

No Respite From Heatwave

Another Day Of Soaring Temp



KO Photo By Faisal Khan

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The intense heatwave continued to grip Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, with temperatures across the Valley remaining well above normal and offering no relief to residents.

According to the Meteorological Department (MeT), Srinagar, the summer capital of the Union Territory,

recorded a maximum temperature of 33.2°C — a staggering 7.8 degrees above the normal for this time of year. Other parts of the Valley also witnessed unusually high temperatures.

Qazigund, known as the gateway to Kashmir, reported a daytime high of 32.5°C, while Kupwara in north Kashmir registered 32.4°C. Even hill | [More on P10](#)

Calls For Summer Vacation Grow Louder

Edu Minister Says No Final Call Yet

As the heatwave continues to bake Jammu and Kashmir, calls for an immediate summer vacation in schools are growing louder. The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association has urged the government to declare a short summer break to protect students from the sweltering heat. National Convenor Nasir Khuehami | [More on P10](#)

FROM MAY 27 TO 31, THE WEATHER IS PREDICTED TO STAY mostly dry and hot, with the possibility of thundershowers at scattered places.

Need Special Courts For NIA Cases: SC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday underlined the need for dedicated courts for NIA cases while calling for a "judicial audit" of laws enacted by the Centre and the prospective ones by the states.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh said the cases entrusted to the NIA were of heinous cases, having pan India ramifications.

The top court said each such case contained hundreds of witnesses and the trial did not progress with the required pace as the presiding officers of the court were busy with other cases.

"In the absence of judicial audit of cases likely to be generated with the enactment of law, the trial of such cases had brought burden on the court,"

the bench said.

The top court further said the only appropriate course meant setting up special courts where trial of cases only related to special statutes could be carried out with a day-to-day hearing.

"The decision of creating additional courts and requisite infrastructure is in the policy domain of the executive which ought to be taken in consultation with the chief justice of the high court after having data of pending cases," the bench said.

It granted Additional Solicitor General Rajkumar Bhaskar Thakre four weeks to seek instructions and posted the hearing in July.

The top court was hearing a bail plea of Kailash Ramchandani, a Naxal sympathiser from Gadchiroli in Maharashtra. | [More on P10](#)



Op Sindoor Exposed Pak Sponsoring Terrorism In India: Shah

Says Pakistan Could Not Touch Any Of India's Installations

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Operation Sindoor undertaken by the Indian armed forces in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack has "completely exposed" the fact that terrorism in India is sponsored by Pakistan, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday.

Shah also said that the operation showed the "firm" political will of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the "precise" intelligence inputs from agencies, and the "lethal" capabilities of the armed forces.

India hit as deep as '100-km' inside Pakistan after they dared to target a few Indian civilian and military setups following Operation Sindoor (on



May 7), when nine terrorist camps were decimated, he said.

Shah made the remarks while delivering the annual Rustamji Memorial Lecture organised by the Border Security Force (BSF) alongside its 22nd investiture ceremony.

Raised in 1965, the BSF guards the over 6,000-km-long Indian borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. K F

Rustamji was the founding chief of the BSF.

"The terrorists undertook an extreme attack in Pahalgam as they selectively chose innocents, asked their religion and killed them brutally in front of their families, including women and children," Shah said, adding that this "sin" was committed by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists.

"India's response under Operation Sindoor was different," he said.

Nine terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) were "destroyed" within a few minutes, out of which two were the headquarters of terror outfits, Shah said.

"We did not attack their | [More on P10](#)

West Supported Military Regime In Pak: EAM



No one has supported the military regime and undermined democracy in Pakistan in so many ways as much as the West, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said.

He described the threat of terrorism as a major "collective challenge" facing the world alongside climate change and growing poverty.

In an interview to Danish daily Politiken, Jaishankar | [More on P10](#)

Pak Shelling Damage Assessment Near Complete: CM

Says J&K Govt To Seek Relief From Centre

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said the assessment of damages caused by cross-border shelling by Pakistan is almost complete and his government will take up the issue with the Centre for providing relief to the victims.

"The assessment is almost complete. Reports from two



districts are awaited. Once we get them, we will take up the matter with the Government

of India and try to prepare a (relief) package," Abdullah told reporters here. | [More on P10](#)

'Committed To People-centric Governance'

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday reiterated his commitment to establishing a responsive and people-centric government. Omar met with various delegations at the Raabita office in Srinagar. Following these meetings, the Office of the Chief Minister, J&K, posted on X (formerly Twitter), stating, "Met | [More on P10](#)

SIA Cracks Down On Terror Sleeper Cells

Raids 18 Locations Across 4 Districts In Jammu

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Friday launched a crackdown on terror sleeper cells and their associates, conducting coordinated raids at 18 locations across the Jammu region and recovering substantial incriminating material, an official said.

The operation targeted the terror ecosystem in the districts of Poonch, Rajouri, Udhampur and Ramban, said a spokesperson of the SIA.

Of the 18 locations raided, 12 were in the Surankote subdivision and three in the Haveli tehsil of Poonch district,

he added.

The spokesperson said that additional operations were carried out at one location each in Rajouri town (Rajouri district), Ramnagar (Udhampur district) and Ramban.

"A considerable quantity of incriminating material has been seized and secured in accordance with established legal protocols. The material is currently under detailed scrutiny and further investigation is underway," he added.

Several suspects have been summoned to join the investigation at the SIA headquarters in Jammu. The spokesperson said these actions | [More on P10](#)



Fishermen casting hooks from their Shikaras on Dal Lake. KO Photo By Shoaib Nazir

'Initial Five Years Of Service Not To Count' HC Sets Aside Decade-Old Cabinet Decision on ReT Seniority

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Setting aside government's eleven-year-old cabinet decision being in "ignorance of settled legal position", the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Friday ruled that the five years service rendered by Rehbar-e-Taleem teachers before regularization shall not count for the purpose of fixing their seniority.

Allowing two appeals in this regard, a Division Bench of Justices Sanjeev Kumar and Sanjay Parihar set aside its single bench's verdict 31 December 2014 which had concluded that that there was nothing wrong in the Government taking a policy decision to confer the benefit of seniority upon the



ReTs on their regularization with effect from the date they were initially engaged.

"As a consequence,.....the impugned proviso, to the extent it provides that "the five years service rendered by Rehbar-e-Taleem teachers before regularization shall count for the purpose of fixing their seniority" is set aside," the Division Bench said while allowing the appeals filed by aggrieved

General Line teachers through advocate Tasaduq H. Khawja.

The government vide an order on 28 April 2000 launched Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) Scheme which provided for engagement of Teaching Guide (ReT) to perform the teaching duties in the schools facing deficiency of teaching staff. The ReT was to be engaged initially for a period of two years which was extendable for a period of further three years subject to satisfactory performance etc of the ReT.

The ReT was entitled to a monthly honorarium of Rs. 1500 for the first two years and Rs. 2000 per month from the third year onwards. There was also a stipulation in the Government | [More on P10](#)

Centaur Hotel Transfer J&K Forms High-Level Oversight Committee

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has approved the formation of a high-level committee to oversee the transfer of Srinagar's iconic Centaur Lake View Hotel to a private firm, Lago Vue Srinagar Private Limited, as per the terms of an existing concession agreement.

According to an order issued by the General Administration Department, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir will head the committee, which includes the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, the Commissioner of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, and officials

from multiple departments.

The committee has been tasked with ensuring a smooth, time-bound transfer of the property, situated on the banks of Dal Lake. The hotel, inaugurated in 1984, was originally a joint venture between the J&K government and the Hotel Corporation of India, under a 99-year lease agreement.

Various departments have been assigned specific roles in the process. The Revenue Department will document land allocation and other property details, while the Public Works Department (R&B) will catalog items within the premises and advise on their removal.

The Culture | [More on P10](#)

No Caste-Based Segregation In J&K Prisons Now

Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant move, the administration of Jammu & Kashmir has amended the Union Territory's Prison Manual-2022 to prohibit the caste-based segregation in jails and defined criteria for declaring a person as "habitual offender".

According to amendments carried out by LG-led administration in the Prison Manual, it shall be strictly ensured that there is no discrimination/classification /segregation of prisoners based on the basis of their caste.

"It shall be strictly ensured that there is no discrimination of prisoners in allotment of any duty/ work in prisons on the basis of their caste," reads the amendments.

India Extends Pak Airspace Ban Till June 23

Observer News Service

New Delhi: India on Friday extended the ban on its airspace for flights operated by Pakistan-based airlines by another month, with the restriction now in place until June 23, according to sources.

The airspace closure, initially enforced on April 30 as part of several punitive measures following the Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives, was originally scheduled to expire on May 23 (Saturday).

Union Minister of Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu stated, "As we move forward, we are going to take guidance from the security agencies in this regard. This is not just a decision that the Ministry of Civil Aviation is making single-handedly. This concerns the nation..."

As per the latest NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) issued on Friday, Indian airspace will remain closed to aircraft registered in Pakistan, as well as planes that are operated, owned, or leased by Pakistan-based airlines and | [More on P10](#)

LG Pays Tribute To Army Man Killed In Kishtwar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday paid heartfelt tributes to Sepoy Gaykar Sandip Pandurang, who was martyred during an anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district.

"Salute to the indomitable courage of braveheart Sep Gaykar Sandip Pandurang, who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation during the anti-terror operation in Kishtwar. The grateful nation will forever be indebted to his valour and unwavering commitment to duty. We stand united in solidarity with the family of the martyr in this hour of grief," the LG said in a statement.

The soldier from Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district was part of the 17 Rashtriya Rifles and was killed during a cordon and search operation in Kishtwar's Singhpora-Chatroo area. The operation to neutralize four hiding terrorists is still underway.

Earlier in the day, the Army held a wreath-laying ceremony at the Military Hospital in Jammu. Chief of Staff of the White Knight Corps, Major General Shailendra Singh, led tributes, joined by senior officers from the Army, police, BSF, and civil administration.

Sepoy Pandurang's mortal remains were sent to his native village in Karandi, Akole tehsil, for the final rites.



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2

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK042020001741 issued in favour of HIJAB AHMAD PARAY Parentage SHAHZAD AHMAD PARAY

Whereas an application has been recieved by one HIJAB AHMAD PARAY Parentage SHAHZAD AHMAD PARAY wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as HIJAB AHMAD PARRAY Parentage SHAZAD AHMAD PARRAY Which needs to be changed as HIJAB AHMAD PARAY Parentage SHAHZAD AHMAD PARAY.

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

CHANGE OF NAME

My name, Sharifa, has been wrongly written as Sharifa Farooq in the J&K Bank account (Branch: Safa Kadal). I hereby intend to make the necessary correction in my name and change it to Sharifa. Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact the number mentioned below within seven days from the date of issuance of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Mrs. Sharifa
W/O Farooq Ahmad Baba
R/O Rathpora Eidgah, Srinagar
Cell No. 7889863885

INF

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Have changed my name from (old name) Mohammad Sefam Bhat to (New Name Mohammad Sefam in future I will know as (New Name Mohammad Sefam. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub.. Application of Ashia Begum w/o Wali Mohammad Tantry R/o Nehalpora Tehsil Pattan for issuance of legal hair certificate..

Public Notice

IT is inform to general public that applicants husband legal hair certificate is under process in this office in this matter report Was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicant's husband namely Wali Mohammad Tantry S/o Abdul Rashid Tantry R/o Nehalpora died on 15/ 02/2025 and legal hairs of deceased are as under..

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
Asha Begum	66	Wife	MARRIED
Ali Mohammad	31	Son	MARRIED
Tantray Rubeena Bano	18	Daughter	UNMARRIED

In this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth BDO Lalpora has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Shafiya Qadir D.o.B 25/10/2010, Mehr un Nisa D.o.B 25/08/2017, Mohammad Ikram D.o.B 17/04/2022 Ss/D/o Abdul Qadir Para R/o Mamoosa Tehsil Pattan occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my Son Tawfeeq Mohi Ud Din has inadvertently recorded as Toufeeq Ahmad Malla in adhaar card bearing number- 6376-4826-0172 which is incorrect and the correct and his actual name is Tawfeeq Mohi Ud Din. Which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Malla
F/o Tawfeeq Mohi Ud Din
R/o Khanpora

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate from Office of the principal New Convent school MalmooH Magam. As per certificate issued by SMC my DOB is 06-03-2015. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the above mentioned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Rizwan Bhat
S/o Gulzar Ahmad Bhat
R/o Yari Gund Kawoosa Narbal Budgam

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

Public Notice

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Zainab D/o Hilal Ahmad Wani R/o Hanjiwera Bala Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 02/06/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AD KASHMIR

Office Of The District Youth Services & Sports Officer Shopian Kashmir.

Subject: Tentative Seniority List of Multi Tasking Staff (MTS) of District Shopian.

CIRCULAR

This office has compiled a Tentative Seniority list of Multi Tasking Staff, which stands as on 22-05-2025, as per the record available. The list has been already circulated through the official whatsapp group of the office (DYSSO SHOPIAN) for want of objections and errors if any. Now through the medium of this circular all the members of the service who are either not included or aggrieved with the position assigned in the tentative seniority list can submit their objections in written supported with relevant documents to this office within two days positively. No representation/objection shall be entertained after the expiry of prescribed period and the seniority shall be treated final.

No: DYSSO/SPN/616-29
DIPK-1793/25

Dated: 23/05/2025

s/d
District
Youth Services & Sports Officer
Shopian

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Pattan

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: 03 /R&B of 2025-26 - 593-99 -Dated: 23.05.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1	Construction of Govt Girls Middle School building at Sherabad Pattan	39.39 lacs	1100/-	78780/-	90 days	PAB	A,B,	Education

Position Of AAA: Accorded

Position of T.S: Accorded

Position of funds: Available

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-05-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	24-05-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	24-05-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	04-06-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	05-06-2025 11:00 AM Office of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No., Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender inviting authority) Falling under thee Competence of under sign.

3. All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, as per PWD norms).

The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period for different nature of works i.e. for M&R works six months (6 months) Bituminous works Three Years (03 Years) and Building works Eighteen Months (18 months) etc as per Physical nature of work.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority).

5. The earnest money/ Bid security in favor of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

7. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-

i. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

ii. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

iii. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

Computer operator/ Camp/ Head Draftsman/ Technical Officer / Executive Engineer
No: R&B / Divn./ 593-99 R&B Division Pattan

DIPK-1776/25

Dated: 23.05.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the registration of an electricity connection; however, I am currently unable to arrange and provide the requisite revenue extracts/documents from the Revenue Department due to certain unavoidable technical and procedural delays. Through this notice, I inform the general public and concerned authorities that I shall never claim any ownership rights over the installation on the basis of the electricity connection, if provided. I shall be fully responsible for any violation & KPDCL reserves all the rights to cancel my agreement without any notice.

Nighat Altaf
W/o Mohammad Altaf Degloo
R/o Rainawari Misha Sahib Srinagar

IKO

انتظامیہ کمیٹی مسجد شریف کادی کدل سرینگر

اطلاع عام

اسلام علیکم ورحمت اللہ وبرکاتہ

مورخہ 11 مئی 2025 بروز اتوار بعد نماز مغرب مسجد شریف کادی کدل میں ایک میٹنگ زیر صدارت منتخب صدر جناب جان محمد جان اور نائب صدر منظور احمد صوفی منعقد ہوئی جس میں متفقہ طور پر اپنی کمیٹی کو برخواست کر کے ایک نئی کمیٹی تشکیل دگ جس کی مکمل تفصیل حسب ذیل ہے

سمائے گرامی	عمدہ
شیر احمد گلگر	جبرل بکری
جادو احمد تولد	سکری
خالد امین وانی	خزانچی
شیخ محمد الہام	پسٹی چیف
مجلس عاملہ	

علی محمد میر - غلام حسن - مگرو - غلام محمد - عبدالرشید بٹ - فاروق احمد - کاک - عارف احمد وانی - بشیر احمد - مگرو - تکیا احمد وانی

اراکین کمیٹی

خوشیدا احمد - مولو محمد حسن میر - شیر احمد صوفی - محمد مظفر بکری - رفقان - عرفان احمد بٹ - اعجاز احمد خان -

بشیر احمد گلگر
جان محمد جان

IKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My DOB has been wrongly written in my school records as 05-01-2013 While my correct DOB is 05-01-2014. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office fo the Hill Grange School Handwara within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohammad Hashim War S/o Ishfaq Ahmad War
R/o Zaloora Tehsil Zangair Baramulla

fko

ازنیابت ہومی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب علی محمد مجام ولد غلام محمد مجام ساکنہ واڈورہ برادر اجرائی برادر اجرائی RBA بقیہ تحت SRO 294 بقیہ خود

اشہدار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض RBA 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 وہ ہائپر رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکنہ کا تئید بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

بشیر احمد ریشی ولد محمد سلطان	مزدوری	65 سال
سعید تنگمزدوجہ بشیر احمد	گھریلو کام	62 سال
محمد رمضان ریشی پسر بشیر احمد	مزدوری	37 سال
معراج الدین ریشی پسر بشیر احمد	سرکاری ملازم	30 سال
حاجہ بشیر اختر	گھریلو کام	28 سال
رینیزہ بشیر اختر	--	27 سال
فریدہ بشیر اختر	--	26 سال
عشقم بشیر اختر	زیر تعلیم	24 سال
زینب بشیر اختر	--	20 سال

ساکنہ مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنڈیک میوآر آدنی 51733 وپیٹک ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کہ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عجز یا عجز ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض دوا لٹ حد اکو فٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے سے معا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO_r

Clownfish Shrink Their Bodies To Survive Ocean Heat Waves



Associated Press

Survive warming oceans, clownfish cope by shrinking in size.

