

Hailstorm Hits South Kashmir Orchards Again



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Apple orchards across south Kashmir's Pulwama, Shopian, and Kulgam districts have once again suffered significant damage following a severe hailstorm during the crucial harvesting season. The unexpected storm has dashed the hopes of thousands of local growers who rely on the fruit trade for their livelihood.

Farmers from areas including Sedow-Hirpora in Shopian and DH Pora in Kulgam said that the storm destroyed large portions of their apple crops, adding to losses from previous weather-related damages.

"The hailstorm was merciless," said Nazim Ahmad, an

orchardist from Shopian. "We invest heavily in fertilizers, pesticides, and labor every year. But these repeated natural calamities are ruining our hard work."

Growers have renewed calls for immediate government compensation and the implementation of a comprehensive crop insurance scheme, which has long been promised but remains pending. Many expressed willingness to pay annual premiums if it guarantees protection against such disasters.

"We are not asking for charity but for a sustainable safety net," said a local farmer. "The government must act now to protect the backbone of Kashmir's economy." The Fruit Growers Association | [More on P10](#)

THE HAILSTORM WAS MERCILESS. WE INVEST HEAVILY IN FERTILIZERS, pesticides, and labor every year. But these repeated natural calamities are ruining our hard work

Stop Dividing Indians Into Locals And Outsiders: LG Sinha

'Terror Aides Will Be Punished Like Terrorists'

Says Public Protests In J&K After Pahalgam Attack Were Historic

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said the public protests in Jammu and Kashmir following the Pahalgam



terror attack were "historic," describing them as a clear message against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

The LG made these remarks after laying the foundation stone for a new guest house at

the revered Hazratbal Shrine. "The kind of protests that were seen on J&K's streets were historic. The valley echoed with slogans against the terrorist country Pakistan," the LG said, urging

public representatives and community leaders to stop using terms like "local" and "non-local."

"We are all Indians. Stop dividing Indians into locals and outsiders." | [More on P10](#)

Mobile Internet Suspended In Baderwah

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered temporary suspension of mobile internet service till May 27 in parts of Baderwah in Doda district over its likely misuse by "anti-national elements" to disrupt public order, officials said.

The home department ordered the suspension of mobile internet service on 37 towers – 19 of Reliance Jio and 18 of Airtel – on the recommendation of IGP (Jammu Zone) Bhim Sen Tuti, they said. In the | [More on P10](#)

MEA On India Suspending IWT

'Pakistan Put In Abeyance Goodwill & Friendship'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India's decision to put the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance is only a natural outcome of Pakistan putting in abeyance the principles, including friendship and goodwill, guiding the agreement, the Ministry of External Affairs has told a parliamentary committee.

The MEA has said changes in the ground situation, including engineering techniques, climate change and melting of glaciers, have

made a renegotiation of the treaty's terms imperative, a line that delegations visiting world capitals will also take in defending India's decision to put the agreement in abeyance after the horrific Pahalgam terror attack, sources said.

Besides, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri has noted in his briefing that the 1960 treaty in its preamble says that it is concluded in a "spirit of goodwill, and friendship". All these principles have in effect been held | [More on P10](#)

DGP: Advanced Tech To Secure Yatra Routes



Agencies

Srinagar: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat-IPS on Saturday directed the officers to intensify their efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem and make foolproof security arrangements for the upcoming 38-day Amarnath Yatra,

slated to commence on July 3.

DGP Prabhat chaired a joint meeting with officers from the Police, CRPF, ITBP, Traffic Police, Railways, and various security and intelligence agencies at Police Control Room Kashmir to review the overall security arrangements for the upcoming | [More on P10](#)

'PSU, Parliamentary Meetings In Kashmir'

CM Proposes Tourism Revival Plan At Meet Led By PM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday proposed a dual approach to resuscitate the Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector, severely impacted by the Pahalgam terror attack, urging the Centre to mandate PSUs to hold meetings in Kashmir and to convene parliamentary committee meetings there.

Speaking at the Governing Council meeting of the NITI Aayog under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Abdullah also raised the issue of recent shelling from Pakistan that claimed 23 lives in Poonch, Rajouri and north Kashmir and underlined that the construction



of individual bunkers for residents is necessary.

Acknowledging the severe impact of the recent events on the vital tourism sector, Abdullah proposed that as an immediate step, the government should direct its public

sector undertakings (PSUs) to hold their meetings in Kashmir.

He also strongly pitched for holding of parliamentary consultative committee and parliamentary standing committee meetings in Jammu and Kashmir.

These concerted efforts by the government will significantly alleviate public fears, foster a renewed sense of security and trust, and ultimately pave the way for the revival of tourism in the Kashmir valley, bringing much-needed economic relief and a return to normalcy, he added.

During his extempore speech, the chief minister hailed the public's defiance against the April 22 Pahalgam attack while simultaneously seeking the Centre's attention for the region's security, tourism and economic revival.

The security challenges post-Pahalgam have severely impacted Jammu and Kashmir's economy, particularly | [More on P10](#)

J&K Hoteliers Plan 50% Discount Packages

In an effort to revive the struggling tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir following the devastating Pahalgam terror attack, local hoteliers are planning to introduce a 50 percent discount on tourism packages. This initiative

aims to attract visitors back to the region and provide relief to thousands of tourism-dependent employees. This was shared by Tariq Ghani, General Secretary of the J&K Hoteliers Club, who said the discount will be | [More on P10](#)

JKBOSE Class 11th Results Out



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education has declared the JKBOSE 11th Rent 2025 for Annual/ Regular examination on the official website jkbose.nic.in. A top official said that more than 75 percent candidates have qualified the annual regular exams of 11th standard.

The official further said that 1,21,777 total appeared in the exams including 60,819 from Jammu and 60,958 from Kashmir.

A Clerk With Crores?

Srinagar Official's Wealth Triggers ACB Probe

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Behind the unassuming facade of a clerk's desk in the Srinagar deputy commissioner's office lies a story of hidden wealth that has stunned investigators. Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat, a 'Nazir' (clerk grade) by designation, now finds himself at the center of a major anti-corruption probe after the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau uncovered assets far beyond what his modest salary could justify.

A discreet verification by the bureau revealed that Bhat owns multiple immovable properties, including a spacious house and additional structures in Firdousabad, Batamalo, along with two sizeable plots of land in Mouza Nowgam. These holdings cover significant land areas, far

exceeding the financial reach expected from his official income.

But the assets are not limited to real estate. The investigation uncovered that Bhat possesses several luxury vehicles, including a Toyota Fortuner, Renault Duster, and Maruti Wagon-R. The probe also revealed multiple suspicious transactions and unexplained cash deposits in various bank accounts, raising red flags about the source of his wealth.

Further scrutiny showed that Bhat and his family operate several bank lockers in J&K Bank and maintain a lifestyle inconsistent with his declared earnings. The bureau also highlighted substantial expenditures on the higher education of his children, which appeared disproportionate to his income.

"The subject public servant was also found to | [More on P10](#)

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2

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: Satya Scholarship Program 2025

Description: The Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust invites applications from Class 12 graduates who have scored at least 60% and are pursuing undergraduate (UG) or integrated master's programs at selected colleges/universities (Institutes) located in Ludhiana district. With full tuition coverage, this scholarship is dedicated to empowering bright, deserving students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, helping them turn aspirations into achievements and build a future without financial barriers. Eligibility: Open to students pursuing 3–5-year UG/integrated master's courses in eligible courses of Commerce (BBA, BCom), Engineering (BTech, B.E., B.Sc. (Engineering), BCA, B.Arch.), and Medical (MBBS, BDS, BPT, B.Sc. (Nursing), B.Sc. (Paramedics)) from select colleges/universities (Institutes) located in Ludhiana district. Must have passed Class 12 board exams from Ludhiana district with a minimum of 60% marks. Annual parents' income must not exceed INR 5 Lakh from all sources. In case of orphan students, the guardian's income should be less than INR 5 Lakh. Preference given to girls, athletes (state/nation-

al/international level), persons with disabilities, orphans, and children of single parents. Should not be a recipient of any other educational scholarship.

Prizes & Rewards: 100% tuition fee coverage for the entire course duration. Hostel and mess charges may be considered on a case-by-case basis if campus residence is mandatory. Reimbursement of partial or full tuition fees paid in the first year, transferred directly to the student's or parent's account. • Last Date to Apply: 31-07-2025 • Application mode: Online applications only • Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SAT1 QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/satya-scholarship-program-20251747719355.png>

Scholarship Name 2: Kotak Junior Scholarship Program 2025-26

Description: Under the CSR initiative on Education and Livelihood by Kotak Mahindra Group Companies, Kotak Education Foundation invites applications for the Kotak Junior Scholarship Program 2025–26 from Class 10 pass-out students of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region

(MMR) who have secured admission in Class 11 for the academic year 2025–26. Eligibility: Applicants should score overall 85% or above in their Class 10 Board Examination (SSC/CBSE/ICSE) in 2025. They must have secured admission in Class 11 at junior colleges/schools for Arts, Commerce or Science streams in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) for the academic year 2025-26. The annual family income of applicants must be INR 3,20,000 or below. Students' current residence should be within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). Children of employees of Kotak Education Foundation and Buddy4Study are ineligible to apply for the Kotak Junior Scholarship. Note: MMR regions include Mumbai Suburban & Mumbai City, Thane District-Thane, Kalyan, Dombivli, Ulhasnagar, Bhiwandi, Ambernath, Badlapur, Murbad, Shahapur, Vasai, Virar, Palghar, Raigad District -Panvel, Uran, Karjat, Khalapur, Pen, Alibag, Mira Bhayandar & Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation Areas.

Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship of INR 3,500 per month during Class 11 and Class 12, totaling INR 73,500 for 21 months, along with mentorship support, academic assistance, career guidance, and exposure visits.

- Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2025
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KJSP3 QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/kotak-junior-scholarship-program-2025-261747647833.png>

Scholarship Name 3: Mirae Asset Foundation Scholarship Program

Description: Mirae Asset Foundation invites applications from students who are currently pursuing undergraduate or postgraduate courses across India. Eligibility: Open to students who are currently pursuing undergraduate or postgraduate courses across India. Applicants must have scored at least 60% in the previous academic year. The annual family income of the applicants must not exceed INR 8,00,000. Prizes & Rewards: Scholarships up to INR 50,000 • Last Date to Apply: 20-06-2025 • Application mode: Online applications only • Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/MAFS3 QR Code: <https://d2w711p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/mirae-asset-foundation-scholarship-program1747647804.png>

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application for Issuance of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in favour of Shakir Mohiud-din Hajam S/o GHULAM Mohi-ud-din Hajam R/o Reshipora Athoora Tehsil Kreeri Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC. In this connection, a report of Patwari Halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village Reshipora, Athoora of Tehsil Kreeri and belongs to the Hajam Community, having annual income of Rs. 100000/-.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S. No.	Name of the Family Member	Relationship with the Applicant	Age	Occupation
01	Ghulam Mohiud-din Hajam	Head	47	Labour
02	Misra Beguma	Wife	45 year	H/W
03	Bilal Ahmad	Son	25	student
04	Mohammad Shafi	-	22	Student
05	Shakir Mohiuddin Hajam	-	18	--

Therefore, through this Public Notice, objections are being sought from the public. If any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 (Seven) days positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

Naib Tehsildar
Kreeri

fko_r

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Sub: Application of Zena Begum S/O, D/O, W/O: Mohd Yousuf Khan R/O: Saloosa, Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance of Legal Heir certificate.

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, in this context, a detailed report was sought from the patwari halqa concerned which reveals that Mohd Yousuf Khan S/O Gh Mohd-ud-Din Khan passed away on 24-09-24. Moreover, the Death Certificate issued by the Competent Authority also depicts the same. Furthermore, the report of Patwari Concerned points out that the deceased has left behind the following Legal Heirs tabulated as below:

S. No.	Name of Legal Heir	Relation with Deceased	Age	Occupation	Marital Status
1	Zena Begum	W/O	50	H/W	
2	Samullah Khan	Son	25	Student	
3	Bisma Yousuf	D/o	18	Student	

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

Naib Tehsildar
Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

fko_r

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application Mehraj-ud-Din Dar S/O, D/O, W/O: Ghulam-ud-Din Dar R/O: Reshipora (Athoora) for the issuance of the Income Dependent certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, in this connection, a detailed report was sought from the patwari concerned which reveals that the applicant's family consists of 06 members and the Annual income of the applicant family from all sources consists of Rs. 95,000/- (ninety five thousand only). Moreover, family structure of the applicant is as under:

S. No.	Name of Legal Heir	Relation with Dependent	Age	Occupation	Marital Status
1	Mehraj-ud-Din Dar	Self	28 yrs	Labour	
2	Ghulam-ud-Din Dar	Father	70 yrs	Aged/Old aged	
3	Hafeeza Begum	Mother	60 yrs	H/W	
4	Rashid Ah Dar	Brother	32 yrs	Unemployed	
5	Heena Jan	Sister	19 yrs	Student	
6	Uzma Jan	Sister	15 yrs	Student	

It is further submitted that Mehraj-ud-Din Dar, S/O Ghulam-ud-Din Dar, is Labour by profession and is sole earning hand in the said family. The applicant needs income dependent certificate in favour of Uzma Jan for Scholarship.

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

Naib Tehsildar

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OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application Areela Akber S/O, D/O, W/O: Mohd Akber Chopan R/O: Saloosa, Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in his/her/their favor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the Subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC. In this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village Saloosa of Tehsil Kreeri and belongs to Chopan Community having annual income of Rs. 100000/- (one lakh only). The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S. No	Name of the Family Member	Relationship with the Applicant	Age	Occupation	Annual Income
01	Mohammad Akber Chopan	Father	65 yrs	Labour	100000/-
02	Zeba Begum	Mother	60 yrs	H.W	
03	Noor Mohammad	Brother	35 yrs	Labour	
04	Fahad	Brother	32 yrs	Labour	
05	Arbeela Akber	Self	30 yrs	Student	NIL

Therefore, through this Public Notice objections are being sought from the public, if any person has any objection, he/she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date the notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zia-ul-Haq, S/o Peer Hafeezullah Shah, R/o Zaloora, would like to inform that my father's name has been wrongly recorded in my Domicile Certificate bearing No. DOM/1810/02FEB2021 as Peer Hafeezullah. The correct name of my father is Peer Hafeezullah Shah, and I have applied for the necessary correction. If anyone has any objection regarding this correction, they are requested to submit it to the concerned office within 7 days from the date of this notice. No objections will be entertained after this period. Zia-ul-Haq S/o Peer Hafeezullah Shah R/o Zaloora fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohamad Ashraf Shah, am the holder of 2000 shares of J&K Bank under folio number JKB031604. My name has been incorrectly recorded as Hakim Mohad Ashraf instead of my correct and actual name, Mohamad Ashraf Shah. I have applied for the necessary correction. If anyone has any objection regarding this correction, they are hereby advised to contact the JK Bank Cooperative Headquarters within 7 days from the date of this notice. No objections will be entertained after this period. Mohamad Ashraf Shah fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Quratul Ain, am the holder of 1000 shares of J&K Bank under folio number JKB025886. My name has been incorrectly recorded as Quratul Ain Ashraf instead of my correct and actual name, Quratul Ain. I have applied for the necessary correction. If anyone has any objection regarding this correction, they are hereby advised to contact the JK Bank Cooperative Headquarters within 7 days from the date of this notice. No objections will be entertained after this period. Quratul Ain FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK01AU 9161. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regd he/she may file them in the concerned RTO office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Aqib Fayaz Mir S/O Fayaz Ahmad Mir R/o Chinkra Mohalla Srinagar fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my sons name from (old name) Hamza Khalid Khan to (New name) Mohammad Hamzah Khan . In future he will be known as (new Name) Mohammad Hamzah Khan. If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted. Khalid Bashir Khan F/o Mohammad Hamzah Khan R/o Sector B Umarabad, Peerbagh Hyderpora Srinagar mcb

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR KASHMIR HORTICULTURE (P&M) RAJBAGH SRINAGAR.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

FRESH e-Nit AUCNotice430F 2025-26 Dated:23-05-2025

Outsourcing of Gate Entry Contract with respect to F & V Market Prichoo Pulwama

For and on behalf of Market Administrative Committee (MAC) Fruit Mandi Prichoo Pulwama, e-bids, accompanied with CDR worth Rs.36,096/- (Thirty Six Thousand Ninety Six only) pledged to Member Secretary MAC Fruit Mandi Prichoo Pulwama as earnest money and DD for an amount of Rs 500/- pledged to Member Secretary MAC Fruit Mandi Prichoo Pulwama as tender processing fee are invited from the interested parties/ persons having valid GST Registration for outsourcing of collection of Gate Entry fee at F&V Market Prichoo Pulwama for the year 2025-26 (w.e.f 05-06-2025 to 31.03.2026). The minimum reserve bid amount is fixed at Rs.12,03,224/- (Rupees Twelve Lacs Three Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Four only). The tender documents can be downloaded from <http://jketenders.gov.in> The Tenders/bids shall be opened online in the Office of the Deputy Director Kashmir/Chairperson MAC on bid opening date.

