

## No US Mediation In Op Sindoor: EAM

Agencies

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday told a parliamentary panel that Pakistan was informed by the DGMO about Indian strikes on terror camps in their territory only after they were executed, sources said.

He also said he never spoke to Pakistan and cleared the air about alleged US "interference", saying the decision to halt the military operation was taken bi-laterally after a request from the Pakistan side.

Addressing members of the Consultative Committee on External Affairs here, the minister said the cessation of Operation Sindoor was done only after Pakistan DGMO asked for the halting of hostilities and there was no question of US mediation between the two, the sources said.

The Congress and Rahul Gandhi have been targeting Jaishankar, alleging that he had informed Pakistan beforehand about the Indian strikes at terror camps.

The sources said the minister told the MPs at the meeting that only the DGMOs of the countries spoke to each other and no other Indian official spoke with the Pakistani side.

He said the US was urging India to speak with Pakistan and it was told that terror and talks would not go together, he said.

Responding to several queries posed by MPs during the meeting about | [More on P10](#)

# Operation Sindoor Not Just Military Action, It's India's Ethos: PM

## Completes 11 Years In Office; Says Pak Thrives on Hate, India on Progress

Press Trust Of India

Dahod (Gujarat): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said Pakistan's only aim is to hate India and think of ways to harm it, while our nation has set goals of removing poverty and bringing about economic development.

Addressing a rally in Dahod in Gujarat, the PM hailed Operation Sindoor and said it was not merely military action, but an "expression of India's ethos and feelings".

Twenty-six men were gunned by terrorists in Pahalgam in Kashmir on April 22, following which India launched Operation Sindoor in the early hours of May 7, resulting in massive damage to terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir.

"How can India and Modi sit quiet after such a terrorist attack? Anyone who dares to erase the sindoor from the foreheads of our sisters



6

**INDIA IS WORLD'S 4TH LARGEST ECONOMY, what Has Pakistan Achieved?**

(sindoor is a sign of marriage

and its wiping off signifies widowhood) will surely be eliminated," he said to the huge cheering crowd.

Terrorists may not have imagined in their wildest dreams how difficult it would be to fight against Modi, the PM said.

He said the action was part of the | [More on P10](#)

## Operation Sindoor Proved India's Might: Shah

Nanded: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the success of Operation Sindoor has sent the message to not just Pakistan but also the world that no one can mess with India's armed forces, its people and borders.

He was addressing a 'Shankhnaad' rally in Maharashtra's Nanded.

"Operation Sindoor has sent the message to not just Pakistan but also the world that no one can mess with our armed forces, people and borders. Else, the perpetrators will have to face consequences," Shah said.

Calling the Pahalgam attack by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists cowardly, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said in Patna that the perpetrators would be tracked from wherever they are hiding.

"Pakistan forgot that 11 years ago, there was a Congress government, which has now changed.



We responded to the Uri, Pulwana and Pahalgam strikes and struck terror bases," he said.

Referring to Operation Sindoor, Shah said that on May 7, nine terror camps were destroyed in 22 minutes, while India's air defence system ensured that Pakistan's missiles and drones did not touch the country's soil.

On May 9, Pakistan's air defence system was destroyed by Indian armed forces, he said.

"Modiji has declared that there would be retaliation if the blood | [More on P10](#)

## Hold Rajya Sabha Polls In J&K: NC To EC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The National Conference on Monday appealed to the Election Commission of India to hold elections for the Rajya Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir, while pointing out that more than six months have passed since the Assembly polls.

The Jammu and Kashmir ruling party also pointed out that while the poll panel has announced bypolls to assembly seats in four states, it left out the Budgam and Nagrota assembly segments.

"Jammu and Kashmir has a right to representation in the Rajya Sabha. I appeal the Election Commission to hold elections as soon as possible as there is no representation of Jammu and Kashmir in the Rajya Sabha," NC chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq told reporters here.

He said more than six months have passed since the Assembly elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir but the Rajya Sabha seats are still vacant.

"Despite six-seven months having passed, elections for the Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir have not taken place. Moreover, everywhere by-elections are taking place except for Budgam and Nagrota. Why only delay in Jammu and Kashmir?" he posed.

While the Budgam assembly segment fell vacant after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah decided to give it up to retain Ganderbal, the Nagrota | [More on P10](#)

'ST' Students Never Enrolled, Institutes Still Got Paid'

## Ex-Director, 7 Others Booked In Scholarship Scam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday booked a former director and seven institutes in connection with an alleged post-matric scholarship scam in the tribal affairs department which led to misappropriation of government funds worth crores of rupees in Jammu and Kashmir between 2014 and 2018.

Those booked in the case include the then Director of Tribal Affairs, J-K, M S Choudhary, Shanzaz Akhtar Malik of Catalog Computers, Humera Banu and Firdous Ahmed of Chirag Institute of IT, and Sham Lal Targotra of JKS Industrial Training Institute.

"Anti-Corruption Bureau registered a formal case against

Choudhary and others into the allegations of gross violation of guidelines and release of crores of rupees to unrecognised institutes for unrecognised courses while implementing the post-matric scholarship - a Government of India-sponsored scheme entitled for ST candidates," an ACB spokesperson said.

Jindar Mehlu of R.S. Pura, Jaffer Hussain Wani of Ever Green Institute of Computer Technology, Parshotam Bharadwaj of Global Institute of IT, Ramneek Kour of Pankaj Memorial Charitable Trust for Education and Research, Puneet Mahajan of Supertech (India) Computer Education were among the institute owners booked. During the course of verification, it was revealed that the | [More on P10](#)



**SOME FAKE BANK ACCOUNTS WERE OPENED** in the names of ST students without their consent or knowledge."

## J&K NEET Aspirant Dies By Suicide In Kota

2nd Case This Month, 15th In 2025

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: In yet another tragic incident, a NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) aspirant, this time from Jammu and Kashmir, died by suicide in Kota, Rajasthan, highlighting the ongoing mental health crisis among students preparing for competitive exams in India.

An 18-year-old NEET aspirant from Kashmir allegedly hanged herself from the ceiling fan of her paying guest room here at Pratap Chauraha in Kota, police on Monday said.

The student, identified as Zeeshan, had arrived in Kota just a week ago to prepare for the NEET UG medical entrance exam. The incident occurred in Mahavir Nagar, a locality known for housing students attending coaching institutes.

This is the 15th such incident this year and second this month alone.

According to police reports,



Zeeshan took her life by hanging herself in her room late on Sunday evening.

Before she killed herself, the girl spoke to a relative of hers on the phone and told him that she might commit suicide before hanging up, Circle Inspector Ramesh Kavia, posted at Mahaveer Nagar Police Station, said.

Burhan, the relative, immediately called another student Mamta, who lived in the same building on the floor above, and asked her to check on Zeeshan, he said.

Mamta rushed to Zeeshan's room, found it bolted from inside, and shouted for help.

A crowd gathered and

broke open the door with the help of a grinder they borrowed from some carpenters working nearby, he said.

They found Zeeshan hanging from the ceiling. She was rushed to a hospital, but was declared dead.

According to police, Zeeshan had returned to Kota a month ago, having earlier lived in the city enrolled at a coaching institute to prepare for the medical entrance exam. This time, she was engaged in self-study and hadn't enrolled anywhere.

Police said the room was not equipped with the 'anti-hanging device' - a spring-like device | [More on P10](#)

## Will Chalk Out A Realistic Plan For Tourism Revival: CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday held a detailed interaction with a delegation of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) at the Civil Secretariat, assuring full government support for economic revival, particularly in the tourism sector.

The delegation, led by KCCI President Javed Ahmad Tenga, highlighted wide-ranging concerns across sectors—trade, tourism, agriculture, horticulture, transport, urban development, health, and education. Senior officials, including Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and Principal Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar, were present during the discussion.

Addressing the delegation, the Chief Minister



acknowledged the prolonged economic distress in the region and stressed the need for targeted, stakeholder-driven relief. "We are not here to repeat routine demands. We want a practical and realistic plan tailored to the unprecedented challenges we face," he said.

Omar Abdullah said the government would draft a comprehensive proposal for revival,

including relief measures like loan moratoriums, interest waivers, NPA protections, and soft credit lines, especially for small businesses and transporters. He assured that key concerns would be taken up with the Union Finance Ministry and relevant authorities.

Highlighting the severe impact of the downturn in tourism, he | [More on P10](#)

## Stresses Data-Driven Governance, Releases Key Reports

The Chief Minister underlined the importance of setting short-term, district-level goals rooted in data analysis and tailored to the specific needs and potential of each

region. He stated this while chairing a comprehensive review meeting of the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department at the Civil Secretariat, | [More on P10](#)

## ECIR Under PMLA Not Quashed By FIR Discharge: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has held that the mere discharge or quashing of a FIR by a competent court does not automatically result in the quashing of an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

"The two proceedings, while factually linked by the scheduled offence, are legally independent and governed separately," a bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal said while hearing a petition filed by N Kansal, a resident of New Delhi, seeking quashing of ECIR under PMLA, summons issued under Section 50 PMLA, and related search/seizure actions.

"The petitioner's discharge in the predicate offence indicates a determination concerning the merits of that

particular accusation; nonetheless, it does not nullify the overarching legal structure governing the issuance of the summons," the court said, adding, "The discharge should not be regarded as a legal obstacle to the authorities' capacity to forward with the summons."

The 27-year-old Kansal had contended that been discharged in predicate NDPS offences by the Special NDPS Court, which found no evidence linking him to the alleged offences.

He had submitted that without a scheduled offence, there could be no "proceeds of crime" to sustain PMLA proceedings.

"The ECIR, pursuant to the PMLA, is not simply an extension of the FIR; rather, it is founded on the exclusive aim of investigating and prosecuting money laundering offences," the court said, "The scheduled | [More on P10](#)

## Srinagar Top Performing District In J&K In Key Sectors

KO Web Desk

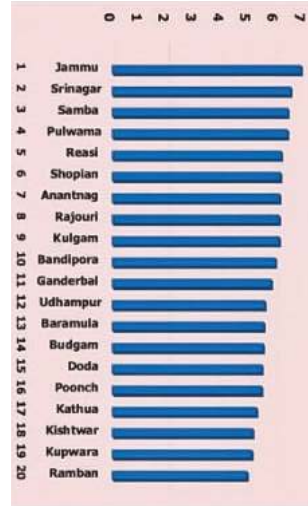
Srinagar: In a significant recognition of administrative excellence, Srinagar district has emerged as the top performing district across Jammu and Kashmir in key sectors for the year 2023-24 under District Good Governance Index (DGGI 4.0).

The district has secured the 2nd rank among the 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir with composite score of 6.5840, and also ranked 1st in the Kashmir division.

District Srinagar has demonstrated strong sectoral performance/ ranking; viz 1st in Industries & Allied Sectors, 2nd in Public Infrastructure & Utilities and 3rd in Environmental Management.

The recognition underscores the District's commitment to efficient public service delivery, developmental progress, and transparent governance.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat while speaking about the achievements described it a pride moment for Srinagar district which has been attained



through a collective team effort. He also congratulated the officers for their tireless work and urged them to work with added zeal and dedication to retain the top ranks.

Dr Bilal remarked this success as a result of dedicated data compilation and coordinated execution across the departments. Pertinent to mention that, the | [More on P10](#)





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2

# PCOS Affects Women's Speed Of Response By 50 Pc, Accuracy By 10 Pc: IIT Bombay Research

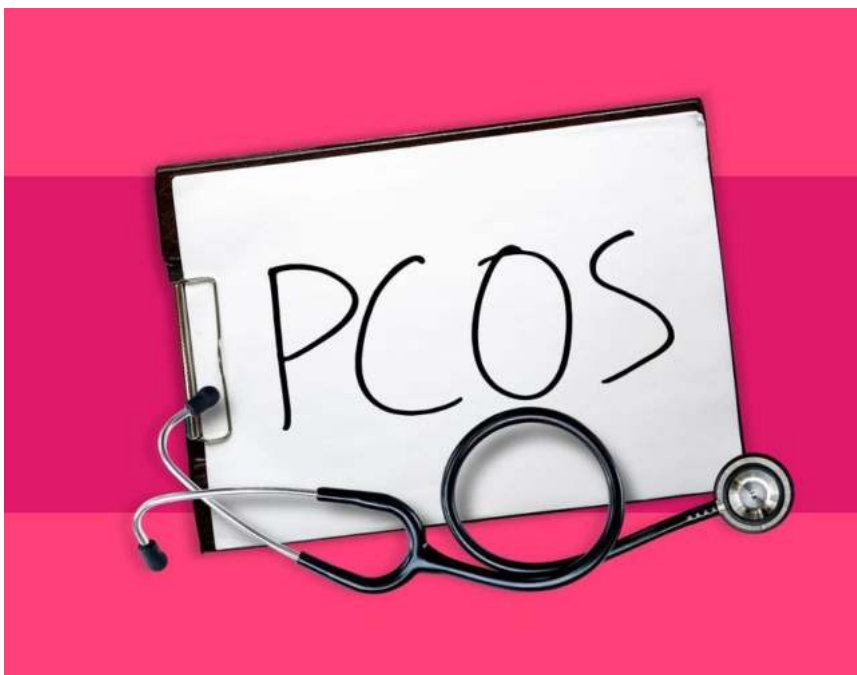
Press Trust Of India

**P**olycystic Ovary Syndrome or PCOS impacts women's focus by decreasing speed of response by about 56 per cent and accuracy by about 10 per cent, researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) said. PCOS is an endocrine disorder in women, with symptoms like irregular or absent periods, polycystic ovaries, and increased levels of male hormone (androgen).

The findings emphasise the need to understand PCOS as a complex medical condition that not only affects physical but also cognitive health. In their recent study, Maitreyi Redkar and Prof Azizuddin Khan from the Psychophysiology Laboratory, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Bombay found that women with PCOS are slower to react and more easily distracted than their healthy counterparts.

They assessed women with attention tasks after dividing them in two groups, 101 women with PCOS and 72 healthy women.

"The cognitive experiments are specifically designed to capture the subtle millisecond-level differences in how individuals respond to critical stimuli. These minute delays reveal significant impairments in attention, which may impact our real-life functioning. In the specific context of focused attention, it is not just about concentrating on the task at hand to respond at the right



**“The cognitive experiments are specifically designed to capture the subtle millisecond-level differences in how individuals respond to critical stimuli. These minute delays reveal significant impairments in attention, which may impact our real-life functioning. In the specific context of focused attention, it is not just about concentrating on the task at hand to respond at the right time, but also inhibiting irrelevant distractors**

time, but also inhibiting irrelevant distractors," said Prof Khan, who led the research.

Researchers used two task-based tests, the Flanker Task and the Posner Cueing Task, to test PCOS and healthy individuals for accuracy and response time.

It was found that women with PCOS showed over a 50 per cent slower response and made about 10 per cent more errors than the healthy ones in the focused attention test. Similarly, PCOS women performed about 20 per cent slowly, with 3 per

cent extra errors in the divided attention task.

Among the two types of attention, PCOS women performed poorer in focused attention, the research revealed. The hormonal imbalance associated with PCOS could lead to decreased alertness and longer reaction times. Along with elevated androgen levels, the participants with PCOS had insulin resistance that is linked to attention. Insulin resistance causes poor glucose metabolism and affects brain cell (neuron) activity, leading to poor performance in focused attention tasks.

"PCOS is a heterogeneous condition, which means that its symptoms and severity vary depending on the hormonal profile, metabolic health, mental health and socio-environmental conditions of the individual. Despite the variability in PCOS symptoms and their severity, the impairments in the core cognitive abilities of attention and processing speed seem to be prevalent across women," Prof Khan said. While the challenges of low accuracy and slow response time seem daunting, playing brain games focusing on attention and memory can improve response time and accuracy, the research revealed.

"Increasing physical activity levels, maintaining a nutritious diet, and reducing weight are beneficial not just for PCOS symptoms but also for cognitive health. Even improving sleep hygiene contributes significantly to improving attentional accuracy and reaction time," Prof Khan added.

## Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mohsin Abass Dar s/o Showkat Hussain Dar R/o Trikolbal Hanjiwera with verified date of birth 18/05/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

SD  
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

## Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Muhammad Abaan Dar s/o Mudasir Rashid Dar R/o Palpora pattan with verified date of birth 31/05/2022 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD  
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zehra Bano, D/o Ghulam Ahmad Bhat, R/o Sonabaran, Inderkote, would like to bring to public notice that the name and date of birth recorded in my Aadhaar card are incorrect.

**Aadhaar Details:**  
Name: Zehra Bano  
D/O: Ghulam Ahmad Bhat  
R/O: Sonabaran, Inderkote  
DOB: 12/07/2012

### Correct Details as per School Records:

Name: Amli Zehra  
D/O: Ghulam Ahmad Bhat  
R/O: Sonabaran, Inderkote  
DOB: 05/03/2011

I intend to correct the above discrepancies in the Aadhaar card as per the official school records. If anyone has any objection, they may report the same within seven (7) days of the publication of this notice.

jm

## Public Notice

I, Yawar Husain Rather, S/o Mohd Ashraf Rather, R/o Shadab Colony, Ahmed Nagar, Srinagar, hereby inform the public that I have lost my original academic transcript for Semester 1 to 6 of my Bachelor of Computer Applications (Session: June-July 2018), issued by the University of Kashmir. The document bears Registration No. 847-CST-2014 and Roll No. 18841523. If found, kindly contact me at 70060 80925. I am in the process of applying for a duplicate transcript for all six semesters (1 to 6) from the issuing authority. Anyone with objections to this may file them with the Office of the Concerned Authority within one week of this notice. No objections will be considered after the stipulated period.