Scientists observed that some of the orange-striped fish shrank their bodies during a heat wave off the coast of Papua New Guinea. Fish that slimmed were more likely to survive. Heat waves are becoming more common and intense underwater due to climate change. Warmer water temperatures can bleach sea anemones that clownfish call home, forcing them to adapt to stay alive. Scientists monitored and measured 134 colorful clownfish in Kimbe Bay during an intense heat wave in 2023 that's still bleaching corals worldwide. They found that 101 clownfish decreased in length on one or more occasions from heat stress. "We were really shocked at first when

we saw that they were shrinking at all," said study author Morgan Bennett-Smith with Boston University. The findings were published Wednesday in the journal Science Advances.

Though scientists don't yet know how clownfish shrink, one idea is that they could be reabsorbing their own bone matter. It's possible the smaller stature may help the clownfish save energy during a stressful scorch since smaller fish need less food.

Certain clownfish breeding pairs also synced their shrinking to boost their survival odds. The females adjusted their size to stay bigger than their partners, keeping the female-dominated social hierarchy intact, researchers said. Other animals also decrease in size to beat the heat. Marine iguanas get smaller during El Nino events that usher warm waters into the Galapagos. But this coping strategy hadn't yet been spotted

in coral reef fish until now.

"This is another tool in the toolbox that fish are going to use to deal with a changing world," said Simon Thorrold, an ocean ecologist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, who was not involved with the new study.

The tactic helps clownfish weather heat waves in the short-term, but it's not yet clear how the fish will fare if they have to keep it up in the years to come, Thorrold said.

Researchers found the shrinking was temporary. Clownfish possessed the ability to "catch up" and grow back when their environment got less stressful, showing how living things are staying flexible to keep up with a warming world, said study author Melissa Versteeg with Newcastle University. "These natural systems really are under stress, but there's a capacity for incredible resilience," Versteeg said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name in adhaar card bearing Number:- 6234-6225-1887 has been wrongly recorded as Ab Hamid Yatoo while my correct and actual name is Abdul Hameed Yatoo. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained

fko

ازنیابت ہومی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب علی محمد مجام ولد غلام محمد مجام ساکنہ واڈورہ برادر اجرائی برادر اجرائی RBA بقیہ تحت SRO 176 بقیہ خود

اشہدار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمرہ جام 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 ذات سے تعلق رکھتی ہے اور ساکنہ واڈورہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکنہ کا تئید بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

غلام محمد مجام ولد علی محمد مجام	مزدوری	60 سال
فاطمہ تنگمزدوجہ غلام محمد	گھریلو کام	58 سال
عتیا ز احمد پسر غلام محمد	سرکاری ملازم	35 سال
مینیزہ اختر زوجہ امتیا ز احمد	گھریلو کام	32 سال
علی محمد پسر غلام محمد	سرکاری ملازم	27 سال
زینت النساء زوجہ علی احمد	گھریلو کام	25 سال
نجمہ النساء زوجہ غلام محمد	--	24 سال
شاہد محمد ولد غلام محمد	زیر تعلیم	18 سال

ساکنہ مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنڈیک میوآر آدنی 10,0000 وپیٹک ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کہ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عجز یا عجز ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض دوا لٹ حد اکو فٹری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرے سے معا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO_r

VC SKUAST-K Calls On LG



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Friday.

The Vice Chancellor briefed the Lieutenant Governor about the breakthrough Research viz development of the first Gene Edited sheep in the country.

SKUAST Kashmir is endeavouring in the two most im-

portant technologies which are revolutionising the world: Artificial Intelligence and the Gene editing technologies and has earned 77th Patent.

The Vice Chancellor also briefed the Lieutenant Governor about the new programs and initiatives of the University. He further informed that the academic programme which was switched to hybrid mode recently would be normalised from 1st June, 2025.

Information Department Condoles Demise Of Mohammad Sultan Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Officers and Officials of the Joint Directorate of Information,

Kashmir, have expressed their sorrow over the passing of Ex-Section Officer Mohammad Sultan Bhat, who tragically passed away this morning after suffering a stroke.



In this regard, a condolence meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shanawaz Bukhari, in his office chamber to pray for the soul of the departed and to show solidarity with the grieving family.

During the meeting, the Joint

Deputy Director Information & PR, Ahsan ul Haq Chishti, along with Cultural Officer Burhan Hussain, also expressed their condolences regarding the unexpected passing of their former colleague, praying for the eternal peace of the departed soul and extending their sympathies to the mourning family.

Other officials within the department also offered their deepest condolences and prayed to Almighty for highest place of departed soul in Janat ul Firdous.

Dy CM Pays Surprise Visit To Govt Offices At Sanat Ghar Bemina



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a bid to enhance the public convenience and ensure efficient service delivery, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, paid a surprise visit to various government offices at Sanat Ghar Bemina, Srinagar.

The Dy CM visited the offices of Director Industries Kashmir, MD JK Minerals, MD SICOP/SIDCO, MD Handloom Development Corporation, KVIB, Office of TPO. He reviewed the functioning of these offices and asked the officers to ensure that the public receives hassle-free services.

During the visit, the Dy CM emphasised the importance of maintaining cleanliness, ensuring quick disposal of public grievances and enforcing punctuality in government offices.

The Dy CM held a detailed discussion with the officials regarding steps to streamline

the functioning of their respective departments. He emphasised the need for prompt service delivery, better management of public inflow and improved infrastructure, especially considering the ongoing summer heat.

He also stressed that benefits of all government schemes should reach the last person in line in real-time. He directed for conducting awareness programs to educate the general public about the government schemes.

The Dy CM cautioned that no lackadaisical approach would be tolerated, underscoring the administration's commitment to transparency and accountability. He directed that all the HoDs should be stationed in Srinagar stating "it is essential that citizens do not have to wait unnecessarily and services are provided strictly according to the scheduled time frame".

Hindi Exams For Ministerial Staff Held At NIT

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Prabodh, Praveen, and Parangat course examinations under the Central Hindi Teaching Scheme were successfully conducted at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar. For the second consecutive year, NIT Srinagar was selected as the examination centre for the Kashmir division.

The three-day exams were held on campus and saw enthusiastic participation from over 50 aspirants, including ministerial staff from NIT Srinagar, the Central University of Kashmir, the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), and the Accountant General (AG)'s office.

The examinations were smoothly administered under the supervision of Assistant Registrar (S&P, T&P, Member of Rajbhasha Cell), Mohammad Iqbal Dar, who served as the superintendent. "It was an honour to host the Hindi teaching course

exams for the second consecutive year at NIT Srinagar. We are grateful to the Ministry for selecting our institute once again for this responsibility. We are proud to contribute to the promotion and implementation of the Rajbhasha language as part of the Government of India's linguistic initiatives," he said.

Mr. Dar also expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanauiya and Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman for their unwavering support and guidance, which ensured the seamless conduct of the examinations.

Hindi Officer Dr. R. P. Shukla (Asst. Prof. CED) said the active participation of ministerial staff in exams reflects the institute's continued commitment to promoting the use of Hindi in official work. He appreciated the enthusiasm of the staff and encouraged more employees to take advantage of the scheme in the upcoming sessions.

CM Omar Convenes Public Outreach Programme At Raabita Office

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday conducted a weekly Public Outreach Programme at the Chief Minister's Raabita Office at Gupkar in Srinagar, engaging directly with the public to address their issues and concerns.

Former J&K Minister Mohammad Ashraf Mir brought to the Chief Minister's attention various developmental challenges in Athwajan, Pantha Chowk and surrounding areas.

Students from the SPS Library, MA Road Lal Chowk, requested the extension of library hours and resolution of internet connectivity and other student-related issues.

"Libraries are vital to a learning society—we are committed to making them more modern and student-friendly. All genuine concerns will be looked into," CM assured the students delegation.

A delegation led by Peerzada Masood Hamdani from Khanqah-e-Moula raised concerns related to the upkeep and development of the Khankah Shrine, along with other local matters.

Retired veterinary employees presented issues related to pay anomalies and pension disbursements. Similarly, employees of the J&K Sports Council sought the Chief Minister's intervention regarding the grant of pensionary benefits to Council staff.

Social workers associated with Special Cells advocated for the continuation and strengthening of Special Cells for Women in Jammu and Kashmir.

Employees of the J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) also met with the Chief Minister to discuss matters concerning their career progression and other employment-related concerns.

A delegation of visually impaired



LIBRARIES ARE VITAL TO A LEARNING SOCIETY—we are committed to making them more modern and student-friendly. All genuine concerns will be looked into,"

and physically challenged individuals, led by Showkat Ahmad Lone, highlighted several key issues, including free public transport, accessibility in educational institutions and government offices, skill development programs, and an establishment of a single-window system for grievance redressal.

In addition, a delegation led by hotelier Mushtaq Burza appealed for government support in the revival of tourism and raised key concerns relating to the industry, trade and

hospitality sectors.

Representatives from Kishtwar voiced their concerns related to Waqf properties and other local developmental issues.

Several other delegations comprising sitting and former MLAs, public representatives, and concerned citizens also met with the Chief Minister to raise issues such as old-age pensions, access to potable drinking water, and infrastructure development in their respective constituencies.

The Chief Minister patiently listened to all delegations and assured prompt and priority-based redressal of their genuine concerns.

On-the-spot instructions were issued by the Chief Minister in several cases to ensure swift resolution of grievances.

"We remain committed to listening, resolving issues, and building a responsive and people-centric Government," he added.

Advisor to CM, Nasir Aslam Wani and other senior officers were present during the public hearing.

BEAT THE HEAT

Harwan, Dachigam Streams Turn Summer Retreats For Youth

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As an intense heatwave sweeps through Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar's Harwan and Dachigam streams have transformed into popular cooling stations for local youth seeking respite from the sweltering sun.

With the city on Thursday recording a scorching 34.4°C, the third-highest May temperature in 133 years, and on Friday, more than 30°C, scores of young men headed towards these forested streams, parked their bikes and cars under the trees and dived into cold mountain waters.

"It has become unbearable in the city," said 22-year-old Saqib Lone, as he emerged drenched from a stream near Dachigam. "There is no better place than this to beat the heat," he said.

As per independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng, Srinagar recorded 34.4°C on Thursday, surpassing the previous May record of 34.3°C from 1971. "It's the third-



highest-ever May temperature in the last 133 years," Keng said.

As the heatwave grips the valley, Harwan and Dachigam have become daily destinations for youth groups. Carrying Bluetooth speakers, snacks and towels, they spend hours inside the icy streams that flow through the foothills of the Zabarwan Range. "It is the only escape we have,"

said Ubaid Mukhtar, a resident of downtown Srinagar. "This place feels cool and heavenly, and we can cool off naturally."

Meanwhile, doctors and the administration have issued advisories urging people to stay hydrated, avoid direct exposure to the sun and limit physical activity during peak heat hours—(KNO)

Police Cracks Gold Theft Case In City

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police have solved a theft case by arresting accused persons involved in the commission of crime and recovered stolen items from their possession.

Upon receipt of written complaint by one Ghulam Qadir son of Ali Mohammad Mir resident of Pati Brein, Nishat, stating therein that on 19.02.2025, unknown thieves broke into his residence and stole valuable gold items, Police Station Nishat registered case vide FIR No. 10/2025, under relevant sections of law and

investigation was initiated.

During the investigation, tireless efforts of the investigating team, meticulous analysis of information and leveraging technical and digital evidence, the investigating team identified and apprehended three suspects namely

Mohd Hafiz Ganie son of Mohd Sultan resident of Shallbugh Ganderbal, Bilal Ahmad Ganie son of Mehranj Uddin resident of Asham Sumbal Bandipora and Bilal Ahmad Dar son of Abdul Gani resident of Safapora Bandipora.

Based upon their disclosures, the investigating team recovered stolen gold items valued at approximately

Rs 9 lakhs, along with an Alto vehicle bearing registration number HR13E-9346 which was used in the commission of the crime.

The investigation is ongoing to recover additional stolen property and uncover further details.

This action by Srinagar Police underscores their commitment in ensuring justice and safeguarding the community.

J&K Police urge residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the nearest police station to help prevent such incidents in the future.

NORTHERN RAILWAY								
E- TENDER NOTICE								
The Deputy Chief Engineer /BR/Workshop, Northern Railway, Jalandhar Cantt, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-								
S. No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Approx Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of opening	Bidding start date on IREPS	Cost of tender form Rs.	Completion period of work
1.	OT-08-JRC-2025	Replacement of corroded members and provision of side pathway on Br no. 63UP & 63DN (9x61.0 m) on SNL-ATT section of Firozpur Division.	7,59,24,770.29	5,29,600.00	13.06.2025	30.05.2025 to 13.06.2025	0	18 Months
2.	OT-09-JRC-2025	Replacement of corroded members on Br no. 5A UP & 5ADN (11 x 61.0 m) on SNL-ATT section and provision of side pathway on Br no. 5ADN.	7,25,09,122.04	5,12,600.00	13.06.2025	30.05.2025 to 13.06.2025	0	18 Months
3.	OT-10-JRC-2025	Provision of side pathway on Br no. 188 UP & DN (JUC-PTKC), Br no. 42UP, 43UP & 172UP (BHRJ-JAT) & Br no. 12B (10x30.5m) in SGDNI-BRML of JAT division.	7,55,70,237.59	5,27,900.00	13.06.2025	30.05.2025 to 13.06.2025	0	18 Months
Date & Time for submission of Tender and opening of tender			Up to 15:00 hrs on dates shown against each and opening of tender thereafter at 15:00 hrs on same date.					
Website Particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded.			The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in .					
No.80-W/30/Bridges/ Invitation. Dated: 22.05.2025								
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE								
						1512/25		

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
26 Zil-Qadah
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	3:45
ZUHR	12: 28
ASR	5:24
Magrib	7:35
ISHA	9:11

This Day In History

- 1153- Malcolm IV becomes King of Scots
- 1218 -The Fifth Crusade leaves Acre for Egypt.
- 1370-Hanzesteden signs peace treaty with Danish king Waldemar IV
- 1595- Nomenclator of Leiden University Library appears, the first printed catalog of an institutional library.
- 1621- The Protestant Union is formally dissolved.
- 1658-Battle of Dunes (Spanish-French War) fought
- 1667- French troops attack into Southern Netherlands
- 1689 - English Parliament guarantees freedom of religion for Protestants
- 1697 - English King William III travels through northern Europe
- 1738 - John Wesley is converted, launching the Methodist movement; celebrated annually by Methodists as Aldersgate Day
- 1775 - John Hancock is unanimously elected President of the Continental Congress
- 1798 - Irish Rebellion of 1798 led by the United Irishmen against British rule begins
- 1809 - Dartmoor Prison opens to house French prisoners of war
- 1815- George Evans discovers Lachlan River, Australia
- 1818- General Andrew Jackson captures Pensacola Florida
- 1822- Battle of Pichincha, Bolivar secures independence of Quito from Spain
- 1832-The First Kingdom of Greece is declared in the London Conference.
- 1846- General Zachary Taylor captures Monterey in Mexican War
- 1861- Alexandria, VA occupied by Federal troops
- 1862- Beardslee field telegraph used for 1st time
- 1881- Turkey cedes Thessaly and Arta back to Greece.
- 1887- Sultan Bargash of Zanzibar grants E Afr Association at East African harbors
- 1890- Geo Train & Sam Wall circle world in record 67 days, Tacoma-Tacoma
- 1915- Thomas Edison invents telescribe to record telephone conversations
- 1916- Last British-Indian contract workers arrive in Suriname

From KO Archives

600 Kanal Kah-Charai 'Gifted' To Ikhwanis

Observer News Service

SOPORE- Revenue officials in Bandipore tehsil have blessed a virtual loot of kah-charai (grazing) lands belonging to the village community in several villages of Bandipore tehsil. At the behest of some high-ups, authorities are reported to have allotted hundreds of kanals of such land to Ikhwan counter-insurgents during recent times.

According to reports, 500 to 600 kanals of the grazing land on Kuil Gurdal road and Baji road in Malangam had been 'gifted' to the Ikhwanis of Malangam village by revenue officials. The beneficiaries' include Abdul Rahman Khan, Moli Khan Chandi Khan and Sher Dil, all of Malangam. They have raised their houses on the lands and even sold portions of them. The tehsildar, Bandipore has allegedly made the allotments.

Reports said the tehsildar also allegedly allotted a custodian building in the tehsil complex at Bandipore to a ruling National Conference halqa president, Muhammad Muzaffar Malik of Onagam. He demolished the building and raised his own residential house in the spresmites under the tehsildar's nose. The tehsildar, reports alleged, had the temerity to attest the mutations of the grazing lands as well as the building.

Villages that witnessed the virtual plunder of the grazing lands include Kuil, Mangnipora, Aloosa, Gurdal, Malangam and Kema. The people of these areas have expressed grave concern over the loot and urged the authorities to call an immediate halt to the murky deals. They also demanded a probe into the allotments made by the tehsildar so far.

(Kashmir Observer, 24 May, 2000)

How US-China Chip War Is Evolving Under Trump

Agencies

Washington: The United States has taken aim at China's Huawei over the cutting-edge chips powering artificial intelligence (AI), part of a shifting technology dispute between the two largest economies.

AFP looks at how the US-China chip war is evolving under US President Donald Trump:

Focus Back On China

A US government statement this month showed how the Trump administration is seeking to change the ways

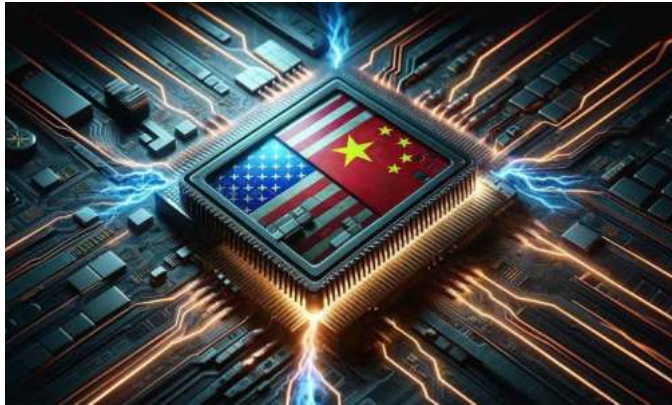
commerce department said.

The same statement reminded companies that using Huawei Ascend -- the Chinese tech giant's most advanced chip -- "violates US export controls".