Name of work	Minimum Reserve Bid	Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR	Cost of Tender Document	Period of Contract
Collection of Gate Entry FeeRs.12,03,224 +GST of Rs.36,096/-	3% of Rs.500/-	(Non-Refund- of Fruit and Vegetable Market/TCS & other taxes)	Minimum Reserve bidable Demand Draft (in the name of Prichoo Pulwama for the year 2025-26 (w.e.f. from 05-06-2025 and shall terminate at 24.00 hrs. of the intervening night of 31.03.2026 and 01.04.2026)	To 31.03.2026)

Critical Dates Table.

1.	Publishing Date	23-05-2025
2.	Document Download/Sale Date	23-05-2025
3.	Bid Submission start Date	23-05-2025
4.	Bid Submission Closing Date	04-06-2025 (Up to 4:00 PM)
5.	Bid Submission Opening Date	05-06-2025 (At 11:00 AM) at Deputy Director (K) office Rajbagh Srinagar

The Gate Entry Fee for each type of vehicle (loaded/unloaded) /entering/leaving Fruit and Vegetable Market Prichoo Pulwama shall be as under:

S. No.	Type of Vehicle	Entry Fee Per Trip for 2025-26
1	10 Tyre/12 Tyre/14 Tyre/ 18 Tyre/ 20 Tyre Troller	Rs. 240/-
2	10 Tyre/12 Tyre trucks/Troller	Rs 190/-
3	Truck/Bus	Rs. 120/-
4	Tata Mobile/Sumo/Tractor/Matador/Jonga/Mini Bus	Rs. 40/-
5	Auto/Load Carrier/ Redha/Tanga/Horse Cart	Rs. 10/-

The committee will comprise of the following members:-

1. Deputy Director Horticulture (P&M) Kashmir : Chairman
2. Accounts Officer Horticulture (P&M) J&K : Member
3. Member-Secretary MAC /Area Marketing Officer Prichoo Pulwama : Member
4. Assistant Grading and Marketing Officer Prichoo Pulwama or Grading and Marketing Inspector : Member

The other terms & conditions are as under:-

The Successful bidders shall have to enter into an agreement with the Member Secretary MAC Fruit Mandi, PRICHOO PULWAMA. The other terms and conditions are as under:-

1. The offer shall be super scribed as gate entry Tender Document of Fruit and Vegetable Market PRICHOO PULWAMA.
2. The Entry fee shall be charged by the successful Bidder every time on entry into the Fruit & Vegetable Market PRICHOO PULWAMA as per the above prescribed fee structure.
3. The successful bidder shall have to enter into an agreement with Member secretary MAC Prichoo Pulwama before taking over of gate.
4. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 75% of the bid amount before taking over the gate and rest 25% after two month from the date of taking over of the gate..
5. The Agreement shall be executed within 2 weeks after allotment of contract.
6. The defaulters of the MAC PRICHOO PULWAMA are not eligible unless they clear their previous outstanding if any.
7. The Successful bidder is bound to maintain a register regarding outflow of trucks (destination wise) as per the format provided by Member Secretary /Grading/ Marketing Inspector or any other official of the Department for record and reference of this office.
8. The Successful bidder shall have to maintain the weighing Bridge and the equipment provided by MAC PRICHOO PULWAMA in proper condition and in case of any technical fault or any other damage the successful bidder shall have to make arrangement for making good the damages and maintenance of weighing bridge and equipment of his own and no compensation shall be entertained on this account.
9. The successful bidders shall have to utilize the room available with the weighing bridge for collection of weighing fee and cannot raise any other structure for any purpose in the Mandi premises during the contract period.
10. The Successful bidder shall have to abide by all laws and regulations governing the operation of the facility, especially labour laws as applicable from time to time.
11. The offered highest bid shall be the Net amount that the highest bidder is expected to deposit with the Member Secretary MA Candall taxes and levies, liabilities due to any local laws shall be borne by the successful highest bidders.
12. The specimen of the receipt to be used by the successful bidder shall be provided by the Member Secretary Market Administrative Committee
13. In case of any dispute between the parties the matter shall be referred to the Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing and his decision shall be final and binding upon both the parties.
14. The MAC F&V Market PRICHOO PULWAMA shall not be responsible for less or nil dispatches in the market due to Curfew / Hartials / Strikes or for any other reason.
15. The earnest money shall be released only after the facility is certified and taken over by MAC PRICHOO PULWAMA after the expiry of the contract period.
16. The Member Secretary MAC F&V Market PRICHOO PULWAMA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
17. The workers engaged by the contractor for the purpose of collection Of the gate entry fee shall wear proper uniform as shall be prescribed by the MAC PRICHOO PULWAMA.
18. The bid amount offered in the tender shall be mentioned in words as well as in figures and tenders with over writing/cuttings shall be rejected outrightly.
19. The successful Bidder shall have no right to sublet the contract during the contract period/agreement. The main entry gates of F&V Market PRICHOO PULWAMA and service roads shall remain open on Sundays as well and after 3.00 P.M. onwards the vehicles shall be allowed to proceed towards Mandi blocks on Sundays.
20. The successful bidder shall install computer system and other necessary equipments on his own for collection of fee/data entry purposes. Manual data collection shall not be entertained. Clause on Arbitration issued by Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary affairs UT of J&K under Circular no.: 16-jk(LD) of 2023: dated: 28-12-2023 shall be applicable.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (K),
Horticulture (P&M),
Srinagar

No:- 142-III/MAC/DDK/HPM/2025/541-44
DIPK-1811/25 Dated:- 24-05-2025



Patient's Death Over Alleged Negligence at Paras Hospital Sparks Protest

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 34-year-old man from Pampore, south Kashmir, died allegedly due to medical negligence at Paras Hospital in Srinagar, triggering protests from his family and calls for accountability from authorities.

The deceased, Waseem Ahmed Pathan, a resident of Bilal Colony in Pampore, had been admitted to the hospital eight days earlier for treatment of an intestinal infection. According to his family, he died on Saturday morning following complications arising after surgery.

Relatives and locals gathered outside the hospital premises, staging a protest and demanding strict action against the hospital administration and the doctor involved in Waseem's treatment. Holding placards and raising slogans, they accused the hospital of mishandling the case and called for an independent probe.

"Waseem had a cyst removed through surgery a few days ago and was discharged. The very next day, he experienced severe pain and had to be readmitted," his brother said, adding that the subsequent operation was necessitated because his intestine had allegedly been injured during the first surgery.

He claimed that the fam-

ily paid Rs 2.5 lakh for Waseem's treatment, but were given substandard care. "This is not just negligence, it is murder," he said, urging authorities to intervene.

Protesters also appealed to the Chief Minister and health authorities to initiate a thorough inquiry and hold those responsible accountable. They alleged that this was not an isolated incident, accusing the hospital of repeated negligence in recent years.

In response, Paras Hospital issued a statement refuting the allegations. The hospital said that Waseem Ahmed, whom they referred to as a 36-year-old patient, had been diagnosed with carcinoma of the left colon and underwent surgery on May 15.

The hospital also stated that Waseem had a known psychiatric history and had been prescribed fluoxetine, which was later discontinued. "We also provided psychiatric consultation during his recovery period," the official added.

Meanwhile, the family has reiterated its demand for a formal investigation, expressing distrust over the hospital's explanation. They called on the health department and legal authorities to ensure justice and prevent similar incidents in the future.

Commuters Fume Over Pothole-Ridden Pantha Chowk-Pampore Road

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A severely deteriorated road stretch between Pantha Chowk and Pampore has become a growing cause of concern for commuters and transporters alike, with residents and daily travellers accusing authorities of criminal negligence.

A delegation of frustrated commuters said that the road is riddled with deep potholes and craters, making travel not only uncomfortable but dangerous. "This road has turned into a death trap. Several vehicles have been damaged due to the poor condition of the stretch, and the uneven surface makes it a serious safety hazard," said Irshad Ahmad, a regular commuter.

He added that despite being a crucial and busy route connecting Srinagar with parts of South Kashmir, the condition of the road continues to worsen with no signs of repair. "I wonder why this road has been totally neglected. My vehicle suffered massive underbody damage due to these potholes," he said.

The Pantha Chowk-Sempora stretch is frequently used by heavy transport vehicles, including oil tankers, load carriers, and public transport. Local residents and drivers fear that the uneven road could easily lead to accidents, especially dur-

ing rainfall or at night.

"There is a real danger of heavy vehicles skidding or overturning, particularly when fully loaded," said another commuter. "In such cases, it's not just the driver's life at stake but also of other motorists and pedestrians. The authorities must be held accountable."

Despite repeated appeals from locals and transporters, the concerned department has failed to initiate repairs or even temporary patchwork. The road, part of a key economic corridor, has ironically been left in shambles even as developmental slogans echo across official platforms.

The aggrieved commuters have urged the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department, along with higher civil administration, to immediately assess the condition of the road and take swift remedial measures. They warned that continued inaction may result in avoidable mishaps and public protests.

"We are not asking for miracles, just basic road maintenance to make this route safe again," said one member of the delegation.

The concerned legislator, Ahsan Pardesi, when contacted assured that the matter will be taken up with the department and the road will be macadamized without any delay. [KNT]

LG Lays Foundation Stone Of Guest House At Hazratbal Shrine



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday laid the foundation stone of Guest House at Holy Shrine Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar.

He extended his felicitations to members of Jammu Kashmir Waqf Board and all the stakeholders. He said, in the past few years, the basic facilities for the pilgrims have seen tremendous improvement and the infrastructure development has eased the pilgrimage to Hazratbal, a revered spiritual center.

Invoking verses from the Holy Quran, LG Sinha underscored Islam's core teachings of peace, unity, and harmony. Speaking at a recent event, he referred to Surah An-Nisa and highlighted that one of the names of Allah mentioned in the Quran is Arsalan, signifying peace and security.

"Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) repeatedly emphasized that the path to Allah is through peace," the LG said. "Jannat is described as Darul Salam—the abode of peace. Jammu and Kashmir, too, has always been a Darul Salam."

Lamenting the efforts of certain elements who, he said, have tried to disrupt this legacy of harmony, LG Sinha remarked, "Some people have left no stone unturned to destroy this Darul Salam, and we all know who they are. They need to be held accountable for their misdeeds."

He also prayed that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Baba Amarnath

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi Expresses Gratitude to LG Sinha

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, on Saturday extended heartfelt gratitude to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for his unwavering support to the Board's initiatives. The acknowledgment came during the LG's visit to the revered Hazratbal Shrine, where he laid the foundation stone for a new guest house.

Terming the occasion as both "emotional and historic," Dr. Andrabi addressed a gathering of officials, religious leaders, and devotees, highlighting the significance of the moment and the journey that led to it.

"I want to thank LG Sahab for coming here today. When we started the Waqf Board in 2022, it was a difficult journey, but his guidance helped us take every

step forward," she said, adding that the proposed guest house marks the Waqf Board's "first step" towards structured development of religious infrastructure.

Dr. Andrabi emphasized that the support from the Lieutenant Governor had not only empowered the Board but had also created a sense of purpose and responsibility. "We feel honoured and capable today because of the love and support we have received. We may not be here tomorrow, but we are thankful for the opportunity to do something meaningful today," she stated.

She reaffirmed the Board's commitment to public welfare and the upliftment of religious institutions. "This project at Hazratbal is just the beginning. We are determined to continue working for the betterment of our religious and cultural heritage," she said.

may shower their blessings and strengthen the love, peace and brotherhood in the society.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kash-

mir; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; members of J&K Waqf Board, senior officials, religious leaders, prominent citizens and people in large number were present.

Stakeholders Unite To Revive Kashmir Tourism



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to revive Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector following the recent Pahalgam terror attack, the JK Hoteliers Club, in collaboration with J&K Tourism, is set to host the Familiarisation Tour (FAM Tour) event in Srinagar.

The event will bring together tour operators from across India, national media, and prominent public figures in a collective effort to restore confidence among travellers and boost the region's image as a safe and welcoming destination.

Tariq Ghani, Secretary General JK Hoteliers Club, said, "In order to revive tourism, JK Hoteliers Club, tour Operators and House Boat owners in collaboration with J&K Tourism are organizing the FAM Tour event in Srinagar, in which tour operators from across the country will participate."

"We have also invited CM Omar Abdullah and national media to par-

ticipate in the event, and this will help us to build confidence among visitors," he added.

The initiative is part of a broader push by tourism stakeholders to counter the negative impact of recent events and to promote the Valley's hospitality, scenic beauty, and resilience. From tour operators and hoteliers to adventure travel groups, vloggers, and local communities, all are coming together with renewed determination.

Kashmir Off Road, known for promoting offbeat travel experiences, is also playing a vital role in this effort. Farah Zaidi, founding member of Kashmir Off Road, said, "As Kashmir begins to heal and welcome the world again, off-road and overland adventure travel offers a powerful path forward. By connecting travellers with the land, its people, and remote, unexplored regions, we can help rebuild the tourism economy sustainably and inclusively. Kashmir's raw beauty, resilience, and

spirit of adventure are ready to inspire a new chapter of discovery."

"In this moment of transformation, off-road and overland adventure travel present more than just a way to explore the region's breathtaking landscapes — they offer a meaningful way forward," she added.

Meanwhile, vloggers and digital content creators are using their platforms to tell authentic stories of peace, hospitality, and natural beauty, helping reshape public perception and counter misinformation.

Earlier, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu assured full support from the central government. "We will do whatever is possible to help. Bringing back tourists and restoring normal life is very important, and restarting flights is the first step in that direction," he said.

The Fame Tour event aims to be a landmark in rebuilding confidence in Kashmir's tourism and showcasing the Valley's readiness to host visitors once again.

- 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
- BIJBIHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI

CALENDAR

27 Zil-Qadah

1446

PRAYERS

FAJR

3:43

ZUHR

12:28

ASR

5:24

Magrib

7:35

ISHA

9:12

This Day In History

- 1923 - Britain recognizes Transjordan with Abdullah as its leader
- 1938 - Spanish Civil War: The bombing of Alicante takes place, with 313 deaths.
- 1940- German troops conquer Boulogne
- 1941- 5,000 drown in a storm at Ganges Delta region in India
- 1943- Trident conference in Washington, D.C. (operation plan '43 against Japan)
- 1944-Partisan leader Tito escapes Germans surrounding Bosnia
- 1945- Arthur C Clark proposes relay satellites in geosynchronous orbit
- 1946- Jordan gains independence from Britain (National Day); Abdullah ibn Hussein becomes king of Jordan
- 1949- Chinese Red army occupies Shanghai
- 1953- 1st atomic cannon electronically fired, Frenchman Flat, Nevada
- 1961- NASA civilian pilot Joseph A Walker takes X-15 to 32,770 m
- 1963- Great Britain ends its amateur-professional classes in cricket
- 1979 - Israel begins to return Sinai to Egypt
- 1982 - Iranian troops reconquer Khorramshar
- 1982 - STS-4 vehicle moves to launch pad
- 1983 - Fire in Nassermeer, Egypt, kills 357
- 1983 - France performs nuclear test
- 1985 - Cyclone ravages Bangladesh; 11,000 killed
- 1989 - Mikhail Gorbachev elected Executive President in the Soviet Union
- 1992 - Oscar Luigi Scalfaro elected President of Italy
- 1997 - A military coup in Sierra Leone replaces President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah with Major Johnny Paul Koromah.
- 2002 - A train crash in Tenga, Mozambique kills 197 people.
- 2002 - China Airlines Flight 611: A Boeing 747-200 breaks apart in mid-air and plunges into the Taiwan Strait killing 225 people

From KO Archives

Centre-JK discuss truce plan

Delhi asks J&K to prepare action plan on CBM's

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Centre today asked the Jammu and Kashmir Government to prepare a comprehensive time-bound action plan to implement the Confidence-Building Measures (CBM's) announced in India and Pakistan in the recent joint declaration and on the physical structures needed to implement them.

Meanwhile Centre and J&K government are actively considering a ceasefire with militants in the state. This was revealed by the union home secretary V K Duggal during a press conference here today.

Asked whether there would be a ceasefire between the security forces and the militants, he said; "That is the objective, and I have spoken to the state governor and the chief minister about this but it has to be a consultative process."

"The main important CBM is dialogue process. Any CBM which involves the movement of people, transport, goods and services and implementation of trade needs a dialogue process... When can we start and how can we start." Mr Duggal said.

He said the central government would provide all infrastructure support to the state administration for opening meeting points between the Kashmiris of India and Pakistan, increasing bus services across the border and facilitating trade through the new routes.

He said the other important component of the CBMs is the infrastructure needed to implement them.

"The slate government has been asked to prepare the report? What all it can handle and where it needs the support of the central government so that we can consider that," he added.

"PM Manmohan's intentions are very clear on this. We have specific instructions that these CBMs should be taken forward most-religiously and in a dedicated time-bound manner. Money and resources should not act as constraints in implementing these measures," he added.

On possible talks with separatist leaders, Duggal said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was opposed to talks with Hurriyat Conference.

"The Prime Minister is most open to talks with anybody who has a concrete plan. However, a mechanism has to be put in place for holding such talks," he told reporters. Duggal said important and positive steps were being taken in Kashmir to restore normalcy. "The return Kashmiri Pandit migrants, and the Amarnath yatra are positive steps. I think Kashmir is on its way to peace."

(Kashmir Observer, 25 May, 2005)

Fateha Khawani

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Mukhtar Ahmad Naqash, son of Late Mohammad Ashraf Naqash of Mohalla Syed Afzal, Shari Bhat, Srinagar** who passed away on Thursday 22nd May 2025.