Media Line Ads

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ghulam Mustafa Sofi, S/o Mohammad Ramzan Sofi, R/o Dangerpora, Magam, Budgam, am running a tyre shop under the name and style of M/s Mustafa Tyre Shop, located at Estate Haftchinar, Magam.

The Power Development Corporation Ltd. has mistakenly issued the electricity bill in the name of a Kiryana Shop instead of Tyre Shop. I have now applied for the correction of the name in the electricity bill.

If anyone has any objection regarding this correction, they may submit their objections to the concerned office within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained after the said period.

bmj

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Zia-ul-Haq, S/o Peer Hafeezullah, R/o Zaloor, would like to inform that my father's name has been wrongly recorded in my Domicile Certificate bearing No. DOM/1810/02FEB2021 Class B(A) as Peer Hafeezullah Shah.

The correct name of my father is Peer Hafeezullah, 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  
R/o Zaloor

fko

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my Son the name is entered as UZAIR SABRIEE while his actual name is LONE UZAIR SABRIEE. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BARAMULLA with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

SHUBINA BANO  
M/o LONE UZAIR SABRIEE  
R/o LACHIPORA BANIYAR CELL. 7006258124

mcb

## نمبر پبلٹ کی گمشدگی

میری کوئی (TVS NTORQ) 2731 - JK04J کے نمبر پبلٹ کہیں گم ہو گئے ہے بہت دھوڑنے پر نہیں ملی۔ اگر کسی نے اٹھائی ہو تو وہ مراے انسانیت پیچھے دے ہوئے نمبر پر فون کرے۔ بصورت دیگر اس کے پبلٹ کا حق مطلب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر ARTO ہڈگام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد میں معافی کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

اشفاق احمدیٹ ولد غلام نبی ہٹ  
ساکن مہلہ ہارکر مشورہ ہڈگام۔  
فون۔ 7051862360

mcb

## Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT ROHAMA. CANCELATION NOTICE

Subject: Partial Modification in the Advertisement notification No:-CDPO/Poshan/Roh/2025/71-78  
Dated:- 22 /04/2025

In partial Modification to this office advertisement notification No:- CDPO/Poshan/Roh/2025/71-78 Dated:- 22 /04/2025 which appeared in the daily Editions of Kashmir Convenor and Alsafa dated: 02/05/2025 (English/Urdu respectively ) Inter-alia the vacancies advertised for inviting the application forms for filling up of of(Sngani) Anganwadi Worker for the below mentioned Anganwadi Centres (Panchwards)is **withdrawn and may be treated as cancelled** due to some technical/typographical errors in the Panch Wards shown against each the public in general and the inhabitants of the area in particular are informed accordingly .

The details of the AW Centes/Panch Wards for which the said notification is withdrawn are given here as under:-

S No	Name of panchayat	Name of W Centre	Name of post	Ward No	Remarks
1	Khahmoh	Lone Mohallah	Sanginis (AWWs)	06	Notification on these centers is withdrawn

The terms and conditions of the said notification in respect of rest of the Anganwadi Centres (other than as shown above) shall remain unchanged. Your good self is accordingly requested to given wide publicity to the modified notification for information of general public ,the inconvenience is highly regretted. The above mentioned posts will be re- advertised after rectification of the error.

DIPK-1892/25  
dated: 26-05-2025

Yours faithfully  
Sd  
Child Development Project Officer  
Poshan Project Rohama

No: CDPO/Poshan/Roh/Estt./2025/ 243-57

Dated: 26 /05/2025

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Machinery Division Kashmir Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

GIST of e-Tender  
e-NIT No: MDSK/TS /2025-26/ 03  
Date 24 .05.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from eligible contractors / registered firms for the below mentioned works:-

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In rupees)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Bid security (EMD) in Rs	Position of AA	Position of TS
1	2	3	4	5	6
Refilling of oxygen cylinders and allied works including tools and tackles for various fabrication work at workshop Pampore.	100/-	1,15,940.00	2350.00	Works programme approved by CE vide order No. M&HED/K/Act/35 of 2025-26 Dt.08.05.2025 .	No.06 of 2025-26 Dt. 24 -05 - 2025..

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

01	Publish date	24 -05-2025(18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	24 -05-2025(18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	24-05-2025 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	31- 05-2025(18:55 hrs)
06	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	02- 06-2025(14 hrs)

DIPK-1874/25 dated: 26-05-2025

Sd/  
Executive Engineer,  
Machinery Division, Kashmir

No: MDSK/ TS/495-98

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of son has inadvertently recorded as Mohd Abrar Mir in his aadhaar card bearing no 6701-7565-3601 which is incorrect. As per academic records is correct name is Abrar Mumtaz. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mumtaz Ahmad Mir F/o Abrar Mumtaz resident of Khamiyar tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla

FKO

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

I have passed the SSE (Class 10th) under Roll No. 817271, Session: Annual, Year: 2000, through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by my parents 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, Certified, 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: TANSEEM KOUNSER  
Date of Birth: 22-11-1984  
Residence: QARI HOUSE, NEAR LAL BAB SAHIB SHRINE, ZAKURA, SRINAGAR  
Mobile No: 9419080484

SS\_r



## CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

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## ADMISSIONS - 2025

### CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR ANNOUNCES ADMISSION TO POST-GRADUATE (PG) PROGRAMMES

Candidates having appeared in CUET-PG-2025 and are interested to seeking admission to any of the Post-Graduate (PG) Programmes (as shown below), offered by the Central University of Kashmir are hereby informed to register for admission as per the following schedule:

Activity Schedule for Registration:	
Registration Link & Detailed Information shall be available on	<a href="https://cukashmircuet.samarth.edu.in/pg/">https://cukashmircuet.samarth.edu.in/pg/</a>
Registration Link shall be open from	20 <sup>th</sup> May, 2025 (03:00 PM)
Registration Link shall close on	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2025
General/UR = Rs.200/-	
Registration/Processing Fee	SC/ST/OBC/PwD/EWS/Women Candidate = Rs.100/-

### List of Post-Graduate (PG) Programmes:

S.No	Name of the programme	S.No	Name of the programme
1.	M.A. English	10.	M.Sc. Physics (Lateral Entry)
2.	M. A. Mass Communication & Journalism	11.	M.Sc. Mathematics (Lateral Entry)
3.	M. A. Economics	12.	M.A. Islamic Studies
4.	Master of Laws (LLM)	13.	Integrated B.Ed.-M.Ed.
5.	M.A. Urdu	14.	Master of Commerce (M.Com)
6.	M.A. Political Science	15.	Master of Physical Education (M.P.Ed.)
7.	M.Sc. Zoology (Lateral Entry)	16.	M.Sc. Botany
8.	M.Sc. Biotechnology (Lateral Entry)	17.	M.Sc. Chemistry
9.	Master of Education (M.Ed.)		

**Note:** While registering for counselling, the candidates are required to exercise the same options, as reflected by them in National Testing Agency (NTA)-CUET-PG-2025 application form. The admission shall be purely based on CUET-PG-2025 Score/Merit. For queries related to registration process, candidates are advised to contact on: +917889593153 during office hours (i.e. from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM).

S/d Director I/C Directorate of Admissions  
No: CUKmr/DOA/Admission.PG-05/2023-2024/075



## Missing Boy's Body Recovered From Jhelum

Observer news Service

**SRINAGAR:** Body of a minor boy who had gone missing three days ago was recovered from the river Jhelum in the Noorbagh area of Srinagar on Monday morning, officials said.

An official said that the boy had gone missing on May 22 from Noorbagh, Srinagar, following which the

SDRF and other rescuers launched a search operation. He said that his body was recovered from the river near Chochen Faqeer, Takanwaripora Noorbagh.

"The body was spotted by sand diggers and they informed the police. He was identified as Innayat Ahmed Ganie alias Anees (13), son of Gh Mohammad Ganie of Palapora, Goripora," he said.

## Woman Dies Of Electrocutation In Noorbagh

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A woman hailing from Noorbagh area of Srinagar, died after receiving an electric shock while washing clothes at her residence on Monday, officials said.

An official said that a woman from Pamposh area of Noorbagh Srinagar was injured while washing clothes when she accidentally received an elec-

tric shock.

He said she sustained injuries and was immediately rushed to SMHS Hospital for treatment.

However, her condition was critical, and she later succumbed to her injuries.

She was identified as Fazi Banoo, wife of Abdul Ahad Kumar, a resident of Pamposh Colony, Palpura Noorbagh, while police have taken cognizance of the incident.

## Boy Jumps In Jhelum, Rescue Ops Launched

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** An unidentified boy jumped into the river Jhelum from the Zaina Kadal bridge in Srinagar on Monday afternoon, officials said.

An official said that soon after the incident, locals, who saw the boy jumping

into the river, informed the police.

He said that teams of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Police rushed to the spot and launched a search operation.

"Search and rescue operation is underway to trace the boy," he said.

## Abhinandan Home Achieves Remarkable Success In 11th Class Exams

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** At least seven students from Abhinandan Home Rambagh, Srinagar, who are specially-abled, have excelled in their 11th class examinations, securing distinctions with outstanding results.

Mudasir Ahmad, Principal of Abhinandan Home Rambagh, said that all seven students who appeared for the exams this year passed with flying colours.

"For these specially-abled students, Abhinandan Home was their only hope, providing them with necessary support and resources to succeed academically," Mudasir said, adding, "Over the years, hundreds of students from this school have successfully completed their schooling here."

The students who achieved remarkable results include Aabid Hussian (391 marks), Tawheeda (417), Muskan (378), Burhan Fayaz (389), Mohammad Umai (414), Tanzeela Mehraj (442), and Seerat (432).

Earlier, five students from the school cleared their 12th class examinations, and eleven students passed their 10th class exams this year, all securing distinctions, the Principal said.

The students credited their success to dedicated teachers who worked tirelessly to teach them despite facing numerous challenges. They said special efforts are required to help specially-abled students succeed, often demanding twice the ef-

fort compared to their peers. The students expressed gratitude to their parents, teachers, and supporters who believed in their potential and provided unwavering encouragement.

They highlighted the limited educational options available for specially-abled students beyond school, saying that while they can study up to 12th grade, many face difficulties continuing their education afterwards.

They urged the government to establish separate college facilities for specially-abled students within the next year, ensuring they have access to higher education. They called for the creation of district-level special schools to facilitate easier access to education for such students.

The government must develop dedicated college infrastructure for specially-abled students within a year, so they can seamlessly continue their studies beyond school, they said.

Notably, Abhinandan Home Solina High School, established in 1941, had been experiencing a period of stagnation, often described as being stuck in a 'dead mode'. However, with new staff joining in 2023, the school's fortunes have dramatically changed.

Since then, students who previously struggled have consistently achieved distinctions from 2023 to 2025. The efforts of the new staff have seemingly revived the school's academic reputation, heralding a new era of success—(KNO)

## Sakeena Inaugurates Diagnostic Labs, Oncology Services Unit At JLNM Hospital



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Monday inaugurated State-of-the-Art Histopathology Laboratory, a dedicated Oncology Services Unit and an advanced Electroencephalography (EEG) Lab at Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial (JLNM) Hospital Rainawari here.

MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Ali Sadiq; Director Health Services Kashmir, ADC Srinagar, CMO Srinagar, Medical Superintendent JLNM Hospital, Heads of different specialities and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Health Minister emphasized on the importance of accessible, quality healthcare services, stating that the Omar Abdullah led Government is committed towards strengthening healthcare facilities and infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

"This initiative is not just about upgrading infrastructure, but having accessibility to people with timely and accurate diagnosis, improving treatment outcomes and bringing specialized medical care closer to their vicinities", she stated.

The Minister further highlighted that this new Histopathology Lab, equipped to provide in-depth tissue analysis, will be crucial for early and accurate detection of diseases,

**THIS INITIATIVE IS NOT JUST ABOUT UPGRADING INFRASTRUCTURE, but having accessibility to people with timely and accurate diagnosis, improving treatment outcomes and bringing specialized medical care closer to their vicinities"**

particularly cancers. She added that the introduction of Oncology Services will also support patients with consultation, diagnosis, and treatment planning under a specialized framework while EEG Lab will bring advanced neurological diagnostic tools to the hospital, enabling better assessment and treatment of brain-related disorders.

On the sidelines of the inauguration, Minister Sakeena also held a brief meeting and reviewed the performance and functioning of the hospital.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized on better coordination between departments and community feedback mechanisms to enhance service quality. She urged the

hospital administration to ensure transparency in operations and regular training for staff to meet evolving healthcare needs.

She reiterated the need for a responsive and accountable healthcare system that prioritizes patient dignity and timely treatment.

After the meeting, Sakeena Itoo also toured several critical sections of the hospital as well as wards and diagnostic laboratories. She interacted directly with patients, attendants, and frontline medical staff to gain first-hand insight into the challenges and operational dynamics of the hospital.

Later, the Minister also visited Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Srinagar and took stock of its functioning.

During the visit, Health Minister inspected Brian Stimulation Centre, Addiction Treatment Facility and other wards of the hospital.

Interacting with the doctors and other staff on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo stressed on the necessity of collaborative efforts among government bodies, educational institutions and mental health organizations to develop a robust framework for mental health services across Jammu and Kashmir. She also called for proactive measures to address issues like substance abuse and psychological impact of social challenges on young minds

## Police Organizes Medical Camp In Batmaloo

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Srinagar Police on Monday organized a free medical camp for the general public under the aegis of Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2024-25 at Smart City Building, Batmaloo.

This initiative is part of larger "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan" campaign, launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to combat substance abuse and promote a drug-free and healthy society, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

The primary aim of the camp was to extend essential healthcare services to the local population.

During the camp, a team of doctors and paramedical staff from Police Hospital Srinagar, the CMO office Srinagar, and DPL Srinagar provided free medical consultation to nearly 150 patients from Srinagar.

The team conducted thorough medical assessments and dispensed high-quality medicines free of cost, tailored to each patient's specific needs.



The general public was provided free medical aid and refreshment during the event. The event was also attended by SP South Srinagar, SDPO Shaheedganj, SHOs and other Police officials were also present.

The event also featured awareness sessions on hygiene, preventive healthcare, and the severe consequences of substance abuse. Youth were especially encouraged to lead

drug-free lives, fostering a healthier and more productive community.

This initiative reflects the continued commitment of Srinagar Police in improving healthcare accessibility and addressing substance abuse within the society.

The local community appreciated the effort, emphasizing the importance of such outreach activities in enhancing police-public relationship.

## DLSA Conducts Awareness Programme On Filing SLPs

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized an awareness programme on Monday at Central Jail Srinagar under the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) Campaign in Jails of India for Filing Special Leave Petitions (SLPs).

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar

Primary objective of the campaign was to inform jail inmates about their right to access justice through legal aid, specifically in relation to filing Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The programme aimed to identify and support convicts who remain unrepresented despite having valid grounds for appeal and to educate them on the legal remedies available through the SCLSC.

Tasneem Kausar, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, delivered a comprehensive session highlighting the importance of legal aid for marginalized inmates. She discussed the criteria for approaching the Supreme Court through SLPs and explained the role of the SCLSC in bridging the gap between convicts and justice. She encouraged inmates to seek assistance and exercise their legal rights without hesitation.



Minhaaj Ur Rasool, and Ayesha, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels, of DLSA Srinagar addressed the inmates on the procedural aspects of filing SLPs. They simplified the process, explained eligibility conditions, and provided step-by-step guidance to help inmates understand how to benefit from the legal aid system.

The programme witnessed the presence and active involvement of officials from prison legal clinics, jail authorities, and para-legal volunteers. These stakeholders were sensitized about the objectives of the campaign and the critical role they play in ensuring that no eligible convict is left without representation.

Jail authorities and Para Legal Vol-

unteers of Prison Legal Aid Clinic, at Central Jail Srinagar, were urged to identify and notify the DLSA about inmates potentially eligible for remission of sentence, premature release, or those who may have grounds for filing SLPs. Para-legal volunteers were encouraged to maintain regular engagement with inmates to facilitate access to justice.