It warned of "potential consequences" if US-built AI chips were used to train Chinese AI models.

The announcement aimed to "refocus the firepower" of AI curbs squarely on Beijing, said Lizzi Lee, a fellow on the Chinese economy at the Asia Society Policy Institute.

Manoj Harjani, a research fellow at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of Interna-



the US limits China's access to state-of-the-art semiconductors needed to develop AI.

The US Commerce Department said on May 12 that it would rescind the "AI Diffusion Rule", which was issued by Trump's predecessor Joe Biden to shield American chips from Beijing.

Set to take effect on May 15, the rule would have imposed three tiers of curbs, allowing trusted nations to freely import AI chips but controlling or banning their export to lower-tier countries like China.

It "would have stifled American innovation" while harming US diplomatic ties with "dozens of countries", the

tional Studies, agreed, saying the policy turn meant "the spotlight (would be) clearly on China and Huawei".

Different From Biden

Analysts told AFP that Trump's approach to chip controls marks a distinct shift from Biden.

The latter relied on multilateral coordination with allies to keep Beijing out of the loop, said Marina Zhang, an associate professor at the University of Technology Sydney's Australia-China Relations Institute.

In contrast, Trump's recent measures "adopt a more selective and bilateral approach", Zhang told AFP.

Flight carrying Kanimozhi-led MP delegation circles Moscow sky following drone attack

Agencies

Chennai: The flight carrying an Indian MP delegation to Moscow led by DMK leader Kanimozhi had to circle in the sky for sometime due to a drone attack but the aircraft later landed safely.

Kanimozhi was leading the delegation of MPs deputed by the Centre as part of an international outreach post Operation Sindoor, a military offensive aimed at terror launch pads in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

Sources close to Kanimozhi, a Lok Sabha member, said the flight had to circle mid-air.

"It circled in the air and later landed and there was a delay of 45 minutes. She (Kanimozhi) landed safely," sources close to Kanimozhi



said here on Friday.

The multi-party delegation landed in Moscow on Thursday night on the first leg of five-nation tour to sensitise international community on Pakistan-sponsored cross border terrorism, a month after the Pahalgam attack in which 26 people were killed.

At the Domodedovo International Airport, Kanimozhi and members of her team were received by Indian Ambassador Vinay Kumar and other officials.



Trump Admin Bars Harvard From Enroling Foreign Students

Agencies

Washington: US President Donald Trump's Administration revoked Harvard University's ability to enroll international students on Thursday, and is forcing current foreign students to transfer to other schools or lose their legal status, while also threatening to expand the crackdown to other colleges.

South Asian student group strongly condemns Trump administration's decision to revoke Harvard's eligibility to enrol foreign students

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem ordered the department to terminate Harvard University's Student and Exchange Visitor Program certification effective for the 2025-2026 school year, the department said in a statement.

Noem accused the university of "fostering violence, antisemitism, and coordinating with the Chinese Communist Party."

Harvard said the move by the Trump administration - which af-

fects thousands of students - was illegal and amounted to retaliation.

The decision marked a significant escalation of the Trump administration's campaign against the elite Ivy League university in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which has emerged as one of Trump's most prominent institutional targets.

The move came after Harvard refused to provide information that Noem demanded about some foreign student visa holders at Harvard, the department said.

Harvard enrolled nearly 6,800 international students in the 2024-2025 school year, amounting to 27% of its total enrollment, according to university statistics.

In 2022, Chinese nationals were the biggest group of foreign students at 1,016, university figures showed. After that were students from Canada, India, South Korea, Britain, Germany, Australia, Singapore and Japan.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"It is a privilege, not a right, for

universities to enroll foreign students and benefit from their higher tuition payments to help pad their multibillion-dollar endowments," Noem said in a statement.

In a letter to the university, Noem gave Harvard "the opportunity" to regain its certification by turning over within 72 hours a raft of records about foreign students, including any video or audio of their protest activity in the past five years.

Harvard called the government's action "unlawful" and said it was "fully committed" to educating foreign students.

"This retaliatory action threatens serious harm to the Harvard community and our country, and undermines Harvard's academic and research mission," the university said in a statement.

Congressional Democrats denounced the revocation, with US Representative Jaime Raskin calling it an "intolerable attack on Harvard's independence and academic freedom" and saying it was government retaliation for Harvard's previous resistance to Trump.

How The Trump's Move Will Affect Harvard's International Students

Agencies

Washington: President Donald Trump's Administration escalated its standoff with Harvard University on Thursday, revoking the school's ability to enrol international students.

The government told Harvard's thousands of current foreign students that they must transfer to other schools or they will lose their legal permission to be in the US.

South Asian student group strongly condemns Trump administration's decision to revoke Harvard's eligibility to enrol foreign students

The move could significantly affect the university, which enrolls nearly 6,800 international students, most of them in graduate programmes. Those students may now have to scramble to figure out their next steps.

The Department of Homeland Security took this latest step because Harvard refused to comply with requests to produce records about its foreign students, Homeland Security

Secretary Kristi Noem said in a letter. Noem accused Harvard of "perpetuating an unsafe campus environment that is hostile to Jewish students, promotes pro-Hamas sympathies and employs racist diversity, equity and inclusion policies."

Harvard said the action is unlawful and undermines the school's research mission.

Here's what to know about how this decision affects international students and what legal authority Noem has to take the step.

Does the government have authority over a private college's enrolment?

The US government has authority over who comes into the country. The Department of Homeland Security oversees which colleges are part of the Student Exchange and Visitor Program, and on Thursday it said it would remove Harvard. The program gives colleges the ability to issue documentation to foreign students admitted to the schools. Then, the students apply to obtain visas to study in the United States.

Will Harvard's current international students be allowed to graduate?

Students who completed their degrees this semester will be allowed to graduate. Noem's letter said the changes would take effect for the 2025-2026 school year. Harvard's Class of 2025 is expected to graduate next week. However, students who have yet to complete their degree need to transfer to another university, Noem said, or they'll lose their legal permission to remain in the U.S.

Will admitted students be able to enrol at Harvard in the fall?

No, not unless the government changes its decision or a court steps in. For now, Noem said Harvard could restore its status as a host institution for foreign students if it complied with a list of demands within 72 hours. Those demands include requests for a range of records, such as disciplinary records for international students, plus audio and video recordings of protest activity.

Harvard previously declined to provide those records. The university said Thursday it was working to provide guidance to affected students.

"Why Are These Students Dying?" Court Grills Rajasthan Over Kota Student Suicides

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday grilled the Rajasthan government over the surge in student suicides in the city of Kota calling the situation "serious".

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said 14 suicide cases were reported from the city so far this year.

"What are you doing as a state? Why are these children dying by suicide and only in Kota? Have you not given a thought as a state?" Justice Pardiwala asked the counsel representing state of Rajasthan.

The counsel said a special investigation team (SIT) was formed in the state to examine cases of suicides.

The top court was hearing a matter over the death of a 22-year-old student studying in IIT, Kharagpur. The student was found hanging in his hostel room on May 4. It was also dealing with another case of a girl, who was a NEET aspirant and was found hanging in her room in Kota where she lived with her parents.

The bench learnt that an FIR was lodged in connection with the death of IIT Kharagpur's student.

The top court, however, questioned the four-day delay in the FIR which was registered on May 8.

"Don't take these things lightly. These are very serious things," the bench said.

The bench referred to a March 24 verdict of the top court which took note of recurring cases of student suicides in higher educational institutions and formed a national task force to address the mental health concerns of students and prevent such incidents.

On Friday, the bench said a prompt filing of the FIR was necessary in such cases in line with the verdict.

"Why you took four days to lodge an FIR?" the bench asked a police officer concerned, present in court.

We could have taken a very strict view of the matter. We could have even proceeded for contempt against the police officer in-charge concerned of the jurisdictional police station

The officer said the FIR was lodged and the investigation in the case was underway.

"You continue with the investigation in accordance with law," the bench told him.

It came on record that the IIT Kharagpur authorities alerted the police so after they learnt about the suicide.

The bench, however, was not convinced with the explanation of the IIT Kharagpur counsel and the police officer.

"We could have taken a very strict view of the matter. We could have even proceeded for contempt against the police officer in-charge concerned of the jurisdictional police station," it said.

The bench then refrained from saying "anything further" with the FIR being lodged and progressing investigation.

The investigation, it said, should be carried out expeditiously in the right direction.

In the Kota suicide case, the bench disapproved non filing of the FIR.

The state's counsel said the investigation in the case was ongoing and the SIT was aware of suicide cases in the state.

"How many young students have died so far in Kota?" the bench asked the counsel.

After the counsel said 14, the bench retorted, "Why are these students dying?" It said the task force constituted by the top court would take its time before giving a composite report to the court.

UK Newspaper The Telegraph Set For US Ownership

Agencies

LONDON: British right-wing newspaper The Telegraph has agreed a deal that would see it purchased by US investment group RedBird Capital Partners for £500 million (\$670 million), the pair announced Friday.

RedBird has struck an "in-principle agreement" to purchase The Telegraph Media Group (TMG), which comprises the 170-year-old paper's print and online operations, a joint statement said.

It concludes a protracted sale lasting around two years, which has involved an intervention by the previous Conservative government.

US-Emirati consortium RedBird IMI had already struck a deal for TMG in late 2023.

RedBird Capital Partners on Friday said the agreement struck with TMG makes it "the sole control owner" and "un-



locks a new era of growth for the title" founded in 1855.

"RedBird's growth strategy will include capital investment in digital operations, subscriptions and journalism as it looks to expand The Telegraph internationally."

The US group added it is in "discussions with select UK-based minority investors with print media expertise and strong commitment to upholding the editorial values of The Telegraph."

NEWS MAKERS

"Maa, I Didn't Steal Chips": 12-Year-Old's Suicide Note After Public Scolding

A 12-year-old boy died by allegedly consuming pesticide after he was accused of theft and asked to do sit-ups by a shopkeeper for "stealing" a packet of chips at Panskura in Paschim Medinipur district, a police officer said Friday.

Krishendu Das, a class 7 student, allegedly lifted a packet of chips from a shop at Gosaiber bazar in the Panskura area on Thursday evening after he failed to find the shopkeeper Subhankar Dikshit. He had called out "uncle I will buy chips" repeatedly without any response and finally left the shop allegedly with one packet of chips, the officer said quoting his grief-stricken mother.

He was allegedly chased by Dikshit who came back to the shop soon afterwards, slapped and asked to do sit-ups in full public view, the officer said quoting a complaint by the family.

The officer said a probe is underway Das' mother was summoned to the spot and she also scolded him and slapped him while the boy claimed he picked up the junk food packet lying in a heap before the shop and would have come to pay later.

He even offered to pay immediately apologising for lifting the packet without the consent of the shopowner but the shopowner accused him of lying.

A sulking Krishnendu then returned to his house



He even offered to pay immediately apologising for lifting the packet without the consent of the shopowner but the shopowner accused him of lying.

with his mother, bolted the door of his room from inside and did not open the door.

After some time his mother along with neighbours broke open the door and found him frothing from the mouth with a half-empty pesticide bottle lying on his

side, the officer said, adding that a note purportedly scribbled by him in Bengali was found lying on the side.

"Maa I am not a thief. I did not steal. Uncle (shopkeeper) was not around as I waited. While returning I spotted a kurkure packet lying on the road and picked it up. I love Kurkure," said the note.

Krishnendu further said, "These are my final words before leaving. Please excuse me for this act (consuming pesticide)".

He was taken to Tamluk Hospital and admitted to ICU but died soon afterwards.

The shopowner, also a civic volunteer associated with Bengal Police to assist in traffic management, initially claimed he did not assault the child.

Irish Rapper Displays Hezbollah Flag At Concert In London, Charged

The rapper, from Belfast, is scheduled to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on June 18. London:

A member of Irish rap group Kneecap has been charged with a terror offence for allegedly displaying a Hezbollah flag at a London concert, police said on Wednesday.

Liam O'Hanna, 27, known by his stage name Mo Chara, is accused of showing support for the Lebanese terrorist group, who are proscribed by British authorities, during a performance on November 21.

London's Metropolitan Police said officers from its Counter Terrorism Command launched an investigation after a video of the event surfaced online in April.

O'Hanna is accused of displaying a flag "in such a way or in such circumstances as to arouse reasonable suspicion that he is a supporter of a proscribed organisation" in contravention of the 2000 Terrorism Act.

The rapper, from Belfast, is scheduled

to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on June 18, police said.

The group had been scheduled to perform at a festival in London on Friday.

The charge follows growing scrutiny of Kneecap's performances after footage circulated online showing provocative political statements made by the band on stage.

One video appeared to show a band member shouting: "Up Hamas, up Hezbollah."

Those groups, in Gaza and in Lebanon, are banned as terror organisations in the UK and it is a crime to express support for them.

Censorship debate

The band, known for its confrontational style and Irish nationalist messaging, has denied supporting violence or banned groups.

It said video footage had been "deliberately taken out of context".

The backlash led to the cancellation of several of the group's shows, including in southwest England and Germany.

'Accelerate Execution Of Works To Ensure Smooth Conduct Of SANJY-2025'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To establish intricate & enhanced framework for the seamless and peaceful conduct of the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, convened a meeting of officials on Friday to review the progress of works being carried out by various departments at base camps and enroute to the holy Cave.

Chairing the meeting, Div Com instructed officials to execute the necessary developmental works effectively and ensure their completion within the designated timeframe.

He also called for the enhancement of base camp capacities to withstand weather-related emergencies.

Also, Div Com urged the Labour and Animal Husbandry departments to expedite the registration of service providers and

ponies to meet the target before the commencement of Yatra.

He also asked for the installation of signages at key locations to give yatrins an insight regarding the availability of facilities.

Regarding registration of yatrins at various places, Div Com directed for the establishment of RFID counters at the Nowgam and Anantnag railway stations in addition to other locations.

He further directed the BRO to ensure that the routes leading to the holy cave are free of potholes.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Anantnag, Budgam, Ganderbal and Baniptora, besides officers of various departments including KPDCL, FCS&CA, PHE, R&B, SMC, Health, Tourism, Sonmarg Development Authority, Pahalgam Development Authority briefed the meeting regarding the ongoing works & plans to facilitate the pilgrims of Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025.

BJP Minority Morcha Organizes Grand Tiranga Rally



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a vibrant display of patriotism and national pride, the BJP Minority Morcha, Jammu & Kashmir UT organized a grand Tiranga Rally at B.K. Pora, Chadoora Nawgam, Budgam on Friday. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from party workers, supporters, and local residents who came together to celebrate the spirit of unity and integrity under the Indian Tricolour.

The rally was led by UT President BJP Minority Morcha J&K, Sh. Ranjodh Singh Nalwa, along with UT General Secretary Sh. Bhat Imtiyaz and UT Spokesman Sh. Fareed Ahmad Fani, who addressed the gathering and reiterated the BJP's commitment to national integration, communal harmony, and empowerment of the minority communities in J&K.

The programme was successfully organized by Er. Mudasir Mir, District President Budgam Minority Morcha, who ensured robust mobilization and coordination on ground. A number of UT-level office bearers of BJP Minority Morcha were also present, adding strength and solidarity to the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Ranjodh Singh Nalwa said, "The Tiranga is not just a flag but a symbol of our unity, sacrifice, and the vibrant democracy of India. Through this rally, we want to send a strong message of peace, patriotism, and participation of all communities in the nation's progress."

The rally passed through various localities of B.K. Pora and Chadoora, with people chanting patriotic slogans and waving the national flag with great zeal.

Labour Commissioner Cancels Registration Of 447 Trade Unions

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a significant administrative development aimed at reinforcing compliance with statutory labour laws, Labour Commissioner and Registrar of Trade Unions of Jammu & Kashmir, Charandeep Singh, has ordered cancellation of registration for 447 trade unions and associations across the Union Territory.

This action has been taken following their persistent failure to submit mandatory annual returns as prescribed under the Trade Unions Act, 1926.

Under Section 28 of the Act, every registered trade union must file an audited annual statement detailing its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities. Despite repeated notices and availability of a streamlined digital submission system introduced under the UT's

"Ease of Doing Business" reforms, these unions failed to comply with some having remained inactive for more than a decade.

"This action has been taken under Section 10(b) of the Trade Unions Act, after due process and sufficient notice," stated Charandeep Singh. "Non-filing of annual returns constitutes a serious statutory breach and is indicative of either prolonged inactivity or cessation of operations. We are committed to ensuring that only active and accountable unions continue to be recognized in Jammu & Kashmir."

This landmark decision is a step towards establishing a robust and responsible framework for trade unionism that genuinely safeguards the interests of workers and enhances the credibility of organised labour representation.

Lachipora Residents Seek Posting Of Gynecologist, Pediatrician

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Residents of Lachipora area in Boniyar tehsil of north Kashmir's Baramulla district have urged authorities to post a gynecologist in their village.

A delegation of locals expressed their distress over the absence of essential medical specialists, stating that it has caused significant hardship in the area.

"With a population of around 4,000, our village is facing severe healthcare challenges," said Mush-taq Ahmad Mir, a local resident. "In the absence of a gynecologist and other key specialists, patients - particularly pregnant women and children are forced to travel many kilometers to Baramulla hospital for even basic medical care."

He added, "This not only causes immense distress but also poses a serious risk to lives, especially during medical emergencies or harsh weather conditions."

The residents have also demanded the appointment of a pediatrician in the area. "Having a pediatrician would be a huge relief for the children here," said Ghulam Qadir Ahnagar, another resident.

He further criticized the alleged neglect by local representatives over the years, saying it has worsened their struggle to access adequate healthcare.

"We urge the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and the district administration to address this issue on humanitarian grounds," he appealed.

Land Record Digitisation; A Challenging Yet Crucial Task: CS



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chairing a meeting held to assess the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), urged the Revenue Department to tackle the massive digitisation task head-on and work towards completing it within the stipulated time frame.