His congregational Fateha Khawani will be held on **Sunday 25th May, 2025** at their ancestral graveyard at **Mohalla Syed Afzal, Shari Bhat near Iqbal Khomeini Hall at 6:30 am**. Thereafter, a daylong condolence meeting will be held at their residence Mohalla Syed Afzal, Sheerbat, Srinagar.



BEREAVED
Imtiyaz Hussain Naqash (Brother)
Faheem Hussain Naqash, Waseem Raja (Sons)
Cell No: 7006088748

20,000 Indians Killed In Terror Attacks: India Rebukes Pakistan At UN

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India ripped through Pakistan's "disinformation" at the UN on the Indus Waters Treaty, asserting that Islamabad violated its spirit by inflicting three wars and thousands of terror attacks on India that seek to hold hostage lives of civilians, religious harmony and economic prosperity.

"We are constrained to respond to the disinformation being carried out by the delegation of Pakistan with regard to the Indus Waters Treaty. India has always acted in a responsible manner as an upper riparian state," India's Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said on Friday.

Harish was addressing the UN Security Council Arria Formula meeting organised by the Permanent Mission of Slovenia on 'Protecting Water in Armed Conflict - Protecting Civilian Lives.'

Harish highlighted four aspects to expose the "disinformation" by Pakistan, which spoke about India's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty.

In the wake of the horrific April 22 Pahalgam attack in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 civilians were killed, India had decided that the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 would be held in abeyance with immediate effect

until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.

Harish told the UN meeting that India had entered into the Indus Waters Treaty 65 years ago in good faith.

Noting that the Preamble of the Treaty describes that it was concluded 'in a spirit of good will and friendship', Harish said throughout these six and a half decades, "Pakistan has violated the spirit of the treaty by inflicting three wars and thousands of terror attacks on India."

The Indian envoy underlined that in the last four decades, more than 20,000 Indian lives have been lost in terror attacks, the most recent of which was the dastardly targeted terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam.

Even as India has shown extraordinary patience and magnanimity throughout this period, Harish said Pakistan's "state-sponsored cross-border terrorism in India seeks to hold hostage the lives of civilians, religious harmony and economic prosperity."

Harish pointed out that India has formally asked Pakistan to discuss the modifications of the Treaty on several occasions in the past two years but Islamabad continues to reject these.

"Pakistan's obstructionist approach continues to prevent the exercise of full utilisation of legitimate rights by India," he said.



At the 10th Niti Aayog Governing Council meet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed that a united 'Team India' can achieve the dream of a developed India by 2047.

With Centre & States as Team India, No Goal Unreachable: PM

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: At the 10th Niti Aayog Governing Council meet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed that a united 'Team India' can achieve the dream of a developed India by 2047.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said if the Union government and states work together like Team India, no goal is impossible. Modi is chairing the 10th Governing Council meeting of Niti Aayog. There is a need to increase the speed of development, he said.

"We have to increase the speed of development. If the Centre and all the States come together and work together like Team India, no goal is impossible," Niti

"We have to increase the speed of development. If the Centre and all the States come together and work together like Team India, no goal is impossible"

Aayog in a post on X quoted the Prime Minister as saying. The theme of the Governing Council meeting is 'Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat@2047'.

"Viksit Bharat is the goal of every Indian. When every state is Viksit, then Bharat will be Viksit. This is the aspiration of its 140 crore citizens," Modi said. The council, the apex body of Niti Aayog, includes all state chief ministers, lieutenant governors of Union Territories, and several Union ministers. Prime Minister Modi is the chairman of Niti Aayog. It is the first major meeting of the prime minister with chief ministers of all states and lieutenant governors of Union Territories after Operation Sindoor.

Three Southern CMs Skip PM-chaired NITI Ayog Meet

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Three southern Chief Ministers, including from NDA ruled Puducherry skipped the Niti Ayog's Governing Council meeting in New Delhi that was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday.

CMs of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana—N Chandrababu Naidu, M K Stalin and A Revanth Reddy, were scheduled to attend the meeting and put forth their views before the council on respective issues.

While the CM of Congress-ruled Karnataka, Siddaramaiah, was busy with "prior engagement" in the state and sent his speech to be read out in the council, Marxist veteran and Kerala CM, Pinarayi Vijayan deputed his cabinet colleague K N Balagopal on his behalf.

Similarly, Puducherry chief minister N Rangasamy, who heads the AINRC-led NDA coalition in the union territory, also skipped the event, an official source said.

The source, however, did not disclose the reason for Rangasamy skipping the event.

It was not clear immediately whether the speech of the chief minister would be read out at the meeting.

In Kerala capital Thiruvananthapuram, government sources

said that CM Vijayan has designated state finance minister Balagopal to go in his stead.

However, since it is a meeting of CMs, it is not clear whether Balagopal would be able to attend it, the sources said.

No reason was given for the CM not attending the meeting.

Last year also, Vijayan had not attended a Niti Aayog meet-

Incidentally, Stalin had last attended the 2021 governing council meeting.

With the opposition AIADMK questioning his motive behind attending today's meeting, he had days ago asserted he would be in the national capital to voice the demand for "fair financial right of Tamil Nadu." He had said: "I will be firm on the ideology! I will

CMs of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana—N Chandrababu Naidu, M K Stalin and A Revanth Reddy, were scheduled to attend the meeting and put forth their views before the council on respective issues.

ing of CMs in Delhi and had sent Balagopal.

In Bengaluru, a source close to Siddaramaiah said, "The Chief Minister is not boycotting the meeting, but he has a prior engagement in Mysuru".

The source told PTI that the CM has sent his address to the Governing council. He, however, did not clarify who would present Siddaramaiah's address in the meeting.

While AP CM Naidu heads a NDA coalition government in his state, DMK president Stalin and Congress' Revanth Reddy lead the non-BJP ruled Tamil Nadu and Telangana, respectively.

get funds for Tamil Nadu through struggle." AIADMK top leader Edappadi K Palaniswami had alleged Stalin's Delhi visit was for the sake of family's benefit.

Niti Aayog's 10th Governing Council meeting, chaired by PM Modi, has the theme 'Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat@2047'.

The council, the apex body of Niti Aayog, includes all state CMs, lieutenant governors of Union Territories, and several Union ministers. Prime Minister Modi is the chairman of Niti Aayog.

It is the first major meeting of the PM with chief ministers of all states and lieutenant governors after 'Operation Sindoor'.

Iran Holds Firm as US Gains Clarity on Nuke Stance: FM

Agencies

Tehran: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi hails "one of the most professional" rounds of talks with the United States, saying Tehran will continue to hold its ground and insist on its "completely clear" positions.

Araghchi made the remarks following the end of the fifth round of indirect talks between Tehran and Washington which lasted for more than three hours in the Italian capital Rome on Friday. The talks are mediated by Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi.

"This round was one of the most professional rounds of negotiations we have ever had. We once again announced the positions and principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the negotiations. Our positions are completely clear, and we stand firm on them," the top Iranian negotiator said.

Araghchi said the American side has "now a better, clearer and more precise understanding of our positions."

Before his departure to Rome, Araghchi reiterated Iran's resolve to continue its uranium enrichment program and stressed that there will be no deal if the US insists on an excessive demand to slash Iran's legitimate right to enrichment to zero.

"Figuring out the path to a deal is not rocket science: Zero nuclear weapons = we DO have a deal. Zero enrichment = we do NOT have a deal," Araghchi wrote on X.

After the fifth round, he said both sides agreed to transfer proposals and ideas exchanged during the talks to their capitals for more discussions.



The Iranian foreign minister said his Omani counterpart, as the mediator, also worked for solutions to overcome existing obstacles and achieve progress.

He said Iran plans to examine these new solutions and proposals that can potentially be helpful while maintaining its principles and positions.

"The two sides are expected to present their views on these proposals and solutions, and then the next round of negotiations will be organized," he added.

Araghchi expressed hope that the sides would engage in more detailed talks in the next round if the solutions are considered in the capitals. "Therefore, it can be said that the case of indirect negotiations remains open and the negotiations will continue."

Monsoon Arrives In India, Earliest Onset Over Indian Mainland Since 2009



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The southwest monsoon hit Kerala on Saturday, marking its earliest arrival over the Indian mainland since 2009 when it reached the southern state on May 23, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Normally, the southwest monsoon makes its onset over Kerala by June 1 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from north-west India around September 17 and withdraws completely by October 15.

The monsoon had set in over the southern state on May 30 last year; June 8 in 2023; May 29 in 2022; June 3 in 2021; June 1 in 2020; June 8 in 2019; and May 29 in 2018, IMD data showed.

Data available since 1975 showed that the monsoon reached Kerala the earliest in 1990 (on May 19), 13 days before the usual date.

According to meteorologists, there is no direct rela-

tionship between the onset date and the total rainfall over the country during the season.

The monsoon arriving early or late in Kerala does not mean it will cover other parts of the country accordingly. It is characterised by large-scale variabilities and global, regional and local features, an IMD official said.

The IMD in April forecast above-normal cumulative rainfall in the 2025 monsoon season, ruling out the possibility of El Nino conditions, which are associated with below-normal rainfall in the Indian subcontinent.

According to the IMD, rainfall between 96 per cent and 104 per cent of the 50-year average of 87 cm is considered 'normal'.

Rainfall less than 90 per cent of the long-period average is considered 'deficient'; between 90 per cent and 95 per cent is 'below normal'; between 105 per cent and 110 per cent is 'above normal'; and more than 110 per cent is considered 'excess' precipitation.

Pakistan Claims All Its Nukes Are Safe



Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday said its command and control structures are robust.

The Foreign Office here also said the country remained fully confident in the strength of its "comprehensive nuclear security regime".

"Pakistan remains fully confident in the strength of its comprehensive nuclear security regime and the robustness of its command and control structures," the Foreign Office (FO) said in a statement in response to a media query regarding Pakistan's nuclear weapons.

The Foreign Office also said that the international

community should be more concerned about India's nuclear arsenal and alleged that "the escalating radicalisation of India's political landscape, media, and segments of its society raises legitimate nuclear security concerns."

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday in Srinagar said Pakistan's nuclear weapons should be brought under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency as "they are not safe in such a rogue nation".

The defence minister's comments came days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India would not tolerate "nuclear blackmail" by Pakistan and would punish cross-border terrorism strongly.

NEWS MAKERS

104-yr-old convict released after 43 years in prison

A 104-year-old man, who spent 43 years in jail on charges of murder and attempted murder, was released from the Kaushambi district jail after being acquitted by a High Court, officials said on Friday.

Lakhan's release, facilitated by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), came after the Allahabad HC acquitted him earlier this month.

According to his jail records, he was arrested in 1977. He was involved in the death of a man who was killed during a fight between two groups.

Man, Sleeping Under Tree, Buried Alive As Workers Dump Sludge On Him

A vegetable vendor sleeping under a tree near a cemetery was buried alive after a sewer cleaning team dumped a pile of sludge on him in the Baradari area of Bareilly, police said on Saturday.

SSP Anurag Arya said a case has been registered at the Baradari police station against the accused civic workers based on a complaint lodged by the victim's father.

According to police, Sunil Kumar Prajapati (45) from Shantipur, who was allegedly in a drunken state, was resting under the shade of a tree near his house on Thursday afternoon when a team of civic workers led by Naem emptied a tractor-trolley filled with sludge on him, the officer said.

The person navigating the tractor-trolley apparently failed to notice Prajapati, the SSP said.



Representational

After some time, the victim's son found his father buried under the debris and brought him out with the help of locals.

Prajapati was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors de-

clared him dead.

Municipal commissioner Sanjeev Kumar Maurya said instructions have been issued to investigate the matter.

RG Meets Ailing Ex J&K Governor

New Delhi: Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha

Rahul Gandhi on Friday evening visited ailing former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik at RML Hospital.

During his visit at 5:30 pm, Mr Gandhi enquired about his health condition and discussed it with the doctors attending him.

Mr Malik was admitted to Ram Manohar Lohia on May 11 and is currently on dialysis.

"Today I met former Jammu

and Kashmir governor Satyapal Malik ji at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and enquired about his

health.

"I hope he gets well soon. I stand with him in this fight for truth," Mr Gandhi posted on X.



Statehood Restoration Prerogative Of Parliament: LoP Sharma

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, Sunil Sharma Saturday said that restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is the prerogative of the Parliament and the Bharatiya Janata Party, not of regional parties like the National Conference or Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Sharma, who was on a visit to shelling-hit areas of Kupwara also hailed Operation Sindoor as a decisive strike. He also defended the Tiranga rallies against Congress criticism, and issued a stern warning to Pakistan, asserting that any provocation would meet with unprecedented retaliation.

"Statehood Will Be Restored—But Not Through NC Or PDP"

The Leader of Opposition stated that the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood lies solely in the hands of the Parliament and the central leadership, particularly Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Statehood will come, we will bring it, but not at the request of the National Conference or the PDP," he said.

"NC and PDP's role is limited to subsidised LPG, ration, and pension," he said, urging the people of Kashmir not to be misled. He emphasized that neither party holds any significant presence or influence in Delhi, with only three MPs combined. "In Parliament, they are not even counted. Outside of Jammu and Kashmir, most people don't even know what the National Conference is."

He contrasted this with the BJP's political clout, claiming the party rules over 20 states. "Even if you add up their strength, we still have over 1,600 MPs more," he said. "So, there is no question of comparison." Operation Sindoor & Tiranga Rallies: "Not Politics, But Patriotism"

Defending Operation Sindoor, which was hailed as a significant military success by the BJP, the Leader of Opposition dismissed Congress's criticism that the operation and subsequent Tiranga rallies were politicized. "The Tiranga is not a symbol of a political party; it represents the pride and honor of India. To carry it is an act of patriotism, not politics," he said.

He accused the Congress and what he termed the "evidence gang" of disrespecting nation-



al sentiment. "They asked for proof of surgical strikes, proof of airstrikes—now they're questioning Tiranga rallies. This is part of their DNA. If someone holding the Tiranga shouts slogans in favor of our army, is that politics? Congress should apologize."

On Pakistan: "We Are Worshippers Of Peace, But Will Not Tolerate Threats"

Addressing recent threats from Pakistani leadership, including remarks that Pakistan might "shut down India's breath" in retaliation for water blockade measures, the Leader of Opposition issued a sharp warning. "We are peace-loving, but if provoked, the response will be such that Pakistan will not find a place on the world map," he said.

He recalled a historic moment involving former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who told then-U.S. President Bill Clinton that while Pakistan may have nuclear weapons, any misadventure would lead to its erasure. "That spirit of deterrence still lives in India today," he said.

Although he refrained from commenting on foreign policy directly—citing his role as a leader in a Union Territory—he emphasized India's growing global stature and military strength. "The Indian Army is the third-largest in the world, and India is the fastest-growing economy. Let there be no doubt about our capabilities."

Post-Operation Border Assessment & Civilian Impact

The Leader of Opposition also acknowledged the destruction caused in border areas following Operation. He detailed the damage to homes, cattle sheds, and local businesses, assuring that a senior delegation is touring the affected areas, to assess losses and offer support.

"Despite the destruction, people living near the LoC are proud that for the first time in world history, a strong military response followed a terrorist act at Pahalgam, claiming 26 lives. This has sent a clear message across the border," he said—(KNO)

Locals Concerned As Water Level In Bulbul Spring Recedes



Agencies

PULWAMA: The famous Bulbul Spring, nestled in Nawa area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district is once again witnessing a worrying dip in its water level.

This comes just months after the spring's water had been restored following a prolonged dry spell.

Locals expressed concern over the recurring depletion, stating that the spring had started flowing again earlier this year, bringing relief to the community and sparking hopes for its complete revival.

However, amid the heatwave, the water level has started receding once again, raising alarms about the long-term sustainability of this iconic natural source.

The residents of Nawa and its adjacent areas said that several water supply schemes are dependent on this spring, saying that they have already suffered a lot when spring dried up completely earlier this year.

They said that water level has again started receding due to which people of around three dozen villages would face hardships again.

Ghulam Hassan Wani, a local resident said that he has never witnessed the drying up of this

spring in his whole life but this year it dried up completely earlier.

He said that water level got restored after rains but due to the current heatwave, the water level again receded due to which supplies dependent on this spring have again started getting affected.

Nisar Ahmad, another local resident of the area said that people of the area have been suffering due to drying up or its low water level for want of the water as this spring is the water source of many schemes.

Locals said that there is an immediate need for a well that will act as a source of water whenever such situations arise.

They said that the officials from the concerned department had already visited the spot for construction of the well even as the land was identified; however, the work wasn't taken up.

They requested authorities to keep the well ready as an alternative so that people won't suffer in the future.

Meanwhile, an official said that every possibility is being explored and every step will be taken to ensure that water supply is not affected.

He, however, urged people to use water judiciously and avoid using this water for lawns, orchards and other purposes—(KNO)

CS Chairs State Level Sanctioning Committee Meet

Approves Rs 75.80 Cr AAP For Watershed Development Under PMKSY

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) for the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) 2.0, which met here Saturday under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, gave nod to Annual Action Plan worth Rs 75.80 crore for Watershed Development under PMKSY.

The meeting was convened to review implementation of the scheme besides assessing the Annual Action Plan for the year 2025-26.