This awareness initiative reflects the ongoing commitment of the legal services institutions to ensure that justice is not denied due to lack of knowledge or representation. The collaborative efforts of the judiciary, legal aid counsels, prison officials, and volunteers continue to uphold the principle of 'Access to Justice for All', even within correctional institutions.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

<div></div> <div>HIJRI CALENDAR</div> <div>29 Zil-Qadah 1446</div>		PRAYERS
FAJR		3:43
ZUHR		12: 28
ASR		5:24
Magrib		7:36
ISHA		9:13

## This Day In History

- 927 - Battle of the Bosnian Highlands: Simeon I of Bulgaria is defeated by King Tomislav of Croatia
- 1660 - Denmark & Sweden sign The Treaty Of Copenhagen, ends Second Northern War
- 1679 - Habeaus Corpus Act (strengthening person's right to challenge unlawful arrest & imprisonment) passes in England
- 1703 - Saint Petersburg (Leningrad) founded by Russian Tsar Peter the Great
- 1738 - Turkish troops occupy Orsova and Ochakov in eastern Europe
- 1798 - The Battle of Oulart Hill takes place in Wexford, Ireland, large rebel force kills local militia
- 1883 - Tsar Alexander III crowned in Moscow
- 1895 - British inventor Birt Acres patents film camera/projector
- 1905 - Japanese fleet destroys the Russian East Sea fleet in the Battle of Tsushima, the only decisive clash between modern steel battleships in history
- 1916 - President Woodrow Wilson addresses the League to Enforce Peace, founded in 1915, and gives public support to the idea of a league of nations
- 1918 - Third Battle of Aisne: German offensive overcomes British forces (WWI)
- 1919 - 1st transatlantic flight ends; US Navy flying boat takes 11 days

## From KO Archives

### ‘Love Bug’ Computer Virus Wreaks Fresh Havoc

AGENCIES

**NEW YORK-** Copycat variants of the "Love Bug" virus labeled "Joke" and "Moth-er's Day" infected computers around the world on Friday, a day after the most widespread cyberattack ever-wreaked havoc on business and government operations.

Tens of millions of the computers have been disabled so far as the virus, first detected in Asia, spread around the globe, forcing network administrators to shut down e-mail systems at major companies and penetrating the Pentagon, the Central Intelligence Agency and Britain's Parliament.

Security experts said the virus was far more devastating than last year's Melissa bug, with losses now counting in the billions from damaged data and the distractions of fighting the software scourge, and warned that it could take weeks to stem the invasion.

"There's a potential ' that anyone who receives this virus can go to the Internet and (find) tools to change codes within the virus program that can give the e-mail or the security a new name," said Simon Perry, vice president for security products at Computer Associates Inter-national Inc. (NYSE: CA - news).

The Islandia, N.Y. is a leading maker of anti-Virus software such as inoculateIT.

For the time being, most of the virus variants are only cosmetically different from the original virus. "Based on our research, we believe that the variants are coming from a number of different people," Perry said.

ASIA AND EUROPE TAKE STOCK OF IMPACT: Computer users woke up on Friday to the chilling implications for a world that is now so wired up that quarantining such bugs may prove an endless cat-and-mouse game — with far-reaching financial consequences.

Computer Economics, a market research firm located in Carlsbad, Calif, estimated that the virus already had caused \$2.61 billion dollars in damages worldwide, but most experts said precise figures would be difficult to pin down.

The impact of the bug in Asia on Friday was possibly muted by the fact the markets in four countries-Japan, South Korea, China and Thailand - were closed for public holidays on Friday.

European Enterprise Commissioner Erkki Liikanen said: "The Love Bug is a warning to us all that security must be given top priority if consumer and user confidence is to be maintained as we move into the information age."

A German government spokeswoman said the virus had penetrated its foreign, jus-tice, interior and economics ministries. The spokesman reported no serious damage as the interior ministry called in a special task force to advise on counter-measures. Britain's Consumers Association said 30 to 50 percent of UK businesses seemed to be affected. "It is spreading very rapidly. Yesterday we had 10 to 15 percent," said Alan Stevens.

Kit experts warned the full effects of the bug may carry through the weekend.

(Kashmir Observer, 27 May, 2005)

اللہ تعالیٰ ہمارے لیے دعا فرمائے

(بے شک ہم اللہ کے ہیں اور اسی کی طرف لوٹ کر جانا ہے)

گہرے دکھ کے ساتھ میں اپنے پیارے والدہ ماجدہ کی رحمت قریبی کے انتقال کا اعلان کرتا ہوں جو اپنے خالق کی رحمت میں واپس آ گئے ہیں۔ (جنتی فاتحہ خوانی (چہارم) ان کی یاد اور دعائے مغفرت کیلئے 29 مئی جمعرات کو بوقت صبح ساڑھے دس بجے بمقام: قبرستان، نزد اہل حدیث مسجد، شاہ ہمدان لین، عمر آباد 2، HMT، انجام دی جائے گی۔ میری تمام اہل خانہ دوستوں اور عزیز خاندان سے گزارش و درخواست ہے کہ ان کی مغفرت کیلئے دعائیں میرا ساتھ دیں اور اللہ تعالیٰ ان کو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا فرمائے آمین

محمد اویس قریشی (فرزند)



## No Reason To Worry: Top Medical Body Chief As Covid Cases Rise

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Amid an uptick in Covid cases in some parts of the country, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Dr Rajiv Behl Monday said the severity of infections as of now is generally mild and there was no cause for worry.

Speaking about new Covid variants being traced, he said genome sequencing of samples in the west and south have shown that the new variants are not severe and are Omicron sub-variants. These are LF.7, XFG, JN.1 and NB. 1.8.1.

The first three are more

and pathogens, he said.

"Whenever cases increase, we look at three things. It's dependent on three factors with the first being how transmissible it is, conversely how fast the cases are increasing. Previously we saw Covid cases double in two days, but this time it is not that cases are increasing rapidly.

"Secondly, are the new variants evading our previous immunity? When new variants come, they evade immunity -- be it natural or from the vaccine. But there's nothing to worry about at the moment," Dr Bhel said.

He also said that the third factor is the percentage of severe



prevalent, Dr Bhel said. "Samples from other places are being sequenced and we will know in a day or two if there are more variants." The ICMR DG said there has been an uptick in cases -- first from the south, then west and now from northern India. All these cases are being monitored through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).

Besides that, ICMR's nationwide respiratory virus sentinel surveillance network is keeping a watch on emerging infections

cases in all Covid instances.

"Are we getting a very severe disease without comorbidities? As of now, the severity is generally low. There's nothing to worry about. We should be vigilant and we should always be prepared," the ICMR DG asserted.

Dr Bhel also informed reporters that the Union Health secretary chaired a meeting on Sunday that was also attended by the director general of health services and himself.

## NIA Arrests CRPF Jawan for Pakistan Link

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a CRPF personnel for allegedly spying for Pakistan, officials said on Monday.

The accused, Moti Ram Jat, was actively involved in espionage activity and had been sharing classified information related to national security with the Pakistan intelligence officers (PIOs) since 2023, they said.

Jat, an assistant sub-inspector with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), was receiving funds from the PIOs through various conduits, officials said.

The anti-terror agency has arrested Jat from Delhi and is interrogating him, they said.

Meanwhile, the CRPF said it has dismissed him from the service.

Jat came under the scanner in the course of close monitoring of his social media activity by the CRPF, in coordination with the central agencies, during which

“Concurrently, the individual has been dismissed from service with effect from 21.05.2025, under the relevant provisions of the Constitution of India read with the CRPF Rules

he was found to have "acted in violation of established norms and protocols," according to a statement issued by the CRPF.

He was handed over to the NIA for further inquiry, it said.

"Concurrently, the individual has been dismissed from service with effect from 21.05.2025, under the relevant provisions of the Constitution of India read with the CRPF Rules," the statement said.

Jat was produced before a special court here which has remanded him to the NIA custody till June 6.



People walk between buildings, Dec. 17, 2024, on the campus of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. (Photo| AP)

## Trump Vows To 'Win' Against Harvard, Threatens Funding

Agencies

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump vowed Monday to prevail in his clash with Harvard and again threatened to take away billions in funding from one of the world's top universities.

"I am considering taking Three Billion Dollars of Grant Money away from a very antiseptic Harvard, and giving it to TRADE SCHOOLS all across our land," Trump said, without giving details, in one of a flurry of texts on Monday, the Memorial Day holiday in the US.

He also brought up the issue of removing foreign students from Harvard -- a key source of enrollment and tuition money

for the oldest university in the US -- saying he is waiting for Harvard to provide a list of these students.

Trump said he wants this list "so that we can determine, after a ridiculous expenditure of BILLIONS OF DOLLARS, how many radicalized lunatics, troublemakers all, should not be let back into our Country."

He added: "But have no fear, the Government will, in the end, WIN!"

The Trump administration moved last week to block Harvard from enrolling foreign students, but on Friday a judge suspended the order pending a hearing this week.

Trump is furious at Harvard -- which has produced 162 Nobel prize winners -- for rejecting

Washington's oversight on admissions and hiring, amid his claims the school is a hotbed of anti-Semitism and "woke" liberal ideology.

Trump is attacking US universities and other sources of what he sees as left-leaning power in the country like the media as he tries to exert tight, unprecedented presidential control over life in America.

In his fight with Harvard, Trump has threatened to put \$9 billion of government funding under review, then went on to freeze a first tranche of \$2.2 billion of grants and \$60 million of official contracts. The administration has also targeted a Harvard Medical School researcher for deportation.

## Foreign Universities Want To Hire Scientists Who Lost Jobs, Grants In US Funding Cuts

Agencies

Washington: As the Trump administration cut billions of dollars in federal funding to scientific research, thousands of scientists in the U.S. lost their jobs or grants, and governments and universities around the world spotted an opportunity.

The "Canada Leads" program, launched in April, hopes to foster the next generation of innovators by bringing early-career biomedical researchers north of the border.

Aix-Marseille University in France started the "Safe Place for Science" program in March -- pledging to "welcome" U.S.-based scientists who "may feel threatened or hindered in their research."

Australia's "Global Talent Attraction Program," announced in April, promises competitive salaries and relocation packages.

"In response to what is happening in the U.S.," said Anna-Maria Arabia, head of the Australian Academy of Sciences, "we see an unparalleled opportunity to attract some of the smartest minds here."

Since World War II, the U.S. has invested huge amounts of money in scientific research conducted at independent uni-

versities and federal agencies. That funding helped the U.S. to become the world's leading scientific power -- and has led to the invention of cell phones and the internet as well as new ways to treat cancer, heart disease and strokes, noted Holden Thorp, editor-in-chief of the journal Science.

But today that system is being shaken.

Since President Donald Trump took office in January, his administration has pointed to what it calls waste and inefficiency in federal science spending and made major cuts to staff levels and grant funding at the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, NASA and other agencies, as well as slashing research dollars that flow to some private universities.

The White House budget proposal for next year calls to cut the NIH budget by roughly 40% and the National Science Foundation's by 55%.

"The Trump administration is spending its first few months reviewing the previous administration's projects, identifying waste, and realigning our research spending to match the American people's priorities and continue our innovative domi-

nance," said White House spokesperson KUSH Desai.

Already, several universities have announced hiring freezes, laid off staff or stopped admitting new graduate students. On Thursday, the Trump administration revoked Harvard University's ability to enroll international students, though a judge put that on hold.

Research institutions abroad are watching with concern for collaborations that depend on colleagues in the U.S. -- but they also see opportunities to potentially poach talent.

"There are threats to science ... south of the border," said Brad Wouters, of University Health Network, Canada's leading hospital and medical research center, which launched the "Canada Leads" recruitment drive. "There's a whole pool of talent, a whole cohort that is being affected by this moment."

Promising a safe place to do science

Universities worldwide are always trying to recruit from one another, just as tech companies and businesses in other fields do. What's unusual about the current moment is that many global recruiters are targeting researchers by promising something that seems newly threatened: academic freedom.

## Spain Hosts European, Arab Nations To Pressure Israel To End Its Gaza War

Agencies

MADRID: The international community should look to sanction Israel to stop the war in Gaza, Spain's foreign minister said, ahead of a Madrid meeting of European and Arab nations on Sunday to urge a halt to its offensive.

Countries Israel had long counted on as allies have been adding their voices to growing international pressure after it expanded military operations against Gaza's Hamas rulers, whose 2023 attack on Israel sparked the devastating war.

Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares told France Info radio.

Humanitarian aid must enter Gaza "massively, unimpeded, neutrally, so that it is not Israel who decides who can eat and who cannot", he said.

A previous such gathering in Madrid last year brought together countries including Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey as well as European nations such as Ireland and Norway that have recognised a Palestinian state.

Sunday's meeting, which also includes representatives from the Arab League and the Organisa-



Protesters gather and shout slogans during a demonstration in support of the Palestinian people in Gaza, in Barcelona, Spain, Monday, May 19, 2025.FILE | AP

A two-month aid blockade has worsened shortages of food, water, fuel and medicine in the Palestinian territory, sparking fears of famine.

Aid organisations say the trickle of supplies Israel allowed to enter in recent days falls far short of needs.

Madrid will host 20 countries as well as international organisations on Sunday with the aim of "stopping this war, which no longer has any goal", Spanish

tion of Islamic Cooperation, will promote a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

After the European Union decided this week to review its cooperation deal with Israel, Albares said "we must consider sanctions, we must do everything, consider everything to stop this war."

Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack on Israel resulted in the deaths of 1,218 people, mainly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures.

## Mumbai Rains Underground Metro Station Inundated

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.

### NEWS MAKERS

## When A Routine Hospital Visit For 5 Jail Inmates Turned Into A Picnic

What was supposed to be a routine hospital visit for five inmates from the Jaipur Central Jail turned into an impromptu city tour with poha breakfasts, hotel stays and reunions with wives and girlfriends.

A total of 13 persons, including five constables, four inmates and four relatives, were arrested on Sunday after it came to the fore that the inmates had allegedly paid bribes to enjoy a few hours of freedom outside the jail, the police said on Monday.

The four inmates, Rafiq Bakri, Bhanwar Lal, Ankit Bansal and Karan Gupta, had allegedly secured approvals for medical check-ups at the SMS Hospital.

But instead of heading to their appointments, they al-

legedly bribed their way for a leisurely day out in the city, and only one prisoner made it to the hospital, the police said.

None of the four returned to the jail by the 5.30 pm deadline on Saturday.

"This outing was arranged for around Rs 25,000, routed through a middleman. The escorting constables were promised Rs 5,000 each," said a senior officer involved in the investigation.

Rafiq and Bhanwar met their wife and ex-girlfriend, respectively, at a Jalupura hotel, where Rafiq's wife was later found with narcotics and was booked under the NDPS Act, DCP (East) Tejaswani Gautam said.

Ankit and Karan were tracked to a hotel near the airport, where they were seen having poha for breakfast. The room



This outing was arranged for around Rs 25,000, routed through a middleman. The escorting constables were promised Rs 5,000 each

was booked by Ankit's girlfriend.

Later, the police detained Karan's relative carrying Rs 45,000 in cash at one of the hotels, along with several inmate ID cards.

Jail sources said that the outing was orchestrated by a convicted extortionist still operating from inside the prison.

Investigators say that over 200 phone calls intercepted since April reveal a deeper network of bribes, unauthorised mobile use and alleged threats to VIPs, including Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma.

A case has been registered at the Sawai Man Singh Police Station, and an investigation and search has been initiated in the Jaipur Central Jail, the police stated.

## Delhi Man Put Under 'Digital Arrest', Duped Of Rs 25 Lakh; 3 Held

Three cyber thugs have been arrested for duping a Delhi resident of Rs 25 lakh by putting him under 'digital arrest', police said on Monday.

Rahul Verma, Shantanu Richoriya (26), and Arjun Singh (25), were arrested from a hotel in the Paharganj area of the national capital, they said.

The suspects operated from hotel rooms in Delhi and worked with account holders, commonly known as 'mules', who were brought in person to facilitate transactions, an official said.

"Mahender Jain filed a complaint stating that he was conned into transferring Rs 25 lakh by a man who posed as a crime branch officer from the Nashik police," Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-west) Surendra Choudhary said.

On March 21, Jain received a video call during which the caller claimed that his Aadhaar card details had been misused to open fraudulent bank accounts and were

linked to money laundering by a major airline company, he added.

The officer said that the caller allegedly showed Jain a photocopy of a bank card and coerced him into transferring his savings, selling his wife's jewellery, and making further payments through online gateway and RTGS.

The fraudster threatened Jain of police action if he failed to comply, he said.

A probe was launched after registering a case under relevant sections of the BNS and the accused were traced, the officer said.

"During interrogation, it was found that Rahul Verma initially supplied his bank account to other accused but later became an active part of the syndicate," a senior police officer said.

The three accused facilitated the movement of money through mule accounts, contacted international handlers via social media, and attempted to evade detection using fake identities, the officer said.



## PGIMER-Chandigarh Operates On 7.7 Ft Tall Cop From J&K

Press Trust Of India

**CHANDIGARH:** PGIMER's Department of Neurosurgery has treated a 35-year-old male patient, a Jammu and Kashmir Police head constable, who had reached a height of 7 feet 7 inches, a rare and extreme manifestation of acromegaly due to uncontrolled growth hormone secretion, the institute said.

The Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research here has successfully treated over 100 cases of acromegaly — a rare feat.

The hormone disorder caused by functional pituitary adenomas, was treated through the endoscopic transnasal approach, a minimally invasive technique that avoids incision on the head.

The medical facility in a statement on Monday said its neurosurgery team, led by doctors Rajesh Chhabra, Apinderpreet Singh, and Shilpi Bose, performed this intricate procedure with the support of a neuroanaesthesia team led by Dr Rajeev Chauhan.

PGIMER Director Prof Vivek Lal lauded the surgery, saying, "The successful treatment of over 100 complex pituitary tumour cases is a testament to the clinical excellence, precision, and teamwork at PGIMER. These outcomes reinforce our unwavering commitment to delivering the highest standard of care through innovation and compassion."