The meeting besides Financial Commissioner, Revenue (FCR) was attended by Commissioner Secretary, IT; Secretary, Revenue and Director, Land Records.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress on all the components including the digitisation of Jamabandis, vectorization/digitisation of cadastral maps, modernisation of record rooms, scanning of past records and update of the pending backlog mutations.

Dulloo emphasised upon the department to enhance the capacity of the additional staff provided to them. He asked for ensuring the records are entered correctly without any error. He maintained that the primary objective of this programme is to provide an efficient system to the citizens and once completed people should have no grievances about the accuracy of records.

FCR ACS, Shaleen Kabra, threw light on different accomplishments achieved, so far. He maintained that most of the prerequisite groundwork had

already been done to take up the remaining work of modernisation in a mission mode. He made out that at the end of the programme there would be real time update of records besides paperless registrations would also be a reality across the districts of the UT.

Secretary Revenue, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, while informing the meeting about the progress made, so far, revealed that NIC-JK developed software for digital entry, mutation and real-time updates of Jamabandis has been successfully customised.

He further revealed that the pilot projects in Khairi Dadyal (Nagrota Tehsil) and Chak Wadahab Din (Suchetgarh Tehsil) have demonstrated proof-of-concept. To accelerate digitization, each district will deploy 100 Master Trainers with 43 already trained, he added.

It was also revealed that the key initiatives included integration with the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS), public access to real-time auto-updated Records of Rights (RoR) and infrastructure support from JaKEGA for training and hosting.

To ensure spatial accuracy, it was apprised that a high-resolution mapping is underway, with a Virtual Control Points Library being developed for geo-spatial referencing. Additionally, significant progress included BISAG-facilitated map returns, mother map finalisation, mo-

bile app development for sub-parcel updates and integration with satellite imagery targeted to be accomplished within the next 12 months.

Since 2019, property registration has transitioned to a fully online model via NGDRS. The process now supports paperless deed creation using the "My Deed" editor, PAN verification, Digi Locker and citizen feedback via the RAS platform. All 86 Sub-Registrar Offices have been equipped with CCTV systems to ensure complete transparency. A Model Deed is under final vetting to enable end-to-end digital operations in near future.

While legacy document digitization is ongoing and being uploaded on the LRIS portal, physical infrastructure for 207 Modern Record Rooms (MRRs) awaits funding clearance. Once completed, these facilities will offer compact storage, operational efficiency and digital access systems in all the tehsil headquarters of the UT.

Atal Dulloo highlighted the pivotal role of digital integration, accurate geo-referencing and citizen empowerment in land administration reforms. He emphasized continued inter-departmental coordination and institutional support to realize a transparent, accessible and efficient land governance system for the overall development across different sectors including social, agricultural and industrial sectors across the UT.

THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THIS PROGRAMME IS TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT system to the citizens and once completed people should have no grievances about the accuracy of records"

Srinagar's River Crisis: Promised Sewage Plants Nowhere In Sight

KO News Service

SRINAGAR: Four years after a court case began, the Doodh Ganga river in Srinagar and nearby Chadoora remains clogged with untreated sewage. Despite promises and government funds, sewage treatment plants, or STPs, have yet to be built, leaving the river polluted and the environment at risk.

The National Green Tribunal's Principal Bench, led by Justice Prakash Srivastava and expert member Dr. Afroz Ahmad, on Thursday ordered Jammu and Kashmir's Environment and Forest Department to file a written timeline for setting up these plants. The government has eight weeks to submit this affidavit.

The problem is clear: Budgam's Municipal Council generates about 1.62 million liters of sewage every day but has no STP to treat it. Chadoora produces 4.3 million liters daily, with no treatment facility either. Srinagar's numbers are much larger - 163.5 million liters of sewage daily, but only 60 million liters are treated.

This means huge amounts of raw sewage flow directly into the Doodh Ganga and nearby water bodies every day. At a 2024 hearing, the tribunal learned Budgam's sewage is completely untreated. Officials



mentioned a small proposed treatment plant but with no timeline or progress.

Chadoora also lacks an STP, even though plans for a 6 million-liter plant exist. Officials could not give a clear schedule or explain how they'll connect households to the system.

Srinagar's treatment plants only handle a fraction of the sewage generated. The tribunal noted that no clear data on the performance of existing plants or water quality reports for Doodh Ganga and Mamath Kul have been provided.

Despite Rs 141 crores released nearly a year ago for these projects, work hasn't started. Ambika Bali, the Under Secretary of Environment, failed to explain the delays dur-

ing the tribunal proceedings.

On Friday morning, Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, the petitioner who pushed the case, saw untreated sewage flowing into Doodh Ganga near Barzulla.

"I'm ready to help the Environment Secretary at any time. Funds were released a year ago, but no progress has been made. Untreated sewage still floods the river," Dr. Bhat said.

The NGT's order demands a detailed plan with timelines and responsible officials' names. It stresses connecting every household to stop raw sewage from polluting the river.

For now, the Doodh Ganga continues to bear the cost of inaction, its waters still carrying the weight of untreated waste.

DIPR Artists Portray Devastating Impact Of Drug Addiction

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Aiming to eradicate drugs from society, District Administration Srinagar today organized an anti-drugs awareness programme at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS), Sonwar to sensitize students about the dangers of drug abuse.

The awareness programme was held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat under ongoing Drug Free Jammu & Kashmir initia-

tive to raise awareness about the illicit impacts of the drugs on the individuals, their families and the society.

During the programme, talented artists of Kashmir Kala Manch, from Cultural Unit Kashmir, DIPR, staged a hard-hitting and thought-provoking skit portraying the devastating impact of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society at large.

Through powerful performances and a compelling narrative skit, emotional, social and psychological trauma

caused by substance abuse was effectively conveyed to the audiences. The presentation struck a deep chord with the audience and was met with resounding applause and appreciation for its meaningful message and artistic excellence.

On the occasion, speakers highlighted the importance of collective community responsibility in addressing the growing challenge of substance abuse. They urged the youth to channel their energy into constructive and developmental pursuits.



River Transport In J&K To Be A Reality Soon

Observer News Service

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting to explore the introduction of Inland Water Transport (IWT) across the major river systems in Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides the Chairperson, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) the meeting was attended by ACS, Jal Shakti Department; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Secretary Transport, Secretary PWD, and other senior officers from J&K administration.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the immense potential of river transport in the Union Territory, not only as an ecologically sustainable mode of travel but also as a complementary alternative to road connectivity.

He stated that the river systems in J&K—most notably Jhelum, Chenab, and Ravi—link several districts, thereby presenting a unique opportunity to develop a cost-effective, less congested, and environment-friendly transportation network.

Seeking technical and infrastructural support from IWAI, Dulloo urged the Authority to extend their assistance to UT for making inland water transport a reality at the earliest. He called for collaborative development

of the necessary infrastructure, including terminals and electric cruise operations, in coordination with the Tourism, Transport, and PWD departments.

During the meeting, IWAI representatives presented findings from their preliminary surveys, which had been conducted to assess the feasibility of river stretches for water transport. The surveys identified viable segments on the Jhelum, Chenab, and Ravi rivers for potential IWT operations.

It was also highlighted that the development of inland water transport aligns with the Government of India's national policy of promoting river transport for its comfort, efficiency, and pollution-free nature. Plans were discussed to procure electric-powered cruise vessels with a capacity of up to 20 passengers, which would operate between designated terminals on these rivers.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the government's commitment to fast-tracking this sustainable transport model, particularly given its tourism potential and its utility in connecting the underserved areas. He directed the concerned departments to prepare a coordinated roadmap with defined timelines for its implementation in the shortest possible time.

DC Ramban Reviews Mela Mata Kheer Bhawani Arrangements



Observer News Service

RAMBAN: To ensure a smooth and spiritually enriching experience for devotees traveling through District Ramban to pay obeisance at Mela Mata Kheer Bhawani, Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary chaired a detailed review meeting with officers of concerned departments.

Among those present in the meeting were Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; ACD Shrinath Suman; ACP Ashfaq Ahmed; Chief Medical Officer; Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineer PWD Ramban, and CEO Municipal Council Ramban and various senior officers.

Underscoring the importance of meticulous planning, the Deputy Commissioner directed officers to put in place robust arrangements at designated langar sites and other key locations. He emphasized the need to provide comprehensive facilities to pilgrims and ensure their comfort and safety throughout the Yatra.

The review covered key aspects including provision of sanitation, drinking water, electricity, food services (langars), toilets and parking at Langer sites. The DC instructed officials to ensure security arrangements are in place and to deploy fire tenders at critical points. Effective inter-departmental coordination during the Yatra was stressed.

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
TENDER NOTICE						
Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer (C&W) Firozpur acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the works/services listed below. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make online payments against these tender Document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.						
Tender Type	Bidding System	Date of Uploading tenders	Bid Closing Date/Time	Date and Time of Opening of E-Tender		
Open	Single packet System	23.05.2025 Time 16:12 Hours.	16.06.2025 Time 15:00 hours.	16.06.2025 Time 15:00 hours.		
SN	Tender Number	Details of Tender				
1	05-2025-ACR	Repair & Servicing of Air Compressor (Diesel Driven)/01 & Electrical Driven/07 installed at various C&W depot Ferozpur Division.				
		Advised Value	Tender Document Cost	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of completion
		1907312.26	00.00	38200.00	30 Days	06 Months
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						
						1528/25

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
NOTICE INVITING TENDER			
Sr. DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 16.06.2025 at 15:00 hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.			
Tender No.	619A-TRD-FZR-2024-25		
Name of work	Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of SCADA system of Sahnewal (SNL) -Amritsar (ASR) section over Firozpur division for a period of Four (04) Years.		
Approx. Cost (in ₹)	₹12,29,482.21	Cost of Tender Form (in ₹)	Nil
Date & Time for submission of Tender	Upto 16.06.2025 at 15:00 hrs.		
Earnest money (in ₹)	₹24,600/-	Completion Period	Forty Eight (48) Months
Opening of tender	16.06.2025 after 15:00 hrs.		
Website particulars	www.ireps.gov.in		
Special Technical Criteria: "The Firm should be RDSO/CORE approved for SCADA work"			
Note: # Tenderer(s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.			
No.: 619A-TRD-FZR-2024-25			1515/2025
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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Climate
Clock Is Ticking

For decades, Kashmir was the summer escape. When the plains baked, people came here for snow-fed rivers, shaded orchards, and air that felt like relief. But the valley isn't cooling anyone down anymore. It's heating up, and fast.

In 2023 and 2024, Srinagar clocked some of its hottest days in recorded history, with temperatures rising past 35°C. That might not raise eyebrows in Delhi or Chennai, but for a high-altitude region like Kashmir, it's a seismic shift. Fields cracked open. Apple blossoms came too early, then wilted. Dal Lake, once pristine, turned warm and green with algae.

This isn't just weather. It's climate collapse in motion. The Himalayas, often called the Third Pole, are warming nearly twice as fast as the rest of the planet. Glaciers are melting faster. Rivers either flood or vanish. The natural rhythm—snow in winter, melt in spring, bloom in summer—is offbeat and unreliable now.

The hit to agriculture is direct and devastating. Apple trees need a steady cold before they bloom. Without it, the harvest fails. Saffron growers in Pampore say their yields are falling because autumns arrive too hot. Even livestock is under stress. Vets are seeing more animals suffer heatstroke, and mortality rates are climbing.

Nature is showing the strain, too. Glacier-fed lakes are swelling and could burst, putting entire villages at risk. Forests are drying out, and wildfires, once rare, are becoming more likely. Birds are shifting their migration patterns. Lakes are now battling rising temperatures, pollution, and algae blooms that choke life below the surface.

This is also a public health issue. People are falling sick more often during heat waves. Kashmir's homes, mostly designed for snow, trap the heat. Water sources are depleting. Women and children walk longer to fetch water. Doctors are reporting more cases of dehydration, exhaustion, and mental stress. There's growing anxiety among young people—an awareness that the place they love may not survive the century.

The world needs to pay attention. If Kashmir, once one of the coolest parts of the country, is getting too hot to handle, what does that say about the rest of us?

The fixes aren't revolutionary. Smarter irrigation, crop rotation, solar grids, and reforestation all exist. We just need to act. Policy helps. So does pressure from people. Save energy. Stop waste. Push for cleaner air. It's not about doing everything. It's about doing something. Kashmir isn't just losing its chill. It's losing the balance that kept its culture, economy, and ecosystems intact.

The climate clock is ticking loudly here. And what happens next will echo far beyond the valley.

Kashmir's Decimal Divide

A brief look beyond grades reveals the true promise in Kashmir's young minds.

Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

Our systems treat marks as the final word. If you're on the wrong side of a cut-off, it doesn't matter what else you've done. The numbers speak, and everything else stays unheard.

A young woman from Pulwama scored 89.7% in her postgraduate degree. She had published two papers, volunteered in her village during floods, and helped tutor neighbourhood children during COVID. But when it came time to apply for a PhD program outside Kashmir, she didn't even make it past the short-listing. Someone else had 89.8%.

That 0.1% difference erased everything else she brought to the table.

It's a story I hear often. Not just from students, but from early-career researchers, job aspirants, even teachers trying for transfers or fellowships.

In Kashmir, you can be full of promise but still fall short, by just a decimal.

Our systems treat marks as the final word. If you're on the wrong side of a cut-off, it doesn't matter what else you've done. The numbers speak, and everything else stays unheard.

This hits differently here than in most places. Kashmiri students often study in universities that don't inflate marks. They don't get coached to "crack" exams. Many are first-generation learners, juggling academics with family work or political disruptions. They've grown up amid shutdowns, curfews, and internet blackouts.

Still, they show up, sit exams, write papers. But the system that judges them doesn't ask where they're coming from. It just adds up their marks and draws a line.

And that line is brutal.

Central recruitment agencies don't account for institutional differences. A 75% from the University of Kashmir, earned under strict evaluation, is treated as less than an 85% from a lenient one elsewhere. There's no normalization, no adjustment for context.

Worse still, interviews for fellowships or teaching jobs are often skipped. Selection is done entirely by numbers. Sometimes just an Excel sheet and a calculator.

So, those with practical experience, deep thinking, or the ability to connect with students get passed over. And those who memorized better or came from more generous grading systems get in.

This doesn't just hurt individuals. It's a loss for the region. Our classrooms and labs are emptier of local voices. Our



Central recruitment agencies don't account for institutional differences. A 75% from the University of Kashmir, earned under strict evaluation, is treated as less than an 85% from a lenient one elsewhere

public institutions miss out on people who understand the place and want to serve it.

And the damage goes deeper. Many bright young Kashmiris grow disillusioned. They stop applying, or move abroad where systems look at more than marks. Others give up entirely. You can't ask people to keep trying if their every effort is weighed only by numbers.

Other countries have figured this out. In Finland, early education barely uses grades. In the U.S., top universities now ask for essays, references, and interviews instead of just GRE scores. In Germany, the Max Planck Institutes want to know how you think, not just what you scored.

Even Singapore's government jobs combine academics with real-world problem-solving tasks and interviews.

We can do this too. Kashmir, in particular, needs systems that see beyond percentages. We need to ask better questions: What has this person done? What do they care about? How do they solve problems? What can they bring to the community?

A few simple changes could make a big difference. Normalize scores across universities. Blind the applications so the evaluators don't see names or institutions. Add interviews. Allow flexibility, let a research paper or a field project outweigh a small GPA gap. Listen to what students and colleagues say about a candidate. Use tech to find patterns we might miss.

Above all, let's stop confusing cut-offs with capability. Some of the greatest minds in history wouldn't clear today's selection lists. And many of our best local minds—deep thinkers, diligent workers, first-generation scholars—are already being left out.

We don't need to lower the bar. We just need to widen the lens. A mark-sheet will never tell the whole story. But a thoughtful, human-centered process might.

Kashmir has no shortage of talent. What we lack is a system that knows how to recognize it.

Writer is a Chadoora-based teacher-researcher.

Walk through any market in Kashmir today and you'll notice the silence first. Not the peaceful kind, but the uneasy one.

Shopkeepers sit idle. Taxi drivers nap in parked cars. Fruit vendors wait for buyers who don't come. Sales are down, and it's not just a bad day or a slow week. It's becoming a new normal.

Kashmir's economy, once rooted in self-reliance and steady local production, is fraying. And while political changes and flareups often make headlines, this quieter economic unraveling is just as worrying.

Across the Valley, livelihoods are shrinking, and families are feeling the squeeze.

Older generations remember a different Kashmir. Their parents and grandparents were skilled artisans, farmers, carpenters, and weavers. The region didn't just consume, it produced.

In villages and towns, people knew how to build homes, grow food, fix tools, and craft items by hand. They took pride in that. Today, those skills are fading.

Young people are turning away from these vocations. Many see them as outdated or unprofitable. Traditional jobs don't carry the shine of a government post or a tech gig. But the shift has left a gap.

As fewer people grow their own vegetables, make furniture, or repair machines, Kashmir has become dependent on outside markets, even for things it once made with ease.

This isn't just about tradition. It's about survival. With fewer local industries, cash doesn't circulate the way it used to. People earn less, spend less, and save less. That slowdown shows up everywhere, from fewer taxis on the road to shrinking demand in grocery stores.

Tourism, a major source of income, has also taken a hit. After recent disrup-



tions, fewer tourists are coming, and when they do, they spend cautiously. That leaves guides, hotel owners, pony handlers, and street vendors scrambling to make a living.

Farming, too, is struggling. Young Kashmiris are moving away from agri-

culture. Many fields lie untended or underused, and the know-how that kept them productive is fading.

Without fresh talent and new techniques, farming remains labour-intensive and low-income, pushing even more people away.

Skilling the Valley

From empty shops to fading crafts, Kashmir is facing an economic crisis. The road to recovery may begin with its own hands.

Irshad Mushtaq

This isn't just about tradition. It's about survival. With fewer local industries, cash doesn't circulate the way it used to. People earn less, spend less, and save less. That slowdown shows up everywhere, from fewer taxis on the road to shrinking demand in grocery stores.

But all is not lost. Kashmir has a chance to turn this around, and that chance lies with its people, especially the young.