Present in the meeting were Principal Secretary, Finance; Secretary, RDD; representatives from JSD, PWD, Revenue and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary exhorted the concerned to make the best use of this scheme for creation of durable assets in the water stressed areas. He called for community participation in such initiatives so that these could prove to be the most beneficial for them.

He assessed the progress registered in different districts being covered under this flagship scheme and stressed on prioritizing works which are most suitable for the particular areas. He directed the senior officers in the department to conduct frequent visits to the sites to take first hand appraisal of the works being executed under this scheme.

Principal Secretary, Finance and APD Departments, Shailendra Kumar, while speaking in the meeting, stressed on including other minor irrigation works in the DPRs so that the water reaches up to the last fields in these areas. He also suggested measures to make the execution of works more transparent and beneficial for the public at large.



The meeting reviewed the progress and approved the proposals under the centrally sponsored flagship programme aimed at enhancing the water conservation, climate resilience and sustainable agriculture in the UT.

While highlighting broad contours of the scheme, Secretary RD&PR Department, Aijaz Asad, informed that WDC-PMKSY is continuation of the earlier Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), which had been subsumed into PMKSY in 2015-16.

He revealed that under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, several initiatives and infrastructure projects had been implemented to boost watershed-based development. Besides, physical and financial progress has been recorded across various districts, with special emphasis on construction of water harvesting structures, ponds and irrigation channels.

Additionally, the rainwater harvesting tanks and bunds for soil and moisture conservation, beautification and rejuvenation of water bodies including springs and streams also constitutes the actions being taken under this programme.

A significant highlight of the year has been the Watershed Yatra Campaign 2025, launched on 5th February in Kathua district by the Union Cabinet Minister for Agriculture and the UT Minister for Rural Development. The campaign underscored the integrated watershed gover-

nance and community participation for which J&K secured the 2nd rank nationally for strategic planning and participatory implementation of WDC-PMKSY 2.0.

Moreover, it was divulged that as part of a new initiative under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, 300 springs have been allocated to J&K for rejuvenation as pilot projects. Further, under the national initiative to rejuvenate 50,000 springs, 3,100 more have been tentatively assigned to the UT for which the final project guidelines are awaited from DoLR.

The SLSC also reviewed and approved the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for 2025-26 with a proposed budget of Rs 75.80 crore, focusing primarily on Natural Resource Management (Rs 42.70 crore), Production Systems (Rs 15.03 crore), Consolidation & Withdrawal Phase (Rs 2.15 Cr), Work done claims from AAP 2024-25 (Rs 8.14 crore) and Administrative Expenses of Rs 4.15 crore to be utilised over the ensuing financial year.

The committee also approved the revision of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to include the newly allocated 300 springs and asked for creation of DPR in consultation with the Jal Shakti Department.

The approved initiatives, as concluded in the meeting, are expected to accelerate the sustainable agricultural growth and foster inclusive rural development across the region.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY EXHORTED UPON THE CONCERNED TO MAKE THE BEST use of this scheme for creation of durable assets in the water stressed areas

Rahul Gandhi Walks Through Poonch's Grief: "I Will Be Their Voice"

After deadly shelling killed 15 and injured dozens, the Congress leader met with grieving families in a border town struggling to return to normal.

Syed Sammar Mehdi

POONCH: Rahul Gandhi stood silent outside a broken home in Poonch on Saturday, listening to a woman recall how her sons, Zain and Zohaib, never made it to breakfast.

The two boys were among the 15 civilians killed when shells rained over this border district earlier this month, in one of the deadliest episodes of Indo-Pak escalation in recent years.

The Congress leader arrived mid-morning, unaccompanied by fanfare.

He walked through narrow lanes where homes still smelled of smoke and metal. At each stop, he sat with families, heard their stories, and asked about the things they needed most.

In his words, it was "a very big tragedy." In theirs, it was a life turned upside down.

"I spoke to the people, tried to understand their problems," Gandhi told reporters after the visit. "They told me they want to raise some things at the national level. I will raise them."

The shelling, which started on May 7 and continued for four days, left 43 injured and entire neighborhoods scarred.

Most of the victims were either inside their homes or tending to livestock when the shells hit.

At a small seminary near the border, the fragments punched through tin roofs and classrooms alike. One of the teachers, Qari Mohammad Iqbal, lost his life in the blast. Some national media falsely painted him as a terror sympathizer. Gandhi made it a point to meet his family too.



"He hugged me and said the country will know the truth," Iqbal's relative later said, wiping his eyes.

The town's mood was mournful when Gandhi stopped by to meet some young men narrating their ordeal. He also visited a local school and encouraged students to keep studying, promising them that things would return to normal.

"These patriotic families bear the biggest burden of war," he said. "They do it with courage and dignity. Salute to their courage."

The political reactions came quickly. BJP leaders accused Gandhi of calling the incident a "tragedy" to soften the context of cross-border terrorism.

"This is not a natural disaster," one party spokesperson said in Delhi. "He is whitewashing the real issue."

Gandhi didn't respond to the criticism directly. But during the visit, he stayed focused on

the people. His team noted that he spent over an hour in the area, refusing tight security.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah already announced that officials were finishing up their damage assessments and that a relief package would be rolled out soon. "We're in talks with the Centre," he said. "The people of Poonch will not be left behind."

For now, many residents are relying on relatives and community support. Food donations have come in from NGOs, but shelter remains a big challenge.

With the monsoon approaching, families whose homes were destroyed say they fear what comes next.

Still, a sense of dignity runs deep here. One resident who lost his niece in the shelling, said he was grateful that someone from Delhi came not just to speak, but to listen.

"He came without drama," he said. "That's rare these days."

28 Govt Schools In Ladakh Run With Zero Students

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a shocking revelation, at least 28 government-run schools in Ladakh Union Territory are functioning with zero student enrolment. The UT is also reeling under an adverse Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), with 65 schools functioning with a single teacher.

The official documents available reveal that out of the total 841 government schools in Ladakh, 28 schools, including 20 primary and 8 upper primary, have zero enrolment.

"316 primary schools have less than 30 enrolment, and two schools have less than 256 enrolment. There are 65 single-teacher schools in the UT. In addition, the number of schools with adverse PTR at the primary level is 23.1%," the data reveals.

The Government of India (GoI) has urged the UT authorities to examine these schools with low enrollments and ad-

verse PTRs, identify the reasons behind them, and take immediate corrective measures, including rationalising the allocation of teachers.

The documents further reveal that based on Ladakh's proposal in different years, a total of 48 schools have been approved for skill education under Samagra Shiksha. Out of these approved schools, the UT has been able to implement skill education in 40 schools only, leaving 8 approved schools pending."

"Further, the current school coverage stands at only 36.92%, with implementation across eight sectors (Apparel, Agriculture, Beauty & Wellness, Electronics & Hardware, Healthcare, Retail, Information Technology and Tourism & Hospitality)," it reads.

The UT was advised to extend the coverage of skill education to the uncovered schools and students by introducing appropriate sectors and job roles—(KNO)

Sumbal Girl Sabira Arooj Qualifies Prestigious NORCET-8

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: In a moment of pride for the Kashmir Valley, Sabira Arooj, daughter of Syed Firdous Hyder from Inderkote Sumbal, Bandipora, has successfully qualified the NORCET-8 examination and secured selection as a Nursing Officer at AIIMS Guwahati.

The Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET)-8 is a prestigious national-level exam conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for the recruitment of nursing officers across AIIMS branches and other central government hospitals in India. The competitive exam was held in two stages: the Preliminary Stage on April 12, 2025, followed by the Computer-Based Test on May 2, 2025.

Sabira's achievement stands out among thousands of aspirants from across the country and reflects her unwavering



dedication, academic excellence, and perseverance. Her success has brought immense pride not only to her family but also to the entire Bandipora district.

Locals, teachers, and peers have extended heartfelt congratulations to her, celebrating the hard-earned success of a bright and determined young woman from the region.

This achievement marks a significant milestone in Sabira's career and serves as an inspiration for youth in Kashmir aspiring to join the healthcare sector.

Police Arrests Three Drug Peddlers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a series of successful anti-narcotics operations, police on Saturday said to have arrested three drug peddlers and smugglers in multiple operations in Anantnag & Sopore. Police also said to have recovered a significant quantity of contraband substances from their possessions.

A police party from Police Station Uttersoo, during routine naka checking, apprehended one individual identified as Wasim Ahmad Khan son of Gull Mohammad Khah, resident of Sunglan, a police spokesman said in a statement issued Kashmir Observer.

Upon the search, 800 grams of a Charas-like substance was recovered from his possession, the statement reads.

"In another operation, a police team from PS Aishmuqam during naka checking at Logripora/Manzigam Road near Singhpora Crossing, apprehended one person identified as Jalal Din Bhat son of Ghulam Nabi Bhat resident of Salia Panchalpora. A staggering 12.9Kgs of raw Poppy buds was seized from his possession," police said.

Tourists Flock To Gulmarg Gondola

Agencies

GULMARG: In a strong display of resilience and confidence, the popular tourist resort of Gulmarg has witnessed a massive surge in visitors this week, with thousands queuing up for the famous Gulmarg Gondola, just a month after the tragic terror attack in Pahalgam.

Despite concerns raised by some media outlets, tourists from different parts of the country expressed a sense of safety and warmth in the valley. "We feel completely safe here. It's like a home away from home," said a group of visitors. "The hospitality of Kashmiri people has truly touched us. What we see on television is very different from the ground reality."

The Gondola — one of Asia's highest cable cars — has once

again become a major attraction, with eager visitors lining up to witness the snow-covered peaks and breathtaking scenery.

Local tourism operators have welcomed the revival, calling it a much-needed boost for the region's economy. "Tourism is the lifeline for many families here. The return of visitors is a ray of hope," said a local tour operator.

Managing Director, Cable Car Gulmarg Qamar Sajad said that Kashmir continues to offer pure and heartfelt tourism, free from commercial showmanship. "With sincere hospitality and unmatched natural beauty, it remains a timeless, welcoming destination for travelers worldwide," he said, adding that tourist footfall in Gulmarg has increased from a few hundred to thousands in the last 10 days. (KNS)

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Harvard's Trumpian Blues

As the "Dean of Disruption" swings at the Ivy citadel, the question isn't what Harvard was, but what it still dares to be.



Wajahat Qazi

In a convoluted, zigzagged, sometimes nice, at times vicious but mostly serendipitous way, I have been the beneficiary of the western university system.

Admittedly, a broad term, the 'western university system' may not be an entirely accurate one. Would, for example, most European and Scandinavian universities - dead end ideological, and academically stultifying universities be co-eval with American universities? (I recall my time with a Danish university where I went against its ideological moorings and set to write my thesis on American foreign policy, with a slant for America as a potential force for good, the program co-ordinator, out of pique and ignorance called me a 'Muslim terrorist'!).

If then there is a western university system, worth its name, it is the Anglo- Saxon universities with American ones topping the list.

How have I been a beneficiary of the western universities I attended?

Reductively and roughly, the education in these unis has helped me cultivate and develop critical thinking skills, expansive mental vistas and horizons, ability to hold different and different ideas in my mind, appreciate these, yet hold my own, tolerance of opposing points of views and ability to see the world in a different (salubrious) light.

This, most would agree, in both normative and ideal terms should constitute the end(s) of education. The rest- skill(s), analytical ability, and so on- are merely corollaries-albeit important ones.

But maybe the overall credit accrues mostly to me and some outstanding scholars and teachers I met and interacted with: I may have been a pupil whose orientation was 'naturally' oriented toward curiosity determined learning of a non-utilitarian learning.

By way of a digression, this non-utilitarian learning has been and is my special privilege.

In this sense, I may have been an outlier in a university system that, over time, came to privilege money (through international students) and a narrowly utilitarian focus- with vocational courses and an assembly line of one-year degree programs serving as its 'cash cows'.

To be sure, I paid prices for my non-utilitarian approach to

oneselves or in some cases went contra the nature of universities- that is citadels of learning and as repositories of competing ideas.

On this, comes American president, Donald Trump's disruptive and 'insurgent' sledgehammer. (The latest in the saga of smashing shibboleths is Harvard university. With varying intensities, the intricacies postulated in this essay

had come to define this great and hallowed institution as well).

Now, the approach taken by Mr. Trump corresponds to his style: stake an extreme position, hit hard, make a given institution, or individual untenable and get it(him/her) where Mr. Trump wants them to be.

Shorn of lip gloss, fake niceties and other fake accoutrements, this approach has worked eminently for Mr. Trump. And this is what the 47th president of the US is doing with Harvard.

While the disruption engendered by Mr. Trump is likely- at the end of the saga- will have traction and intended effects, but the risk is that of 'unintended consequences.'

To hark back to my experiences with the western university system, I would like to think my cognitive and intellectual universe became more dynamic, better and nuanced.

In this sense, as an ideal type, the western university can be a force for good in the world- with a determined focus on dispassionate learning, vigorous scholasticism, tolerance of different points of view (which should however not turn into bullying slanging matches), nuanced sophisticated thinking and so on.

It can be if there is reversion to the ideal of learning by western universities but not to these institutions being mere money spinners employing their brand equity for the same.

Harvard university- a hallowed and a venerable institution - that has past glory affixed to its brand, pedagogy and scholasticism - should set the 'new gold standard'.

If this - imbibing what the western university's raison d'être is among Mr. Trump's major aims, then it may not be an insalubrious one.

While there is, to use a very indecorous and poor phrase, always some 'collateral damage' in sanguine disruption, the hope is that Mr. Trump's shake up does not lead to burn out of students and that Harvard as the bell weather institution of the world becomes what it was: a bastion of non-ideological learning and robust scholasticism that reflects the best of America!

The writer previously worked as a staff member at Kashmir Observer.



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In this sense, I may have been an outlier in a university system that, over time, came to privilege money (through international students) and a narrowly utilitarian focus- with vocational courses and an assembly line of one-year degree programs serving as its 'cash cows'.

ward learning- especially and poignantly in Australia, but all in all the experience(s) have been decidedly enriching.

So, if the western university system disavowed its 'core functions' of disinterested, non-partisan enquiry, the quest for vigorous scholarly pursuits, non-ideological scholarship and allied themes, what did it morph into?

Client oriented (read clients of international students), ideological, money determined, bastions where the quest for learning and scholasticism became residual detritus to the, 'core functions and competences of the firm' (to employ business parlance).

Even this may, for the sake of hypothesis may be justified but the consequences were deleterious: the universities became arenas where dominant ideologies did not countenance alternate points of view (in fact, these were viciously excluded- conservative views being a case in point), client-students became arbiters of academics' careers and trajectories thereof, mono-focal thinking became almost normative, group think echo chamber thinking became prominent, viciously subtle exclusion jostled with cancel culture and labelling and so on.

All in all, then the western university system emblemized by American universities became either pale husks of their former

KO VIEW

The Digital Deed

Picture this. A farmer in south Kashmir walks for miles to reach the tehsil office. He's holding a paper so faded it's barely legible. It's the only proof he has that the land he tills belongs to him. Or maybe he has no paper at all, just his grandfather's word. He waits for hours, only to be told that the land he's claimed for generations doesn't show up in official records. Or worse, it does, but under someone else's name.

That's not a one-off story. That's the system. For decades, land ownership in Jammu and Kashmir has lived in dusty files, missing maps and family lore. Courts are jammed with land disputes. Banks refuse loans because no one trusts the paperwork. Builders stay away. People fight, not just over land, but over what that land means: home, inheritance, history.

Now, something big is happening. The government is trying to fix it.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo is leading a statewide push to digitize every land record, map every plot and verify every claim. That might sound like just another government scheme. But in a place where a mismarked boundary can start a feud, or stall a family's future, this could be a big revolution.

And it's already started. In the past six months, more records have been digitized than in the previous two years combined. Districts like Pulwama and Ganderbal are nearly ready for public review. New software lets officials update land titles in real time. Google Earth and satellite tools help spot conflicts. Village camps are popping up where people can check their land records, speak to officials, and fix mistakes right there.

It's not perfect. Plenty of errors still slip through. Some old maps don't match what's actually on the ground. In some cases, entire boundaries have shifted, or never existed on paper to begin with. So retired officials, legal experts and digital mappers have been brought in to double-check everything. In each tehsil, they go file by file, name by name.

The public can see what's happening too. Soon, anyone with a smartphone can pull up land records online and flag a problem. For families who've never held a formal deed, it's more than paperwork. It's protection. It's proof. It's peace of mind.

This isn't just about efficiency. It's about fairness. In Kashmir, land is often the only thing people own. When the system gets it wrong, the fallout isn't just legal. It's personal. Families lose what's theirs. Farmers lose access to credit. Whole generations miss out on opportunity.

Can this new digital push fix a century of confusion? Maybe not all at once. But it's a start. And it's working: silently, steadily, locally.

It'll take grit. Some people will resist. Many won't trust the system. Others will try to bend it. But with good data, public access and honest ground work, the fog around who owns what can start to lift. This is not about flashy announcements. It's about getting the small things right.

Kashmir deserves that clarity. And it's long overdue.

Schooled into Silence

Inside the high-stakes race for academic success that's costing Kashmir's youth their mental health and happiness.

Peerzada Mohsin Shafi



I remember standing in morning assemblies being punished for not saying prayers loudly enough. Teachers hitting kids for small things like a late arrival or a messy uniform was normal. Those memories still hurt.

Honestly, striking a six-year-old because their uniform isn't clean is not discipline. It shows a deep problem with how adults see kids.