The head constable, the PGIMER said, had been facing increasing joint pain, vision issues, and difficulty with daily activities. He underwent a tumour removal via the scarless transnasal route.

Post-surgery, his hormone levels began to normalise, and his symptoms showed marked improvement within weeks.

Dr Rajeev Chauhan, Addi-

tional Professor, Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, PGIMER, said, "This was the tallest patient ever operated at PGIMER. His unusual height and weight posed multiple anaesthesia challenges, especially regarding airway access and positioning."

He added, "We conducted a full rehearsal the day before surgery to reconfigure our OT setup, including adjustments to the table and equipment, to ensure safety and precision during the procedure. It was a team effort that reflects PGI's preparedness to handle even the rarest of medical scenarios."

Dr Rajesh Chhabra, Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, PGIMER, gave details of the medical condition: "Functional pituitary adenomas are non-cancerous tumours of the pituitary gland that secrete excess hormones, disturbing the body's hormonal balance."

He said that depending on the hormone involved, the condition can cause a variety of symptoms — abnormal growth of hands and feet (acromegaly), weight gain and facial puffiness (Cushing's disease), and breast discharge with irregular periods in women not pregnant (prolactinoma).

"Often silent in early stages, these tumours can lead to serious complications if not diagnosed and treated promptly," he said.

People experiencing abnormal growth patterns, menstrual changes, or unexplained weight gain are advised to seek medical evaluation to rule out hormonal imbalances and pituitary disorders, Dr Chhabra said.

With timely intervention, medical or surgical, including advanced options like Gamma Knife radiosurgery, patients can expect full recovery and restored quality of life, the statement said.

## LG Attends Rashmirathi's Theatrical Performance Organised By University of Jammu

Pays Homage To The Poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the Theatrical performance of Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's epic poem 'Rashmirathi', organised by University of Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the great poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar and recalled his invaluable contribution to Hindi literature, Indian nationalism, and society at large.

"Dinkar is incomparable. His poems are timeless and each verse is dedicated to existence. He induces intense feelings in his epic and the nation can sing a song through his words. Our ancestors and great warriors have given voice to their feelings through the immortal personality of Dinkar," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the representation of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's epic was dedicated to heroes of the Armed Forces, who taught a lesson to the terrorist nation Pakistan and demonstrated courage, sacrifice, prowess and justice.

"Rashmirathi is not just our ancient history. It is a symbol of ancient values of righteousness and dharma which is more relevant than ever before in the evolving Geopolitical Situation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor saluted the valour and indomitable courage of brave soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces for their strong and decisive action against terrorist country Pakistan through Operation Sindoor.

"India has warned terror state Pakistan that our forces can attack every inch of its land and its entire existence could be wiped off from the face of the earth, if it continues to nurture terrorists in its backyard.

I am proud to see that our young generation is fulfilling the dreams of our founding fathers. They are upholding the democratic values, protecting the sovereignty and integrity of the nation and making sure that terror state Pakistan is punished for its misadventure," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also called upon the youth to seize the immense

opportunity to serve the nation and play a vital role in shaping the country's future development.

"Just like brave soldiers are standing firm in protecting the borders, similarly our young students too should dedicate themselves in driving innovation and India's economic growth," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The artists and students of Design Your Degree (SIEDC), University of Jammu received special appreciation from the Lieutenant Governor for their enthralling performances. A magazine 'Litzine', published by Literacy Club of University was also released on the occasion.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Prof. B N Tripathi, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor SMV-DU; Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Maj Gen Sanjay Kumar, MG EME Northern Command, senior officials, renowned literary personalities, faculty, students and people from all walks of life were present.

## VC KU Calls On Education Minister, Discusses Upcoming NAAC Visit



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Professor Nilofar Khan on Monday called on the Minister for Education, Social Welfare and Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, at the Civil Secretariat here.

Professor Nilofar Khan apprised the Minister of the upcoming three day visit of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) peer team scheduled from May 29 to 31 regarding assessment of the University.

The Vice Chancellor also briefed the Minister on recent academic reforms and research

initiatives undertaken by the University. She highlighted the range of courses being offered at the University's satellite campuses, with particular emphasis on emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence.

Sakeena Itoo appreciated the University's efforts in advancing academic excellence and promoting innovation across the region. She assured the Vice Chancellor of the government's full support in further strengthening the institution's mission.

The Minister also extended best wishes for the upcoming NAAC visit and expressed confidence that the University of Kashmir would secure the highest accreditation grade.

## DC Ganderbal Reviews Performances Of Banks At DLRC

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** A meeting of the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and the District Consultative Committee (DCC) was held today in the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

The meeting, convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, was aimed at reviewing the performance of banks and line departments for the quarter ending March 2025.

Senior officials from the district administration, representatives from various banks and line departments attended the meeting to assess the progress under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP).

Lead District Manager, Ganderbal, presented a comprehensive report detailing the bank-wise performance in various key areas, including deposits, advances, and Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR). As of March 31, 2025, the Credit Deposit Ratio of the banks stood at 91.28 %.

DC expressed concern regarding the low credit dispensation in the agriculture and

allied sectors. He emphasized the need for banks to increase credit flow to the agriculture sector to meet the requirements of farmers.

He directed banks to improve their credit dispensation strategies and ensure that the agricultural sector receives adequate financial support.

Additionally, District Officers of Agriculture and allied Departments were advised to sponsor more credit-linked cases under prominent schemes like the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme to the banks.

Further, Agriculture & allied departments along with banks were directed to ensure 100% saturation of PM Kisan beneficiaries under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme.

In the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, banks reported significant progress, having exceeded the targets set for the sector under the Annual Credit Plan. This achievement was hailed as a positive development for the local economy and employment generation in the district.

## GMC Sgr Restarts Related Kidney Transplantation Program

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a landmark achievement for healthcare in the region, Nephro-Urological departments at Superspeciality Hospital, Government Medical College Srinagar (GMC Srinagar), have successfully performed its first live-related kidney transplantation after recommending the program.

The milestone marks a new era of hope for patients dependent on dialysis and awaiting transplants.

A patient in his 50s suffering from End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) received a kidney from his wife at GMC Srinagar. The transplant was conducted free of cost under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) Golden Card Scheme, making quality healthcare accessible and affordable for those in need.

Secretary Health, Medical

Education, and Family Welfare, J&K UT, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, commended the achievement, saying, "This successful kidney transplant represents a quantum leap in our healthcare capabilities. The UT administration is committed to making advanced medical care accessible to all citizens, and this achievement at GMC Srinagar perfectly aligns with our vision of quality healthcare for all under Ayushman Bharat."

Prof Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal/Dean of GMC Srinagar while expressing her delight stated, "The successful resumption of live-related kidney transplantation at our center is a testament to the dedication of our urology, nephrology and anaesthesia teams and the support of the administration."

Prof Syed Sajjad Nazir, HOD Urology and Chairman Kidney Transplantation, while

expressing his pleasure at the successful transplant said, "With the revival of live-related kidney transplants at GMC Srinagar, patients with chronic kidney disease now have renewed hope. The availability of this life-saving procedure locally, coupled with financial coverage under Ayushman Bharat, ensures that more lives can be saved without the added burden of exorbitant costs."

The success of the transplant program is attributed to the collaborative efforts of various departments, including Urology, Nephrology, Anaesthesia, and Operation Theater staff.

Dr. Tajamul H. Mir, HOD Nephrology and Vice-Chairman Kidney Transplantation, praised the collaborative efforts of all involved in restarting the program, highlighting the significant reduction in burden on patients who previously had to seek transplants outside the region.

## BJP Committed To Border Residents Welfare: Sunil Sharma

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** As many as 18 civilians lost their lives and around 2,000 structures, including homes and shops, were damaged in four days of indiscriminate shelling by the Pakistan Army along the borders in Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP said on Monday.

Leader of Opposition in the J&K Assembly, Sunil Sharma, who is also BJP's general secretary, shared these details after completing a 10-day tour of the affected border areas along with four MLAs on the directions of the party's central leadership. A detailed report with recommendations for rehabilitation has been submitted to the government.

"Pakistan resorted to cowardly shelling on civilian areas after our forces carried out Operation Sindoor on May 7 to dismantle terror infrastructure in response to the Pahal-



gam terror attack on April 22," Sharma told reporters at the party headquarters here.

He said 14 civilians were killed in Poonch, two in Rajouri, and one each in Uri (Baramulla) and Jammu during the shelling. Additionally, nearly 1,500 to 2,000 structures — mostly homes — were damaged, along with losses to livestock and agriculture.

Sharma said his team visited the affected areas including Hiranagar, Arnia, R S Pura, Akhnoor, Rajouri, Poonch, Uri, and Tangdhar. "Despite heavy losses, we found border resi-

dents proud of the Indian Army's response. They expressed confidence in the government's support," he said.

He added that the Union Home Ministry has started constructing more underground bunkers for the safety of residents, and the process for rehabilitation has begun. The Centre has also announced one government job for the next of kin of each person killed in the shelling, with files for these cases already forwarded to the General Administration Department.

Sharma said that while the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) allows for Rs 1.20 lakh compensation for damaged structures, the BJP has recommended a special financial package in its report to help affected families rebuild their lives.

"The BJP stands firmly with the border residents and will ensure they receive all necessary support," Sharma added.

## Omar Govt To Hold Special Cabinet Meeting In Pahalgam Today

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government, under Omar Abdullah's leadership, will hold a special cabinet meeting in Pahalgam today, a move intended as a powerful message against terrorism and violence in the Union territory, officials said.

This is the first time the cabinet meeting will take place outside the usual summer capital, Srinagar, or winter capital, Jammu, during this government's tenure.

The choice of Pahalgam also aims to show solidarity with the residents of the tourist town, which has experienced a sharp decline in tourist footfall since the deadly April 22 terror attack that resulted in the deaths of 26 people, mostly tourists.

Although the meeting's agenda is not yet public, officials stressed that the gathering's significance lies more in its symbolic communication to anti-national and anti-social elements that violence has no place in Jammu and Kashmir.

Abdullah, during his first stint as the chief minister of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir from 2009-14, had held cabinet meetings in remote areas like Gurez, Machil, Tangdhar of north Kashmir and Rajouri and Poonch areas of Jammu region.

The decision to hold a special cabinet meeting comes two days after Abdullah on Saturday proposed a dual approach to resus-

citate the Jammu and Kashmir 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.

He had made this appeal at the Governing Council meeting of the NITI Aayog under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The chief minister believes that 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.

During a special day-long assembly session in Jammu on April 28, the Jammu and Kashmir government had unanimously passed a resolution against the Pahalgam attack and resolved to fight resolutely to defeat the nefarious designs to disturb communal harmony and hinder progress.

"The Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir reaffirms its unwavering commitment to foster an environment of peace, development, and inclusive prosperity for all its citizens, and to resolutely defeat the nefarious designs of those who seek to disturb the communal harmony and progress of the nation and of Jammu and Kashmir," the resolution had said.

## Market Checking Launched To Ensure Consumer Safety



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Following the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Drug and Food Control Organization (DFCO), Food Safety wing has launched intensified market inspections across Srinagar City to ensure food products sold in the market are safe for consumption and adherence to hygiene standards in food establishments.

A team of the Food Safety Department, led by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar, accompanied by Food Safety Officers conducted inspections at various markets in the City including Bemina, Momin Abad, Tengpora, Batamalo, Exhibition Crossing and Lal Chowk.

During the market inspection, Notices were issued to as many as 7 Food Business Operators for not adhering to good storage practices. The FBO owners were also sensitized about the critical importance of adhering to proper storage practices, particularly for packaged drinking water,

carbonated water/beverages, and dairy products such as milk and milk-based items. Improper storage, especially exposure to direct sunlight, can degrade product quality.

Meanwhile, All Food Business Operators (FBOs), including wholesalers and retailers, have been directed to implement corrective measures within two days to ensure that sensitive food items including packaged drinking water, carbonated beverages, and dairy products are not stored under direct sunlight. Compliance with storage conditions specified on product labels is mandatory to uphold food safety standards and protect public health.

Failure to adhere to these storage requirements will result in strict enforcement action under the Food Safety and Standards Act. The Food Safety department has urged all stakeholders to cooperate in maintaining safe storage practices to ensure the highest standards of consumer safety and public health.

## CU Kashmir Opens Admission For PG Programmes

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** Central University of Kashmir (CUK) has announced the commencement of the admission process for its Post-Graduate (PG) programmes for the academic session 2025. The candidates who have appeared in the CUET-PG-2025 and wish to seek admission to any of the University's PG courses are invited to register online.

The online registration portal will be active from 20th May 2025 (3:00 PM) to 10th June 2025 and the admissions will be strictly based on CUET-PG-2025 scores/merit.

Interested applicants can access the registration link and complete details on the University's dedicated admission portal: <https://cukashmircuet.samarth.edu.in/pg/>

The PG Programmes include M.A. in English, Mass Communication & Journalism, Economics, Urdu, Political Science, Islamic Studies, Master of Laws (LLM), Master of Commerce (M.Com), Master of Education (M.Ed.), Master of Physical Education (M.P.Ed.), M.Sc. in Zoology, Biotechnology, Physics, Mathematics, Botany, Chemistry (Lateral Entry options available where specified), Integrated B.Ed.-M.Ed.

Candidates must ensure that the programme preferences selected during registration align with those indicated in their CUET-PG-2025 application.

For further queries, applicants may contact the Directorate of Admissions at +91 7889593153 during office hours (10:00 AM – 5:00 PM) or can check the university website [www.cukashmir.ac.in](http://www.cukashmir.ac.in).



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KO VIEW

Soaring Temperature

Jammu and Kashmir is reeling under an intense heatwave, with temperatures soaring well above the seasonal average across the Valley. Srinagar has been sizzling at around 34°C — nearly 8 degrees higher than normal — while other towns like Qazigund, Kupwara, and Kokernag also faced sweltering conditions. Even the usually cool hill stations weren’t spared: Pahalgam has hit 29°C and Gulmarg recorded an uncharacteristic 24.0°C, offering little relief to residents or tourists seeking a break from the heat.

Such unusually hot temperatures in May should be a source of concern for the Valley, as it should be anywhere else. It disrupts the weather pattern which, in turn, profoundly affects our lives. The soaring temperatures have also consequences for crops. It could lead to their premature ripening, disrupting their development cycle and adversely affecting both their quality and quantity. Apple growers are particularly concerned, as the excessive heat can hinder color and size development of the fruit, impacting the market value of their produce.

While the heatwave persists, there is little immediate relief in sight. The Meteorological Department has forecast severe heatwave for the next four days and from thereon there is possibility of some rain.

That said, it hardly detracts from the concern about the creeping climate change. Though global in scale, it affects every region of the world. And as the continuing erratic weather in Kashmir in recent years reveals, the region is increasingly feeling the impact. According to reports and some surveys, many natural streams in various parts of the Valley have run dry in recent years. And the reason for this is the steady depletion of the glaciers. This has not only reduced the discharge in the rivers and streams but also made many water bodies extinct, affecting the irrigation in the Valley. However, such disturbing changes aren’t specific to Kashmir only. This is becoming a worldwide phenomenon. There is thus an urgent need for the world to come together and take remedial measures to pre-empt the catastrophe. But it may take decades before the world is able to sufficiently reign in the factors which are contributing to the disruption in the climate. And the places like Kashmir which have little hand in climate change are bearing the brunt of it. As continuing heatwaves show, the world needs to quickly get its act together before it is too late - that is, if it hasn’t already.



Teach Them Young

*In Kashmir and beyond, young people are finding confidence, clarity, and independence by learning to earn, and save, early in life.*

Irshad Mushtaq

A child who learns how to count money can also learn how to make it grow.

That simple idea is beginning to take root in places like Kashmir, where families once saw education as the only path to success. Now, many are realizing that knowing how to earn, save and invest is just as powerful as earning a degree.

In towns like Anantnag and Baramulla, teenagers are freelancing online, helping out in family shops, or running small ventures from home. They aren’t just chasing income. They’re learning discipline. They’re saving for emergencies. Some are even helping their parents plan for the future.

One 17-year-old, who earns from tutoring, said he sets aside a third of his money each month. “My father told me to always save something,” he said. “So I do. I don’t know what it’ll be for, but I’ll be glad I did.”

This silent change is reshaping how young people approach adulthood. They’re starting to see money not as something abstract, but as something to manage, grow and understand.

And that’s a big shift in a region where economic uncertainty often overshadows dreams.

Financial literacy isn’t about teaching children to chase wealth. It’s about helping them plan, prioritize and protect their futures. It’s about building a mindset that values effort, responsibility and resilience.

Degrees matter. But they don’t guarantee stability. A curious mind, an honest work ethic, and a small savings habit can carry a young person far, especially when the world around them is unpredictable.

The earlier they learn that, the better prepared they’ll be.

*Writer is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.*

The Culture We Scrolled Past

Digital isolation and cultural shifts are dismantling the emotional support systems that once defined Kashmiri homes and hearts.



Representational Photo

Malik Daniyal Shabir

“As villages turn into towns, and towns into congested commercial zones, community interactions shrink. In city apartments, people barely know their neighbours. The culture of casual knock-and-enter visits, common in Kashmiri villages, has nearly vanished in urban neighbourhoods.