Skill development needs to become a central focus. Not just in modern coding or finance, but in age-old crafts and practical trades.

Carpentry, weaving, pottery, and even

farming, when blended with technology and design thinking, can create jobs that are both meaningful and profitable.

There are sparks of this already. In small workshops and classrooms, some organizations are training young people in block-printing and papier-mâché. Others are experimenting with solar dryers for saffron and organic fertilizers. These are small efforts, but they carry big potential.

For this to grow, support is key. Government programs must move beyond slogans and offer real training, grants, and market access.

Schools and colleges need to promote vocational education alongside academics. And families should be encouraged to see value in work that's hands-on, creative, and rooted in local knowledge.

Tourism can also be revived with fresh thinking. Eco-tourism, craft trails, and heritage stays can bring visitors in while supporting local jobs and preserving the environment.

Farmers, too, can benefit from new irrigation systems, crop diversification, and better cold storage.

Most of all, the community must talk openly about this shift. We need to stop thinking of traditional skills as "lesser" and start seeing them as the foundation of a stronger economy.

That mindset change, simple as it sounds, can do more than any single policy.

Kashmir's economy won't fix itself overnight. But it can heal. Slowly, steadily, with care. The land is still fertile. The hands are still capable. What's needed is a belief that change is possible, and that it can start right here, with us.

Irshad Mushtaq is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Kashmir Uploads Its Future

Cloud servers hum in the hills, AI is streamlining farms, and a generation raised on 2G is now building the future.

Mohammad Hanief

When Sahil Qadri fired up a basic code editor in his small Srinagar home in 2009, he was doing what thousands of young coders around the world do. But there was one big difference.

His internet connection was running on 2G. It took minutes to load a single library, and video tutorials buffered endlessly. Still, he stuck with it.

Today, Sahil works remotely for a Bengaluru-based AI startup. His journey, from 2G to AI, mirrors a slow but steady shift happening across the Valley.

The global rise of artificial intelligence is no longer just a Silicon Valley story. It's already transforming everyday services in Kashmir.

In healthcare, for instance, a valley-based startup is testing an AI tool that reads X-rays and flags possible lung infections. In agriculture, pilot projects are using machine learning to predict apple harvest yields.

These aren't polished commercial products yet. But they point to something deeper: local developers and engineers are starting to apply AI to problems that matter here.

Generative AI, too, has made an entrance. Scribes and scholars in Srinagar are experimenting with it to enhance their work. Teachers in Anantnag are using it to explain complex topics to students with varying learning styles. It's not replacing people, but it's changing how they work.

When Kashmir's longest internet shutdown lifted in early 2020, businesses scrambled to digitize. That's when cloud computing took off.

A small chain of valley-based pharmacies moved its entire billing and inventory system to the cloud. Local schools began relying on Google Workspace and Microsoft Teams to run classes.

The cloud has been a game-changer in a region where physical infrastructure remains tricky and unreliable.

You don't need to maintain bulky serv-



ers when you can rent space from Amazon Web Services or Google Cloud. Even small businesses are now uploading data, running analytics, and managing customer flows remotely.

During the pandemic, this shift helped some companies stay afloat. For students, it meant access to online lectures, recorded sessions, and remote exams. The cloud didn't just bring convenience, it brought continuity.

With more data moving online, cyber security has become a pressing issue.

In 2022, a prominent institute in Kashmir faced a ransomware attack that locked stu-

dent records for days. That scare prompted a wave of interest in digital safety.

Today, local IT firms are offering basic cyber hygiene training. There's talk of biometric logins and encrypted messaging apps, but adoption is slow. Most people still rely on simple passwords and unsecured Wi-Fi.

But change is brewing. A small cyber security collective was recently launched in Pulwama. A handful of saffron growers now use IoT sensors to monitor soil moisture in Pampore. A Srinagar-based tech store sells smart lights and voice-controlled fans that work with Alexa.

These devices don't just add flash, they bring efficiency. Farmers get alerts when their crops need water. Shops track stock with connected shelves. Even traffic police are testing smart cameras that can detect violations without human monitoring.

Still, limited 5G penetration and frequent power cuts hold things back. Some innovators are turning to edge computing—processing data locally, right on the device. That reduces the need for constant internet, a big plus in Kashmir's unpredictable connectivity landscape.

While quantum computing feels far away

from Kashmir's current tech stack, it's not completely out of reach. Last year, an NIT Srinagar student made headlines for contributing to an open-source quantum project hosted by IBM.

These moments, though rare, matter. They show what's possible when young minds in Kashmir plug into global tech currents. Quantum may not solve local problems now, but it symbolizes something bigger: ambition.

But as digital adoption grows, so does electricity use. Data centers, though not yet based in Kashmir, consume massive energy. Local activists and engineers are pushing for greener solutions. Solar-powered routers, energy-efficient devices, and cloud platforms that use renewable energy are gaining traction.

Even students are joining in. A group from Islamic University of Science and Technology recently developed a prototype laptop that runs on low-voltage solar panels. It's early-stage, but it speaks volumes about where the conversation is headed.

Technology is not just reshaping jobs—it's creating them. Dozens of Kashmiri youth now work as freelance developers, digital marketers, and UI/UX designers. Many found clients through platforms like Upwork and Fiverr. Some were self-taught, using free courses from YouTube and Coursera during lockdowns.

At the same time, there are real fears. What if AI replaces human jobs? What about bias in algorithms?

Educators are now blending tech with ethics, discussing these issues in classrooms and seminars. A few schools are even piloting AI awareness classes at the high school level.

Kashmir's tech scene is still small. But it's not passive. It's growing, it's localizing, and it's adapting fast.

The innovations may not be big, but they are real. They speak to a place trying to modernize without losing its soul.

Mohammad Hanief can be reached at

Faith and Family

In the embrace of Madinah and the silence of Badr, a Kashmiri son finds deeper faith on a journey shaped by history, devotion, and family.

Farooq Hussain Dar

It started just before dawn, under the soft glow of Medina's early light. I stood outside Gate No. 21 of Masjid al-Nabawi, hand in hand with my mother and father. We had made it together to this sacred land. And it didn't feel real at first.

We walked the same streets where the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) once walked, prayed in the mosque where he led the faithful, and breathed the same stillness in the air, as if the city itself was holding its breath in reverence.

Inside the mosque, every step felt lighter. The call to prayer echoed gently across the marble courtyard.

My father placed his hand on my shoulder. My mother looked at the Prophet's resting place through tear-filled eyes. I whispered: Alhamdulillah.

After our prayers, we made our way to Badr. It's not a long drive, but the air changes. The land opens up, raw and wide. And then we were there, on the ground where the first battle of Islam was fought.

The battlefield was silent now, but I could almost hear the cry of Allahu Akbar in the wind. I imagined the courage it took. A small group, standing firm in their faith, facing an army three times their size. My chest tightened. This wasn't just history. It was sacrifice, carved into the soil beneath our feet.

We stood before the graveyard of the martyrs of Badr. My mother closed her eyes. My father reached into his pocket and handed me a small notebook. "For your duas," he said.

I wrote the names of friends, family, even strangers who had asked me to pray for them. And I asked Allah for courage, even a fraction of what those early believers had.

Later that afternoon, we climbed Jabal al-Malika. It's a mystic mountain outside Medina. Bare, beautiful, and strangely peaceful.

The golden desert stretched in every direction. There were no crowds, no noise, just the crunch of gravel beneath our shoes and the whisper of wind in our ears.

As we climbed, I kept thinking about the signs of God. Not just in scripture, but in silence, in shade, and in sand.

On that mountain, I felt my heart slowing down. I didn't say much. I



didn't need to.

Masjid Quba was next. A small, simple mosque, but its spirit is vast.

The Prophet (PBUH) laid its foundation with his own hands. I prayed two rakats, just like he once did. The hadith says that's equal to an Umrah.

But even without the reward, there was a gentleness in that mosque I won't forget. It felt like the beginning of something, like stepping into a home built on brotherhood and belief.

From there, we went to the site of the Battle of the Trench.

The land was hushed, the trench now only marked by history and imagination. But I pictured the Prophet (PBUH) striking that rock and saying Persia, Byzantium, and Yemen would fall to Islam.

I remembered how he consulted his companions, dug with his own hands, trusted Allah completely.

In that place, I felt the power of faith that's both patient and practical.

Then came the most emotional stop—Masjid Sayyid al-Shuhada, at the foot of Mount Uhud.

This is where Hamza ibn Abdul Muttalib, the Prophet's uncle, was martyred, along with seventy others.

I stood at the edge of their resting place, watching pilgrims place their hands over their hearts. My father leaned on his walking stick. "He was called the Lion of God," he said.

I thought about that title. What it means to fight for truth, to die with dignity. I looked up at the mountain.

The Prophet once said, "Uhud loves us, and we love it." And I understood.

We also visited Masjid Qiblatain, the mosque where the Qiblah was changed during prayer, from Jerusalem to the Kaaba.

That moment was more than geography. It was a pivot in identity. A spiritual direction set for a growing Ummah.

Standing there, I thought about change. The kind that comes from revelation, and the kind that happens in a single moment, when Allah decides it's time.

Our last stop was a small, humble garden: the date orchard of Salman al-Farsi (RA).

Here, the Prophet (PBUH) planted 300 date palms so Salman could earn his freedom.

I had read that story before. But standing under those trees, it came alive. I saw how faith freed a Persian seeker. I saw how love and justice weren't ideas. They were roots, growing in real soil.

My mother ran her hand along one of the trunks. "He planted this," she whispered. And I believed her.

This journey wasn't just travel. It was awakening. It was walking in the footprints of giants.

And it was a reminder that faith lives in land, in memory, and in the company we keep.

Farooq Hussain Dar is currently performing Hajj. These reflections are shared from the heart of his journey.

Holding On to Hope

Behind the harangues and headlines, Kashmir's entrepreneurs face challenges few see—holding onto hope amid uncertainty and rebuilding from the ground up.

Syed Zameer Raza Safvi

I was in 11th grade in 2007. My friends and I spent most of our days dreaming about the future: what courses we'd pick, what colleges we'd aim for. But one thing we never talked about was starting a business. That just wasn't in the air around us. Our parents wanted us to be doctors, engineers, judges. Anything steady, anything safe.

Only one classmate ever mentioned business. His older brother ran a small travel agency. He'd talk about cabs, tourists, and how Kashmir could thrive if peace lasted.

Slowly, his confidence rubbed off on some of us. A few even began to imagine running their own ventures. But we always hit the same wall: how do you do business in a place where life can be shut down overnight?

Then 2008 arrived, and everything fell apart.

That summer, protests erupted over a controversial land transfer to the Amarnath Shrine Board. What started as political disagreement quickly turned into weeks of marches, clashes, and mass shutdowns. Roads emptied, shops stayed closed, and tension hung in the air.

By September, over 40 civilians were resting in different cemeteries. We stayed indoors, listening to news bulletins and the sound of gunfire from our windows. Schools remained shut for months. So did any dreams we had of becoming entrepreneurs.

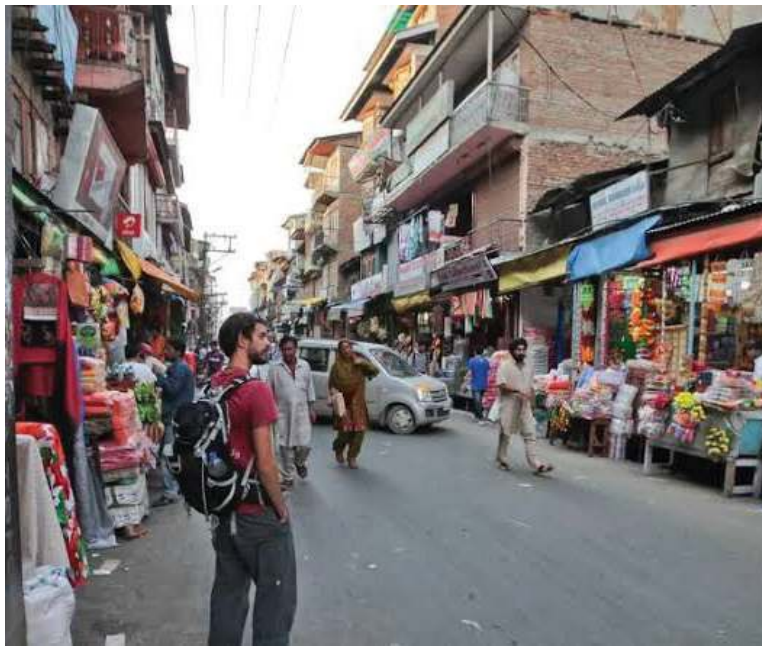
I later heard that my classmate's brother—who once welcomed tourists with brochures and bookings—was now selling apples from a cart to feed his family.

We hoped that was the worst of it. But in 2010, the Valley exploded again. What followed was five months of street protests, stone pelting, and curfews. Over 120 civilians died. Most were young.

I remember the silence of empty roads, the helplessness of not being able to visit relatives, and the panic every time mobile networks were cut.

A friend of mine had just taken a bank loan to buy a cab. He was hoping to drive tourists around Gulmarg. That cab sat in his driveway for months, untouched. Eventually, he sold it at a loss just to repay the loan.

But Kashmiris are used to rebuilding. That's what we do. We move forward after every fall. Slowly, things picked up again, until 2016.



Protests that summer were the most intense I'd ever seen. Schools, shops, even hospitals struggled to function. The shutdown lasted nearly five months. Internet was gone. Newspapers faced curbs. This time, it felt like something inside people truly broke.

Then came 2019. The abrogation of Article 370. A total communication blackout. I still remember how surreal it felt to lose touch with the outside world for weeks. Some areas were under restrictions for nearly eight months. Many small businesses collapsed quietly. The ones that survived did so by sheer will.

After all those years, we began 2020 with almost no expectations. But slowly, the air changed. For the first time in over a decade, there was something close to normal.

New cafés opened. Young people started online delivery services. Shopping malls and cab apps began popping up. Everyone seemed to be trying something new. My own cousin launched a winter clothing brand and started shipping across India. It felt like we were finally being allowed to breathe again.

Then, the Pahalgam attack happened. News of the attack spread quickly. But for us, it wasn't just a breaking news headline. It felt like someone had stabbed the heart of our recovery.

In every café, home, and shop, peo-

ple said the same thing: Not again.

We've seen this cycle too many times. Every time Kashmir starts to stand, something pulls it down. But something is different now. People are angrier. And more determined.

No one wants to go back to the hopelessness of the past. Locals came out and condemned the attack in loud, united voices. Some rushed to help the injured. Others offered shelter to stranded tourists. In the middle of grief, there was this quiet resistance: We will not let this break us.

The hospitality industry is not just about money for us. It's personal. We've grown up in homes where a stranger at the door is treated like family. During snowstorms or highway closures, I've seen families offer meals to tourists without being asked. This is who we are.

Still, we can't do this alone.

The government has to act. Not with curbs, but with support, protection, and genuine investment in people's futures.

If young Kashmiris want to start a business, they should be able to do it without fear that tomorrow it'll all come crashing down again.

The author is a freelance writer and can be reached at raza.zameer@gmail.com. Views expressed in this article are author's own and don't necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy.

'Only 32% Of Job Seekers Consider Themselves Prepared For Interviews'

Press Trust Of India

A large number of job seekers attend interviews without preparation and fail to unlock their true potential, said a report on Friday.

It said only 32 per cent of job seekers consider themselves prepared for interviews, reflecting their limited confidence while facing hiring managers.

"Despite the vast opportunities in the Indian job market - with 3.1 lakh jobs posted on Apna in the first quarter of 2025 alone - many candidates still struggle with confidence and lack of effective interview preparation.

"This gap holds back a large number of job seekers from unlocking their true potential and unlocking possibilities," Apna.co founder and CEO Nirmit Parikh said, quoting the report titled 'Interview Readiness Index 2025'.

He said, the future lies in AI-powered tools that offer personalised feedback and real-time interview simulations.

The report also underscores that the rising impact of digital tools in boosting interview readiness as job seekers who leveraged online tutorials, mock interviews, or AI-powered platforms reported significantly higher confidence levels (38 per cent) compared to just 24 per cent among those who did not use such resources.

As technology continues to transform the job search landscape, digital fluency is rapidly becoming a key



driver of interview preparedness and confidence, the report added.

"These innovations can bridge the preparation gap, helping candidates build confidence, sharpen their skills, and truly showcase their abilities. Our goal is to empower every Indian to not just prepare better, but to believe in themselves, build confidence, and unlock meaningful career opportunities by becoming truly interview-ready," Parikh added.

Apna.co's 'Interview Readiness Index 2025' is based on a survey of over 10,000 respondents across the country. The report has drawn insights from individuals who attended at least one interview in the past year, with 67 per cent experiencing virtual interviews, followed by 61 per cent phone interviews, and 57 per cent in-person rounds.

The report further revealed that nearly half (49 per cent) of candidates with over six years of experience feel well-prepared for interviews.

Confidence declines among mid-career professionals, with just 34 per cent of those having 3 to 6 years of experience reporting readiness. The level of confidence dips further to 29 per cent among early career professionals with 1 to 3 years of experience, it stated.

It also revealed sharp contrasts in confidence level among candidates in different cities.

Job seekers in tier I cities lead the way, with 45 per cent saying they feel prepared for interviews, compared to 32 per cent in tier II cities and just 26 per cent in tier III towns, the report said.

NIT Rourkela Develops Biosensor To Detect Breast Cancer Cells Without Expensive Lab Procedures

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela have developed a novel semiconductor device-based biosensor that can identify breast cancer cells without the need for complicated or expensive laboratory procedures, according to officials.

The developed biosensor does not require any added chemicals to work. It is highly effective in distinguishing the cancerous cells from the healthy breast cells, offering improved accuracy compared to the existing methods of biosensing devices for breast cancer diagnosis, they said.

The research has been published in the prestigious Microsystem Technologies journal.