If teachers think violence is the answer, they need more than training. They need real help. The

same teachers who could be so harsh would then tell us how to succeed in life and be good people. That contradiction hurts.

And it's not just in schools. Parents have also learned this culture of punishment. A six-year-old who wants to skip school because they are tired or scared often gets beaten or scolded. No one listens to their fears or feelings. Their tears are ignored.

My younger brother once told my six-month-old baby, "You're a king now, but soon a frustrated teacher will force you to do homework, punish you for tiny mistakes, and drain the joy out of learning."

It's a sad joke between us, half humour, half truth. Because the system doesn't reward curiosity, creativity, or emotion. It rewards compliance.

Success, as our system defines it, is measured by marks. Kids stress over half a mark difference, a number that doesn't say anything real about their ability or future.

Instead of nurturing them, we're making them anxious. Instead of building character, we're training obedience. This is not education. It's endurance.

We say we believe in God's plan, yet we act like everything depends on test scores. But life is not a race against others. It's about finding who we are, what we can give, and how we grow.

Every child is born with a unique purpose. Some are artists, some thinkers, some healers. Reducing their value to marks on paper is unfair and cruel.

It's time to change how we define success. Let's raise children to be kind, curious, and confident, not just competitive. Let's measure worth in meaning, not marks. Let's stop comparing children and start nurturing their potential.

The idea of "survival of the fittest" doesn't belong in a community that values compassion and faith. True success comes from resilience, purpose, and peace of mind. If we let our children grow instead of making them compete endlessly, we might finally earn the right to call them kings again.

The author is a research scholar and columnist from Anantnag who writes on education, society and culture.

Kashmiri Kids Deserve Better

Listening to Kashmiri children, I uncover stories that demand more than sympathy. They call for action.

Sheeba Nair

I was sitting in my living room, scrolling through my phone, when a voice message stopped me cold.

It was Ayesha, a Class 7 student from Jammu & Kashmir. Her voice was small, shaky.

"I get terrified when there's an explosion, even on TV," she said. "I can't focus on my studies. Please help..."

My chest tightened. I played it again, her fear sinking deeper into me.

A month ago, a terror attack in Pahalgal killed 26 people. It shook the nation, and it's still shaking kids like Ayesha.

I've been talking to children and families in J&K, trying to understand what life feels like for them now. The attack wasn't just a headline, it ripped through their sense of safety.

Ainoor, a 12th-grader with bright eyes and gritty smile, tells me about the hope they'd built over the last few years.

"Since March 2021, our schools have stayed open for over 1,500 days straight," she says, her voice proud but heavy. "No random closures. That was huge for us. We thought we were finally getting a normal life."

Then April 22 hit. Explosions echoed through their valleys, sirens wailed, and blackouts darkened their homes.

"Our fears came rushing back," Ainoor continues. "Will it all start again?"

She's not alone in her worry. Shehnaaz, another 12th-grader, wants to pursue science. She's scared the disruptions will widen the education gap that's already left Kashmiri students struggling to keep up. "Why can't our lives be normal like other students?" she asks over a crackling phone line. I don't have an answer.

Ufaq, who's studying for her medical entrance exam, and Zeenat, preparing for college admissions, tell me the tension makes it impossible to focus.

Reyaan, a soft-spoken boy from Baramulla near the Line of Control, says four days of war-like chaos left him and others rattled. "What if it lasted longer?" he asks. I can feel the weight of his fear, living so close to the border.

It's not just the immediate threat. Kashmiri students studying across India face their



own battles.

Reyaan tells me about students targeted and assaulted in other cities, some forced to return home mid-exam. "The actions of a few have painted us all as threats," he says, his voice tight with frustration.

Nighat, who dreams of studying law outside J&K, says her parents are too scared to let her go. "They think I won't be safe," she tells me.

Usmaan, a science student, is considering studying abroad just to feel secure. But Kubra, a humanities student, shakes her head. "Even abroad, how do you find peace when your family's in danger here?" she asks.

They're trapped, stuck between a home that feels unsafe and a world that doesn't always welcome them.

I speak to Vaibhav Jindal, who's worked in J&K's education system for years.

"We need safe spaces for Kashmiri students in cities across India," he says. "Businesses, communities, and local governments should work together now, in peacetime, to create a network of homes or hostels where students can feel secure during crises."

He also stresses the need for counseling in schools. "Teachers could be trained to sup-

port students emotionally, not just academically," he says.

I nod, thinking of Ayesha's fear-gripped voice.

Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir moved quickly to reopen schools after a ceasefire and it definitely helped. But kids today need more than open classrooms. They need someone to help them process the fear.

I learn about creative workshops some local groups are trying—art, music, storytelling, theatre—to let kids express their silences and in the process, heal their wounds. There's talk of interstate visits too, where students from J&K could meet peers elsewhere, feel accepted, and see a world beyond the conflict.

Ainoor lights up when she talks about this. "We've tasted normalcy these past few years," she says. "We don't want to go back to how our parents lived, always afraid. We want to chase our dreams, contribute to this country like anyone else."

Beyond the kids, I hear the pain of entire communities. Kashmiris are known for their warmth, their hospitality, but behind their smiles is a history of loss.

After the Pahalgal attack, something

shifted. For the first time in decades, the Valley shut down. Not in fear, but in protest. People poured into the streets, condemning the killings.

"This is an attack on all of us," one woman shouted, her voice raw. "We don't want this violence in our name," said another.

These weren't politicians or activists. They were just ordinary Kashmiris standing together. Their words were a plea for trust and support.

I saw their faces on social media, brave and vulnerable, risking everything to speak out.

Then came another blow: border shelling in Uri, and Poonch-Rajouri sectors of Jammu, leaving over a dozen civilians killed.

I heard people there, their voices thick with grief. "War devours the innocent," one community leader shares amid personal loss. "Peace isn't weakness, it's strength."

These communities in Jammu and Kashmir, living on the frontline, have lost the most to cross-border violence over the years. For many young people, it's the closest they've come to war.

What's unfolding in the hinterland casts a shadow over the heartland, transmitted through screens and smartphones. And it's already unsettling students like Jaza from

Srinagar, who tells me she lives in fear at school every day. "What if my dad or brother gets picked up?" she asks.

Reports of mass detentions, including young people, if true, are disturbing and create fear of reprisals in the innocents.

What perhaps could help is for the authorities to also take ameliorative steps like maintaining proper communication lines with the population that help strengthen their trust and ease the environment, especially in the young.

Else we risk alienating the very people who've shown such courage in speaking out and could end up burning bridges so assiduously built over past years.

I think about what Madhu N, a writer and educator from Kerala, told me. "We all must acknowledge that Kashmiris and those on the Jammu frontline are caught in a geopolitical mess that won't end soon," he says. "As a nation, we need to show empathy, give them a fair shot at life, wherever they are. Can we be their safe place to land?"

His words stick with me. These are our fellow citizens, facing the same dangers as our armed forces, yet often invisible to us. Their kids deserve the same stability we want for our own. I keep coming back to Ayesha's voice, her plea for help.

The dreams rekindled in J&K over the last few years—open schools, hopeful students, communities rebuilding—are fragile. How do we protect them?

Maybe it starts with small steps: responsible tourism to show Kashmiris they're not alone, ensuring their students feel safe studying in our cities, rebuilding trust.

I think of the 1990 UN Convention on Child Rights, which says kids have a right to be heard. Ayesha, Ainoor, Shehnaaz, and the others are shouting to us. They want peace, a chance to study, to dream, to belong.

The Pahalgal attack was a national tragedy, but it's also a call to action. We can't erase the conflict, but we can listen. We can open our hearts, our cities, our schools. We can show J&K's children, they're not forgotten.

The author works on child-centered education reforms and youth empowerment in J&K and across India, and is a founder member of oasismovement.in.

Jigar in Trouble

Young people are being blindsided by a disease they've never heard of, and doctors say it's just the beginning.

Ayan Wani

Disease often comes silently in Kashmir. There are no sirens, no symptoms, no urgent warnings. You feel fine, until you don't.

That's how fatty liver works. And right now, it's working fast.

Doctors in Srinagar are seeing it more than ever, in housewives, government employees, university students.

People walk into clinics with a stomachache or fatigue and leave with a diagnosis they've never heard of. Some don't believe it. Others nod and go home. They think: "At least it's not cancer." But it could be, one day.

The official term is non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, or NAFLD. It happens when fat builds up in the liver, even in people who don't drink.

At first, it's harmless. Then it turns into inflammation. Then scarring. Then, for some, liver failure. For others, cancer. There's no drama to it. Just slow, irreversible damage.

The rise in Kashmir is hard to quantify. There's no statewide study. But ask any lab technician in the Valley and they'll tell you the same thing: it's showing up on scans more than ever. At times, multiple cases a day. Often in people under 40.

The causes aren't mysterious. A sharp drop in physical activity. Processed food everywhere. A culture that prizes heavy meals and dismisses moderation.

Wedding feasts here involve twelve-course wazwan platters, thick with mutton and ghee. School kids gulp soda between tuition sessions. Working adults skip breakfast and eat greasy late-night dinners.

When doctors say "change your lifestyle," they're talking



about all of this.

But it's not just food and exercise. Kashmir is a place that lives under pressure. Conflict, economic anxiety, joblessness and uncertainty don't just stay in the head. Chronic stress changes the body. It slows metabolism, raises blood sugar, fuels weight gain. Researchers believe it can worsen liver health, too.

Some of it may be in the genes. Studies suggest certain populations, including South Asians, have a higher genetic risk for NAFLD.

That could explain why some people here get the disease even if they don't look overweight or eat poorly.

The bigger issue is invisibility. Fatty liver doesn't cause pain. You don't wake up with a fever. Most people never get tested unless they're undergoing a check-up for something else.

There are no awareness posters in hospitals. No school programs. No national health campaigns. Some doctors don't catch it early. Many patients don't know what it means when they do.

And when symptoms do

show up—tiredness, bloating, trouble concentrating—they're easy to brush off. You blame the weather. Or stress. Or age.

All of this makes NAFLD a slow-moving epidemic, hidden in plain sight. It's costing lives and piling up pressure on a healthcare system already stretched thin.

Liver specialists are few. Ultrasound machines aren't always available in rural clinics. Diet counseling is rare. Most of the time, even when people get a diagnosis, they're told to go home and eat better. With what help?

It doesn't have to be this way. Liver function tests are simple and cheap. A routine ultrasound can catch the problem early.

Schools could talk about it in health classes. Local leaders—doctors, clerics, even celebrities—could warn people that this isn't just about overeating. It's about survival.

Author is a medical laboratory technologist and a recent graduate from the University of Kashmir.

Kashmir's Animal Alarm

As Kashmir bakes under record heat, its animals endure a harsh and often overlooked battle to survive.

Dr. Gazanfar Abass

I never thought I'd see a cow pant like a dog. But this scorching spring, I did. She stood in the corner of a shed, foam collecting around her mouth, chest heaving, eyes dull.

It was 2 p.m., and the tin roof above her trapped the heat like an oven. The thermometer read 39°C, but it felt much hotter inside. There was no fan, no breeze and barely any water left in the trough.

This wasn't an isolated case. All over the Jammu and Kashmir this year, we have been recording animals buckling under the weight of a heat they aren't built for.

Cats are collapsing. Dogs are overheating. Calves won't feed. Birds are falling out of trees.

The Kashmir I've known—cool, green, shaded by chinars—is changing fast. And our animals are paying the price.

I work as a veterinary surgeon in the government's animal husbandry department. Summers were once the serene season. Not anymore. In the last few weeks, I've seen more heat-related cases than I can count.

Srinagar recorded its hottest May in sixty years. Jammu hit 41.4°C. Even the mornings now feel heavy. Nights offer little relief. The India Meteorological Department says more heatwaves are on the way for late May and early June. But they're already here.

We tend to think about heatwaves in terms of people, and rightly so. Children, the elderly and those who work outside are vulnerable. But the animals that share our lives suffer too, often in silence.

Unlike us, they can't walk into cooler rooms or drink ORS. They don't know what's happening to them. They just endure it, until they can't.

Most people don't realize how poorly animals cope with heat. Dogs and cats don't sweat through their skin. They pant to cool down, but that only works when the air is cooler than their bodies.

In this heat, panting does nothing. Cows stop rumination and go anorexic. Poultry fall limp. Sheep lie down and refuse to get up. I've seen goats lose interest in food and then lose weight rapidly. By the time owners call us, it's



often too late.

I remember a pet owner who left his Labrador on the balcony while running errands. When he came back, the dog was unconscious.

The tiles had burned his paws and he was breathing fast and shallow. We rushed to cool him with wet towels and IV fluids, but he didn't make it. He died within an hour.

The science backs up what we see. More than 10% dehydration in an animal can be fatal. And in this kind of heat, it happens faster than you'd think.

In rural areas, the heat is compounding other problems. Water sources are shrinking. Ponds dry up by midday. Streams that once gurgled through villages now carry a trickle, if anything. Wildlife—porcupines, monkeys, bears—are being spotted in human settlements more often. They come looking for water and shade. They're confused. So are we.

Recently, a farmer brought me a cow who'd stopped giving milk. She had been his main source of income. Her body was warm to the touch, her breath shallow. There was no disease, just heat stress. We set up fans and gave her fluids, but the milk never returned. The farmer didn't say much. He just stood there, looking down.

The government and international agencies have issued advisories. They say: keep animals in shaded areas,

reduce crowding, offer clean drinking water constantly, feed them in the cooler hours of the day. For pets, they recommend avoiding walks during peak sun and never leaving animals in parked vehicles.

All good advice. But it's not always practical in remote or low-income areas. Some people don't even have electricity, let alone fans in their barns.

So much of animal care during heatwaves comes down to watching closely. Noticing when a cow stops eating or chewing. Recognizing when a dog pants too hard. Checking if a hen's wings are drooping.

Heatstroke doesn't announce itself. It sneaks in. One minute they're fine and the next, they're on the ground.

In Kashmir, we're used to snow warnings, not heat alerts. But this year has made something very clear: our climate is shifting. The cool shade we took for granted is thinning. The glacial streams we relied on are receding. And the animals who've always lived beside us are struggling to survive in a world that feels suddenly unfamiliar.

As a vet, my job is to treat. But more and more, I feel like I'm also documenting a change. One that's happening faster than we can adapt.

Dr. Gazanfar Abass is a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in the Animal Husbandry Department, Jammu and Kashmir.

Harvard Has Long Been The World's Top College. Trump's Sanction Puts Its Allure At Risk

Agencies

CAMBRIDGE, USA: For students around the world, an acceptance letter to Harvard University has represented the pinnacle of achievement, offering a spot among the elite at a campus that produces Nobel Prize winners, captains of industry and global leaders.

That allure is now in jeopardy. In its intensifying fight with the White House, Harvard was dealt its heaviest blow yet on Thursday, when the government blocked the Ivy League school from enrolling foreign students. The move threatens to undermine Harvard's stature, revenue and appeal among top scholars globally.

Even more than the government's \$2.6 billion in research cuts, the administration's action represents an existential threat for Harvard. The school summed it up in a lawsuit seeking to block the action: "Without its international students, Harvard is not Harvard."

Within hours of the decision, the consequences started becoming clear. Belgium's Princess Elisabeth, who just finished her first year in a Harvard graduate program, is waiting to find out if she can return next year, the palace said. The Chinese government publicly questioned whether Harvard's international standing will endure.

"The relevant actions by the U.S. side will only damage its own image and international credibility," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said at a briefing in Beijing.

A federal judge on Friday blocked the administration's decision as the lawsuit plays out, but the order is only temporary.

International students face uncertainty as new government policies impact their status and future at a leading university.

Students say their hopes and dreams are at stake

On the Harvard campus, international students said they were stunned, confused and deeply concerned about what the government's action means for their degrees, future plans and legal status in the United States.

Walid Akef, a Harvard graduate student in art history from Egypt, said the Trump administration action would cost him "20 years of my life."

"Coming to Harvard — I'm not exaggerating — I planned for it for 15 years," Akef said. He earned two master's degrees and learned multiple languages before arriving at the university. He also worries what the changes will mean for his family, since his wife is pregnant and will soon be unable to travel.

"This is absolutely disastrous. I'm going to lose not just stability, but I also lose my dreams and then lose, I don't know, my beautiful life."

Akef is cautiously optimistic that Harvard "will take care of this," but he is also considering other options as U.S. policy becomes increasingly inhospitable to foreign students.

A graduating law student from Asia said he had planned to stay in the United States and find work, "but not anymore."

"I don't know what I'll do, but my future doesn't appear to be here," said the student, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of retaliation.

Changes could erase a quarter of the student body

With a \$53 billion endowment, Harvard can weather federal funding losses that would cripple other institutions. But this new sanction strikes at the heart of its campus.

Already, the change is causing disarray, as thousands of students consider whether to transfer or risk being in the country illegally. It could wipe out a quarter of the university's student



body, while halving some of its graduate schools and threatening students who work as researchers and teaching assistants. Some sports teams would be left nearly empty.

For many, it has been a time of panicked calls home and huddles with fellow international students. For Kat, a data science student from China, the news comes as she prepares to graduate. Foreigners set to receive degrees from Harvard next week can still do so.

"My biggest fear is whether I would get deported immediately" after graduation, Kat said. She spoke on the condition that she be identified only by her first name out of concern about retaliation. "We're not sure about our status."