Every Kashmiri home once pulsed with life—a warm, welcoming mehfil where stories flowed, hearts opened, and bonds deepened.

Picture a winter night, the kangri glowing, elders sharing waez, kids wide-eyed at tales of Raja Rasalu, friends laughing over nun chai and salted bread.

These weren’t just cozy get-togethers. They were lifelines—our therapy, our history class, our support system.

Today, those mehfls are disappearing.

A combination of digital isolation, migration, instability, and shifting cultural values is steadily dissolving the communal fabric of Kashmiri society. In its place, we are witnessing a rise in individualism, loneliness, and emotional disconnect, especially among the youth.

The transformation is most visible in family settings. Earlier, multiple generations often lived under one roof. Grandparents played vital roles as oral historians and moral guides. The younger generation soaked in wisdom through osmosis—without sermons or lectures. But now, nuclear families, smartphone screens, and YouTube preachers have taken over that role.

And yet, there is a growing sense that something vital has been lost in the process.

Even when people gather, it’s no longer the same. Eyes are fixed on screens, not faces. Conversations revolve around trends, not thoughts. One college student explained that though their family still sits together for tea, everyone remains absorbed in their devices. “We are in the same room, but living in different worlds. Even when we sit with family, everyone’s scrolling. I don’t even remember the last time my cousins and I talked without checking our phones.”

This is not mere nostalgia—it is an observable shift in the way relationships function today.

And it’s not just the family unit that has changed. Sociologists often refer to “third spaces”—places outside home and work where communities gather and

identities are shaped.

In Kashmir, the mehfil was the ultimate third space. It existed in drawing rooms, darsgahs, roadside tea stalls, mosque courtyards, and even apple orchards during harvest season.

Now, weddings have become photo-ops, funerals are shorter, and village elders no longer mediate disputes. “Earlier, you’d learn to speak by watching elders debate poetry or politics,” recalls a retired teacher. “Now, the loudest voices come from reels, not reasoning.”

In the absence of real-world community spaces, digital platforms have filled the vacuum. However, these virtual interactions lack emotional depth.

While social media may simulate connection, it often promotes comparison, validation-seeking, and performative behavior.

Mental health experts in Kashmir are now documenting a worrying pattern. People, especially youth struggling with identity, loneliness, or anxiety, are less likely to turn to a friend or elder, and more likely to turn to anonymous online spaces. Some indulge in toxic challenges, reels, or even self-destructive behavior just to feel noticed.

This erosion of social space has consequences. “We see growing anxiety, low emotional resilience, and identity confusion,” says a counselor from Srinagar. “Earlier, when a boy was going through hard times, he’d talk to his friend or cousin. Now, he posts a cryptic status and spirals alone.”

Historically, mehfls served not just as a social event but as moral compass and informal therapy circles. They created spaces for emotional expression, cultural learning, and moral reflection. You laughed, you cried, and you were seen. That validation, rooted in real human presence, is what’s missing in today’s algorithm-driven interactions.

Importantly, mehfls also acted as checks on behaviour. You learned boundaries by observing elders, developed empathy through shared stories, and earned respect by participating. With their decline, we’re also losing community accountability. Social media out-

rage is no replacement for genuine communal ethics.

According to a professor of sociology in Srinagar, “Mehfls were soft power—they shaped values subtly. Today, without that influence, many young people grow up unmoored, emotionally adrift, and socially confused.”

Another factor contributing to the disappearance of mehfls is rapid urbanization.

As villages turn into towns, and towns into congested commercial zones, community interactions shrink. In city apartments, people barely know their neighbours. The culture of casual knock-and-enter visits, common in Kashmiri villages, has nearly vanished in urban neighbourhoods.

Young working professionals, especially in cities like Srinagar, report a lack of belonging. “I meet 100 people a day, but I feel I have no one to really talk to,” shared a young entrepreneur.

This disconnection is not just social, it’s deeply emotional.

But all is not lost. Some schools, local NGOs, and even masjids are reviving the spirit of mehfls through community storytelling events, intergenerational reading clubs, and neighbourhood listening circles.

But these efforts need wider participation and societal ownership. Parents must prioritize presence over perfection. Schools must create space for discussion beyond syllabus. Media must highlight bonding, not just branding.

A mehfil is not about grandeur. It’s about gathering. It can be as small as three friends talking honestly, a child listening to a grandparent, or a group reflecting on a Sufi poem. In reviving the mehfil, we revive Kashmir’s spirit.

The challenge before us is not merely to preserve a tradition, but to rebuild the emotional architecture of our society.

Let the mehfls return, not as relics of the past, but as a remedy for our disconnected present.

*Writer is an undergraduate student at University of Delh and can be reached at mdaniyal.054@gmail.com*



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The Global Balance Shifted After the Pahalgam Attack

Something changed after the Baisaran bloodbath. Not just the usual outrage or mourning. Something deeper.

The April 22 assault that killed 26 civilians in Kashmir didn’t just spark another round of tension between India and Pakistan, it exposed the cracks in a decades-old global arrangement.

India didn’t wait this time. It acted fast, yes, but more importantly, it acted differently.

Pulling out of the Indus Waters Treaty wasn’t just about water, it was about leverage. That river system sustains millions in Pakistan. Taking control of it wasn’t only a warning. It was a message: we’re done playing by the old rules.

The bigger message, though,

wasn’t for Pakistan. It was for Washington.

The United States condemned the attack, as expected. It called for calm. But that was the problem. India didn’t want balance, it wanted clarity.

When a country loses civilians to what it says is cross-border terrorism, it doesn’t want “both sides” language. It wants the world to say what it sees. Instead, India got cautious statements, cold nudges, and business-as-usual diplomacy.

It’s not that the U.S. doesn’t value India. It does. The defense deals, tech ties, and shared concerns about China show that. But America still has a foot in both camps.

Pakistan, for all its troubles, remains part of the U.S. security equation, especially in the post-Afghan-

istan chessboard. So, Washington hedges. It stays friendly with both, even when one side feels wronged.

For India, that balancing act is starting to wear thin. Especially when the costs of restraint are so high.

And so, India is doing what rising powers do: it’s widening its circle.

Stronger defense deals with France. More energy talks with the UAE. And warmer signals from Russia.

It’s not abandonment of old partners. It’s diversification. Because in moments like this, dependence feels like a risk.

Pakistan, meanwhile, is facing its own reckoning. Its appeals to the United Nations didn’t gain traction. Its usual backers—China, Turkey—

stood by, but others stayed silent. Even Muslim-majority nations like Saudi Arabia called for calm instead of taking sides. That silence speaks volumes. Sympathy is thinning.

Water, airspace, cyberspace—each front has opened up in this conflict. But the real story isn’t any single battle. It’s the shifting landscape of alliances, of expectations, of what countries will do when pushed.

Pahalgam wasn’t just a tragedy. It was a turning point. And now, everyone’s watching what comes next. But no one’s sure who they’ll be standing with when it does.

*Sincerely,  
Er Ishfaq Khaliq*



# The Scrub Pad King

Meet the man who turned scrap into scrubs, and unemployment into opportunity

Gowher Bhat

When Riyaz Ahmad Zargar talks about his childhood, he doesn't sugarcoat it. "We had nothing," he says, sitting on a wooden bench outside his small factory in Budgam. "Not even the home we were born in. We lost that too."

He was still a teenager when his father died. A sudden heart attack, right after the small street-food business his father started collapsed under mounting debt. The man who had cooked his way through hard times, who believed a little bit of spice and sweat could build a life, was gone.

Riyaz didn't have time to cry. "There was no space for grief. My mother and sister were looking at me. I had to do something."

After trying to rebuild their lives in Anantnag, they returned to their hometown Rainawari's narrow lanes where his father once dreamed of a home.

But the house had already been sold to cover debts. All that remained was a battered suitcase and a prayer.

Some men stumble into business with capital and connections. Riyaz had neither. What he did have, he says, was "a mind full of worry, and hands ready to work."

So he worked as a salesman, as a delivery guy and as someone knocking on strangers' doors trying to sell things people didn't want. "One man slammed the door in my face. Another didn't even let me finish my sentence."

It was during one of those long, humiliating days that he noticed something strange. "Every shop had these plastic scrub pads for cleaning pots, windows, floors. Small things, but everyone used them."

He looked closer. They were cheap, they sold fast, and almost none of them were made locally.

"I thought, why not make these here? What do I have to lose?"

Turns out, he had a lot to lose: sleep, pride, even what little money he scraped together.

The early days were chaos. He experimented in his backyard, mixing materials, cutting up nets, failing again and again. But with each failure, he says, "I learned something new."

He kept reinvesting whatever he earned. "First month, I sold 20 pieces, then 100 and then 500. I was packing them myself, loading them onto my bike."



Eventually, he saved enough to rent a room in Babbem, Srinagar. That became his first unit.

A second one came up in Budgam, where dozens now work to make the bright-coloured scrubbers that end up in homes, ho-

tels, hospitals, even army kitchens. Trucks carry them across India.

But ask him what he's most proud of, and he doesn't talk about turnover. He talks about jobs.

"I've hired men who used to beg. Wom-

en who lost their husbands. People no one would even look at twice."

Riyaz employs accountants, watchmen, factory workers, drivers, and more.

But the work begins even before the factory. His supply chain includes scrap collec-

tors and garbage pickers, who bring in raw materials others throw away.

"They collect the waste plastic. We process it, clean it, and reuse it. So we're helping the environment too, in a way," he says. "But more than that, we're giving work to people who had none."

One of them, Altaf, says he's been with Riyaz for over five years. "He gave me work when my own family wouldn't. My kids go to school now."

Inside the Budgam unit, you can smell melted plastic and hear the whirring of cutting machines. A man sorts sponges into baskets. A woman wraps them in paper sleeves. There's nothing flashy here. No logos on the walls, no startup jargon.

"Riyaz sahib just tells us to work honestly," says a supervisor. "He pays on time. That's enough."

At home, things have changed too. He bought a house in Burzahama, a prominent, if not plush, neighbourhood north of Srinagar. It's not a mansion, but it's sturdy, warm, and full of light.

He made sure his sister had the wedding she once thought was impossible. He now has two kids of his own.

"Sometimes I sit in my garden and think—how did this happen?" he says. "Then I remember all those nights I didn't sleep. All the times I wanted to give up. But I didn't."

He says his biggest lesson isn't about business. "It's about faith. You have to believe in something. Yourself, your people, or just the idea that tomorrow can be better."

Riyaz never went to business school. He never had a mentor or investor. What he had was a reason to get up every morning. "I was scared of becoming nothing. I didn't want my father's death to be the end of our story."

And so he wrote a new one. Not in headlines, but in homes. In hands that now earn. In meals that now cook on stoves scrubbed clean by the very thing he built from scratch.

When he's asked what's next, he shrugs. "Maybe a school. Or a bigger factory. But mostly, I just want to help more people. If I can help someone stand on their feet, that's more than enough."

Writer is a Pulwama-based English language instructor.

# When Cruelty Goes Viral

A disturbing wave of voyeurism and sadism is sweeping through young digital lives, especially in Kashmir.

Uzma Qadir Mir

On a cold afternoon in 2023, two boys in Sopore's Zaloora village swung sticks at each other, their faces twisted with anger. Nearby, a third boy didn't step in to stop the fight. He recorded it.

The video went viral, amassing thousands of views. For him, the fight wasn't a problem to solve but content to share.

This disturbing moment reflects a growing trend: youth increasingly drawn to sadism and voyeurism, finding entertainment in others' suffering and private moments.

Sadism—the enjoyment of causing suffering—and voyeurism—the thrill of secretly watching others—have found unsettling new life in the digital age. Social media platforms amplify these impulses, turning real-world cruelty into shareable entertainment. In Kashmir, the problem feels especially stark.

A 2019 study by the University of Kashmir found that 25.8% of students had been bullied, with 14% admitting they had bullied others.

Even more alarming, bullying came from multiple sources: 33% from teachers, 32% from seniors, and 47% from peers.

"Kids see violence normalized everywhere," said Aisha Malik, a school counselor in Srinagar. "They're not just copying what they see, they're filming it, sharing it, celebrating it."

The case of Sainik School Mansbal in 2024 brings this to light. A Class 11 student ended up in hospital after brutal ragging by seniors, requiring stitches. The school principal called it "a failure of oversight."

Despite a zero-tolerance policy by the School Education Department in April 2024, such incidents persist, often unreported. "Students fear retaliation," Malik explained. "And some think it's just normal."

So, what fuels this troubling pattern? Emotional neglect, experts opine, plays a major role. Many young people grow up in homes where open communication is rare. Lacking strong connections, they turn to the



internet, where algorithms feed them chaotic, sensational content.

"When you watch someone get humiliated online and laugh, it's not always cruelty," said Dr. Farooq Ahmad, a Srinagar psychologist. "Sometimes it's numbness. They're disconnected from real emotions." He sees many teens mistaking violent clips and humiliating pranks for entertainment.

The digital world doesn't merely reflect these impulses, it rewards them. Platforms

prioritize engagement, and shocking content often wins.

In 2021, Kashmir Law College in Srinagar became a battleground when a ragging dispute escalated into a brawl, injuring several students. Videos of the clash spread online, racking up thousands of likes before removal.

"The algorithm doesn't care about morality," said Bilal Khan, a local techie. "It just pushes what keeps people watching."

This craving for attention can be deadly.

In Bijbehara, a teenager was arrested in 2024 after performing a risky stunt on railway tracks for social media fame. "He wanted to be famous," said a police officer. The boy was sent for counseling, but such cases are common across Kashmir.

From dangerous stunts to sharing fight videos, youth are risking their lives chasing a digital high. "It's like an addiction," Malik said. "But it's never enough."

The problem extends beyond physical violence. Online gambling and gaming are tied to similar voyeuristic and self-destructive patterns.

In Srinagar, a 28-year-old lost 80 lakh on the Teen Patti app, sinking into debt. In Kupwara, another man lost 28 lakh playing PUBG, reportedly considering selling a kidney to recover losses. "These aren't just games," Dr. Ahmad said. "They're emotional traps feeding the same impulses as watching someone suffer."

So, what can break this cycle? Parents and teachers must lead. "Kids mirror what they see at home," Malik said.

Disrespect or aggression in the household often spills into online behavior. Schools can help by teaching empathy and media literacy.

A 2023 pilot program at a Srinagar high school introduced classes on spotting harmful content, resulting in a 15% drop in bullying reports. "It's not perfect, but it's a start," said the school teacher.

Tech companies also have a crucial role. Algorithms could promote content that inspires kindness or curiosity instead of shock and cruelty.

"The digital space can be a tool for good," Khan said. "But it takes intention."

Some platforms have begun flagging harmful content, but enforcement remains inconsistent. Why the lack of urgency to change?

For now, Kashmir's youth—and young people worldwide—are caught in a vicious cycle. They seek connection and validation but find cruelty and chaos instead.

"We need to teach them that real joy comes from building something, not breaking someone," Dr. Ahmad said.

Until that lesson takes hold, videos of violence will keep spreading, likes will pile up, and the line between entertainment and harm will blur even further.

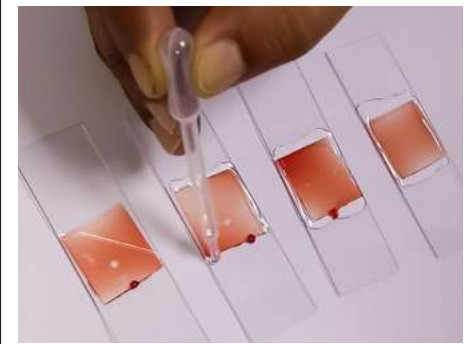
- Author is an undergraduate at Amar Singh College, Srinagar, writing on digital culture and youth behavior.



Scientists Develop Validate Scale To Measure Stigma In Patients With Sickle Cell Disease

Press Trust Of India

Researchers in India have developed and validated a scale to measure stigma in a patient suffering from sickle cell disease and their caregivers. Described in a paper in The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia journal, the 'ICMR-SCD Stigma Scale for India' or ISSSI is the first such tool in the country and fourth in the world, available in clinical and research settings. India accounts for the second-highest prevalence of sickle cell disease in the world, following sub-Saharan Africa. The condition is a genetic disorder in which red blood cells are mis-shaped, affecting their ability to deliver oxygen.

