strikes under ‘Operation Sindoor’ on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people. Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

The two countries reached an understanding on Saturday, May 10.

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.

India has always maintained that the Kashmir issue is a bilateral matter with Pakistan 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.

India Rejected

Party of India vacillated between praising the opposition for standing with the government during the standoff and criticising them for politicising the issue of the two neighbours reaching an understanding to stop all military actions.

“The opposition must continue to stand united with the government and not question its stance,” he said.

With US President Donald Trump claiming repeatedly to have brokered a “ceasefire” between India and Pakistan, the opposition parties have come down heavily on the Narendra Modi government to clarify the issue.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

Government sources in New Delhi have maintained the directors general of military operations (DGMOS) of India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea and that no third party was involved.

Echoing India's stance on the Kashmir issue, Athawale, the Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, said, “There can be no friendship with Pakistan till they return Pakistan-occupied Kashmir to India and there is a permanent solution to the threat of cross-border terrorism.”

He said Trump had “volunteered to mediate” between India and Pakistan to resolve the matter, but “we clearly denied any third-party intervention”.

Pain Of My People

Yet, its people rise every time, with courage in their hearts and resilience in their spirit,” Abdullah said in an X post.

In an earlier post, he said the pain of the people of Jammu and Kashmir “is deeply personal”.

“Heading to Uri today to meet those affected by the recent shelling. Over the past few days, I have witnessed immense pain, loss and unimaginable courage of our people. These visits should have been to share joy and to speak of

development, not to offer condolences. The pain of my people is deeply personal,” he said.

Later, speaking to reporters in Uri, Abdullah said during the shelling from Pakistani side, it seemed there was a “deliberate attempt” to inflict maximum harm on the civilians.

“There was ruthless shelling on our civilian areas for 2-3 days. It seemed that there was a deliberate attempt from across to inflict maximum harm on the civilians. Thankfully there was a ceasefire and for the last two days, the border and LoC are silent,” he said.

The chief minister said the government now attempts to reach all those households that have suffered losses.

“We are assessing the damage and will provide relief to them to help them to rebuild their lives,” he said.

Asked about the preparations for such incidents in future, Abdullah said he would take up the demand for building individual bunkers in the shelling-affected areas with the Central government.

“Wherever I went be that in Jammu or Kashmir, there is a demand for more bunkers. The people feel that the situation can turn anytime, so the people have demanded individual bunkers.

“We will immediately provide relief to the people first and then take up the issue of individual bunkers with the Centre under a plan for all the areas that came under shelling,” he added.

To a question about whether anyone benefited from cross-border shelling, Abdullah said this question should be asked to those who lost their loved ones.

“What benefit? I have said this from day one that we did not start this fight. Our innocent people were attacked in Pahalgam, 26 precious lives were lost.

“I had said that if the guns fall silent on that side, then the guns on this side will automatically fall silent. Thankfully, the DGMO from across called and the ceasefire was made possible and so there is silence on the border and LoC,” he added.

During the visit, Abdullah also met the family members of Nargis Begum who lost her life in the shelling.

“Met the family of Nargis Begum, who lost her life in the recent shelling in Uri. No words can express the depth of their grief or the magnitude of this tragedy. I pray they find the strength to bear this irreparable loss. We stand with them in this hour of grief,” the CM said on X.

The chief minister has been visiting the shelling affected areas of the Union Territory to take stock of the situation, get a first-hand account of the losses suffered by the people, and share their pain.

Northern Army

in protecting the nation,” Abdullah added.

Patients In England

UK. He added that further investment in NHS innovation will be crucial as part of the upcoming national cancer plan.

Most new patients are expected to start with the injection, while those already on nivolumab via infusion may switch to the new method in the coming weeks.

J&K Govt Amends

classified and handled within the justice system.

The administration has also introduced a new provision (Clause 5.64) under Chapter V of the Prison Manual, aimed at eliminating caste-based discrimination within correctional facilities.