If the government's action stands, Harvard would be banned from admitting new international students for at least two school years. Even if it regains

its place as a global magnet, top students may shy away from fear of future government reprisals, the school said in its lawsuit.

The university enrolls almost 6,800 foreign students at its campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts, near Boston. Roughly 30% of those come from India and China.

Asked if he was considering restrictions on other universities, President Donald Trump said Friday: "We're taking a look at a lot of things."

"Harvard's going to have to change its ways. So are some others," the president told reporters in the Oval Office. "We don't want troublemakers here" from other countries.

A time to weigh other opportunities

In its court filing, Harvard listed some of its most notable alumni who enrolled as foreign students. The list

includes Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister of Pakistan; Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the former president of Liberia; Empress Masako of Japan; and many leaders of major corporations.

Many of the world's top students spend years preparing for their college applications, sometimes working with admissions consultants such as Crimson Education, a company named after Harvard's school color. Crimson clients recently admitted to Harvard were shocked by the government's action, said Jamie Beaton, a Harvard alumnus from New Zealand who founded the company. But rather than looking for other options, many students quickly shifted to finding a way forward with Harvard, he said.

Still, some current students and those bound for the university in the fall were weighing other opportunities. Two

universities in Hong Kong on Friday extended invites to affected students.

"It feels like my world has exploded," said Fang, a Chinese student who was accepted to Harvard for a master's program. She also spoke on the condition that only her first name be used out of fear that she could be targeted.

Her student visa was approved just this week. "If America becomes a country that doesn't welcome me, I don't want to go there."

The recent developments forced Aleksandra Conevska, a Canadian graduate student researching climate change, to cancel her summer research and briefly look for jobs in Canada. But her thinking has since shifted, and she says she plans to remain at Harvard.

"I've already invested in this country, and I'm not going to give in," she said.

The U.S. government's action against Harvard has dominated news in countries around the world, said Mike Henniger, president and CEO of Illume Student Advisory Services, which helps colleges in the U.S., Canada and Europe recruit international students. He is traveling in Japan and awoke to the news Friday with dozens of emails from colleagues.

The reactions from the international community, he said, were incredulous: "Unbelievable! 'Oh My God!' 'Unreal!'"

For incoming freshmen who just got accepted to Harvard — and already committed — the timing could not be worse, but they are such strong students that any top university would want to offer them a spot, he said.

"The bigger story is the students around the country that aren't a Harvard student, the students that scraped by to get into a state university and are thinking: 'Are we next?'" he said. "The Harvard kids are going to be OK. It's more about the damage to the American education brand. The view of the U.S. being a less welcoming place for international students."

You Should Wear Sunscreen Even If You Have Darker Skin. Here's Why

Associated Press

People with darker skin still need to wear sunscreen — for more reasons than one.

Too much ultraviolet exposure from the sun can lead to sunburn, dark spots and wrinkles, and increased risk of skin cancer.

The melanin in darker skin offers some extra protection from the sun, but dermatologists say that isn't enough on its own.

"Everyone needs sunscreen. But the reasons that one might be reaching for sunscreen may differ depending on your skin tone," said Dr. Jenna Lester, who founded the Skin of Color Clinic at the University of California, San Francisco.

Do darker-skinned people need sunscreen?

White people are overall more likely to get skin cancer compared to Black and Hispanic people. But Black and Hispanic people are less likely to survive the most dangerous kind of skin cancer called melanoma, according to the American Cancer Society.

Black patients more commonly get melanoma on their hands and feet — places that are more shielded from the sun. Still, sunscreen is an additional protective layer that helps prevent a host of other problems including sunburns, hyperpigmentation after acne, rosacea and dark patches on the face.

Dr. Oyetewa Asempa at Baylor College of Medicine often reminds her darker-skinned patients: "All of the problems that you're coming to see me for are caused or worsened by the sun."



How much sunscreen do people of color need?

To stay safe in the sun, it's important to grab sunscreen with a sun protection factor or SPF of at least 30 and reapply every two hours. People headed for the pool or beach should put on sunscreen beforehand, remembering to reapply liberally and after getting out of the water.

Most people don't wear enough sunscreen when they apply, Lester said.

Make sure to put two long fingers' worth on the face and a hefty blob for the body.

Look for chemical-based sunscreens to avoid ashy white cast. Two key ingredients in mineral-based products — zinc oxide and titanium oxide — are the culprits for that pesky discoloration on dark skin.

Tinted sunscreens contain pigments that block visible light from the sun, offering additional protection against dark spots. And wearing a hat or sun-protective clothing with an ultraviolet protection factor or UPF grading can provide an extra safety boost.

Whatever the sun protection routine, it's important to keep it up, Lester said. Some UV rays can climb right through car and house windows to cause sun damage even when indoors, making it even more important to take care of the skin while the sun shines.

COURT OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS PATTAN

Case File No.	Date of Institution	Date of Order	CNR No.
137/N	25.11.2024	20.05.2025	JKBA110009502024

In the case of:
Mohammad Akbar Dar
S/O Abdul Khaliq Dar
R/O Khembyar Pattan
Complainant along with his Counsel Advocate
M.A. Sofi present

Versus

Zeeyan Fruit Company
Through its Proprietor
Firdous Ahmad Lone
Son of Abdul Khaliq Lone
R/O Arigam, Charath Pulwama District Pulwama
Nemo is present on behalf of accused.

In the matter of: Complaint in terms of Section 138 N.I. Act
PROCLAMATION UNDER SECTION 82 OF CR.PC

Coram: **Altaf Hussain Khan** U.I.D No.: **JK00187**

The above captioned complaint under section 138 N.I. Act has been presented before this court by the complainant named above. Same is pending adjudication before this court. After tendering appearance you have subsequently remained absent as such this court issued warrant against you. The warrant issued against you has remained unexecuted with the endorsement that you were found absconding/concealing yourself to avoid the arrest. This court satisfied that you are wilfully concealing yourself in order to avoid the execution of warrant of arrest. You are, as such, proclaimed as an offender. You are directed/required to appear before this court on or before the 04.06.2025.

Issued today on 20th of May 2025
Under the seal of this court

Judicial Magistrate 1st Class
Pattan

fko

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th) under Roll No. 817271 Session: Annual Year: 2000 through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the _____ against my name as **Qazi Qamer Iqbal Qari** instead of **Qazi Qamar Iqbal Qari**.
Now I have applied for correction in The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificated, Kashmir Division within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after the expiry of the said period, no objection will be entertained.
This is published for the information of the general public.
The correct particulars are recorded as under:
Name: **Qazi Qamar Iqbal Qari**
Father's Name: **Qazi Ihsan ul Haq**
Mother's Name: **Tansem Kounser**
Date of Birth: **22-11-1984**
Residence: **Qari House, Zakura, Srinagar**
Mobile No: **9419008044**





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Govt Ratifies Interest Rate At 8.25 % On Employees' Provident Fund For FY25

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The government has ratified the rate of interest on employees' provident fund at 8.25 per cent for FY25, enabling retirement fund body EPFO to deposit the annual interest accumulation in the post-retirement funds of over 7 crore subscribers.

EPFO, on February 28, had decided to retain the interest rate of 8.25 per cent on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for the financial year 2024-25, equal to the rate provided in the preceding fiscal. The approved rate of interest for 2024-25 was sent for concurrence of the Ministry of Finance.

"Ministry of Finance has given concurrence to 8.25 per cent rate of interest on the EPF for 2024-25 fiscal year and labour ministry sent a communication regarding this to the EPFO on Thursday," a labour ministry official told PTI.

Now, the interest amount as per the rate ratified for FY25 will be credited to the accounts of over seven crore subscribers of EPFO.

The decision on interest rate was taken at the 237th meeting



of the central board of trustees of the EPFO chaired by Union Minister for Labour & Employment Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi on February 28.

Compared to many fixed-income instruments, EPF offers relatively higher and stable returns, ensuring steady growth on post-retirement savings.

In February 2024, the EPFO had increased the interest rate marginally to 8.25 per cent for 2023-24, from 8.15 per cent in 2022-23.

In March 2022, EPFO had lowered the interest on EPF for 2021-22 to an over four-decade low of 8.1 per cent, from 8.5 per cent in 2020-21.

The 8.10 per cent rate of interest on EPF for 2020-21 was the lowest since 1977-78, when it stood at 8 per cent.

Yousmarg To Be Developed As Next Gulmarg: Speaker



Observer News Service

BUDGAM- Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Saturday said that special focus will be laid on developing the scenic tourist destination Yousmarg as the next Gulmarg.

He made these remarks while inaugurating a newly constructed Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Nagbal, in Charar-i-Sharief Constituency, built at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.88 crore.

Highlighting the government's vision, the Speaker stated that Yousmarg will be equipped with all modern tourist facilities including a gondola, all-weather connectivity, skiing and other recreational and basic amenities. He emphasised that this development of Yousmarg will significantly uplift the socio-economic conditions of the local population living in kandi area.

Speaking on the importance of the health sector, the Speaker noted that the newly inaugurated PHC will provide essential medical services to the residents of Nagbal and adjoining Kandi areas. He said that the building, completed at a cost of Rs. 1.53 crore, will require an additional Rs. 35 lakh for construction of a boundary wall, landscaping and development of the approach road.

The Speaker said that the PHC

is equipped to offer ECG, dental care, gynecology services, separate male and female wards and minor operation theatre facilities. He inspected various sections of the facility, including the general wards, minor OT, dental unit, immunization area and took stock of availability of medicine at pharmacy section.

He remarked that the establishment of this health centre will minimize the need for residents to travel long distances to avail medical services in Srinagar or Charar-i-Sharief.

The Speaker also highlighted sanctioning of other PHC buildings across the constituency, including, Kanir, Tilsara, Nowpora, Hushroo, Nilnag, Bonen, Watkalu, as well as the Sub-District Hospitals at Charar-i-Sharief, Pakherpora and Nagam, all of which are functional and catering to local healthcare needs.

"Work on PHC Challein Chhotnar and other health and educational projects will also be expedited and dedicated to the general public soon," he said.

The Speaker reiterated that, alongside overall infrastructure development, particular attention will be given to improving the health and education sectors in Charar-i-Sharief.

"Under the Aspirational Plan for Surasyar and Pakherpora, additional funds shall be utilized on improvement of health and education sectors," Speaker said.

PM Asks States To Remove Policy Bottlenecks, Encourage Investment, Generate Jobs

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asked the states and Union Territories to remove policy bottlenecks to encourage investment and generate employment as he stressed that if the Union government and states work together like Team India, no goal is impossible.

Briefing reporters about the 10th Governing Council meeting of Niti Aayog, CEO BVR Subrahmanyam said that everyone present at the meeting unanimously supported Operation Sindoor, undertaken by India to destroy terror infrastructure in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Modi, he said, also urged the states to focus on agriculture, education and healthcare.

The Prime Minister said that the 10-year journey of Niti Aayog was "to prepare the nation to achieve the goal of Vikshit Bharat".

The theme of the Governing Council meeting was "Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat@2047".

The meeting was attended by 31 states and Union Territories of a total of 36, Subrahmanyam said, adding those who could not make it had prior commitments and informed the Council.

The states which did not attend the meeting were Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar and Puducherry, he said, adding the 10th



meeting of the Council saw maximum attendance.

"We have to increase the speed of development. If the Centre and all the States come together and work together like Team India, no goal is impossible," Niti Aayog said in a post on X, quoting the Prime Minister as saying.

"Viksit Bharat is the goal of every Indian. When every state is Viksit, then Bharat will be Viksit. This is the aspiration of its 140 crore citizens," Modi said.

The council, the apex body of Niti Aayog, includes all state chief ministers, lieutenant governors of Union Territories, and several Union ministers. Prime Minister Modi is the chairman of Niti Aayog.

"We should have the aim of making each state viksit, each city viksit, each Nagar Palika viksit and each village viksit. If we work on these lines, we will not have to wait till 2047 to become Viksit Bharat," Modi said.

The prime minister also

suggested that states should develop at least one tourist destination per state at par with global standards and provide all facilities and infrastructure.

"One State: One Global Destination. It would also lead to the development of the neighbouring cities as tourist places," he said.

Noting that India is getting rapidly urbanised, Modi said, "We should work towards future-ready cities".

Growth, innovation and sustainability should be the engine for the development of India's cities, he added.

Modi also emphasised the need to work towards the inclusion of women in the workforce.

"We must make laws and policies so that they can be respectfully integrated into the workforce," he said.

It is the first major meeting of the prime minister with the chief ministers of all states and the lieutenant governors of Union Territories after Operation Sindoor.

VIKSIT BHARAT IS THE GOAL OF EVERY INDIAN.
When every state is Viksit, then Bharat will be Viksit. This is the aspiration of its 140 crore citizens"

Property Prices Rise In 48 Cities In Q4 Of FY25: NHB RESIDEX



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- As many as 48 cities out of 50 registered an increase in property prices during the fourth quarter of 2024-25, according to data released by the National Housing Bank (NHB).

Out of the 50 cities covered, two cities Howrah and Thiruvananthapuram registered a decline in property prices, the latest residential housing price index NHB RESIDEX said.

The 50-city Housing Price Index (HPI), based on valua-

tion prices of properties collected from banks and housing finance companies, recorded an annual increase of 7.5 per cent during the fourth quarter of 2022-24 compared to 5.1 per cent a year ago, it added.

Eight key primary residential markets witnessed an appreciation in property prices during January-March 2025, it said.

As per the Housing Price Index, published by the NHB, prices in Ahmedabad recorded a 6.1 per cent rise, Bengaluru (13.1 per cent), Chennai (9 per

cent), Delhi (2.9 per cent), Hyderabad (4.8 per cent), Kolkata (9.6 per cent), Mumbai (5.9 per cent) and Pune (6.8 per cent).

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the 50-city index registered an expansion of 1.9 per cent in January-March 2025. The index has shown an increasing trend on the Q-o-Q basis since September 2021.

Meanwhile, the interest rate on home loans moderated by 25 basis points in February 2025, when RBI reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points, the first rate cut in 5 years.



Okay To Go To India, But You're Not Going To Sell In US Without Tariffs: Trump To Apple

Press Trust Of India

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has said it is ok for Apple to go to India to build its plants, but then the tech company will not be able to sell its products in America without tariffs.

Trump's remarks came as he signed multiple executive orders in the Oval Office to boost US nuclear power.

"...But I had an understanding with Tim (Cook) that he wouldn't be doing this. He said he's going to India to build plants. I said, 'That's okay to go to India, but you're not going to sell into here without tariffs.' And that's the way it is," Trump said on Friday.

"We're talking about the iPhone. If they're going to sell it in America, I want it to be built in the United States," he said.

Early on Friday, Trump said in a social media post that he expects Apple iPhones that will be sold in the US to be manufactured in America and "not India, or anyplace else", threatening to put a 25 per cent tariff on the tech company's products if it does not comply.

"I have long ago informed Tim Cook of Apple that I expect

their iPhones that will be sold in the United States of America will be manufactured and built in the United States, not India, or anyplace else. If that is not the case, a Tariff of at least 25% must be paid by Apple to the US. Thank you for your attention to this matter!" Trump said.

Just last week, Trump had said in Doha during his visit to the Middle East that he had told the Apple CEO to not build in India and instead build its manufacturing capacity in the US.

"We have Apple, as you know, that's coming in, and I had a little problem with Tim Cook yesterday," Trump had said in Doha in remarks to top executives.

"I said to him, 'Tim, you're my friend. I treated you very good. You're coming here with USD 500 billion but now I hear you building all over India. I don't want you building in India. You can build in India if you want to take care of India because India is the highest, one of the highest tariff nations in the world. It's very hard to sell into India. And they've (India) offered us a deal where, basically they're willing to literally charge us no tariff,'" he had said.

Goyal Meets EU Counterpart for Second Time in a Month on FTA Talks

Press Trust Of India

BRUSSELS: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has met European Commissioner for Trade Maros Sefcovic in Brussels, their second meeting within a month, to discuss the proposed free trade agreement (FTA), currently under negotiation between the two regions.

Goyal travelled to Brussels on May 23 from Washington, while India's chief negotiator L Satya Srinivas and his team are already at the EU headquarters for the FTA negotiations.

The Indian minister held meetings with his EU counterpart earlier this month.

"Delighted to welcome my friend and counterpart @PiyushGoyal. We continue to make progress. Let's maintain the momentum - with hard work, clear focus - and I look forward to our next meeting soon," Sefcovic said in a post on X.

In response, Goyal, in a post on the social media platform, said, "We remain committed to the shared prosperity of India and the EU. Let us keep this pace going!".

These deliberations assume significance as India and the 27-nation European Union are looking at concluding the talks for an early harvest trade agreement by July.

The early harvest or an interim trade agreement could include issues like intellectual property rights (IPRs), government procurement, tariffs, and non-tariff barriers.

Officials of both sides recently concluded the eleventh round of talks on May 16 here in the national capital.

"We are looking for an early harvest. We are trying to do it as early as possible," an official has said recently.

The two sides have agreed to conclude the agreement in two phases on account of the uncertain global trade environment, particularly due to the US tariff actions under President Donald Trump.

India has followed the practice of negotiating trade pacts in two phases with Australia.

The early harvest pact would lead to a full-fledged free trade agreement.

Besides demanding significant duty cuts in automobiles and medical devices, the EU wants tax reduction in products like wines, spirits, meat, poultry and a strong intellectual property regime.