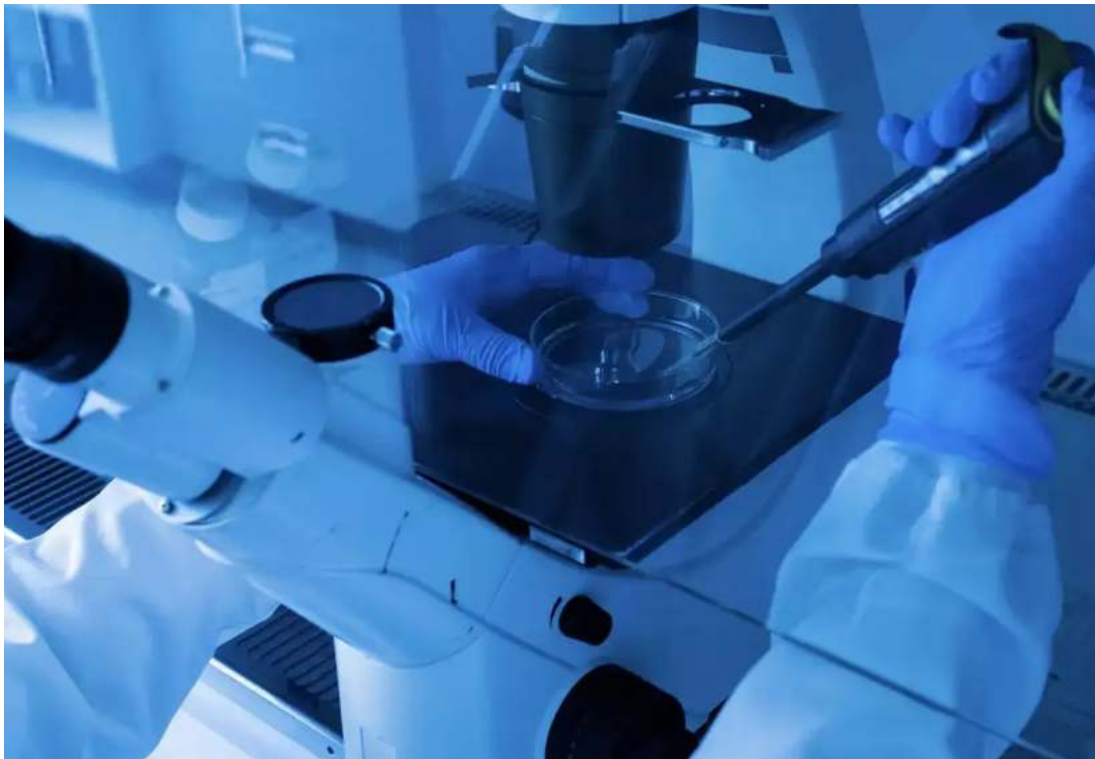


The team, including researchers from the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), said that despite the huge burden of sickle cell disease and associated stigma in India, not much research has been done, and no stigma measurement tool is available. ISSSI characterises the nature of stigma under these categories – perceived stigma, internalised stigma, experienced stigma and disclosure stigma. The team's study developed and validated the ISSSI for patients and caregivers across six districts where sickle cell disease is endemic, including Alluri Seetharama Raju in Andhra Pradesh and Anuppur in Madhya Pradesh. Findings highlight ISSSI's psychometric robustness and utility in clinical and research settings, the researchers said. "The ISSSI (captures) multidimensional aspects of stigma, including familial and reproductive, social disclosure, illness burden, interpersonal, and healthcare interaction challenges," the authors wrote. Future studies should apply the ISSSI scale across diverse cultural and linguistic contexts to improve its generalisability and impact, they said. People with sickle cell disease often suffer from episodes of severe pain, chronic fatigue, swelling, infections, and potential organ damage, significantly impacting their quality of life.

'Health Isn't Shaped By Genes Alone - It's In The Air And All Around Us'

Press Trust Of India

India stands at the cusp of becoming a global leader in exposomics research, with the potential to reshape its understanding and prevent the disease, said Dr Kalpana Balakrishnan, Dean of Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research. Balakrishnan, who was part of a recent forum on exposomics organised by the Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC, told PTI that India's unique blend of traditional and modern health risks makes it "a natural laboratory" for exposome science. The term "exposome" was coined by Dr Christopher Wild in 2005. It refers to the totality of environmental exposures that individuals experience throughout their lives, from conception to death. Unlike a genome, which is inherited and fixed, the exposome is dynamic, ever-shifting and deeply intertwined with health outcomes. Noting that genes and genetic susceptibility alone cannot explain why people develop a chronic disease, Balakrishnan said, "Someone may not have the genetic markers for heart disease or diabetes, but still end up with them because of multiple environmental exposures experienced over a life course. That's the exposome." While the Human Genome Project advanced genetic science within a decade, diseases affecting the cardiovascular system, endocrine disorders and mental health issues remain poorly understood through genetics alone, she explained, emphasising the need for cutting-edge tools that can capture exposures from chemical, physical, biological and psychosocial hazards and their interactions with lifestyles or living conditions. When asked about what kind of tools and technologies are needed for exposome mapping, Balakrishnan told PTI that High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (HRMS) that can simultaneously screen thousands of chemical compounds in air, water, soil and food is one of the key technologies. "You don't just test for what



I presented our vision in the NEXUS Center, which I co-lead with Dr. Gary Miller and Dr. Chirag Patel, to link US-based and international researchers and infrastructure for a truly global exposome initiative

you expect – A, B, and C. You do untargeted analysis to discover D, E, F and beyond. Otherwise, you stay blind to the unknowns," she said. For biological responses, Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) and a suite of omics platforms, including metabolomics, proteomics, and genomics, are vital. "These help us understand how internal systems react to exposures," Balakrishnan said, noting that samples from blood, urine and other tissues provide critical biological signatures. However, exposomics isn't confined to the laboratory. It now includes satellite-generated data for physical exposures like air pollution, urban heat islands, vegetation cover, and land-use changes. "We can map environmental factors at high spatial resolution for entire populations," she said, adding that this is especially

critical for a country like India, where environmental risks vary drastically by region and socioeconomic status. Highlighting the complexity of exposomic data, Balakrishnan, who is also the director at World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Occupational Environmental Health, mentioned that mapping it requires deep learning and AI-powered pattern recognition beyond basic statistical methods. "These computational tools are crucial. We need them to make sense of massive, layered datasets across environmental samples, biological responses, and population demographics," Balakrishnan told PTI. She further referred to the successful models in the North American and European exposome consortia, where patterns between pollution, green spaces, and genetic variants are predicting risks for diseases

like diabetes and cardiovascular conditions. "Imagine if we could replicate and scale that here in India," she said. India's opportunity lies in its landscape, which includes traditional public health challenges like poor sanitation and lack of clean water. These challenges exist alongside modern hazards like ultra-processed food, air pollution and psychosocial stress. "We're seeing exposure overload from both ends," Balakrishnan said. "That's why we need a holistic, integrative framework in the numerous ongoing cohorts in the country, and exposomics can give us that," she added. Stressing that India cannot rely on siloed scientific approaches, she further stated that it is not just the job of medical scientists. "We need engineers, economists, social scientists, and urban planners in the room – to

gether with policymakers from the start," she emphasised. Adding an international perspective, Dr Rima Habre, associate professor of environmental health and spatial sciences at the University of Southern California and co-director of the NIH-funded NEXUS Center for Exposome Research Coordination, said India holds immense potential for global collaborations in exposomics. Speaking to PTI, Habre said, "I connected with Dr Balakrishnan around exposomics at a recent visit to Ahmedabad, India, where we were both invited speakers at an ICMR-NIOH conference. "I presented our vision in the NEXUS Center, which I co-lead with Dr. Gary Miller and Dr. Chirag Patel, to link US-based and international researchers and infrastructure for a truly global exposome initiative." She added that India's diversity of environmental and social stressors, shaped by unique regional policies and cultural practices, offers unparalleled insight into the totality of health-relevant exposures. "Dr Balakrishnan's work in establishing large, population-based cohorts in India is foundational for exposomics," Habre said, calling for a globally connected but locally governed framework to reduce the environmental burden of disease. Poornima Prabhakaran, Director of the Centre for Health Analytics Research and Trends (CHART), Ashoka University, echoed the sentiments. India's longitudinal research infrastructure provides a fertile ground to pioneer large-scale exposomics studies tailored to developing country contexts, she told PTI. "As a global effort to scale exposomics gathers momentum, we must account for a multitude of diverse exposures across geographies and populations spanning biomarkers, environmental risk factors and 'omics'," she said. This is in light of the recent Exposome Moonshot Forum hosted in Washington DC where there is already an effort across EU (EIRENE) and now US (NEX-US) and IREN to initiate this effort globally, Prabhakaran said.



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Dy CM Chairs Meeting Of JKEDI On J&K Startup Policy 2024-27

Calls for prioritizing operational guidelines, funding mechanisms of policy



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR-** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Chaudhary, Monday chaired a high level review meeting held to assess progress on the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 here at the Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

Present in the meeting were Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, Secretary in Industries & Commerce and Director, JKEDI, Khalid Jahangir; Managing Director, JKTPQ; Director Finance, Industries & Commerce; Director Planning, Industries & Commerce; Additional Secretary (A), Industries & Commerce and the Startup team from Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

Secretary in Industries & Commerce, who also holds the charge of Director JKEDI, gave a comprehensive presentation highlighting key developments under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, including startup registrations, workshops conducted, awareness initiatives and startups shortlisted for seed funding.

The Dy CM was also apprised of various Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed

by JKEDI, as a nodal agency for implementation of J&K Startup Policy, with national and state-level institutions aimed at fostering mentorship and knowledge exchange.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officials to initiate collaborations with reputed national and international institutions to mentor and accelerate startups in J&K.

He instructed for conducting grassroots level awareness programs in schools and colleges through idea challenges, business plan development camps, seminars and workshops to help the aspiring entrepreneurs get a clarity of thought and fine tune their ideas into potential business models.

In a significant move to support early-stage entrepreneurs, the Dy CM directed that co-working spaces at JKEDI's Pampore and Bari Brahmana campuses be made available to the eligible startups.

Choudhary also called for specific sessions for selected students on startup functioning under the supervision of the Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department.

Sensex Rises 455 Pts To End At Over Week's High On Early Monsoon, Easing Trade Worries

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI-** Benchmark Sensex on Monday advanced by 455 points to close at over a week's high due to buying in auto and IT shares following positive macro factors and easing trade worries as US President Donald Trump delayed 50 per cent EU tariffs to July 9.

Rising for the second session, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 455.37 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 82,176.45. During the day, it surged 771.16 points or 0.94 per cent to 82,492.24. The NSE Nifty climbed 148 points or 0.60 per cent to settle at 25,001.15, a level not seen since May 16.

The early arrival of monsoon and the Reserve Bank announcing a record Rs 2.69 lakh crore dividend to the government for FY25 also added to the optimistic trend in the markets, experts said.

Among Sensex stocks, leading tractor and auto manufacturer Mahindra & Mahindra rose the most by 2.17 per cent. HCL Tech, Tata Motors, Nestle, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Larsen & Toubro, and Tech Mahindra were the major gainers. In contrast, Eternal, UltraTech Cement, Power Grid, Tata Steel and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the laggards. Eternal dropped the most by 4.51 per cent.

India has become the fourth largest economy in the world,



overtaking Japan, NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam has said.

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

"The US decision to consider extending the deadline for imposing aggressive tariffs on EU, coupled with a decline in the dollar index, contributed to a rebound in the domestic equity markets. These developments suggest that trade negotiations are progressing constructively, which could help moderate market volatility.

"Additionally, the early onset of the southwest monsoon and a decline in domestic bond yields have encouraged investors to maintain their focus on riskier assets," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

India Surpasses Japan To Become 4th Largest Economy At \$4 Trillion, Says Niti Aayog CEO

Agencies

**NEW DELHI-** India has become the fourth largest economy in the world, overtaking Japan, NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam has said.

Subrahmanyam said the overall geopolitical and economic environment is favourable to India. "We are the fourth largest economy as I speak. We are a USD 4 trillion economy as I speak," he said.

Citing IMF data, Subrahmanyam said India today is larger than Japan. Till 2024, India was the fifth-largest economy in the world.

"It is only the US, China and Germany which are larger than India, and if we stick to what is being planned and what is being thought through, in 2.5-3 years, we will be the third largest economy," Subrahmanyam said.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report released in April had said that India is expected to be the fourth largest economy in the world with a GDP of USD 4.19 trillion in 2025, ahead of Japan.

India's nominal GDP for 2025 (FY26) is expected to be USD 4.187 billion marginally more than the likely GDP of Japan which is estimated at USD 4.187 billion, the IMF had said.



According to IMF data, India's per capita income has doubled from USD 1,438 in 2013-14 to USD 2,880 in 2025.

The IMF in its WEO report also said the Indian economy is projected to grow at 6.2 per cent in 2025-26, slower than earlier estimated rate of 6.5 per cent, due to escalated trade tensions and global uncertainty.

"For India, the growth outlook is relatively more stable at 6.2 per cent in 2025, supported by private consumption, particularly in rural areas," the IMF had said.

According to the report, the global growth is projected at 2.8 per cent in 2025, lower by 0.5 percentage points estimated earlier. In 2026, the global economy is estimated to grow at 3 per cent.

NITI Aayog approach paper titled "Viksit Rajya For Viksit Bharat @ 2047" said from being considered a part of the 'fragile five'

economies of the world, India rose to become the top five economies of the world in just a decade.

The World Bank defines high-income countries as those whose annual per capita income is more than USD 14,005 (2024- 25). India has the potential and aims to be a high-income country by 2047. The approach paper said a Viksit Bharat @ 2047 will be a USD 30 trillion economy.

"It will have all the attributes of a developed country with a per capita income that is comparable to the high-income countries of the world today," the paper said.

According to the paper, in order to achieve the goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, an overall framework for strategic interventions and reforms based on six key building blocks, with a total of 26 themes covered across all the building blocks have been identified.

**IT IS ONLY THE US, CHINA AND GERMANY WHICH ARE LARGER THAN INDIA,** and if we stick to what is being planned and what is being thought through, in 2.5-3 years, we will be the third largest economy"

NITI Report Suggests Adoption Of Turkiye's Program To Address Skill Gaps In India

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** A NITI Aayog report on Monday mentioned Turkiye as one of the nations from which India can adopt global best practices for addressing skill gaps in the country's medium enterprises.

The report titled 'Designing a Policy for Medium Enterprises' listed programmes of Turkiye in addition to Canada, Singapore and Australia for encouraging medium enterprises.

The report said Turkiye's "KOSGEB provides distance training on entrepreneurship; an effective, easy and flexible entrepreneurship training without time and space constraints by E- Akademi Programme ... Entrepreneurship Support Programme, with preferential treatment for women, youth and handicapped entrepreneurs."

Also, observing that Turkey's e-Academy is an online training platform providing subsidised courses, enhancing accessibility for SMEs across regions, the report said, "online training programs can be offered at a subsidized rate,



and free of cost for marginalized groups (as provided in Turkey's e-Academy)."

Turkiye is facing backlash in India for its support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, which was launched by the country to destroy terror infrastructure following the Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people including tourists, were killed.

India's aviation security regulator BCAS earlier this month revoked the security clearance of Turkish firm Celebi Airport Services India on grounds related to national security with immediate effect.

The NITI report said for medium enterprises to succeed in a globalized market, there is a clear need for a tailored, data-driven approach to skill de-

velopment that can align with industry needs and ensure a competitive, skilled workforce.

To address challenges faced by medium enterprises, it recommended the introduction of a working capital financing scheme linked to enterprise turnover, a Rs 5 crore credit card facility at market rates and expedited fund disbursement mechanisms through retail banks, overseen by the Ministry of MSME.

The report also suggested the upgradation of existing technology centres into sector-specific and regionally customised India SME 4.0 Competence Centers to promote the adoption of Industry 4.0 solutions.

The Aayog also recommended the establishment of a dedicated R&D cell within the Ministry of MSME, leveraging the Self-Reliant India Fund for cluster-based projects of national significance.

The MSME sector contributes approximately 29 per cent to India's GDP, accounts for 40 per cent of exports, and employs over 60 per cent of the workforce.

'US Officials Likely To Visit India For Next Round Of Talks On Interim Trade Pact'

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** A team of US officials is expected to visit India in the coming weeks for the next round of discussions on the proposed interim trade agreement between the two countries, sources said.

The visit gains importance as India and the US are likely to agree on an interim trade agreement before July 9, with New Delhi pushing for full exemption from the 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on domestic goods.

"The US team is expected in India for trade talks. Negotiations are moving at a faster pace," one of the sources said.

India's chief negotiator, Special Secretary in the Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal, concluded his four-day visit to Washington last week. He held talks with his US counterpart on the proposed agreement.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was also in Washington last week to give an impetus to trade talks. He met with US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick twice during his visit.

The US on April 2 imposed an additional 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods but suspended it for 90 days till July 9, later. However, Indian goods still attract the 10 per cent baseline tariff imposed by America.

At present, the Trump administration requires approval from the US Congress to bring tariffs below the MFN (most



favoured nation) rates. But the administration has the authority to remove the reciprocal tariffs imposed on a number of countries, including India.

Both countries have fixed a deadline to conclude the first phase of the proposed bilateral trade agreement pact by the fall (September-October) of this year. According to sources, there is a possibility that both sides agree on an interim trade deal before the first tranche.

The US remained India's largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year in 2024-25, with bilateral trade valued at USD 131.84 billion. The US accounts for about 18 per cent of India's total goods exports, 6.22 per cent in imports, and 10.73 per cent in the country's total merchandise trade.

With America, India had a trade surplus (the difference between imports and exports) of USD 41.18 billion in goods in 2024-25. It was USD 35.32 billion in 2023-24, USD 27.7 billion in 2022-23, USD 32.85 billion in 2021-22 and USD 22.73 billion in 2020-21. The US has raised concerns over this widening trade deficit.