According to Prasanna Kumar Sahu, Professor at the Department of Electrical Engineering, the rise of potentially fatal illnesses has drawn attention in recent years to the global emphasis on biomolecule evaluation and Point-of-Care (POC) testing. Among these diseases, cancer is a significant global public health concern. In this context, India has seen a significant rise in breast cancer cases in the past few decades.

"Since cancer cells often do not show any initial signs of progression, it is crucial to diagnose them at an early stage for prevention and cure. While several diagnostic procedures such as X-ray, mammography, Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay Test (ELISA), Ultrasonography and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) are used to identify the disease, they require specialised equipment and trained personnel.

"Additionally, these diagnostic methods are often inaccessible to people in remote areas," Sahu said.

The COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted these challenges due to the relocation

of medical resources, resulting in delayed cancer screenings and treatments, he said.

"This underscores the urgent need for simpler, faster, and more affordable diagnostic tools that do not rely on complex infrastructure," Sahu added.

The NIT team has designed a novel approach that uses the physical properties of cancer cells to detect them. Cancerous breast tissues, which hold more water and are denser than healthy tissues, interact differently with microwave radiation. These differences, known as dielectric properties, make it possible to distinguish between healthy and cancerous cells.

The research team has proposed an electronic device, Tunnel Field Effect Transistor (TFET), based on TCAD simulation results that can effectively detect breast cancer cells. FETs are commonly used in electronics but here they have been adapted to function as a sensitive detector of biological materials. Unlike many traditional tests, this biosensor does not need any added chemicals or labels to work.

"A small cavity is etched into the transistor under the gate area and an equivalent material of biological sample of cells is placed in the cavity to check the sensitivities of the device. The sensor then reads changes in electrical signals based on the properties of the sample, essentially 'sensing' whether the cells are cancerous or healthy.

"Because cancer cells like T47D have a higher dielectric constant than healthy ones like MCF-10A, the sensor picks up these differences quickly and with high precision," Sahu said.

The findings show that the sensor is sensitive in detecting T47D cancer cells due to their high density and permittivity. It is also highly effective in distinguishing cancerous cells from healthy breast cells, offering improved sensitivity compared to existing technologies.

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Contact no:-7051651592 inf

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In my bank records my name is wrongly written as Nusrat Hassan Instead of Nusrat R/O Akhnoon mohalla Takiya lal Shah branch name REC Srinagar bearing account no 03910140200010305. Now I m applying for the correction of the same.If anybody has any objection in this regard can kindly contact the concerned authorities within seven days.After that no objection will be entertained. inf

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-
Roll No: 6114212

Class 10th
Year & Session Annual Regular 2014
Registration: N13381010012
Name : Muddasir Qayoom
Father's Name: Abdul Qayoom Bhat
Mother's Name : Shaheena Akhter
Date of Birth:- 13-02-2000
Residenc:- Malikpora Pulwama



According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 16AKTR-624178 be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F/Cer is-I-DQC/B/KD/22
Dated 09-11-2022

Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.
FKO

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK0420090001750 issued in favour of SYED QAISER TAHIR HASSAN ANDRABI Parentage SYED GHULAM HASSAN ANDRABI Whereas an application has been recieved by one SYED QAISER TAHIR HASSAN ANDRABI Parentage SYED GHULAM HASSAN ANDRABI wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as SYED QASIER TAHIR HUSSAIN Parentage SYED GH HASSAN ANDRABI Which needs to be changed as SYED QAISER TAHIR HASSAN ANDRABI Parentage SYED GHULAM HASSAN ANDRABI.

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir
mcb

How Boredom Can Benefit Your Mental Health

Boredom gets bad rap, but science says it can actually be good for us

The Conversation

How boredom can benefit your mental health

We have all experienced boredom – that feeling of waning interest or decreased mental stimulation.

Eventually we lose focus, we disengage. Time seems to pass slowly, and we may even start to feel restless. Whether it be watching a movie that disappoints, a child complaining that “there’s nothing to do”, or an adult zoning out during a meeting – boredom is a universal experience.

Generally defined as difficulty maintaining attention or interest in a current activity, boredom is commonly viewed as a negative state that we should try to avoid or prevent ourselves from experiencing.

But what if there’s another way to view boredom, as a positive state? Could learning to embrace boredom be of benefit?

The brain on boredom

The brain network is a system of interconnected regions that work together to support different functions. We can liken it to a city where suburbs (brain regions) are connected by roads (neural pathways), all working together to allow information to travel efficiently.

When we experience boredom – say, while watching a movie – our brain engages specific networks. The attention network prioritises relevant stimuli while filtering out distractions and is active when we commence the movie.

However, as our attention wanes, activity in the attention network decreases, reflecting our diminished ability to maintain focus on the unengaging content. Likewise, decreased activity occurs in the frontoparietal or executive control network due to the struggle to maintain engagement with the unengaging movie.

Simultaneously, the default mode network activates, shifting our attention toward internal thoughts and self-reflection. This is a core function of the

default mode network, referred to as introspection, and suggestive of a strategy for coping with boredom.

This complex interplay of networks involves several key brain regions “working together” during the state of boredom. The insula is a key hub for sensory and emotional processing. This region shows increased activity when detecting internal body signals – such as thoughts of boredom – indicating the movie is no longer engaging. This is often referred to as “interoception”.

The amygdala can be likened to an internal alarm system. It processes emotional information and plays a role in forming emotional memories. During boredom, this region processes associated negative emotions, and the ventral medial prefrontal cortex motivates us to seek alternative stimulating activities.

Boredom versus overstimulation

We live in a society that subjects us to information overload and high stress. Relatedly, many of us have adopted a fast-paced lifestyle, constantly

scheduling ourselves to keep busy. As adults we juggle work and family. If we have kids, the habit of filling the day with schooling and after-school activities allows us to work longer hours.

In between these activities, if we have time to pause, we may be on our screens constantly organising, updating, or scrolling to simply stay occupied. As a result, adults inadvertently model the need to be constantly “on” to younger generations.

This constant stimulation can be costly – particularly for our nervous system. Our overscheduling can feed into overstimulation of the nervous system. The sympathetic nervous system which manages our fight-or-flight response is designed to deal with times of stress.

However, when we are constantly stressed by taking in new information and juggling different activities, the sympathetic nervous system can stay activated for too long, due to the cumulative effects of repeated exposure to different stressors. This is sometimes referred to as “allostatic overload”.



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

Kashmir Observer, with 28 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV’s across the world

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India May Let U.S., Foreign Firms Bid For Government Contracts: Sources

Reuters

NEW DELHI- India is opening up a chunk of its protected government procurement market to foreign firms, including the U.S., two government sources said, in a shift that could extend to other trading partners after it was offered to the U.K. under a trade deal this month.

The government is likely to allow U.S. firms to bid for contracts worth over \$50 billion, mainly from federal entities, as it negotiates a trade deal with Washington, the sources said.

Total public procurement — including by federal, state and local governments and state-run firms — is worth an estimated \$700 billion-\$750 billion per year, according to government estimates. Most is reserved for domestic firms, with 25% set aside for small businesses, although sectors like railways and defence can buy from foreign suppliers when domestic options are unavailable.

Earlier this month, India and the U.K. agreed on a free trade pact that gives British firms access to federal government contracts in select sectors — covering goods, services and construction — on a reciprocal basis.

"In a policy shift, India has agreed to open its public procurement contracts gradually to trading partners including the U.S. in a phased manner and reciprocal manner," said one of the officials, with the knowledge of the matter.

Only a portion of the govern-

ment's procurement contracts — mainly linked to federal projects worth around \$50-\$60 billion — will be opened to foreign firms, while state and local government purchases will be excluded, the official said.

"Following the U.K. pact, India is ready to open a part of its public procurement market to the U.S. as well," said a second official.

Both sources requested anonymity, as details of the ongoing talks have not been made public. The Commerce Ministry did not respond to requests for comment on the U.S. proposal or extending the plan to other nations.

India has long resisted joining the World Trade Organisation's Government Procurement Agreement, citing the need to protect small businesses.

In its March report on foreign trade barriers, the U.S. Trade Representative said India's restrictive procurement policies pose challenges for U.S. firms due to "changing rules and limited opportunities."

Indian Trade Minister Piyush Goyal visited Washington this week to advance trade talks, with both sides aiming to sign an interim agreement by early July, officials said.

New Delhi is pushing to clinch a trade deal with the U.S. within the 90-day pause on tariff hikes announced by U.S. President Donald Trump on April 9 for major trading partners, which includes a 26% tariff on imports from India.

Trump Hosts Top Crypto Investors As Industry Leaders Worry About Personal Profit Motive



Associated Press

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump rewarded top investors in one of his cryptocurrency projects with a swanky dinner on Thursday night, an event that showed the ascendance of an emerging financial industry — and also the president's willingness to mix public office with personal profit.

Some 220 of the biggest investors in the \$TRUMP meme coin were invited to Trump's luxury golf club in Northern Virginia, where they dined on filet mignon and halibut. According to participants' posts on social media, Trump spoke for about half an hour before dancing to the song "YMCA."

Despite the White House insisting that Trump would be attending the event "in his personal time," he stood behind a lectern with the presidential seal as he touted an industry that's generating profits for his family business.

After feeling unfairly targeted under President Joe Biden,

the crypto industry has quickly become a powerful political force, donating huge sums to help Trump and friendly lawmakers. The U.S. Senate is advancing key pro-crypto legislation while bitcoin prices soar.

However, even some pro-Trump crypto enthusiasts worry that the president's personal involvement may be undermining their efforts to establish credibility and stability for the industry.

"It's distasteful and an unnecessary distraction," said Nic Carter, a Trump supporter and partner at the crypto investment firm Castle Island Ventures, who said the president is "hugging us to death" with his private crypto businesses. "We would much rather that he passes common sense legislation and leave it at that."

As the president uses crypto as a platform to make money for his brand in unprecedented ways, it's also creating an opportunity for potentially shad-owy buyers to use the anonymity of the internet to buy access to the president.

India To Make Strong Case With FATF To Put Pakistan Back In 'Grey List'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India will highlight Pakistan's persistent support for terrorism and its funnelling of multi-lateral funds for arms procurement to build a strong case for reinstating Islamabad on the global money laundering and terror financing watchdog's 'grey list', and block funding from the World Bank.

On April 22, Pakistan-trained terrorists killed 26 people in Pahalgam, Kashmir. India has consistently held that Pakistan has given safe haven to designated terrorists and the same was evident when senior military officials were present at the funeral of the terrorists killed in Indian military attacks of May 7.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog and sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities.

"India will submit a dossier to the FATF on the omissions and commissions by Pakistan with respect to FATF anti-money laundering and terror financing norms. We will be taking it up (with the FATF) for grey listing of Pakistan," a government source said.

The next meeting of the Asia Pacific Group (APG) of FATF is scheduled for Au-



gust 25, during which India is likely to present its views to the global watchdog. The next FATF plenary and working group meeting is scheduled for October 20.

Currently, there are 25 countries in FATF 'grey list'. These countries are under increased monitoring and they have to address strategic deficiencies to counter money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.

Pakistan's history with FATF's 'grey list' dates back to February 2008, when it was placed in the monitoring list. In June 2010 it was removed from the list, only to be brought back in February 2012, and then removed again in February 2015.

It was brought back in the list again for the third time in June 2018, and was later removed in October 2022 with FATF asking Pakistan to continue to work with APG to further improve its anti-moneylaundering/combating the financing of terror (AML/CFT) system.

Separately, India will next month oppose the World Bank funding to Pakistan, just as it had done in case of IMF, arguing that Islamabad had used such funds in the past to procure arms and ammunition.

World Bank is likely to review next month its USD 20 billion lending to Pakistan under the Country Partnership Framework agreed in January this year.

The funds to cash-starved Pakistan were for areas including clean energy and climate resilience for a period of 10 years beginning 2026.

"We will oppose the upcoming World Bank funding to Pakistan," the source said. India had lobbied with IMF Chief Kristalina Georgieva and ministers of IMF board member nations against the agency extending a USD 2.3 billion assistance to Pakistan earlier this month.

INDIA WILL SUBMIT A DOSSIER TO THE FATF ON THE OMISSIONS and commissions by Pakistan with respect to FATF anti-money laundering and terror financing norms. We will be taking it up (with the FATF) for grey listing of Pakistan"

RBI Proposes To Use Biz Correspondent Network To Tackle KYC, Inoperative Account Issues

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Faced with growing complaints on know-your-customer (KYC)-related matters, the Reserve Bank on Friday said it is contemplating to allow banks to take help of the vast network of business correspondents.

The central bank further said it is also mulling to allow authorised business correspondents of banks to help activate inoperative accounts.

In a draft circular on updation/periodic updation of KYC released on Friday, the central bank said it has observed a large pendency in periodic updation of KYC, including in the accounts opened for credit of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) under government schemes to facilitate credit of DBTs.

It has also been observed that the troubles are being faced by the accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana as well, it said.

The RBI has also been receiving complaints regarding



challenges faced by the customers in periodic updation of their KYC, it said.

"In order to further ease the process for the convenience of customers, the instructions regarding updation/periodic updation of KYC are being amended with the intent, inter alia, to allow BCs to facilitate in the process of KYC and KYC updation," he draft circular said.

The general public can submit their comments on the proposals by June 6.

The RBI is also considering a proposal to ask banks to organise camps and launch intensive campaigns focusing on periodic updation of KYC, especially in rural and semi urban branches and the branches having pendency in periodic updation of KYC, it

said, exhorting lenders to take an "empathetic view".

As per the central bank, the difficulties are being faced despite simplifying the instructions on customer onboarding and updation/periodic updation of customers' KYC.

On the issue of inoperative accounts, the RBI's draft circular said deposit accounts maintained with banks which have not seen any activity for over ten years result in the deposit amounts being transferred to the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund.

"...an authorised BC of the bank may be utilized for activation of inoperative accounts," the draft circular reads.

Additionally, it said banks should make available the facility of updation of KYC for activation of inoperative accounts/unclaimed deposits at all branches including the non-home branches and through Video-Customer Identification Process, if a customer requests for it. The public can comment on the draft on inoperative accounts by June 6, the central bank said.

RBI To Give Record Dividend Of Rs 2.69 Lakh Crore To Govt

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The Reserve Bank on Friday announced a record Rs 2.69 lakh crore dividend to the government for FY25, 27.4 per cent higher than 2023-24, helping the exchequer to tide over challenges posed by US tariffs and increased spending on defence due to the conflict with Pakistan.

The decision on the dividend payout was taken at the 616th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India held here under the Chairmanship of Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

The central bank had transferred Rs 2.1 lakh crore dividend to the government for the fiscal 2023-24. The payout was Rs 87,416 crore for 2022-23.

In a statement, the RBI said the transferable surplus for the year (2024-25) has been arrived at on the basis of the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF) as approved by the Central Board in its meeting held on May 15, 2025.

The revised framework stipulates that the risk provisioning under the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) be maintained within a range of 7.50 to 4.50 per cent of the RBI's balance sheet.

During accounting years 2018-19 to 2021-22, owing to the prevailing macroeconomic conditions and the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board had decided to maintain the Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) at 5.50 per cent of the Reserve Bank's Balance Sheet size to support growth and overall economic activity.

The CRB was increased to 6 per cent for FY2022-23 and to 6.50 per cent for FY 2023-24.

Based on the revised ECF, and taking into consideration the macroeconomic assessment, the Central Board decided to further increase the CRB to 7.50 per cent, the RBI said.

"The Board thereafter approved the transfer of Rs 2,68,590.07 crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2024-25,"



it said.

The government has estimated Rs 2.56 lakh crore as dividend/surplus for FY26 from the Reserve Bank of India, nationalised banks and financial institutions.

The government aims to bring down the fiscal deficit during 2025-26 to 4.4 per cent of the GDP from 4.8 per cent estimated for the preceding fiscal.

Commenting on the RBI's decision, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist with Icmr, surplus transfer is about Rs 0.4-0.5 lakh crore (equivalent to 11-14 bps of GDP), higher than the amount that was likely assumed in the FY26 Union Budget, implying an equivalent upside to non-tax revenues, which would provide some buffer to make up for a miss in taxes or disinvestment receipts, or higher-than-budgeted expenditure in the fiscal.

"This provides some comfort on the fiscal front," she said.

The Board also reviewed the global and domestic economic scenario, including risks to the outlook. It also discussed the working of the Reserve Bank during the year April 2024 – March 2025 and approved the central bank's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year 2024-25.

Giving details about the revised ECF, the RBI said the computation of market risk buffer requirement to adopt an integrated approach, wherein the off-balance sheet portfolio is also reckoned, together with the on-balance sheet portfolio.

The computation of market risk buffer requirement may also include investments in Foreign Currency Assets in minor currencies, it said.

GST Council To Meet Soon To Discuss Rate Rationalisation, Compensation Cess Future

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The GST Council is likely to meet soon to discuss rate simplification and rationalisation and the future of compensation cess, according to a source.

"There are three or four different aspects relating to making GST simpler. We will take up the issue of compensation cess, rate rationalisation and simplification," the source said.

The GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister and comprising state counterparts, in its meeting in December last year, did not take up the GoM reports on rate rationalisation and rate reduction in health and life insurance.

The two GoMs, which recommended a reduction in rates and providing exemption to certain categories, are yet to submit their final report to the GST council.

The GoM on Compensation



Cess, headed by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, is looking into the future of compensation cess beyond March 2026.

As of now, the cess is being levied on luxury and sin goods but is being utilised only for paying back loans taken during the COVID to make good the loss to states in GST revenues.

GoM is now studying how to retain the revenue from cess in some other form and how it is to be shared between the Centre and the states.

Markets Rebound Nearly 1%; Sensex Surges Over 760 Pts

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply by nearly 1 per cent on Friday, propelled by buying in market heavyweights Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and ITC.

Besides, hopes of a record dividend from the RBI and easing US treasury yields bolstered investor sentiment, traders said.

After a flat start, the 30-share BSE benchmark bounced back and surged 769.09 points or 0.95 per cent to settle at 81,721.08. During the day, it jumped 953.18 points or 1.17 per cent to 81,905.17.