The clause explicitly mandates:

No classification or segregation of prisoners based on caste.

No caste-based discrimination in the allotment of prison duties or work.

Full enforcement of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, within prison premises.

Manual scavenging or hazardous cleaning of septic tanks or sewers inside prisons is strictly banned.

No Compensation

Line through his land.

He had also sought direction for paying damages of Rs 5 lakh to him for mental distress, agony and torture at the hands of respondents.

“...the claim of the petitioner for compensation appears to be misplaced. The law is well settled that the aerial right of way for transmission lines remains with the State, and individual landowners cannot assert legal, fundamental, or constitutional rights over the construction of transmission lines, unless there is a proven loss or damage resulting from the construction,” the court said.

However, the Court said that authorities are required to maintain appropriate distance while stringing such lines, as per Electricity Act.

“The issue which remains is whether the petitioner is entitled to any compensation with regard to the damages he has suffered. It is well settled that claims for damages, including those relating to a residential house and fruit-bearing trees are disputed questions of fact, which can only be proved by leading evidence,” the court said and dismissed the plea.

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

FIR Against Soldier Over 'Inside Job' Claim

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An FIR was registered on Wednesday against a missing soldier after a video appeared on social media in which he had claimed that the Pahalgam terror attack was an "inside job".

The soldier, Dhair Mushtaq Sofi, is a sepoy of 29 Rashtriya Rifles and a resident of the Tiral area of Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, according to police.

"The missing report... was lodged on 11.03. 2025. (It) has been converted into an FIR after a video showing him surfaced on social media," a police official said.

In the video, Sofi claims that he is aware of "each and everything and how fake encounters are being done."

"Indian government, RAW, IB and Army were involved in the Pahalgam attack. I wanted to stay silent, but my conscience does not allow me to remain silent anymore," says the soldier in the video.

The soldier also mentions that his parents had committed a mistake by making him join the armed forces.

The police official said the



video, verified by Sofi's father and uncle, prompted the registration of FIR No. 75/2025 under Sections 197(d), 152 BNS at Police Station Ganderbal.

Section 197 of the BNS deals with offences related to imputations, assertions or communications prejudicial to national integration. The section covers making false or misleading statements that could endanger India's sovereignty, unity, or integrity.

Section 152 deals with the acts endangering India's sovereignty, unity and integrity.

The police official said preliminary enquiry has revealed the soldier was involved in online gambling and had debts exceeding Rs 10 lakh.

An investigation has been initiated, the official added.

Govt Committed To Support Border Residents: CS



Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a move aimed at assessing the ground situation and ensuring the well-being of affected populace, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Wednesday visited the border subdivisions of Akhnoor and Khour that had witnessed unrelenting cross border shelling over the past few days.

Accompanying the Chief Secretary were Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, along with other senior officials from the local administration.

The Chief Secretary inspected the local Higher Secondary Schools of Sohal and Bhalwal Brahman in Subdivision Akhnoor, which had been converted into temporary shelters for the residents displaced due to cross border shelling. He interacted with the affected families to assess their concerns and issues. He reviewed the arrangements made for their stay, including the provision of food, water and power supply.

CS also assessed the medical facilities available to the sheltered villagers. He took note of the adequacy of medical aid

being provided to the inmates. He directed the health officials to enhance medical services, ensuring that these distressed families receive proper treatment without the need to travel elsewhere.

While interacting with the inmates, the Chief Secretary sought feedback regarding the arrangements. He instructed the local administration to remain in constant touch with the affected people, ensuring their needs are met without any disruption.

Later, the Chief Secretary toured the villages impacted by the shelling, inspecting the damage inflicted upon the residential houses and public infrastructure. He asked the administration to promptly assess the damages and initiate relief measures for the affected population. He also emphasised the need for long-term safety measures, including construction of community bunkers, to safeguard the residents from future incidents.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the government's commitment towards supporting the border residents and ensuring their safety and well-being amidst such challenging circumstances.