Indian goods exports to the EU, such as ready-made garments, pharmaceuticals, steel, petroleum products, and electrical machinery, can become more competitive if the pact is concluded successfully.

LIC Bags Guinness World Record For Selling Highest Life Insurance Policies In 24 Hrs

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Life Insurance Corporation of India on Saturday said it has earned a Guinness World Record title for most life insurance policies sold in 24 hours.

This historic achievement, verified by Guinness World Records, recognises the extraordinary performance of the corporation's dedicated agency network on January 20, 2025, LIC said in a statement. On January 20, a total of 4,52,839 agents of LIC successfully completed and issued an astounding 5,88,107 life insurance policies across India, it noted.

This monumental effort established a new global benchmark for agent productivity in the life insurance industry within 24 hours, it said.

"It is a powerful validation of the relentless dedication, skill, and tireless work ethics of our agents. This achievement reflects our deep commitment towards our mission to provide vital financial protection to our customers and their families," the statement said.

The record attempt was the culmination of an initiative by LIC MD and CEO Siddhartha Mohanty, appealing to every agent to complete at least one policy on 'Mad Million Day' on January 20, 2025.

Demerger To Bring Strategic Clarity Long-Term Returns For Shareholders: Tata Motors Chairman

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The proposed demerger of Tata Motors into two listed entities will bring strategic clarity, enabling long-term returns for shareholders, according to Chairman N Chandrasekaran.

Addressing shareholders in the company's 80th Integrated Annual Report for FY25, he noted that the demerger of Tata Motors into two listed entities -- Commercial Vehicles and Passenger Vehicles (including EV and JLR) -- is progressing as planned.

"The proposed demerger will bring greater strategic clarity and agility, enabling a more focused approach to execution and value creation, delivering superior experiences for customers, rewarding careers for employees, and long-term returns for shareholders," Chandrasekaran said.

In early FY26, shareholders approved the demerger which is expected to be effective during the second half of 2025, with shareholders receiving equivalent shares in both entities, he added.

Elaborating on the road ahead, Chan-

drasekaran said: "We step into FY26 with confidence in our strategy, strength in our execution, and belief in our people."

"We remain vigilant to worldwide volatility, including the impact of changes in global trade conditions and the varying degrees of adoption of electric vehicles across different markets and evolving technologies, to accelerate our production plans while delivering value to our customers," he noted.

The company's focus remains on delivering consistent growth, enriching customer experience, and innovating for a cleaner, safer, and more connected mobility future, Chandrasekaran stated.

"As we grow, we are also embedding greater automation and AI into our operations, enhancing agility and efficiency while shaping a future-ready manufacturing ecosystem," he added.

For Tata Motors, AI/Gen AI presents huge opportunities in all aspects of the business, including how vehicles are conceived, how they are built and how they operate on the road, Chandrasekaran stated.

Paytm Says SC stays ₹5,712-cr GST Notice Sent To First Games

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Supreme Court has granted a stay on a Rs 5,712-crore GST notice sent to fintech firm One97 Communications-owned real money gaming platform First Games, a regulatory filing said on Saturday.

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence, New Delhi had issued a show cause notice (SCN) to First Games in April.

"We hereby inform you that First Games has informed us on May 24, 2025 at 10:44 am (IST) that in the writ petition ...filed by First Games challenging the said SCN, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has on May 23, 2025 stayed the proceedings of the SCN," the regulatory filing said.

One97 Communications, which owns Paytm brand, said the tax matter is an industry-wide issue and not limited to First Games and the matter is being heard by the apex court.

India's Forex Kitty Drops Usd 4.88 Bn To USD 685.72 Bn

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- India's forex reserves dropped USD 4.888 billion to USD 685.729 billion for the week ended May 16, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

The overall reserves jumped by USD 4.553 billion to USD 690.617 billion in the previous reporting week. The forex reserves touched an all-time high of USD 704.885 billion in September 2024.

For the week ended May 16, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by USD 279 million to USD 581.652 billion, the data released on Friday showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

After the sharp USD 4.52 billion jump in the previous reporting week, the gold reserves dropped by USD 5.121 billion to USD 81.217 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by USD 43 million to USD 18.49 billion, the apex bank said.

India's reserve position with the IMF was also down by USD 3 million at USD 4.371 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

Jaishankar's visit injects fresh momentum into India-Germany Strategic Partnership: MEA

Berlin, May 24: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held extensive discussions with his German counterpart Johann Wadephul in Berlin covering the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation and the two sides reaffirmed their shared commitment to further expand collaboration in key strategic areas, including defence and AI.

The Ministry of External Affairs in a statement here said the external affairs minister visited Germany from May 22-24. His visit within a month of the new government formation in Germany is "reflective of the high priority" both sides attach to bilateral ties, it said.

The ministry said Jaishankar's visit to Germany at the time when both countries are celebrating the milestone of completion of 25 years of Strategic Partnership is "significant".

"It led to renewed engagement with the newly-constituted German government, injecting fresh momentum into the India-Germany Strategic Partnership and reaffirming commitment of both sides to further strengthening political, economic, technological and people-to-people ties between India and Germany. Germany is a strong votary for furthering India-EU ties, including for expeditious conclusion of FTA," it said.

During the visit, Jaishankar called on Chancellor Friedrich Merz, held comprehensive talks with his counterpart, and met with Katherina Reiche, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy and Günter Sautter, Foreign and Security Policy Advisor to the Federal Chancellor.

He also engaged with members of the German Parliament, foreign and security policy experts and members of the Indian community.

In his meeting with Chancellor Merz, the external affairs minister conveyed the



warm greetings and best wishes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the new federal government in Germany.

"Chancellor Merz expressed strong support for further deepening the increasingly multifaceted India-Germany Strategic Partnership across diverse sectors. The EAM also conveyed India's appreciation for the German government's expression of solidarity and support to India in the fight against terrorism," the MEA said.

The external affairs minister had extensive discussions with Foreign Minister Wadephul covering the "full spectrum of bilateral cooperation".

"The two sides also reaffirmed their shared commitment to further expand collaboration in key strategic areas including defence, digital technologies, AI, green and sustainable development and talent mobility," it said.

They also exchanged perspectives on regional and global developments, reaffirming their countries' shared position on combating terrorism without exception, upholding international law, and promoting a multipolar, rules-based international order.

The ministers also launched the official logo commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Strategic Partnership.

Jaishankar also held productive discussions with Günter

Sautter, Foreign and Security Policy Advisor to the Federal Chancellor.

"Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening strategic, defence, and security cooperation, including in the areas of cyber security, Indo-Pacific, and defence industrial collaboration," it said.

Jaishankar's meeting with the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy focussed on further strengthening India-Germany and India-EU trade and investment ties.

"Both sides also discussed the progress in the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership including in the field of green hydrogen and infrastructure sector and railways," it added.

The minister also interacted with parliamentarians from across the political spectrum. These interactions focused on advancing political dialogue, strengthening economic and technological cooperation, and exchanging views on key global and regional developments, it said.

The external affairs minister participated in a high-level think-tank dialogue at the DGAP (German Council on Foreign Relations), engaging with thought leaders and experts on foreign and security policy to advance India-Germany strategic partnership in promoting global security and stability.

All party delegations conclude visits to Russia, Japan; drive home India's stance on fight against terror

Moscow/Tokyo/Manama, May 24 (PTI) All party delegations from India to Russia and Japan on Saturday concluded their visits with "constructive meetings" with diplomatic leaderships discussing global fight against terror as a third similar team reached Bahrain to highlight New Delhi's response to cross-border radicalism.

The three delegations that exchanged views on furthering cooperation in counter-terrorism and combating radicalism, especially after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that saw 26 people dead, are part of India's global outreach with its seven multi-party delegations travelling to 33 global capitals to meet the international community.

Meeting with the political leadership, media, senior officials and members of the diplomatic corps, the delegations spread awareness about Pakistan's designs and India's response to terror and shared information about Operation Sindoor.

The delegation to Moscow, led by DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, addressed a press conference at the end of the visit and described Russia as a "close and tried and tested" friend.

"We naturally seek an understanding that Russia is by our side in this time of difficulty. It is better that people are aware of our suffering from state-sponsored terrorism from Pakistan," the delegation members said while answering a media question.

Opening the press conference, Kanimozhi described the Russia visit as a "great opportunity to explain our stand" and said, "Pakistan chooses to protect the terrorists, they go ahead and spread false propaganda. We had only targeted terror hubs. India is very clear, we would not come to the table for peace talks when Pakistan



continues attacking us."

Earlier on Friday, Russia had reiterated its decisive commitment to "an uncompromising joint fight" with New Delhi against all forms of terrorism.

When the delegation to Russia met Andrey Denisov, First Deputy Chair of the Committee on International Affairs, Russia, and Senators on Friday, Kanimozhi, in a post on X, described the meeting as "constructive" and said they two sides "exchanged views on issues of mutual concern with respect to terrorism."

The Parliamentary delegation to Japan on Saturday wrapped up its three-day visit after engaging extensively with Japan's political leadership, policymakers, media and the Indian community and said it was deeply encouraged by Tokyo's unequivocal support in New Delhi's war against terror.

JD(U) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Kumar Jha, who led the delegation, said: "At every forum, we firmly reiterated India's zero-tolerance policy on terrorism and exposed Pakistan's continued patronage of cross-border terror." "We are deeply encouraged by Japan's unequivocal support," he added.

The delegation visited the Tama Cemetery here and honoured freedom fighter Rash Behari Bose on the eve of his birth anniversary.

"India follows Gandhi's path of peace, but when peace is

threatened, we also carry forward the fearless spirit of Rash Behari Bose. Non violence is our choice, not our compulsion. If terror challenges peace, India will respond with unity and resolve," Jha said in his post on X.

Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee, who is also part of the delegation to Japan, said if terrorism is a "rabid dog", Pakistan is its "vile handler", and the world must unite to tackle it.

"We are here to convey the truth— India refuses to bow down," he said.

The delegation also interacted with members of the Indian diaspora at the Embassy. Urging them to take India's message in the global fight against terrorism, Banerjee told them to raise awareness about the issue "within your circles, through your networks, and via local influencers, in your unique ways."

In Bahrain, the all-party Indian delegation that reached Manama on Saturday is led by senior BJP leader Baijayant Jay Panda. "India's unwavering stand against cross-border terrorism will be highlighted in all the engagements," the Embassy of India in Bahrain posted on X.

Meanwhile, in Dubai, Sunjay Sudhir, India's Ambassador to the UAE, hailed the visit of the all-party delegation led by Shrikant Shinde to the country

to highlight India's stance on the issue of terrorism.

"The narrative, our thoughts, our perspectives, were well received, very well reciprocated. And again, it was a clear reciprocation, a clear reiteration of the fact that in the UAE, we have a true strategic partner, a friend, whom we can rely on," the ambassador told PTI.

Ambassador Sudhir also highlighted a shift in the response by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates - after the Pahalgam terror attack in comparison to the response they had shown after the 2008's 26/11 Mumbai attack.

The ambassador said that the UAE was perhaps the first country to issue a clear and categorical statement condemning the attack as an act of terror and calling for the elimination of terrorism in all its forms.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

As part of the Operation Sindoor in response to the Pahalgam attack, India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in the early hours of May 7, following which Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Hailstorm Hits

highlighted that horticulture supports over 8 lakh families in Jammu and Kashmir and contributes nearly 10% to the region's GDP. They demanded swift damage assessments by SKUAST-Kashmir and the Department of Horticulture and urged the government to waive loan interests for affected farmers.

"If compensation and insurance are delayed, the livelihoods of thousands are at risk," warned a grower from Kulgam. The association has also appealed for immediate intervention by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to address the crisis.

Just a month ago, a hailstorm left behind a trail of devastation for orchard owners in south Kashmir. The hailstorm had severely damaged the blooming flowers in orchards, particularly in the apple-rich belt of Shopian, according to growers. (inputs from KNO)

Stop Dividing

Those in positions of responsibility must unite people, not fragment them. Only a united society can ensure progress and peace," he said, adding that the people have shown zero tolerance for terrorism.

Reiterating the government's hard stance, Sinha said that those aiding and abetting terrorists will be treated no differently than the militants themselves.

"We need to strike hard at the terror ecosystem. The aides of terrorists should be identified and punished just like terrorists. They've inflicted wounds on the soul of Jammu and Kashmir."

He cited Operation Sindoor as a response to the Pahalgam killings and claimed that India had sent a strong message across the border.

"Our brave soldiers destroyed terror factories inside Pakistan. Now, any terror attack will be considered an act of war — and Pakistan will face the harshest punishment."

He also took aim at what he called "problematic statements" about cultural invasion and demographic threats, saying such remarks harm the spirit of unity.

Sinha concluded with a call for national unity, invoking the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat, and prayed for peace and brotherhood in society.

"May Prophet Muhammad and Baba Amarnath bless our land and strengthen love, harmony and unity."

LG Sinha did not mince words in blaming Pakistan for continuously sponsoring terrorism in the region. "Since independence, Pakistan has done everything to disturb the peace in J&K. From sending Kabalis in 1947 to the present day, terrorism has been their state policy," he said. "Their own people struggle for basic needs, while their leaders, despite holding a begging bowl, continue to fund terrorism in India."

The ceremony was attended by Waqf Board Chairperson Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, DGP Nalin Prabhakar, IGP Kashmir Vidhi Kumar Birdi, Divisional Commissioner Vijay Kumar Bidhuri,

senior officials, religious leaders, and citizens.

Most Covid

there is a robust pan India system for surveillance of respiratory illnesses including Covid-19 through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and ICMR's pan India respiratory virus sentinel surveillance network.

"It is observed that most of these cases are mild and under home care," an official source said.

"It may also be mentioned that there have been some media reports regarding the increase in COVID-19 cases in Singapore, Hong Kong and other countries in the recent past. It has been ascertained from the respective National IHR focal points that there is no indication that the circulating variants are more transmissible or cause more severe disease compared to the previously circulating variants," the source said.

The sources asserted that the Union Health Ministry remains vigilant and, through its multiple agencies, is proactively monitoring the situation closely.

Meanwhile, according to the INSACOG data, one case of the newly emerging COVID-19 variant NB.1.8.1 and four cases of LF.7 have been detected in India.

As of May 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) classifies LF.7 and NB.1.8 subvariants as Variants Under Monitoring (VUMs), not as Variants of Concern (VOCs) or Variants of Interest (VOIs). But these are the variants reportedly driving the rise in COVID cases in China and parts of Asia.

In India, the most common variant remains JN.1, comprising 53 per cent of samples tested, followed by BA.2 (26%) and other Omicron sub-lineages (20%), according to INSACOG.

As of May 19, the country had 257 active cases. Delhi recorded 23 new cases, Andhra Pradesh reported four in the last 24 hours, Telangana confirmed one, and a nine-month-old in Bengaluru tested positive amid a gradual rise over the past 20 days. Kerala reported 273 cases in May alone.

Officials in several states reported more cases on Saturday, May 24.

In Maharashtra, a COVID-19 patient suffering from severe diabetes died of comorbidities in Thane while eight new cases of the viral infection were reported in the city on Saturday, the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) said.

Two men were detected with coronavirus in Madhya Pradesh's commercial capital Indore. In Uttarakhand, a 57-year-old tourist from Gujarat in Rishikesh and a woman doctor from AIIMS Rishikesh have been found infected with Covid.

All 23 recent COVID-19 patients in Delhi experienced only mild symptoms and were under home quarantine, said the health officials in the Delhi government.

A 55-year-old woman was placed under home quarantine after she tested positive for COVID-19 in Noida on Delhi's outskirts.

Telangana Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimh, convened a high-level review meeting to assess the current COVID-19 scenario in the state and the preparedness of the health department.

A COVID-19 case was reported in Hyderabad and the patient, a pulmonologist, has fully recovered, officials said on Friday. PTI PLB RT

DGP: Advanced

Amarnath Yatra-2025.

The DGP stressed on the importance of proactive measures in mitigating risks and ensuring the safety and security of the Amarnath pilgrims, said an official.

He said the DGP issued directions for implementing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and also emphasized the importance of proactive measures in mitigating risks and ensuring the safety and security of the yatri. He also directed the field officers to intensify their efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem.

The DGP instructed the officers to bolster security measures and mitigate potential risks by deploying anti-sabotage teams along the yatra routes. He also directed the officers to enhance surveillance and threat detection capabilities by utilizing advanced technologies and real-time monitoring of both pilgrimage routes.

The official said that Inspector Generals of Police from Kashmir and Jammu zone briefed the chair on the proposed security arrangements for the conduct of Amarnath Yatra-2025.

The officers of CAPF and other SFs also briefed the chair, gave their feedback and emphasized the significance of effective coordination among the various forces.

The meeting ended with a resolve to ensure the highest level of preparedness and coordination for the smooth and successful conduct of the upcoming pilgrimage.

The meeting was attended by Special DGP Coordination J&K S.J.M. Gillani-IPS, ADGP Hqrs J&K M.K. Sinha-IPS, ADGP CID J&K Nitish Kumar-IPS, IGSP of Kashmir & Jammu Zones, IG BSF Kashmir, IGP POS J&K, IG CRPF KOS, IG CRPF Srinagar, IGP Traffic J&K, IGP Railways J&K, IGP Security J&K, DisG of CKR, SKR, SSB Srinagar, IRP Kashmir, Armed Kashmir, Personnel HQ & ITBP, SSSP of PCR Kashmir, Anantnag, Kulgam, Ganderbal & APCR, and other senior officers. (KNO)

*Pakistan Put

in abeyance by Pakistan, he added.