As many as 2,361 stocks advanced while 1,589 declined and 156 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The NSE Nifty rallied 243.45 points or 0.99 per cent

to 24,853.15.

On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark dropped 609.51 points or 0.74 per cent and the Nifty declined 166.65 points or 0.66 per cent.

"The domestic market has recouped nearly half of the week's losses, supported by gains in FMCG and IT stocks. FMCG benefitted from the early and above-normal monsoon forecast, while IT stocks saw a rebound following a healthy correction.

"Optimism around a potentially record-high dividend from the RBI is boosting hopes for fiscal consolidation, reflected in falling Indian bond yields," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

From the Sensex firms, Eternal, Power Grid, ITC, Bajaj Finserv, Nestle, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and

Adani Ports were among the biggest gainers.

On the other hand, Sun Pharma was the only laggard, declining nearly 2 per cent.

The company's stock fell after it reported a nearly 19 per cent drop in consolidated net profit for the quarter ended March 31, 2025.

The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.50 per cent and smallcap index went up by 0.45 per cent.

FMCG jumped 1.49 per cent, utilities (1.02 per cent), power (1.01 per cent), financial services (0.99 per cent), bankex (0.99 per cent), oil & gas (0.94 per cent) and energy (0.82 per cent).

In Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in positive territory, while South Korea's Kospi and Shanghai's SSE Composite index ended lower.

Gold Rises Rs 100 To Rs 98,750/10 G Amid Firm Global Trends

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices rose Rs 100 to Rs 98,750 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid firm global cues, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 100 to Rs 98,300 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

Firm trends in the international markets and persistent concerns about US fiscal policy continued to support longer-term demand for bullion prices, the association said.

However, silver prices plunged by Rs 2,000 to Rs 99,200 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) on Friday. The white metal had closed at Rs 1,01,200 per kg on Thursday.

On the global front, spot gold increased by USD 35.46 or 1.08 per cent to USD 3,330.23 per ounce.

"Gold edged higher set for its biggest weekly gain since mid-April, as fiscal concerns in the US continue to provide a supportive backdrop," Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research at Kotak Securities, said.

Goyal Meets US Commerce Secy For 2nd Time In A Week To Discuss Proposed Trade Pact

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday met US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick in Washington, their second meeting within a week, to discuss the proposed bilateral trade agreement currently under negotiation between the two countries.

On May 20 also, Goyal held a meeting with Lutnick to expedite the talks on the first phase of the trade pact.

"Held a constructive meeting with Secretary @HowardLutnick for a mutually beneficial trade agreement. Committed to enhancing opportunities for our businesses and people," Goyal said in a post on X.

The meeting assumes significance as both the coun-

tries are looking at finalising an interim trade pact by July 9, the day America's 90-day suspension of reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods comes to an end.

The US on April 2, imposed an additional 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods but suspended it for 90 days. However, the 10 per cent baseline tariff imposed by America remains in place.

The four-day discussions between the chief negotiators of both the countries have also concluded in Washington on May 22.

In the interim trade deal, New Delhi is pushing for full exemption from the 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods.

Due to the 90-day suspension of the 26 per cent additional import duty, Indian exporters are at present pay-

ing just 10 per cent baseline tariffs, instead of 26 per cent earlier proposed.

At present, the Trump administration requires approval from the US Congress to bring tariffs below the MFN (most favoured nation) rates. But the administration has the authority to remove the reciprocal tariffs imposed on a number of countries, including India.

India may look at certain commitments from the US on the duty concessions for its labour-intensive sector in the first tranche of the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA). Both countries have fixed a deadline to conclude the first phase of the pact by fall (September-October) of this year to more than double bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 from the current USD 191 billion.

British Airways flight returns to Bengaluru after reaching Abu Dhabi due to technical glitch

Agences

British Airways flight BA118, which departed Bengaluru at 7.40 am on Friday, returned after reaching Abu Dhabi due to a technical issue, Bengaluru airport sources said.

The flight later departed for London, its original destination, at 2.30 pm, according to sources.

In response to a PTI email, a British Airways spokesperson said, "The aircraft landed safely back in Bengaluru as a precaution due to a technical issue. The aircraft was checked over and has since departed on its scheduled journey to London Heathrow."

A passenger, Satish Medapati (@Smedapati), posted on 'X': "BA118 BLR-LON this morning returned to BLR after a few hours. We are still in the plane, but no valid information other than saying they have no info. Hope to get onto the skies soon (sic)."



Satish did not respond to PTI's queries and has posted no further updates.

Incidentally, London Heathrow Airport—one of the world's busiest—faced a major disruption on May 21 following a power outage caused by a fire at a nearby electrical substation. It was initially reported that the airport would remain closed through Friday.

British Airways, in a statement posted early on Friday

on its official 'X' handle (@British_Airways), said it had operated around 90 per cent of its Saturday flying schedule.

"...the vast majority of our customers were able to get to where they needed to be despite the very challenging circumstances going into the start of the day," the airline said.

"As things stand, we're anticipating being able to run a near-full schedule on Sunday," the statement added.

Hindi teaching course exams for ministerial staff held successfully at NIT Srinagar

Srinagar, May 23: The Prabodh, Praveen, and Parangat course examinations under the Central Hindi Teaching Scheme were successfully conducted at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar. For the second consecutive year, NIT Srinagar was selected as the examination centre for the Kashmir division.

The three-day exams were held on campus and saw enthusiastic participation from over 50 aspirants, including ministerial staff from NIT Srinagar, the Central University of Kashmir, the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), and the Accountant General (AG)'s office.

The examinations were smoothly administered under the supervision of Assistant Registrar (S&P, T&P, Member of Rajbhasha Cell), Mohammad Iqbal Dar, who served as the superintendent.

"It was an honour to host the Hindi teaching course exams for the second consecutive year at NIT Srinagar. We are grateful



to the Ministry for selecting our institute once again for this responsibility. We are proud to contribute to the promotion and implementation of the Rajbhasha language as part of the Government of India's linguistic initiatives," he said.

Mr. Dar also expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia and Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman for their unwavering support and guidance, which ensured the seamless conduct of the examinations.

Hindi Officer Dr. R. P. Shukla

(Asst. Prof. CED) said the active participation of ministerial staff in exams reflects the institute's continued commitment to promoting the use of Hindi in official work. He appreciated the enthusiasm of the staff and encouraged more employees to take advantage of the scheme in the upcoming sessions.

Hindi Anuvadak Dr. Sabzar Gani served as the supervisor and invigilator for the examination process. He was ably assisted by Mr. Naresh Kumar and Mr. Suhail Ahmad, who together ensured the administrative aspects were handled

efficiently.

"The successful conduct of the Prabodh, Praveen, and Parangat exams at NIT Srinagar reflects the institute's commitment to supporting national linguistic programs and fostering an inclusive multilingual work culture," Dr Sabzar said.

Following the written exams, viva-voce sessions were held for all three levels, conducted by a panel of subject experts. The oral assessments were carried out in a professional and structured manner, marking the successful completion of the Hindi proficiency certification process.

The aspirants lauded NIT Srinagar for the smooth arrangements and hospitable environment provided during the examination period.

They said that the Institute has once again proven its capability as a reliable venue for hosting these prestigious exams, having been selected for the second year in a row under the Central Hindi Teaching Scheme.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Another Day Of

resorts weren't spared the heat. Pahalgam, typically a cool escape for tourists, touched 28.8°C, and Kokernag logged 31.5°C. Gulmarg, the Valley's popular ski destination, saw the mercury rise to 24.0°C.

In the Jammu region, a slight dip in temperature was observed, though the weather remained harsh. Jammu City recorded a maximum of 38.2°C. Other areas such as Banihal (29.2°C), Batote (27.7°C), Katra (35.2°C), and Bhaderwah (31.4°C) also experienced elevated temperatures.

Director of the MeT Department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that isolated heatwave conditions are likely to persist across J&K. He added that while generally hot and dry weather is expected, a brief spell of light rain in isolated areas, especially during late afternoons, could provide minimal relief through May 26.

From May 27 to 31, the weather is predicted to stay mostly dry and hot, with the possibility of thundershowers at scattered places.

The department has also issued an advisory, predicting a 1–2°C rise in maximum temperatures in Kashmir till May 23, with scattered heatwave conditions expected. A slight dip of 2–3°C is anticipated after that. Meanwhile, in the Jammu division, temperatures may rise further by 2–3°C till May 26, heightening the possibility of heatwave conditions.

"Thunderstorms with gusty winds may occur at isolated places during late afternoon hours," the advisory noted.

The prevailing conditions have led to concerns, especially for children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions. Authorities have urged people to stay hydrated, avoid direct exposure to the sun during peak hours, and take necessary precautions to combat the heat.

Calls For Summer

expressed deep concern over students attending school amid soaring temperatures, warning of risks such as dehydration and heat-stroke. "Our region is not climatically adapted to such extreme heat. Prolonged exposure can lead to serious health issues," he said.

Education Minister Sakina Itoo said on Friday that while the government is fully aware of the challenges posed by the heatwave, no final decision on summer vacations has been made yet. "We cannot think of the current heatwave alone. Other factors must also be considered," she told reporters.

To ease difficulties, the government has already changed school timings. Schools within Srinagar will now operate from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM instead of 9 AM, and other schools across Kashmir will run from 9 AM to 3 PM instead of 9:30 AM.

"The department will decide on summer vacations based on the evolving weather conditions," Itoo said.

The Meteorological Department predicts the heatwave to continue till May 26, with scattered rainfall expected from May 27 to 30, which may bring some relief. Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 33.2 degrees Celsius on Friday, 7.8 degrees above normal, while Kupwara saw 32.4 degrees Celsius.

The ongoing intense heatwave has made daily life unbearable, especially for students who are currently attending schools under these extreme conditions.

Op Sindoor Exposed

military installations or air bases. We only hit the terrorist bases in Pakistan. Those who committed a criminal act on our land -- the Jaish-e-Mohammed, Hizbul Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Toiba -- their bases, houses, training camps and launchpads used against India were destroyed," Shah said.

The home minister added, "We thought it was enough that we hit the terrorists but Pakistan proved that it was sponsoring terrorism, as they took the Indian strikes as an attack on themselves and targeted civilian locations and military bases in India."

But the Indian air defence displayed "marvellous strength" as Pakistan could not touch any of India's installations, Shah said.

"After this, we hit their air bases and gave a strong response by introducing them to our fire power and exposing their hollow air defence," he said.

"We did not hit (Pakistan's) civilian installations. Operation Sindoor and the incidents that followed completely exposed the fact that Pakistan is sponsoring terrorism in India because it was the Pakistan Army that replied after we hit their terror bases," Shah said.

The home minister said Operation Sindoor "exposed" this fact as top Pakistan Army officers were seen offering namaz and shouldering the coffins of the terrorists who were killed.

The operation was successful as it used the correct firepower and achieved its aims besides "showing the reality" to Pakistan, Shah said.

The home minister also said that global experts and the world were "praising" the bravery and firepower of the Indian armed forces.

The operation also brought to the fore the fact that the "Aatmanirbharta" (self-reliance) achieved by India in defence production was successful, he said.

Lauding the BSF for carrying out its duties during the operation, Shah said the force "proved its mettle" by not allowing the Pakistani forces to move even an inch.

The home minister also paid condolences to the two BSF troopers who were killed during the operation along the International Border in Jammu.

Shah recalled that India has been facing Pakistan-sponsored terrorism for many decades but a "befitting reply was not given" until the Modi government came to power (in 2014).

"We were defensive... Our police force and BSF did their best to protect the people but a befitting reply was not given. After 2014, when Prime minister Modi took charge, the biggest attack took place in Uri (2016) where our jawans were burnt alive.

"We conducted a surgical strike (across the border) and hit the terrorists by entering their hideouts for the first time. We thought that terrorism will stop but it did not, and the Pulwama attack happened (in 2019)," Shah said.

The Modi government gave a "stronger" response than Uri as it demolished terror bases across the front, Shah said.

Lauding the BSF, Shah said, "The bravery shown by the BSF in the 1971 war that was imposed upon us, and the contributions made by the force (in the creation of Bangladesh) cannot be forgotten by India and neither should Bangladesh ever forget it."

The BSF played a "significant" role in the creation of Bangladesh and set an "exemplary" standard of bravery by standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the armed forces in fighting against injustice, Shah recalled.

The home minister said the 2.75 lakh personnel-strong BSF was working in some of the most difficult conditions marred by geographical challenges along the two borders (with Pakistan and Bangladesh).

"I want tell you that the Modi government is standing behind you like a rock and the Ministry of Home Affairs will soon implement some technology solutions and models to strengthen border security in areas where it is not possible to erect fences," Shah said.

The home minister also awarded gallantry and other service medals to BSF personnel during the event, which was attended by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Kumar Deka, and BSF Director General Daljit Singh Chawdhary.

West Supported

criticised Europe for backing Pakistan when it was under military dictatorship.

"Our borders have been violated by Pakistan in Kashmir ever since our independence in 1947. And what have we seen in the eight decades since then," he asked.

"That large, democratic Europe, to use your own term, has stood side by side with military dictatorships in the region."

"No one has supported the military regime - and undermined democracy in Pakistan in so many ways - as much as the West," he said.

The external affairs minister was in Copenhagen as part of his three-nation tour of the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany.

Jaishankar emphasised that India supports countries' sovereignty and internationally recognised borders.

"But my worldview and my view of Europe are shaped by my own experiences. You talk about the inviolability of borders -- well, why don't we start with the inviolability of my borders?"

"That's where my world begins. But we've always been told that we had to solve that ourselves," he said.

Jaishankar's remarks came when asked about "democratic" India's support to authoritarian Russia in terms of its large oil purchases when Moscow has been waging a war against Ukraine.

On India's oil purchases from Russia, Jaishankar said Europe was driving up energy prices for all developing countries, including India by sourcing crude oil from the Middle-East.

"Wealthy Europe turned to the Middle-East because it had a problem with Russia and offered inflated prices to get oil redirected to Europe." "So what happened was that many countries -- not just us -- could no longer afford it. The major oil companies didn't even respond to purchase offers because they were too busy selling to Europe," Jaishankar said.

"What was the rest of the world supposed to do? Say 'okay', we'll just do without energy because Europeans need it more than us," he asked.

Jaishankar also described terrorism as a major global challenge.

"Of the major collective challenges today, I would place terrorism at the top - alongside climate change, growing poverty, and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Global South," he said.

In a separate interview to Danish broadcaster TV 2, Jaishankar said the understanding between India and Pakistan on May 10 to stop fighting and military actions was firmed up "directly" by the militaries of the two sides.

The external affairs minister's comments came against the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's claim that Washington played a role in brokering the truce.

"We had the conflict for a few days (and) we resolved that conflict for the moment in its particular military form through an understanding for the cessation of fighting and military action. And this was something that we negotiated directly between the militaries of the two countries," he said.

"The trigger for it was that after we had had fighting for a few days, we hit them very hard on the morning of (May) 10, and that caused the Pakistanis to say, 'Ok, we're prepared to stop the firing and reach an understanding about how to deal with it.'" Under Operation Sindoor, India carried out precision strikes on nine terror infrastructures early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Pakistani attempts were strongly responded to by the Indian side.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on May 10 announced that India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect.

India Extends

aviation operators until June 23, 2025. The restriction also applies to Pakistan's military aircraft.

In a reciprocal move, Pakistan has extended its ban on Indian flights through its airspace until June 24.

Pakistan had initially closed its airspace to Indian carriers on April 24, a day after India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty and took other retaliatory steps following the terror attack in Pahalgam. On April 23, India announced a series of measures against Pakistan, including the closure of the Attari land border crossing, suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, and downgrading diplomatic ties, citing Pakistan's involvement in the cross-border massacre.

In response, Pakistan shut its airspace for Indian flights and halted all trade, including through three countries.

Pak Shelling Damage

The chief minister also expressed gratitude for the visits by opposition leaders, including a Trinamool Congress delegation, to the areas affected by Pakistani shelling in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack that had cross-border links.

"Rahul Gandhi is visiting Poonch (on Saturday), where he will interact with the victims. I am especially thankful to the Trinamool

leaders, who were the first to come. They first went to Poonch and are in Rajouri now. These visits make us feel that there are people standing with us in these difficult times," Abdullah said.

Brushing aside a question on the BJP claiming that the resolutions passed recently by the National Conference working committee came at the behest of Pakistani spy agency ISI, Abdullah said, "It is okay. Let them say."

The chief minister refused to comment on a chargesheet filed by the CBI against former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satyapal Malik.

The central agency said on Thursday that it has filed a chargesheet against Malik and seven others in connection with alleged corruption in the award of Rs 2,200-crore worth civil works for the Kiru hydropower project in J-K's Kishtwar district.

'Committed To

various delegations at the Raabita office today. Grateful for the continued engagement and feedback from citizens across the region. We remain committed to listening, resolving issues, and building a responsive and people-centric Government."

During the interactions, a group of students raised important concerns regarding the SPS Library. The post read, "Glad to meet a group of students at my Raabita office today who raised important issues concerning the SPS Library. Libraries are vital to a learning society—we are committed to making them more modern and student-friendly. All genuine concerns will be looked into."

Omar also met with a delegation of special-abled persons. The statement mentioned, "Their resilience and determination are deeply inspiring. We are committed to building a more inclusive and accessible society where everyone has equal opportunity to live a dignified life."

The Chief Minister also thanked the Trinamool Congress for reaching out to people in the shelling-affected areas.

Reacting to questions about the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi's visit to Poonch, Omar said, "It is good to see leaders visiting the shelling-affected people. I am thankful to the Trinamool Congress for initiating the visit. The delegation of five members reached the affected families in Poonch and Rajouri by road."

He added, "It feels like some people are standing with us during this difficult time." (KNO)

Need Special Courts

He was booked after 15 policemen of a quick response team were killed in a IED blast in 2019.

The ASG said a notification was issued by Maharashtra home ministry designating a court as a special court for trial of cases investigated by the NIA.