Helicopter Service At Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Resumes



Press Trust of India

KATRA: The helicopter service to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district resumed on Wednesday after being suspended for a week due to the military stand-off between India and Pakistan, officials said.

This came a day after flight operations recommenced at 32 airports, including Jammu and Srinagar, following the suspension of hostilities between the two neighbouring nations.

"The helicopter service at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine resumed this morning after remaining suspended for the

past seven days," an official of the shrine board said, adding pilgrim footfall has also started picking up after witnessing a sharp decline since the beginning of this month.

The battery car service for the pilgrims is also functional, the official said.

Over 30 lakh pilgrims have paid their obeisance at the shrine since January this year as against 94.84 lakh last year, he said and expressed hope that the rush will increase manifold.

"We are happy about the resumption of the helicopter service and the arrangements made by the shrine board," said Shubam Kumar, a pilgrim from Delhi.

Sopore Fruit Mandi To Undergo Major Revamp

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Asia's second-largest Fruit Mandi to be transformed into a more robust and well-equipped hub for horticultural trade under over Rs 30 crore projects, Minister Javid Dar on Wednesday said.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to Sopore, the Minister, said that an initial tranche of Rs 10 crore has been allocated for the current financial year, while an additional Rs 20 crore is in the pipeline and will be sanctioned in the coming months.

"The initiative is aimed at bridging critical infrastructural gaps in the Mandi and giving it a complete facelift," the Minister said.

Responding to a query on the stalled Sopore railway stopover at the Bypass, Minister Dar acknowledged the public concern. "The stopover was unfortunately damaged during agitations and was halted by railway authorities. However, the government is actively reviewing the matter, and we are hopeful that the stopover will be restored soon," he assured.

He also noted the demand for healthcare facilities within



the Mandi premises and said that the government is working on providing basic healthcare infrastructure for the convenience of workers, traders, and visitors.

In response to whether Sopore will host an event similar to Srinagar's Kisan Mela, the minister confirmed that the Sopore Fruit Mandi will indeed organize a mega Kisan Mela, showcasing agricultural products and engaging farmers in interactive sessions with experts.

It is noteworthy that the minister, who was accompanied by MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, inaugurated the newly macadamized area within the Mandi, marking the start of the Mandi's transformation.

The minister said that the development will be carried out in multiple phases. In the first phase, a project worth Rs 1.2 crore will see macadamization of 10,000 square feet area of the Mandi. This will be followed by a second phase involving Rs 2.05 crore to cover the remaining areas, which is expected to begin within a month.

"The Fruit Mandi of Sopore holds significant economic and cultural value. Requirements are there and development doesn't stop—so the government is continuously working to meet these needs," Minister Dar stated, reiterating his commitment to elevating the Mandi's infrastructure and services—(KNO)

Div Com Reviews Arrangements For Mela Kheer Bhawani

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To ensure a smooth and spiritually enriching experience for devotees during the upcoming Mela Mata Kheer Bhawani, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri chaired a detailed review meeting with officials from various departments.

Calling for meticulous planning, Bidhuri directed Deputy Commissioners and departmental heads to put in place robust arrangements at the main shrine in Tulmulla, Ganderbal, as well as at other key locations in Kupwara, Kulgam, and Anantnag. He emphasized the need to surpass last year's efforts in providing facilities for pilgrims.

Key areas of focus included transportation, accommodation, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, food services (langars), and toilets.

Div Com stressed timely desilting of the canal at Tulmulla, beautification of temple surroundings, repair of approach roads, and restoration of non-functional streetlights.

He directed for security ar-



rangements, deployment of SDRF teams and fire tenders near the shrine. Departments were instructed to nominate nodal officers to ensure effective coordination throughout the festival.