Rakesh Gangwal, Family Trust Likely To Sell 3.4% Stake In IndiGo For Rs 6,831 Cr

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI -** InterGlobe Aviation promoter Rakesh Gangwal and his family trust are likely to offload up to 3.4 per cent stake worth at least Rs 6,831 crore in the airline on Tuesday, according to sources.

Gangwal, the co-founder of IndiGo, has been offloading his holding in a phased manner following a bitter fallout with co-founder Rahul Bhatia.

Apart from Gangwal, the Chinkerpoo Family Trust, whose trustees are Shobha Gangwal and JP Morgan Trust Company of Delaware, will be divesting 3.4 per cent stake in IndiGo, the country's largest airline, the sources said.

Investment banking firms Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Pvt Ltd, Morgan Stanley India Company and J P Morgan India are the placement agents for the stake sale, they added.

Currently, Gangwal and the family trust together hold about 13.5 per cent in IndiGo.

Under the proposed transaction, to be executed on May 27, up to 1.32 crore equity shares will be sold at a floor price of Rs 5,175 per share, as per the term sheet accessed by PTI.

The floor price is at a 4.5 per cent discount compared to the closing price of Rs 5,420 per share on Monday.

The sources said 1.32 crore shares will amount to around



3.4 per cent stake in the company and the offer size, based on the floor price, is pegged at around USD 803 million or about Rs 6,831 crore.

The proposed share sale, to be done in multiple tranches on BSE and NSE, will be entirely secondary in nature and will not have any fresh issuance of equity.

As part of the deal structure, a 150-day lock-up period will apply to the vendors and their immediate relatives, barring one exception -- they may transfer shares worth at least USD 300 million to a single investor or investor group through a negotiated transaction, subject to certain pricing and lock-up conditions.

In August 2024, Rakesh Gangwal's family trust sold a 5.24 per cent stake in the airline for Rs 9,549 crore. Before that, Gangwal had sold shares of IndiGo in March.

The share sale is part of Gangwal's decision in February 2022 to trim his shareholding after a bitter feud with co-founder Rahul Bhatia over alleged corporate governance issues.

Trump's Tariffs Launched Global Trade Wars, A Timeline Of How We Got Here

Associated press

**NEW YORK-** Volley after volley of new tariffs from US President Donald Trump have plunged the country into trade wars abroad, creating uncertainty for businesses and households.

Trump is no stranger to tariffs. He launched a trade war during his first term as well, taking particular aim at China by putting taxes on most of its goods. At the time, Beijing responded with its own retaliatory tariffs on a range of US products. And Trump also used the threat of more tariffs to force Canada and Mexico to renegotiate a North American trade pact.

Fast-forward to today, and economists stress there are greater consequences on businesses and economies worldwide under Trump's more sweeping tariffs this time around -- and that higher prices leave consumers footing the bill.

There's also been a sense of

whiplash from Trump's back-and-forth tariff threats and responding retaliation seen over the last few months.

Here's a timeline of how we got here:

**JANUARY 20**

Trump is sworn into office. In his inaugural address, he again promises to "tariff and tax foreign countries to enrich our citizens." And he reiterates plans to create an agency called the External Revenue Service, which has yet to be established.

On his first day in office, Trump also says he expects to put 25 per cent tariffs on Canada and Mexico starting on February 1, while declining to immediately flesh out plans for taxing Chinese imports.

**JANUARY 26**

Trump threatens 25 per cent tariffs on all Colombia imports and other retaliatory measures after President Gustavo Petro's rejects two US military aircraft carrying migrants to the country,



accusing Trump of not treating immigrants with dignity during deportation.

In response, Petro also announces a retaliatory 25 per cent increase in Colombian tariffs on US goods. But Colombia later reversed its decision and accepted the flights carrying migrants. The two countries soon signalled a halt in the trade dispute.

**FEBRUARY 1**

Trump signs an executive order to impose tariffs on imports from Mexico, Canada and China

-- 10 per cent on all imports from China and 25 per cent on imports from Mexico and Canada starting February 4. Trump invoked this power by declaring a national emergency -- ostensibly over undocumented immigration and drug trafficking. The action prompts swift outrage from all three countries, with promises of retaliatory measures.

**FEBRUARY 3**

Trump agrees to a 30-day pause on his tariff threats against Mexico and Canada, as both trading

partners take steps to appease Trump's concerns about border security and drug trafficking.

**FEBRUARY 4**

Trump's new 10 per cent tariffs on all Chinese imports to the US still go into effect. China retaliates the same day by announcing a flurry of countermeasures, including new duties on a variety of American goods and an anti-monopoly investigation into Google.

China's 15 per cent tariffs on coal and liquefied natural gas products, and a 10 per cent levy on crude oil, agricultural machinery and large-engine cars imported from the US, take effect February 10.

**FEBRUARY 10**

Trump announces plans to hike steel and aluminum tariffs starting March 12. He removes the exemptions from his 2018 tariffs on steel, meaning that all steel imports will be taxed at a minimum of 25 per cent, and also raises his 2018 aluminum tariffs from 10 per cent to 25 per cent.

**FEBRUARY 13**

Trump announces a plan for "reciprocal" tariffs -- promising to increase US tariffs to match the tax rates that countries worldwide charge on imports "for purposes of fairness."

**MARCH 4**

Trump's 25 per cent tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico go into effect, though he limits the levy to 10 per cent on Canadian energy. He also doubles the tariff on all Chinese imports to 20 per cent.

All three countries promise retaliatory measures. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announces tariffs on more than USD 100 billion of American goods over the course of 21 days. And Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum says her country would respond with its own retaliatory tariffs on US goods without specifying the targeted products immediately, signalling hopes to de-escalate.

China, meanwhile, imposes tariffs of up to 15 per cent on a

wide array of key US farm exports, set to take effect March 10. It also expands the number of US companies subject to export controls and other restrictions by about two dozen.

**MARCH 5**

Trump grants a one-month exemption on his new tariffs impacting goods from Mexico and Canada for US automakers. The pause arrives after the president spoke with leaders of the "Big 3" automakers -- Ford, General Motors and Stellantis.

**MARCH 6**

In a wider extension, Trump postpones 25 per cent tariffs on many imports from Mexico and some imports from Canada for a month.

**MARCH 10**

China's retaliatory 15 per cent tariffs on key American farm products -- including chicken, pork, soybeans and beef -- take effect. Goods already in transit are set to be exempt through April 12, per China's Commerce Ministry previous announcement.



# Trump honours fallen soldiers at Arlington, calling them ‘America’s best and bravest’

Arlington, May 26: President Donald Trump paid tribute to fallen service members during a Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, in an address that honoured the “great, great warriors” yet also briefly veered into politics as he boasted of a nation he is “fixing after a long and hard four years.”

Though the holiday is one that US presidents typically treat with pure solemnity, Trump began it with an all-caps Memorial Day social media post that attacked his predecessor and called federal judges who have

blocked his deportation initiatives “monsters who want our country to go to hell.”

Yet at Arlington National Cemetery, where more than 400,000 have been laid to rest, Trump commemorated the sacrifice of US service members and singled out several Gold Star families to tell the stories of their fallen relatives.

“We just revere their incredible legacy,” Trump said. “We salute them in their eternal and everlasting glory. And we continue our relentless pursuit of America’s destiny as we make our nation stronger, prouder,

freer and greater than ever before.”

“Their valour,” he said, “gave us the freest, greatest and most noble republic ever to exist on the face of the earth. A republic that I am fixing after a long and hard four years.”

During his remarks, Trump told the story of Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon Kent, killed along with three other Americans by a suicide bomber in 2019 in Syria, leaving behind her husband, 3-year-old son and 18-month-old son.

The Pine Plains, New York, native was on her fifth combat

deployment, he said, embedded with a team hunting Islamic State group militants in Syria, serving as linguist, translator and cryptologic technician working alongside special forces.

“She was among the first women ever to do it, and she did it better than anyone,” Trump said, calling out Kent’s family for applause at the ceremony.

The crowd also heard of Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Elroy Harworth from Erhard, Minnesota, whose plane went down in enemy territory during the Vietnam War, dying while

his wife was seven months pregnant. His son, who was cheered in the audience, followed his father’s path and has been in the Army for 20 years.

There was also the story of Army Cpl. Ryan McGhee of Fredericksburg, Virginia, who enlisted after the September 11, 2001, attacks and whose mother was in the audience.

Trump said McGhee knew he wanted to be an Army Ranger since he saw the towers fall on that day, did three tours in Afghanistan, then deployed to Iraq. Sixteen years ago this month, the president said,

McGhee died in a firefight, and “gave his life at 21 years old.”

Vice President JD Vance, who spoke before Trump, said the lesson of all the gravestones is: “We must be cautious in sending our people to war.” He urged the crowd to push political leaders to treat the lives of soldiers as the “most precious resource.”

Later in his remarks, Trump pointed to a “big, big celebration” coming next year as the US celebrates its 250th birthday, joking that “in some ways, I’m glad I missed that second term” when he lost to Joe Biden.

“Because I wouldn’t be

president for that,” Trump said, as the crowd laughed. “In addition, we have the World Cup and we have the Olympics. Can you imagine? I missed that four years. And now look what I have, I have everything. Amazing the way things work out.”

Prior to speaking, Trump placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a sombre tradition for US presidents. The president paused after placing the wreath, then stepped back and saluted during the playing of taps. Vance and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth joined him.

## CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Operation Sindoor Not

responsibility citizens of the nation gave him when they made him ‘pradhan sevak’ on May 26, 2014.

Modi gave a free hand to the three wings of the country’s armed forces and its warriors did what the world had not seen for the last several decades, Modi asserted.

Tearing into Pakistan, the prime minister said, “The country that came into existence after Partition lives on hatred for India. It only wants to harm Bharat. However, India’s goals are to remove poverty, bring about economic development and become a developed nation.”

“Our government’s policy is to take development to areas that have remained backward,” he added.

He also urged people to buy and use products made in India during festivals like Holi, Diwali and Ganesh Puja.

“Don’t you think we have to stop using imported products? During our festivals, we use imported items like firecrackers and Ganesh idols (which is not good). To ensure our country’s progress, everyone should take a resolve to purchase only Made in India products” said Modi.

“Everything we need for our country’s progress must be made right here in India,” the PM told the gathering.

He was speaking at a rally after launching development projects costing Rs 24,000 crore, including a locomotive manufacturing plant, here.

The PM unveiled the country’s first 9,000 horsepower locomotive engine as well as a rolling stock workshop built at a cost of Rs 21,405 crore.

He flagged off the Ahmedabad-Veraval Vande Bharat service and Valsad-Dahod express train and told the gathering that state-of-the-art Vande Bharat trains were now operational on 70 routes across the country.

“There was a time when India had to import locomotives and coaches. Today, we manufacture them in India and export them to other countries,” the PM said.

The Vande Bharat service launched during the day between Sabarmati station in Ahmedabad and Veraval station will be a boon for devotees visiting the renowned Somnath Temple in Gir Somnath district.

He also announced that 100 per cent electrification of railway lines has been achieved in Gujarat.

‘Pakistan Considers Terrorism As Tourism’

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asked the people of Pakistan to raise their voices against terrorism, asserting while India believes in tourism, “Pakistan considers terrorism as tourism,” a mindset he warned was not only ruining their nation, but also posing a grave danger to the world.

Speaking at a rally in Bhuj, Gujarat, on his first visit to the state since Operation Sindoor, India’s military response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, in which tourists were targeted, Modi warned that if Pakistan’s citizens do not choose peace, they would face the wrath of the Indian Army.

“Those who promoted terrorism ruined your future,” Modi said to the gathering in Bhuj, a town in Kutch district that shares both land and maritime borders with Pakistan, in a message directed at the citizens of the neighbouring country.

“While India believes in tourism, Pakistan considers terrorism as tourism, which is very dangerous for the world,” he said while addressing the public after launching projects worth over Rs 50,000 crore.

“Terrorism is a way of making money for you (Pakistan) government and Army. The people of Pakistan must come forward to end terrorism. Live a happy and peaceful life and have your meal. Otherwise, my bullet is there for you (sukh chain ki zindagi jio, roti khao. Varna meri goli to hai hee),” the Prime Minister asserted in the direct message to those across the border.

The Prime Minister, who completed 11 years in office on Monday, highlighted India’s rise to become the world’s fourth-largest economy, surpassing Japan, and challenged Pakistani citizens to reflect on their own nation’s standing.

“I want to ask the people of Pakistan -- what have they achieved? Today, India is the 4th largest economy in the world. But what is your situation? Those who promoted terrorism ruined your future,” he said.

He recounted the aftermath of the Pahalgam massacre, stating “Post-Pahalgam attack, I waited for 15 days hoping Pakistan will take action on terrorism, but it seems it is their bread and butter. On the night of May 9 when Pakistan tried to attack civilians, our military attacked with double force and decimated their air bases.”

**India’s Military Strike**

prowess. “It has shown that our scientists, defence personnel, and jawans are second to none in the world. This victory is a tribute to their dedication. It is also a vindication of our steadfast commitment to self-reliance.”

Sinha maintained that India’s military might

reflect the scientists’ resolve to comprehensively strengthen national security and drive the country’s economy on a growth trajectory.

“The success of Operation Sindoor reflects India’s indigenous defence capabilities, innovations in the defence sector, and technological advancements. Our scientists are unwavering and determined to make historic strides in new areas of science and technology,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The LG lauded the initiative being spearheaded by the Indian Association of Physics Teachers and the National Anveshika Network of India under the leadership of physicist Padma Shri Dr H C Verma to foster experimental science learning and ignite curiosity, creativity, and scientific temper among students.

Observing that the yatra will cover every district of India, Sinha asserted that it will unify diverse regions under a shared mission to revive the joy of learning science.

“When science is deeply woven into the fabric of society, it not only fosters innovation but can also significantly shape the direction of a nation by improving the quality of life for the entire society,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Highlighting how under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India’s approach towards ‘Atmanirbharta’ has fundamentally changed, Sinha stated, “Our scientists know that India cannot depend on others to defend her. We have developed our own indigenous capabilities, and our successful strike is a symbol of a resurgent India.”

Emphasising the need for bringing new scientific advancements to classrooms and laboratories, the Lieutenant Governor urged the teaching community and educational institutions to provide young researchers with a broader canvas and bigger goals for experimentation.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon Indian scientists and engineers around the world to consider returning home, assuring that conditions are now favourable for pioneering inventions and that they can significantly contribute to India’s scientific and economic leadership.

“The confluence of Science, Spirituality, and Sanskar has powered India’s global standing. We are strategically investing in scientific and technological advancement to make India a leading global scientific power”, he said.

He further said that the scientists, innovators, and researchers are determined to reclaim ancient glory and build a developed India by 2047.

“It is our national resolve,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

**No US Mediation**

the halting of Operation Sindoor and the US “interference”, the External Affairs Minister told MPs at the meeting that the DGMO had informed his Pakistani counterpart that if they would fire, India would fire back.

He said the targeted strikes at terror camps in Pakistan also hit the morale of Pakistani forces.

The sources said the minister sought the cooperation of all MPs in “exposing” Pakistan across the world. He said that is why the government has sent multi-party delegations of MPs to various countries to put across India’s united message against terrorism to the world.

Jaishankar shared pictures of chairing the Consultative Committee Meeting of MEA on X.

“Discussed Operation Sindoor and India’s zero-tolerance policy against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Underlined the importance of sending a strong and united message in that regard,” the minister also said.

While Foreign Secretary Vikram Mistry gave a presentation on Operation Sindoor to the MPs at the meeting, Jaishankar responded to queries later.

The sources said the Congress members asked the government why India was “hyphenated” with Pakistan by the US and also raised the issue of IMF aid to Pakistan and India’s abstention at the meet.

They said the Congress also raised concerns over Pakistan’s growing relationship with China.

**Operation Sindoor Proved**

of innocent Indian civilians is shed. If our women’s sindoor is harmed, the response will be bloodier,” he said, adding that Operation Sindoor proved the government’s commitment to protecting India’s borders.

Shah also reiterated that Naxalism would be wiped out from the country by March 31, 2026.

“When Operation Sindoor was underway, under Operation Black Forest by CRPF, Chhattisgarh police and BSF neutralised several Naxalites. Several Naxalites were also arrested and many surrendered,” he said.

The Union Home Minister said Modi had ended the Indus Water Treaty, which was signed by former PM Jawaharlal Nehru, and also all trade with Pakistan. “Modi has said trade and terror cannot go together,” he said.

Shah slammed the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), saying it had mocked the all-party delegations as “baraat” (wedding party),

“Had Balasaheb Thackeray been alive, he would have hugged Modi. But a Sena (UBT) leader called the delegations a baraat. I don’t know what has happened to the Uddhav Sena. They are calling the delegations a baraat even though their own members are a part of it,” he said.

Shah also criticised Sharad Pawar for doing “nothing” over the demand for classical language status to Marathi, which he said was fulfilled by Modi.

**Hold Rajya Sabha**

assembly seat fell vacant following the death of BJP leader and incumbent MLA Devender Rana soon after last year’s assembly polls.

**14-Year-Old Srinagar**

emotional safety of students,” Firdous said during the visit. She emphasized the urgent need for sensitivity in handling student-related issues and underscored the importance of having structured mental health support systems in schools.