The bench however questioned the development without consulting with the chief justice of the high court.

"Would the presiding officer of the designated court continue hearing other cases as well besides the NIA cases? What will happen to other cases, will the trial in those cases not get delayed. Have you consulted the Chief Justice of the High Court?" Justice Kant asked.

The bench underscored the need to create additional courts and required infrastructure for such cases to be heard on a day-to-day basis.

It asked Thakre to furnish details of the pending NIA cases in Maharashtra and pan-India and take instructions on setting up of special courts.

The bench refused the relief of bail to Ramchandani for time being pointing the facts of his case in which 15 policemen were killed in a bomb blast.

"The court is only interested in expediting your trial," it said.

SIA Cracks Down

follow the development of actionable intelligence and leads gathered during the SIA's sustained efforts to uncover and neutralize terror-support structures operating covertly in the Jammu region.

"The meticulously planned raids were executed simultaneously by specialized SIA teams supported by local police and magistrates, as

part of the agency's ongoing campaign to dismantle sleeper cells and disrupt terror networks in the region," he added.

The spokesperson further said the State Investigation Agency remains committed to eradicating the terror infrastructure and ensuring the region's safety and security.

No Caste-Based

committed on different occasions and not part of the same transaction.

"Habitual offender means a person who during any continuous period of five years, has been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment on more than two occasions on account of any one or more of the offences committed on different occasions and not constituting parts of same transaction, such sentence not having been reversed in appeal or review," reads the amendments.

However, any time spent in prison under sentence or detention does not count within the five-year period.

"Provided that in computing the period of five years referred to above, any period spent in jail, either under sentence of imprisonment or under detention shall not be taken into account," reads the amendments.(KNO)

J&K Forms

Department will inventory antiques and artworks and provide recommendations for their handling. Meanwhile, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation will assess sewerage systems and access routes, and the SKICC will assist with interconnected utilities and open space demarcation.

HC Sets Aside

order with regard to regularization, providing that on satisfactory completion of five years as ReT on honorarium basis, the candidate would be eligible for appointment as General Line Teacher in the School Education Department.

On 19 June 2014, a policy decision was taken by the Government and decided to add a proviso to the last para captioned "regularization" of the ReT Scheme to provide that five years service rendered by the ReT before his/her regularization shall count for the purposes of fixing seniority and pensionary benefits. It was further provided that the services of the ReTs shall be transferable after regularization within the District to which they belong. This proviso was added to the Scheme vide Government Order on 25 June 2014. It was this proviso that was challenged by the appellants with the contention that the same impacted the seniority of the General Line Teachers appointed in the School Education Department on the recommendations of the Jammu & Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) on different dates.

"There is ample authority on the proposition that no employee can be given seniority from the date he is not borne on the service, class, category, or grade as the case may be," the Division Bench underlined. ReT becomes a member of service only when there is formal order of appointment issued after evaluation and assessment of his or her performance on completion of five years as ReT, the Division Bench said.

"The government, acting in ignorance of the settled legal position, took the policy decision to confer the benefit of seniority on ReT with effect from the date they were initially engaged, notwithstanding the fact that on said date they were not borne on the cadre of service constituted by the Rule of 1979," the Division bench said.

The Government also did not take into consideration the fact that by adding the proviso in the ReT, they had acted to the serious prejudice of the General Line Teachers who were appointed prior to the regularization of various ReTs, the Division Bench said.

"The Writ Court (single bench) appears to have been greatly swayed by extension of certain welfare provisions to the ReTs from time to time and has erroneously concluded that the Government itself had been treating the ReTs on a par with the General Line Teachers," the Division bench said, adding, "As a consequence, the writ petition is allowed and the impugned provision, to the extent it provides that "the five years service rendered by Rehbar-e-Taleem teachers before regularization shall count for the purpose of fixing their seniority" is set aside."

PBKS Eye First Top-2 Finish In 11 Years Against Ousted Delhi Capitals

Press Trust of India

JAIPUR: Riding a wave of success after a decade of pain, a full-strength Punjab Kings will fancy their chances of securing their first top-two finish in 11 years, when they face Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday.

Apart from the 2014 season when they topped the league table and finished runners-up, PBKS have only made one other playoff appearance in a competition that has been in existence for the past 18 years.

Having ended an 11-year drought, PBKS are now relishing the prospect of not just finishing in the top two, but also enter the summit clash and then make a dash for a maiden title.

A squad that is already brimming with confidence was shored up further when their overseas quartet of Marcus Stoinis, Josh Inglis, Aaron Hardie and Kyle Jamieson joined their extremely talented Indian



teammates in the Pink City three days ago.

All four will be available for selection as PBKS look to book a top-two finish with a win over their beleaguered opponents who were knocked out of the playoffs reckoning after a big

defeat to Mumbai Indians on Wednesday.

These foreign players left the team after the BCCI had to suspend the tournament for a week due to the military conflict between India and Pakistan that led to the abandonment of

the match between these two teams midway through the first innings in Dharamsala on May 8.

The match was called off after 10.1 overs of play after a black-out in the picturesque hill town. The PBKS think tank did well to promptly bring back

their overseas contingent after the tournament's resumption, and the squad now resembles a band of men determined to make up for the years of disappointment the franchise faced in the widely watched event.

PBKS skipper Shreyas Iyer, who has recently made history by becoming the first captain to lead three franchises to IPL playoffs, has been the key to their success and for the side to go all the way, the stylish batter will need to continue in similar vein in the remaining matches.

Thanks to the performance of players such as Prabhsimran Singh (458 runs), Priyansh Arya (356 runs), Arshdeep Singh (11 wickets) and Yuzvendra Chahal (13 wickets), PBKS have emerged as the most consistent side this season, accumulating 17 points from 12 matches to secure a playoff berth with two games to spare.

Match starts at 7:30 PM.

YSS Budgam Holds Inter-School Sports & Events For Specially Abled



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Under the leadership of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Gh. Hassan Lone, the Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam organised a series of Inter-School Zonal Level competitions, with a

special focus on inclusivity through dedicated events for specially abled students.

In Zone Soibug, the Zonal Physical Education Office inaugurated inter-school competitions in Volleyball, Kabaddi, and Kho-Kho for the Under-17 and Under-19 categories at Government

Girls Higher Secondary School, Wadwan. The event was formally declared open by Senior Physical Master, Mohd Ayoub Khan, who inspired participants with a speech emphasizing the role of sports in shaping disciplined, healthy, and responsible youth. The ceremony saw the presence of all sports officials from Zone Soibug.

Meanwhile, in a commendable move towards inclusive sports, Zone Khansahib organised Inter-School Zonal Level Chess and Carrom competitions for Specially Abled Boys and Girls (AAG) at Government High School Katich Razgeer. The event was inaugurated by Activity Incharge Mush-taq Ahmad (PEM) along with other dedicated staff members of the zone.

Inter Zonal District Level Cycling Race Organised By YSS Budgam



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Despite the intense heat, Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam on Friday organised an Inter-Zonal District Level Cycling Boys Girls cat-

egory. The race started at 8:30 am from the Gariend Stop of the Ring Road and ended at the Railway Station Crossing. It was flagged off by the incharges of Sports Activities at the District Office, Shakeel-ur-

Rehman Lone and Ghulam Hassan Khanday, along with police officials in the presence of other officials.

In boys U-14 race, Aqib Noor from Narbal Zone won first place, Samiullah from Zone Narbal came second and Mohd Hanan was third. In the girls U-14, Azra won first, Shaira Nazir second and Rabia was third from Zone Narbal.

In U-17 girls category, all first three positions went to Zone Narbal, and in U-19 category, Toiba came first, Zoofisha second and Munazah Firdous third.

At the end, a closing Ceremony was held in which certificates and trophies were distributed among the players.

ZPEO Rainawari U-17 Boys Football Tournament Concludes



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Under-17 Boys Football Tournament organized by the Zonal Physical Education Office (ZPEO) Rainawari concluded on Friday at KNS Play-field, Radapora, Srinagar, with Motherland High School emerging victorious.

In a closely contested final match, Motherland High School edged past Legends School with a 1-0 win in the penalty shootout, claiming the championship title.

ZPEO Rainawari, Muzamil Ahmad

Dar, presided over the prize distribution ceremony and presented trophies and medals to both the winning and runner-up teams. The event was attended by the field staff of Zone Rainawari, who played an instrumental role in its successful conduct.

The tournament was held under the banner of the Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Department and aligned with the theme "Drug Free Srinagar," aiming to promote sports as a constructive and healthy lifestyle choice among the youth.

Inter School Zonal Girls Kho-Kho & Kabaddi Held In Ganderbal



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal organised Inter School Zonal Level competitions for Girls Under-17 in the disciplines of Kho-Kho and Kabaddi across two educational zones of the district on Friday.

Zone Tullamulla conducted the Kho-Kho competition at BHSS Kurhama, which saw an overwhelming response with 110 student players from various schools actively participating. The event was marked by high-energy performances and commendable team spirit.

After several gripping matches, GHS Sa-

fapora clinched victory in the final against BHSS Batwina, showcasing strategic play and athletic excellence. The finalists were felicitated by the Principal of BHSS Kurhama in presence of senior officials from the department, who lauded the participants for their enthusiasm and competitive spirit.

Meanwhile, in Zone Hariganiwan, a Kabaddi competition-cum-selection trial for Girls U-17 was organised at the open ground of BHSS Hariganiwan, drawing participation from 26 student athletes. The event served the dual purpose of encouraging sports participation and shortlisting promising players for the upcoming Inter-Zonal District Level competitions.

Short TAKES

Khelo India Beach Games: J&K Surge To Top-3 With 5-Star Show

J&K stormed into the top three of the medal tally with a five-gold effort in pencak silat on Day 5 of the Khelo India Beach Games here on Friday.

With 12 pencak silat finals held on Friday, the medal table saw major changes. J&K picked up four gold to add to their Thursday's count.

Senior Male Class E (65-70kg): Gold – Saliqbin Farooq (Jammu and Kashmir)

Senior Female Class E (65-70kg): Gold – Muskaan (Jammu and Kashmir)

Senior Female Class H (80-85kg): Bronze – Ruqia Manzoor (Jammu and Kashmir)

Senior Female Class G (75-80kg): Gold – Adeeba Gulzar (Jammu and Kashmir)

Senior Male Class H (80-85kg): Bronze – Sarfaraz Ali (Jammu and Kashmir)

Senior Male Class I (85-90kg): Silver – Jibraan Maqsood (Jammu and Kashmir)

Inter-School Zonal Level Handball Competitions Held In Anantnag



On Friday, Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Anantnag concluded its Inter School Zonal Level trials cum competitions in the discipline of Handball under the age group of 14 and 17 boys at Sports Stadium Monghal.

An anti drug pledge was taken before the competition and participants were advised to take part in sports and to make a drug free society. The aim of this trials cum competition was to nurture future champions and to promote a culture of healthy competition and intellectual growth.

In the said competition, 105 participants from different schools of Zone Anantnag participated.

IPL 2025: RCB's Hazlewood Likely To Return Ahead Of Playoffs

Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood is likely to rejoin Royal Challengers Bengaluru ahead of the IPL playoffs, having recovered from a shoulder niggle.

The fast bowler last featured in the ongoing IPL season on April 27 and has since missed two games. He had left for home during the one-week break in the league caused by the India-Pakistan military conflict.

Since then, the 34-year-old has been training in Brisbane as part of Australia's preparations ahead of the World Test Championship (WTC) final.

He is currently being monitored by Cricket Australia's medical team, with the RCB management maintaining close communication.

It is understood that Hazlewood is progressing well and is on track to link up with the squad ahead of the knockout stage, which begin on May 29.

RCB, who have already sealed a playoff berth, are aiming to finish the league stage in the top two for the first time since 2016. They have two fixtures remaining – against Sunrisers Hyderabad on May 23 and Lucknow Super Giants on May 27.

Hazlewood has been one of RCB's key performers this season, emerging as their leading wicket-taker with 19 scalps at an economy rate of 8.44.

England Declare On 565-6 On Day 2 Of Test Against Zimbabwe

England declared on 565-6 before lunch on Day 2 of the one-off Test against Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge on Friday.

Resuming on 498-3 after a dominant opening day in Nottingham, England quickly lost Ollie Pope for 171 after he added just two runs to his overnight unbeaten score.

Captain Ben Stokes fell for 9 and Harry Brook raced to a 50-ball 58 before getting bowled by Blessing Muzarabani – after which England declared. Jamie Smith was 4 not out.

Muzarabani had figures of 3-143 in the first innings of the four-day Test. Zimbabwe were 73/1 at lunch, trailing by 492 runs.

The teams were meeting for the first time at test level in 22 years.

What To Know Ahead Of The Final Round In The Premier League

Agencies

LONDON: Here what's to look out for heading into the final round of the Premier League on Sunday:

FIGHT FOR THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Five teams – Manchester City, Newcastle, Chelsea, Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest – are bidding for the remaining three Champions League qualification spots alongside already-crowned champion Liverpool and second-place Arsenal.

City is in third place on 68 points. Fourth-place Newcastle, fifth-place Chelsea and sixth-place Villa each have 66, and seventh-place Forest has 65.

City is away to Fulham and, because of its superior goal difference (+26) compared to its rivals, knows a draw is all but certain to secure a top-five finish.

Indeed, Newcastle (+22) and

Chelsea (+20) have a much better goal difference than Villa (+9) so are virtually sure of getting into the Champions League with victories.

Chelsea has the toughest match – away to Forest – while Newcastle hosts Everton and Villa visits Manchester United, which is coming off losing the Europa League final.

Forest must beat Chelsea and also needs one of Newcastle and Villa to lose or draw their games to secure Champions League qualification. It would be a huge achievement, given Nuno Espirito Santo's team was fighting relegation last season.

A sixth-place finish guarantees a place in the Europa League.

FAREWELLS

Man City star Kevin De Bruyne heads the list of players bidding farewell to their teams on the final day.

De Bruyne already had a big Etihad Stadium sendoff on Tuesday

after the win over Bournemouth but this will be the last game in his 10-year career with City.

Elsewhere, Trent Alexander-Arnold's goodbye to Liverpool hasn't been so celebrated by some Reds fans unhappy at him leaving his boyhood team on



a free transfer. His last game for Liverpool is against Crystal Palace at Anfield and Liverpool manager Arne Slot said Friday he hasn't decided if Alexander-Arnold will start.

Others heading into the final games for their clubs include

Victor Lindelof and Christian Eriksen (Man United), Jorginho and Kieran Tierney (Arsenal), Abdoulaye Doucoure (Everton) and Lukasz Fabianski (West Ham).

On the managerial front, there's still plenty of speculation about the future of Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou despite leading the team to the Europa League title. What he says – or how he behaves – after the home game against Brighton will be telling. It could also be Ruud van Nistelrooy's final game in charge of relegated Leicester.

Trophy lift and records: Liverpool's players will finally get their hands on the Premier League trophy after closing their title-winning campaign against Palace, the FA Cup winner – a dress rehearsal of sorts for the season-opening Community Shield in August.

Mohamed Salah, who has 28

goals and 18 assists this season, heads to Anfield with a couple of records in sight. He is one goal or assist away from the Premier League's single-season goal contribution record of 47 – held jointly by now-retired strikers Alan Shearer and Andrew Cole – and two assists short of the record for most assists in a Premier League season, held by De Bruyne and Arsenal great Thierry Henry.

Salah looked likely to break both of those records but has just one goal and one assist in his last eight matches.

Former Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp will be at Anfield on Sunday.

PLAYOFF FINAL

Before the last round of Premier League games, there's a huge match at Wembley Stadium on Saturday to discover which team will be playing in the top flight next season.

Sunderland and Sheffield United meet in the Championship playoff final for the right to join Leeds and Burnley in getting promoted from the second tier.

The playoff final is the most lucrative one-off match in world soccer, with Sunderland – last in the Premier League in 2017 – in line to get an estimated revenue uplift of around 200 million pounds (\$260 million) in projected matchday, broadcast and commercial revenue in case of promotion, and much more if the team was to survive the first season back in the top flight.

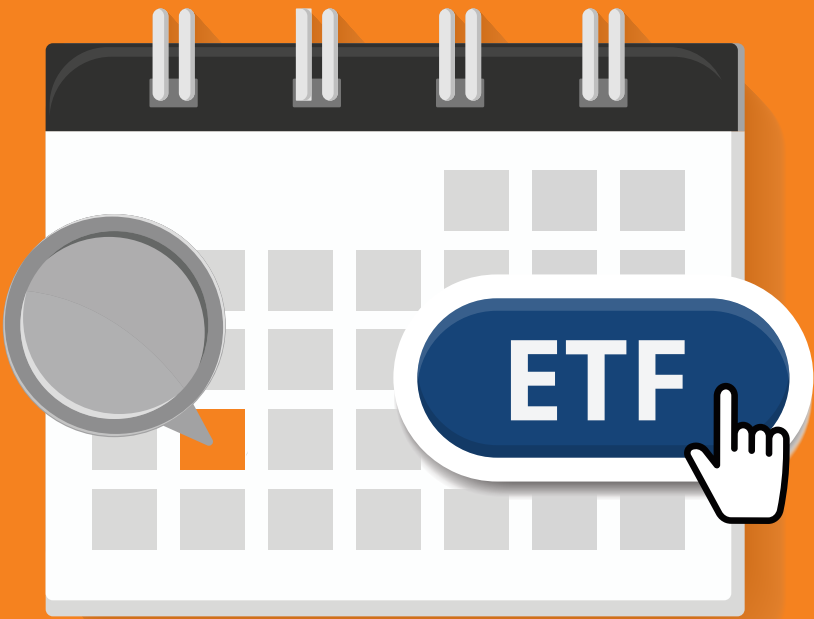
For Sheffield United, the uplift would be an estimated \$180 million as the club is still benefiting from parachute payments from the last time the team was in the Premier League – in the 2023-24 season.

Sunderland's team contains Jobe Bellingham, the younger brother of Real Madrid star Jude Bellingham.

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