He directed for providing special transport facilities for migrant employees wishing to attend the mela. The Health Department was asked to position skilled medical teams, while the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department was directed to ensure an uninterrupted supply of essentials including LPG.

Deputy Commissioners of all concerned districts briefed on ongoing preparations, while representatives from Kashmiri Pandit organizations outlined their suggestions for a smooth and safe celebration.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Ganderbal, Anantnag, Kupwara and Kulgam besides senior officers from Tourism, Relief and Rehabilitation, Police, Traffic, PWD, KPCL, PHE, SRTC, SDRF, Fire & Emergency, Information departments and representatives of various Kashmiri Pandit organizations.

Police Arrest 7 Drug Peddlers In Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing its firm resolve against the menace of drugs, Police on Wednesday said to have achieved a significant success by arresting seven drug peddlers in separate actions in Anantnag, Baramulla & Kulgam and recovered heroin-like/contraband substances from their possession.

In Anantnag, two drug peddlers identified as Mohammad Irfan son of Mohammad Jehangir Khan resident of Ghaziabad, UP and a lady drug peddler resident of Bawana JJ Colony, Delhi-39 were arrested in possession of 06 grams and 03 grams of heroin-like substances respectively, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

Similarly, a notorious lady drug peddler resident of Bangidar, was also apprehended near Bangidar Bridge with 07 grams of heroin-like substance. Moreover, one more drug peddler identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Hajam son of Gul Mohammad Hajam resident of Saidwara, Dooru Shahabad was arrested after being found in possession of 06 grams of heroin-like substance, police said.

"In Baramulla, a police party led by SHO PS Kunzer at a checkpoint established at Hardbani Kunzer Bridge intercepted two persons identified as Mushtaq Ahmad Waza son of Mohd Ramzan Waza resident of Mamooosa Pattan and Abdul Qayoom Parra son of Gulam Mohiuddin Parra resident of Reram Kunzer. During the search, 26 grams of contraband and a cash amount of Rs. 4000/- were recovered from Mushtaq Ahmad and 20 grams of Charas-like substance were recovered from Abdul Qayoom. Subsequently, both the accused have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody," police added.

473 Posts Vacant At GMC Udhampur

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Government Medical College (GMC) Udhampur, a key healthcare institution in Jammu and Kashmir, continues to face challenges due to staff shortages and infrastructural deficiencies.

A Right to Information (RTI) filed by activist M M Shuja reveals that approximately 473 posts, including 20 professor positions, remain vacant at the hospital.

This information reveals that out of the sanctioned posts, only four of the 20 professor positions are filled, with 16 vacant. Among the 34 associate professor posts, three are occupied while 31 remain vacant; out of 52 assistant professors, 36 are in position and 16 are vacant.

The staffing situation extends to senior residents, where 32 are in position while 52 posts remain vacant, and among junior residents, 46 are in position with 17 vacant. For medical officers, only three of the 14 posts are filled, leaving 11 vacant. There are 326 vacant posts for paramedics.

Despite functioning for

nearly two years, GMC Udhampur still lacks an MRI facility, a crucial diagnostic tool for numerous medical conditions. Patients requiring MRI scans are often referred to private centres or hospitals in Jammu, causing inconvenience, treatment delays, and additional financial burdens on patients, the RTI reveals.

On a positive note, the hospital has made some progress under the Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) scheme. Over the past two years, approximately 10,000 patients have benefited from cashless treatment under this scheme, providing some relief to economically weaker sections of society. However, the absence of specialised diagnostic services like MRI continues to restrict the scope of medical care available at GMC Udhampur.

Locals have urged the government to urgently address the staffing shortages and upgrade diagnostic facilities to enable GMC Udhampur to function as a fully equipped tertiary care centre, to ensure better healthcare services for the region.

Govt Appoints 122 Junior Assistants To Address Staff Shortage

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a major Human Resource boost to the rural sector, the Jammu and Kashmir government has appointed 122 Junior Assistants (UT/Divisional/District Cadre) in the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR) department, addressing a critical shortage of clerical staff that had plagued the field offices since 2021.