Misri had recently briefed a parliamentary committee on Indian actions, including Operation Sindoor, following the April 22 terror strike in Pahalgam, and has spoken to all seven multi-party delegations visiting 33 countries and the European Union to explain India's position following the conflict with Pakistan.

The MEA said that Pakistan had been stonewalling India's requests for a government-to-government negotiation over the treaty due to changes in the ground situation since it was signed.

There is a compelling case for the treaty to be

renegotiated to make it fit for the 21st century, as it was based on the engineering techniques of the 1950s and early 1960s, the MEA has said.

Other fundamental changes include climate change, melting of glaciers, the variation in quantities of water available in the rivers and demographics.

These, besides a quest for clean energy, mandate renegotiations for the distribution of rights and obligations under the treaty.

It added, "The treaty in its preamble says that it is concluded in a spirit of goodwill, and friendship. All these principles have in effect been held in abeyance by Pakistan. The unrelenting cross-border terrorism from Pakistan interferes with our ability to exploit the treaty as per its provisions."

The MEA said it is only natural and well within India's right to hold the treaty in abeyance when the fundamental ground situations have changed completely.

Drawing a red line, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently said that blood and water can not flow together.

CM Proposes Tourism

its crucial tourism sector — a significant source of livelihood for many in the region.

Abdullah emphasised that while the nation mourns the loss of lives in the Pahalgam massacre, the memory of the 23 people who died due to shelling from across the border must not be forgotten.

The speech began with the chief minister commending the widespread condemnation from the people of Jammu and Kashmir following the Pahalgam massacre, which claimed 26 lives.

He also extended his gratitude to the central leadership, including the prime minister, for its crucial assistance in protecting Kashmiris targeted by anti-social elements in the rest of the country in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack.

"When the victims of the Pahalgam massacre are remembered, the nation should also not forget 23 people who lost their lives in shelling from across the border as they were also killed by shells that emanated from Pakistan," he said, drawing a direct link between the violence and its source.

India launched Operation Sindoor and targeted nine terror camps, including the headquarters of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba outfits, on May 7. This was followed by heightened tensions along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB).

In a move to bolster civilian safety in vulnerable areas along the LoC and the IB, Abdullah stressed the urgent need for constructing individual bunkers for residents.

The call for individual bunkers highlights the persistent threat faced by border communities while the push for government-led tourism initiatives aims to rebuild confidence and economic stability in the valley.

J&K Hoteliers Plan 50%

part of a broader confidence-building event titled 'Fame Tour', scheduled from May 27 to May 30. National tour operators, top hoteliers, and media representatives from across India have been invited to participate.

"The national tour operators and national media, after arriving at Srinagar Airport, will straight drive toward Pahalgam on May 27, where they will interact with the hoteliers, ponywallas, locals and others to assess the ground situation," he said.

Ghani said the delegation will be visiting four key picturesque places, including Pahalgam, Srinagar, Sonamarg and Gulmarg. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has also been invited to interact with the national tour operators and the media men, he added.

"During the event, the tourism stakeholders in Kashmir, including the hoteliers, houseboat owners, tour operators, transporters and others in Jammu and Kashmir, will also welcome the devotees of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra—2025," he said.

Ghani said the delegation will also put forth their suggestions during the event, which will be organised under the Chairmanship of J&K Hoteliers Club, Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya. "We will be announcing a 50 per cent discount in the packages to ensure that our three lakh employees, who have been affected due to the slump in tourism activities, will not suffer," he added.

The tourism activities witnessed a slump post-Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed. The attack led to the cancellation of 90 per cent of bookings, affecting the tourism season in Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

Srinagar Official's

be maintaining a lifestyle that is inconsistent with his declared income," an official spokesperson said.

In view of the above findings, a case has been registered against Bhat at ACB police station here for criminal misconduct, he said.

Mobile Internet

order, Principal Secretary (Home) Chandraker Bharti said the services have been suspended with effect from 8 pm on May 22 to 8 pm on May 27.

"The Jammu Zone IGP being the authorised officer under Rule 3 of Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024, has issued directions to the telecom and internet service providers to suspend mobile data services temporarily in the Baderwah area.

"The order/letter under reference, inter-alia, mentions that mobile data services — 2G/3G/4G/5G and public wi-fi — are likely to be misused by anti-national elements/miscreants, which may cause deterioration in public order," the order said.

The temporary suspension was necessary in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of the country, the security of the Union Territory and for maintaining public order, it added.

Khelo India Water Sports: Dal Lake In Srinagar Could Host Inaugural Event

Press Trust of India

DIU: If all goes according to plan, the serene Dal Lake in Srinagar will host the inaugural edition of the Khelo India Water Sports Games in the last week of June.

If this happens, the event could help restore normalcy and revive business in the region, coming just months after the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, where 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed, triggering a four-day military escalation between India and Pakistan and dealing a heavy blow to local tourism.

Speaking on the sidelines of the closing ceremony of the Khelo India Beach Games in Diu, Jammu and Kashmir divisional sports officer Nuzhat Gazala expressed optimism about the event.

"We have heard that our proposal to host the first Khelo India Water Sports event in Dal Lake has been accepted. It's expected to happen in the last week of June," she told PTI.



Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Raksha Nikhil Khadse also emphasised the government's efforts to spread sports across all regions of India.

"Earlier people would say there is no development in Kashmir, but the Indian government is trying hard," Khadse

said during an interview on the final day of the Beach Games.

"Through Khelo India, we aim to reach every corner of the country. Be it water sports, winter games, or beach games, we are exploring different formats to bring out the best in our athletes."

"We are identifying sectors

where athletes can find opportunities and receive world-class facilities to prepare them for major events like the Asian Games and the Olympics."

Gazala said the inaugural water sports event will likely feature 3-4 disciplines, including canoeing and kayaking.

"Nothing is confirmed yet,

but the proposal includes events like kayaking and canoeing. The plan is to hold it in Dal Lake in the last week of June. We've heard here that it's going to happen," she said, adding that the event could help revive tourism in the region.

"Sports and tourism go hand in hand. An event like this will definitely give a big boost to the local economy."

Despite the turmoil back home, Jammu & Kashmir delivered a commendable performance at the Beach Games, finishing joint fourth with Haryana, winning five gold, one silver, and three bronze medals.

Commenting on the debut edition of the Beach Games, Minister Khadse hailed it as a "historic moment" under the Khelo India scheme.

With the first edition of the Beach Games concluding successfully in Diu, there is speculation about the venue for the next edition. States like West Bengal and Odisha have expressed interest in bringing the games to India's eastern coast.

Inter-School Zonal Level Sports Competitions Continue In Budgam



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Under the directions of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam, Gh. Hassan Lone, the Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam continues to organise Inter-School Zonal Level competitions across multiple zones.

In Zone B.K. Pora, a Girls U-14 Volleyball competi-

tion was held at HSS B.K. Pora. The event was inaugurated by Mudasir Ahmad Malik (PEL) along with overall incharge Rumeet Kour (PEM), in presence of other officials.

Meanwhile, in Zone Soibug, inter-school competitions in Volleyball, Kabaddi, and Kho-Kho for the U-14 category were inaugurated at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Wadwan by Senior

Physical Master Mohd Ayoub Khan, who highlighted the importance of sports in youth development.

Zone Chararisharief hosted a Martial Arts competition for All Age Groups (AAG) at Holy Home School, Zaloosa, providing young athletes a platform to demonstrate their skills.

Similarly, Zone Khansahib conducted a Boys U-19 Volleyball event at Government HSS Khansahib. The event was inaugurated by Mushtaq Ahmad (PEM), Ghulam Mohidin Wani (Lecturer), and Khan Muneer Aslam (PEL), along with other staff members.

Students from various schools participated in the competitions.

J&K Athletes Shine At Khelo India Beach Games 2025 In Diu



Press Trust of India

DIU: J&K finished fourth as Manipur were on Saturday crowned overall champions of the inaugural Khelo India Beach Games 2025, edging Maharashtra and Nagaland on higher silver medal count after all the three teams ended with five gold each.

Manipur secured six silver medals, one more than Maharashtra (5) and three more than Nagaland (3), to top the medal tally.

It also marked a historic high for Nagaland, finishing in the top three of a Khelo India event for the first time.

Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) shared the fourth place, with one silver and three bronze each to add to their rich five-gold haul.

Delhi came next with four gold, two silver and four bronze medals, followed by hosts Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu who impressed with four gold and five bronze medals, all from pencak silat.

Pencak silat, an Indonesian martial art form that has grown in popularity across India, played a decisive role in the overall medal standings.

Of the 46 gold medals awarded at the Games, 28 came from pencak silat.

The fifth gold for Jammu & Kashmir came through their heavyweight athlete

Tawzeeh Khan who won his maiden senior gold at National level, giving a huge boost to their campaign despite the tension back home.

"This is my first gold medal at senior level after losing out twice at National level. This will rank up there," Khan told PTI. "I've been getting nothing but praises since I won the gold last night. Everyone is happy for me. You can all achieve great things, if you have the right dedication. It's a big moment for J&K contingent."

Over 1,350 athletes from more than 30 States and Union Territories are participating across six medal sports.

The J&K beach volleyball team also delivered a commendable performance, defeating hosts Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, followed by a strong win against Chhattisgarh. Their journey ended in the quarterfinals after a closely contested match against a seasoned Kerala team.

The contingent is led by Nusrat Gazala, Divisional Sports Officer (K), acting as Chef de Mission for KIBG 2025, with Mohd Iqbal accompanying the team as Nodal Officer.

While speaking on the games Secretary Sports Council Nuzhat Gul commended the consistent success of J&K athletes at national-level competitions.

The final day results will be announced by the end of day on 24th May.

YSS Anantnag Hosts District Level U-14 Football Tourney For Boys



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: In a drug-free society through sports initiative, the District Youth Services and Sports Office Anantnag hosted the District-Level Inter-Zonal Football Tournament for U-14 boys at Higher Secondary School Dailgam.

The event drew participation from footballers representing various educational zones of the district.

Keeping the spirit of social responsibility, all stakeholders including officials and students, took a Joint Anti-Drug Pledge, reaffirming their commit-

ment to eradicating the drug menace and building a healthier, more vibrant youth community through the power of sports.

Exciting matches were played between Zonal teams in which Zone Srigulwara defeated Zone Bidder by 2-0, Zone Ashmuqam edged past Zone Qazigund 1-0, Zone Bijbehara outplayed Zone Shangus 2-0, Zone Anantnag dominated Zone Dooru with a 4-0 victory. Following intense semifinal matchups, Zone Anantnag and Zone Bijbehara have now advanced to the Grand Finale, defeating Zone Mattan and Zone Achabal, respectively.

The final match is scheduled to take place on Monday at the same venue, HSS Dailgam.

Gill Appointed India Test Captain, Shami Ruled Out Of England Tests

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Batting star Shubman Gill was on Saturday entrusted with India's Test leadership to steer through a "massive transition" phase with the swashbuckling Rishabh Pant as his deputy for next month's tour of England that is expected to be nothing short of a trial by fire.

At 25 years of age, Gill will be India's fifth youngest Test captain after Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi (21), Sachin Tendulkar (23), Kapil Dev (24) and Ravi Shastri (25). The five-match series against England will begin on June 20 in Leeds.

"Last year or so we have looked at Shubman (for leadership). We are hopeful he is the guy who is going



(to take the team forward). It is a high pressure job but he is a terrific player. We wish him all the best," said chief selector Ajit Agarkar after announcing the 18-member squad, which offered no major surprises. "Pant is one of our best batters in Test cricket over the last four-five years. A wicketkeeper can see the game well and that's why

he is Shubman's deputy," Agarkar added while explaining the 27-year-old Pant's role.

The selectors' decision on the team's leadership was on expected lines following the retirement of senior stars Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, both of whom called it quits within a week of each other earlier this month.

Young left-hander B Sai Sudharsan and left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh earned their maiden Test call-up.

"Sai has not been picked based on IPL, he has shown the right temperament and has the game to succeed at the top level...we have been looking at him for a while," Agarkar said, referring to Sudharsan's fine IPL form.

The squad also features Karun Nair, who returns to the national set-up after eight years. Having last played in 2017, Nair was dropped from the team soon after becoming the second triple centurion in Tests from India.

A notable exclusion was pacer Mohammed Shami, who was deemed not fit enough for the long series.

Bashir Takes 9 As England Beats Defiant Zimbabwe By An Innings

Agencies

NOTTINGHAM: Zimbabwe folded inside three days as expected yet made England sweat for its innings win in their one-off test at Trent Bridge on Saturday.

In reply to England's 565-6 declared, Zimbabwe was all out for 265 and 255.

England won by an innings and 45 runs with four sessions to spare in a worthy warmup for India's five-test tour starting on June 20 in Leeds. The stark figures don't do justice to a defiant effort by Zimbabwe.

Starting its first test matchup with England in 22 years as a severe underdog, Zimbabwe was further handicapped from day one when Richard Ngarava, one of its four seamers, suffered



a back spasm after bowling only nine overs and took no further part in the match.

England was inserted and plundered 498-3, its highest ever first-day score in a home test, then declared on the second morning knowing it had to take only 18 wickets without Ngarava batting.

After Brian Bennett's brilliant maiden century led Zim-

Short TAKES

Jasprit Bumrah Not Available For All 5 England Tests: Agarkar

A rejigged Indian Test team with massive boots to fill is already staring at its first big challenge with premier fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah declared not fit enough to play all five Tests in England later this summer.

While announcing an 18-member squad for the England tour here on Saturday, India's chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar said Bumrah does not have the clearance from the medical staff and physios to feature in all five Tests of the series starting in Leeds on June 20.

"I don't think he's available for all five Tests going by what the physios and the doctors have told us," Agarkar said when asked if Bumrah was available for the entire series.

Bumrah had won the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year as well as the Men's Test Cricketer of the Year in 2024 for his exemplary performances across formats.

With 11 wickets, Bumrah played a vital role in India's title-winning run in the T20 World Cup in the Americas in 2024, and he finished with a rich haul of 71 wickets in only 13 Tests last year.

IPL 2025: Gujarat Titans Seek Top-2 Finish, CSK A Consolatory Win

Gujarat Titans would aim to secure a top-two spot while Chennai Super Kings would continue their planning for future when the two teams meet in the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

With Royal Challengers Bengaluru losing to Sunrisers Hyderabad, the Titans still control their playoff destiny. A win against CSK will take them to 20 points and ensure a top-two berth, giving them two shots at making the final.

For CSK, already out of playoff contention, the focus will remain on building for the future as they look to test younger players and combinations in what has been a season of mixed returns.

The majority of GT's success with the bat has been built around the top three, comprising Shubman Gill, Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler, who would leave for national duty after the team's last league game on Sunday.

With Buttler not being available for play-offs, it is critical that the middle-order gets more time. Match starts 3.30 IST.

SRH Take On KKR: No Context, Only Pride At Stake

Kolkata Knight Riders will have little motivation left when they take on another ousted outfit Sunrisers Hyderabad in an inconsequential IPL game here on Sunday.

Call it irony, when KKR and SRH played their last match of the 2024 IPL, it was the grand finale where Shreyas Iyer's team had trumped Pat Cummins' men in a one-sided match.

On Sunday however, both sides will only have bragging rights there for the taking with at best a sixth place finish in the offing.

SRH will start as favourites, having thrashed a fancied RCB by 42 runs on Friday night and will be more than game-ready unlike KKR, which last took the field against CSK on May 7 at the Eden Gardens.

Pat Cummins would like to finish this season on a winning note and their formidable batting line-up comprising Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan, Aniket Verma would like to feast on a batting paradise at the Kotla.

With the four play-off spots already decided, the problem with a game like this is that it is more of a formality and tick in the box for broadcasters.

Match Starts: 7:30 pm.

Liverpool's Mo Salah Named Premier League Player Of The Season

Mohamed Salah was named the Premier League player of the season on Saturday after a stellar individual campaign as Liverpool cruised to their second Premier League title while his team mate Ryan Gravenberch was named the young player of the season.

Salah scored 28 goals and provided 18 assists to guide the Anfield club to the title, with Arne Slot's side winning it with four games to spare.

The 32-year-old Egyptian is on course to win another Golden Boot for most goals in a season and is five strikes ahead of Newcastle United striker Alexander Isak going into the final day of the season on Sunday.

No player before has had 46 goal involvements in a 38-game season and Salah could even break the record of 47 held by Alan Shearer and Andrew Cole, who achieved the feat in a 42-game campaign, when Liverpool host Crystal Palace at Anfield.

given out. A review showed the ball barely nicking leg stump.

Williams left to great applause just before lunch, and Zimbabwe's hopes largely departed with him.

Wickets began falling regularly after lunch. Despite a stubborn 68-ball 60 from Sikandar Raza, Zimbabwe lost its last six wickets for 109 runs. Bashir took 6-81, his fourth test five-for, and a career-best match haul of 9-143.

Bashir cemented his position as England's first-choice spinner despite poor county form, and Ollie Pope's and Zac Crawley's centuries kept them in the mix for India with the pending return of Jacob Bethell from the Indian Premier League.

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