The appointments, finalized through the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), followed the referral made by the Rural Development Department to the recruitment agency. The final selection list, issued recently, marks completion of a prolonged process aimed at addressing the staffing gap that had persisted since 2021.

The appointments included a structured distribution across various administrative levels, with 1 post allocated at the UT level, 2 posts each for the divisional cadres of Jammu and Kashmir, 55 posts distributed among districts in the Jammu division and 62 posts assigned to districts in the Kashmir division.

The recruitment drive is aimed to fill the critical clerical and executive staff vacancies at district-level RDD offices and Block Development Offices (BDO) throughout the UT.

Secretary, RDD&PR, Mohamad Aijaz Asad, emphasized

that the recruitment is a significant boost for the department and will strengthen the public service delivery mechanism. "The recruitment of Junior Assistants is a long-overdue measure, aimed at reinforcing rural governance and ensuring timely service delivery to the public," he asserted.

Aijaz Asad said that the newly recruited Junior Assistants will play a pivotal role in expediting the file processing in rural offices, improving public grievance redressal systems, strengthening implementation of welfare schemes and providing much needed support to the overburdened Block Development Offices (BDOs), thereby enhancing the overall efficiency of rural governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the 122 posts, 120 have been cleared for immediate appointment, while 2 posts are withheld pending further recommendations. The selected candidates are required to submit their Personal Verification Roll (PVR) within 21 days to secure their appointment.

Last year, the Jammu and Kashmir government appointed 1,395 Panchayat Secretaries across various districts, significantly bolstering the workforce in the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR) department. Prior to that, the government had appointed 1,889 Panchayat Accounts Assistants.

Swift Insurance Settlements Bring Relief To J&K Bank Customers



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Reaffirming its commitment to customer welfare and financial security, J&K Bank has facilitated the swift settlement of insurance claims under the MetLoan & Life Suraksha (MLLS) scheme for deceased borrowers in its Jammu Zone. The claims worth 8.81 Cr have been paid to 170 families to relieve them of the burden of severe financial crisis.

In a brief ceremony, the symbolic cheque representing the disbursed amount was jointly displayed by the Bank's Zonal Head (Jammu) Rajesh Dubey and Associate Director & Head (PNB MetLife) Irfan Ali Zargar. The event was attended by Cluster Heads Arjun Singh Rathore and Chandrika Parihar, Zonal Coordinator Karan Dev along with Regional Head Ravi Sharma and Regional Sales Manager Nisar Ahmad Khan from PNB MetLife.

Expressing satisfaction on the occasion, the claimants thanked the Bank and its insurance partner MetLife saying, "We are thankful to the Bank for covering these loans under

insurance and appreciate their support in timely settlement of the claims. We are also grateful to PNB MetLife for coming to our rescue and relieving us from the difficult burden of growing liabilities."

Speaking on the occasion, Zonal Head Rajesh Dubey underscored the importance of insuring loans for financial security, which in times of distress offer significant relief to families. He said, "By encouraging our customers to opt for MLLS, we ensure that their families are not burdened with liabilities in unforeseen circumstances. With a single premium and bank-funded option, the product goes a long way in preserving the financial stability of borrowers' families."

Echoing the sentiment, PNB MetLife's Associate Director & Head Irfan Ali Zargar remarked, "While no compensation can replace the loss of a loved one, timely financial assistance can provide critical support to families coping with tragedy. Our partnership with J&K Bank continues to deliver on the promise of protection and care for our mutual customers."

IPL Allows Temp Replacements Due To Non-Availability Of Foreign Players

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian Premier League on Wednesday allowed teams to make temporary replacements in their squad for the remainder of the tournament considering the non-availability of a few foreign players owing to the forced re-scheduling of the event.

IPL had to be suspended last week due to the India-Pakistan military conflict but the announcement of the ceasefire paved the way for its resumption on May 17.

As per the original schedule, the IPL final was to be held on May 25 but now it will take place on June 3, making it trickier for the players who had to report for national duty.

While a few players are not returning due to personal reasons, the likes of Jamie Overton, representing CSK this season, will stay back in the UK for the white-ball series against the West Indies at home.

In an email to franchises which was accessed by PTI, IPL informed the teams of the temporary replacement player option.

"... in the current situation, where we had to temporarily suspend IPL 2025, resulting in its completion beyond the earlier set-out date of May 25, 2025, we have reassessed the Replacement Player provisions.

"Given the non-availability of certain foreign players due to national commitments or personal reasons or any injury or illness, Temporary Replacement



Players will be allowed until the conclusion of this tournament. "This decision is subject to

the condition that the Temporary Replacement players taken from this point forward will not be eligible for retention in the following year," IPL said in its note.

As per the IPL Player Regulations 2025-27, players can be replaced if they are injured or ill, provided the injury or illness occurs during or before the 12th league match of the relevant team in that season.

"Temporary Replacement players will have to register for the IPL Player Auction 2026. The replacements which were approved or taken before the suspended period will be eligible for retention ahead of 2026 player auction," the note added.

The rescheduling is likely to impact the preparation of South

Africa and Australia for the World Test Championship final beginning at Lord's on June 11.

DC Signs Mustafizur Rahman As Jake-Fraser's Replacement

Delhi Capitals on Wednesday signed Bangladesh left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman as replacement for Australian batter Jake-Fraser McGurk, who will not rejoin the team for the remainder of Indian Premier League.

Fraser-McGurk's release won't hurt DC as he was dropped after the first six games in which he tallied only 55 runs. Also, if Mitchell Starc doesn't come, as is widely anticipated, then Mustafizur's left-arm seam bowling, with expertise in death overs, would come in handy.

Short TAKES

WTC Final-Bound SA Players To Miss IPL Playoffs

South African players who have been picked for the World Test Championship Final against Australia are likely to miss the IPL playoffs as the country's cricket board is standing firm on prioritising national duty over league commitments.

The BCCI confirmed on Monday that the IPL will resume on May 17 with the final slated for June 3.

However, the revised schedule has left players from WTC finalists Australia and South Africa in a tight spot. The franchises and the BCCI have urged foreign boards to make their players available for the remainder of the tournament. CSA, however, has reiterated its commitment to WTC Final preparations.

Eight South African players -- Kagiso Rabada (Gujarat Titans), Lungi Ngidi (Royal Challengers Bengaluru), Tristan Stubbs (Delhi Capitals), Aiden Markram (Lucknow Super Giants), Ryan Rickelton (Mumbai Indians), Corbin Bosch (MI), Marco Jansen (Punjab Kings) and Wiaan Mulder (Sunrisers Hyderabad) -- have been named in the Proteas squad for the WTC Final, scheduled to start from June 11 in London.

Complete Madness, Crammed Into Vans: Healy Recalls IPL Halt

Australia women's team captain Alyssa Healy has shared a gripping account of the night of "complete madness" when the IPL match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals was called off midway in Dharamsala due to air raid sirens in neighbouring cities.

Healy, who is married to Australia and Delhi Capitals pacer Mitchell Starc, was in the stands along with family members of other players.

"Then the next guy came out, his face was white, grabbed one of the children and said 'we need to leave right now,'" the wicketkeeper batter said.

"The boys (players) are there. Faf didn't even have shoes on. They're all just waiting there looking stressed. I asked to Mitch, 'what's going on?' And he said, 'the town 60 kilometres away had just been smacked by some of the missiles'."

"So all of a sudden we're crammed into vans and off we go back to the hotel. There was madness. We're sitting on the bus with some of the Punjab players. I think Shreyas was on my bus. It was just like get in a van as soon as you can get out of there," Healy added.

Lewandowski Back For Barca At Espanyol With LaLiga Title In Sight

Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski is set to return to action in Thursday's LaLiga clash at Espanyol, manager Hansi Flick said, as his side prepare to wrap up the title this week.

A victory in their city derby against Espanyol would clinch the championship for the Catalans. Barcelona, now seven points clear at the top with 82 points, could win the title as early as Wednesday if Real Madrid fail to win at Mallorca.

The 36-year-old has scored 25 goals in 31 league games, two behind Kylian Mbappe in the LaLiga Golden Boot race, with both having played the same number of matches.

YSS Organises District-Level Sports Events Across Kashmir Division

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports is actively promoting sports and physical fitness among the students and youth in general by organising series of District-Level Inter-Zonal competitions across the Kashmir division. These events aim to identify and nurture young talent while fostering a spirit of sportsmanship and healthy competition.

In Pulwama, the YSS organised Inter-Zonal District-Level competitions for boys under the age categories of 17 and 14 in Badminton, Chess and Kabaddi at Boys Higher Secondary School Pulwama. The tournament was inaugurated by Ab Hamid Dar, Principal of MMBHSS, in the presence of officials from the DYSS as well as the School Education Department.

In Shopian, the YSS organized an Inter-Zonal District-Level Kabaddi competition for U-14 and U-17 boys at the Sports Stadium, Batepora. The event was inaugurated by Reyaz Ahmad Wachkoo, In-charge Activity DYSSO Shopian, who also led an anti-drug pledge at the venue.

In addition, Inter School Zonal-Level Kabaddi competitions for U-14 and U-17 girls were held at Zone Imam-



sahib (Homehuna Nagbal) and Zone Keegam (YSS Field Sindhu Shirmal). The event at Keegam was inaugurated by Zonal Physical Education Officer (ZPEO) Bashir Ahmad Dar, with another anti-drug pledge ceremony reinforcing the Department's campaign against substance abuse.

The DYSS Ganderbal also held Inter-School Zonal Level Chess and Carrom competitions across various zones of the district, aiming to foster critical thinking and promote indoor games among students.

In Zone Tullamulla, competitions for U-17 boys and girls were held at BHSS Kurhama. The top-performing players were felicitated with trophies and have been selected to represent their zone in the forthcoming Inter-Zonal District Level Championships.

Zonal District-Level Table Tennis Tournament Held In Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam on Wednesday organised the Inter-Zonal District Level Table Tennis Tournament for boys and girls under the 17 age group. The event was held at Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam and Government Girls Higher Secondary School Budgam.

A large number of students from various zones of the district participated in the tournament. The tournament was



conducted under the directions of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam, Gh Hassan Lone.

The event was formally inaugurated by the principals of

both host institutions. The closing ceremony was graced by Gh Hassan Khanday, who served as the overall incharge of the event, and Shakeel-ur-Rehman, Assistant Overall Incharge.

YSS Anantnag Reignites Sports Events With Inter-Zonal Tourneys

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag resumed its District-Level Inter-Zonal competitions on Wednesday, held with full enthusiasm and participation at SRJ Higher Secondary School, Khanabal. The fea-

tured events included Chess, Table Tennis, and Badminton for boys in the U-14 and U-17 age categories.

In Chess by Muheeb Riyaz (1st position, Zone Anantnag), Eleem Zargar (2nd position, Zone Qazigund), and Mir Mujeeb (3rd position, Zone Bidder). In Badminton, Afham

Altaf (Zone Shangus) secured the top spot in singles, while Jasim Kumar and Junaid Kumar (Zone Achabal) won the doubles event. Table Tennis saw Shahiq Fayaz (Zone Anantnag) clinching first place, followed by Junaid Dar (Zone Srigufwara) and Shehran Qayoom (Zone Anantnag).

28th year OF PUBLICATION

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