Meanwhile, a senior official from Kashmir Harvard Educational Institute has denied the allegations, calling them “baseless and deeply hurtful.”

“He was our student, our child. We are devastated by his passing,” the official said. “There was no intent to harass. We engage with students and their families through dialogue, not punishment.”

The official acknowledged the tattoo issue but emphasized it was approached with discretion. “Tattoos are not a crime — but as an educational institution, we have certain codes of conduct. Discipline is part of our structure,” he noted.

**J&K NEET Aspirant**

installed in the fan rod that makes the rod disengage from the fan with the weight.

Police have confirmed that no suicide note was recovered from the scene. The body has been placed in the mortuary, and the post-mortem will be conducted after the arrival of her family, who have been informed of the tragedy.

This incident comes just days after the Supreme Court strongly criticised the Rajasthan state government over the alarming number of student suicides in Kota this year.

The Supreme Court questioned what concrete steps have been taken in response to 14 student suicides reported in 2025 alone.

The Apex Court remarked that the issue must be taken “seriously and not lightly,” urging immediate intervention.

In a symbolic reprimand, the Supreme Court also withheld the salary of the Kota Superintendent of Police (SP) as of July 14, emphasising administrative accountability.

Kota, often referred to as India’s coaching capital, has been under the spotlight due to a disturbing pattern of suicides among students, especially those preparing for NEET and IIT-JEE exams.

Academic pressure, isolation, and lack of emotional support continue to pose grave challenges. (With inputs from PTI, IANS)

**Ex-Director, 7 Others**

central government had launched the post-matric scholarship scheme for ST candidates to help them complete their education by providing financial assistance in the form of a scholarship amounting to Rs 18,000 per student plus Rs 2,300 as maintenance allowance, the spokesperson said.

The objective of the scheme was to provide financial support to tribal students studying at the post-matriculation or post-secondary stage to enable them to complete their education, along with reimbursement of compulsory fees charged by recognized institutes.

“The private institutes situated in Jammu district managed to obtain documents of ST students and submitted them to the directorate of tribal affairs.

“But the officers and officials, without verifying the genuineness of the institutes, their infrastructure and the course content, disbursed scholarship amounts worth crores between 2014 and 2018 directly into the bank accounts of these institutes,” the spokesperson alleged.

ACB’s verification further revealed that the students against whom payments were released had neither sought admission nor attended the free computer courses.

“Some of the students, though they sought admission under the said scheme, never attended or only partially attended the computer courses. However, the benefit, in the form of full tuition fees, was credited to the accounts of different computer institutions,” he alleged.

The investigation also pointed out that one of the institutes, in order to increase its strength, managed to obtain documents of ST students from remote areas and filled scholarship forms in their names.

“Moreover, some fake bank accounts were opened in the names of ST students without their consent or knowledge, as it was

mandatory to include account numbers in the forms for crediting maintenance allowance directly into the students’ accounts,” the spokesperson claimed.

The officers and officials, by sheer abuse of their official positions and in criminal conspiracy with the owners of the institutes through manipulation of records and violation of scheme guidelines, misappropriated huge amounts of government funds during the years 2014 to 2018, causing massive loss to the public exchequer, he alleged.

Further investigation in the case is underway, the spokesperson said.

**Will Chalk Out**

emphasized gradual lifting of restrictions on travel to 48 destinations, increased local promotion, and revival through school and college excursions. “Tourism revival is crucial. We will chalk out a realistic plan that protects those who are most vulnerable—homestay owners, transporters, vendors. These are the people who need us the most,” he said.

He also shared updates on potential collaborations with the Prime Minister’s Office and NITI Aayog to host PSU conferences, national events, and parliamentary committee meetings in Kashmir to boost visibility and confidence.

CM Abdullah further announced Jammu and Kashmir’s participation in upcoming Travel & Tourism Fairs (TTFs) in Kolkata and Ahmedabad to regain tourist interest.

The Chief Minister assured that long-pending structural issues such as lease policy, electricity dues, ease of doing business, NOCs, and environmental clearances are under active review. He said the government’s priority would be to support grassroots entrepreneurs over large, established players.

On logistics, Abdullah highlighted ongoing efforts with the Railway Ministry to streamline cargo movement for agriculture and horticulture produce.

He concluded by calling for ethical trade practices to protect Kashmir’s tourism reputation. “We won’t allow unfair trade, misbranding, or overcharging to damage the image of Kashmir. We must ensure that tourists leave

with good memories—and reasons to return.”

**Stresses Data-**

where detailed presentations were made on three critical initiatives — the Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC), District Domestic Product (DDP), and the District Good Governance Index (DGGI).

“What we now require is targeted district-level planning — identifying where the potential lies and where gaps need to be filled. These short-term objectives will cumulatively guide us toward our long-term goal of Viksit Jammu & Kashmir by 2047,” he said.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also released a series of key reports, including the District Domestic Product J&K Report 2022–23, District Good Governance Index 4.0 J&K Report 2023–24, J&K Sustainable Progress Report 2022–23, and the District Progress Report 2022–23.

He cautioned against focusing solely on the distant 2047 horizon, emphasizing the need to set medium- and short-term benchmarks that allow for real-time performance tracking and corrective action.

The Chief Minister welcomed the data presented during the meeting, especially insights from Mission Yuva, and called for its integration into sectoral planning across departments.

Referring to Mission Yuva and the DGGI reports, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of using this data constructively. “These findings must improve our planning and programmes. I urge all line departments and district administrations to reorient their schemes in a manner that addresses the issues highlighted by both data sets,” he said.

He said that the District Good Governance Index should not be perceived as a ranking of ‘good versus bad’ governance, but as a barometer of ‘good to better’ governance. “Districts that have shown strong performance must continue to lead by example, while those that lag must be supported to identify structural gaps and implement reforms. Any such systemic constraints should be immediately brought to the Secretariat’s attention for resolution,” he added.

Touching upon Jammu & Kashmir’s performance in national rankings, the Chief Minister shared a balanced view. “While we are currently ranked second among Union Territories, that comparison is limited given the nature of UTs. What is more important — and encouraging — is our 10th place rank nationally. That shows we’re holding our ground, but we must do better,” he remarked.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed gratitude to NITI Aayog and UNDP for their sustained technical support. “We request our partners at NITI Aayog to actively share best practices from across India that are replicable in Jammu & Kashmir. We don’t need to reinvent the wheel. If something works well in another

state, let us adapt it here. Likewise, if we are doing something commendable, let that be shared nationally for wider benefit.”

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized also the need to preserve the current templates for performance measurement. “Once we have established a template, we must not tinker with it. Changing the goalposts — be it benchmarks, data methodology — which otherwise renders year-on-year comparisons meaningless. Let us retain these standards for continuity, transparency, and accountability in governance,” he said.

The Chief Minister reiterated the importance of focused and data-backed governance.

“Let us approach our goals step by step — start with targeted short-term interventions at the district level, scale up to territory-wide strategies, and ultimately work towards the overarching vision of Viksit Jammu & Kashmir 2047,” he added.

The meeting was attended in person by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretaries of Industries & Commerce Vikramjit Singh, Secretary Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, Talat Parvez, administrative secretaries of other key departments including Social Welfare, Rural Development, Health & Medical Education, and Director Planning. Representatives from NITI Aayog, UNDP, and senior officers from the Planning Department also participated. All Deputy Commissioners and district officials joined the deliberations via video conferencing.

**ECIR Under PMLA**

offence serves as the foundation for commencing action under the PMLA, where as the offence of money laundering under Section 3 of the Act is a distinct and ongoing offence that must be evaluated independently.”

Consequently, the court said, the discharge in the predicate offence may influence the procedures under the PMLA; however, it cannot be regarded as an automatic or definitive basis for nullifying the ECIR.

Referring to the Enforcement Directorate’s authority to summon individuals under Section 50, the court said that it is intended for the acquisition of factual evidence pertaining to money laundering offences. “Obtaining a summons under this section does not inherently indicate that one is an accused in a money laundering investigation. This indicates that the individual may have information or documents pertinent to the investigation.”

The court said that Kansal’s discharge does not constitute a legitimate ground for nullifying the summons. “The authorities may execute the summons issued pursuant to the applicable legislative laws and procedural regulations.”

The issuance of summons is a fundamental component in the execution of a fair and unbiased investigation.

“It affords the relevant parties an opportunity to be heard, to articulate their case, and to address the allegations levied against them. These procedural safeguards are crucial for preserving the integrity of the investigative and adjudicatory processes established by the Act,” the court said. The aim is to guarantee the presence of individuals or companies for scrutiny while ensuring the process is transparent, equitable, and lawful. “The summons mechanism compels individuals to come before authorities, so ensuring the accurate collecting of evidence, assisting in the revelation of truth, and ultimately preserving the effectiveness and integrity of the judicial process.”

Consequently, the issuance of summons under the PMLA should be regarded as an essential element of due process, intended to advance the rule of law and bolster public trust in the legal system, the court said. “The discharge in the predicate offence, albeit substantial, does not, as a legal principle, impact the ongoing validity of the summons.”

**Srinagar Top**

Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir released the 4th Edition of District Good Governance Index (DGGI 4.0) for the year 2023-24 here today. The Chief Minister has also congratulated the Deputy Commissioners, applauding the continuous efforts made to strengthen grassroots governance.

In another landmark development, for the first time, estimates of District Domestic Product (DDP) were released by Chief Minister, Omar Abdulla in J&K and Srinagar emerged as a key economic driver, ranking 2nd in the J&K with a 14.53% contribution to the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at current prices for 2022-23.

While District Srinagar accounts for 10.08% of Jammu and Kashmir’s population, and contributes 14.5% of the Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) — highlighting its central role in the economy.

Further, Srinagar’s Per Capita Income (NDPP) for 2022-23 (2nd Revised Estimates) stood at Rs 1,88,723, significantly higher than the UT average of Rs 1,30,492.



# RCB's Last Attempt For Top Two Finish, LSG Aim To End On A High

Press Trust of India

**LUCKNOW:** In pursuit of a top-two finish, Royal Challengers Bengaluru will tread with caution in their final league clash against the erratic Lucknow Super Giants here on Tuesday as the hosts will be desperate to sign off on a positive note after a largely forgettable campaign.

Gujarat Titans' back-to-back defeats have created a golden opportunity for third-placed RCB to secure a top-two finish for the first time since 2016. The top two teams play the Qualifier 1 from which the winner enters the final and the losing side advances to Qualifier 2 to take on the winner of the eliminator, played between the third and fourth-place finishers.

The margin for error for RCB, who have 17 points, is rather slim. A win is imperative as either Mumbai Indians (16 points) or Punjab Kings (17 points) are set to overtake GT (18 points) after their clash this evening.



RCB were in red-hot form before the league's 10-day pause due to the India-Pakistan military conflict, winning four matches on the trot. But the break appears to have disrupted their momentum.

Since the restart, Bengaluru have seen a game washed out

by rain and then suffered a 42-run defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad. Their last victory came on May 3, and rustiness was evident against SRH.

"We were rusty. The intensity wasn't there initially... In the death (overs), we were bowling more accurately," stand-in

captain Jitesh Sharma admitted after that loss.

The return of Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood has lifted spirits in the RCB camp. Hazlewood has been the team's standout performer this season, with 18 wickets in 10 matches, and currently ranks fourth among the tourna-

ment's leading wicket-takers.

RCB will also be familiar with conditions, having played their last match at the Ekana Stadium.

However, overcoming Lucknow Super Giants won't be easy. The hosts come in high on confidence after dismantling Gujarat Titans in their last outing.

Their overseas trio of Aiden Markram, Mitchell Marsh, and Nicholas Pooran, who has been the franchise's biggest positive this season, tore through GT's bowling to pile 235/2.

The bowling unit also impressed, showing glimpses of what their campaign could have been without a string of injuries.

The addition of Will O'Rourke, signed as a replacement for the injured Mayank Yadav, has been a positive move. Spinner Digvesh Rathi, who has been LSG's find of the season, will also return for the clash after serving his one-match suspension for animated send-offs.

Match starts at 7:30pm IST.

## Short TAKES

### T20 World Cup Is On My Mind, Says KL Rahul

Senior India batter KL Rahul has set his sights on a return to India's T20 squad ahead of the 2026 World Cup at home, saying that time away from the format has allowed him to re-calibrate his white-ball game.

It's been close to three years since Rahul played a T20 for India. His last outing was India's semifinal defeat to England at the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia.

"Yes, I want to get back in the T20 team and the World Cup is on my mind, but for now it's just trying to enjoy how I'm playing right now," Rahul told Sky Sports. India, the reigning T20 Champions, are set to co-host the World Cup with Sri Lanka early next year.

Rahul's IPL 2025 campaign came to an end after Delhi Capitals failed to qualify for the playoffs, but the 33-year-old once again proved his consistency, amassing 539 runs in 13 matches at a brisk strike rate of 149.72.

It was the fifth time in six seasons, he scored 500-plus runs. Yet, despite the volume of runs, Rahul has often faced scrutiny over his strike rate, something he has worked on.

### Raza Arrives Just In Time From England To Lead Lahore To PSL Title

Zimbabwe all-rounder Sikandar Raza flew in from England, arrived 10 minutes before the toss and went on to lead Lahore Qalandars to its third Pakistan Super League title in four years.

Lahore's record successful chase on Sunday saw it beat Quetta Gladiators by six wickets with a ball to spare in a thrilling final.

Raza had played in a test match against England at Nottingham which Zimbabwe lost by an innings on Saturday.

He made a vital unbeaten 22 off seven deliveries on Sunday while Kusal Perera smashed a 31-ball 62 not out to carry Lahore to 204-4 in 19.5 overs after Quetta had chosen to bat first and scored 201-9.

Quetta mystery spinners Abrar Ahmed (1-27) and Usman Tariq (1-38) had squeezed Lahore and when Raza arrived the home team still needed 57 runs off the final 20 balls.

Raza showed no signs of fatigue after multiple flights to reach Lahore and smashed fast bowler Mohammad Amir for a four and a six off the first two balls he faced.

### Ronaldo's Al-Nassr Wins Appeal To Put ACL Qualification Within Reach

A disappointing season for Cristiano Ronaldo could still end on an unexpected high after Al-Nassr won an appeal to be handed three points, which puts qualification for the Asian Champions League within reach.

The Saudi Arabia Football Federation announced the ruling Monday, hours before the final round of the Saudi Pro League season. Al-Nassr had been in fourth place and out of the running to qualify for the AFC Champions League Elite, Asia's top club competition.

But the extra three points move Al-Nassr up to third and with a chance of overtaking second-place Al-Hilal in the final round. Ronaldo's team plays Al-Fateh on Monday evening, while Al-Hilal faces Al Qadsiah.

If Al-Nassr finishes third, it would enter Asia's second-tier competition instead.

Al-Nassr lost 2-1 to Al-Orubah in March but complained that goalkeeper Rafi Al-Ruwaili was ineligible to play in the game because he was not a full-time professional.

The Saudi Federation ruled in favor of Al-Nassr in a decision that also ensures Al-Orubah will be relegated.

### Gavi, Isco Back In Spain Squad For Nations League Semi Against France

Midfielders Gavi and Isco were recalled by Spain manager Luis de la Fuente on Monday in his squad for next month's Nations League semi-final against France.

Barcelona's Gavi, 20, last played for Spain in November 2023 before being sidelined for several months after tearing his knee ligaments.

Gavi, capped 27 times by Spain, has made 42 appearances for Barcelona this season, winning LaLiga, the Copa del Rey and Supercup with the Catalan club.

Isco returned to the Spain squad after a six-year absence.

The 33-year-old former Real Madrid player has been rewarded for a fine season with Real Betis in which he scored 12 goals and provided 10 assists in 32 appearances and helped them reach Wednesday's Conference League final.

Spain play France on June 5 in the German city of Stuttgart.

## YSS Budgam Boosts School Sports Culture With Zonal Level Competitions



Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** To foster sportsmanship and physical fitness among students, the Department of Youth Services & Sports Budgam, under the guidance of DYSSO Ghulam Hassan Lone, is conducting Inter-School Zonal-Level competitions throughout the district.

In Zone Beerwah, U-14 Badminton events for boys

ed by Principal Ghulam Mohidin, supported by Rumeet Kour (PEM) and staff.

Zone Hardpanzoo held U-17 and U-19 Girls Kabaddi matches at HS Arizal, inaugurated with a Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan pledge, promoting drug-free awareness and leadership among girls.

Inter Zonal District Level Martial Arts Competitions from Under-14 to Under-19 age group boys category was held at the Indoor Stadium of the district, including Taekwondo, Wushu, Judo, Kick Boxing, Karate and Weight Lifting, etc.

It is worth noting that at the inauguration ceremony, DYSSO Ghulam Hassan Lone along with In-charge Sports Activities Ghulam Hassan Khanday and Shaheel-ur-Rehman inaugurated the competitions.

## YSS Organise Sports Activities In Different Zones Across J&K



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K conducted a series of Inter-School competitions across multiple zones, including Marwah, Inderwal, and Kishtwar, as part of its annual sports calendar. These events were held under the patronage of Director General YSS Rajinder Singh Tara.

Zone Inderwal hosted a dynamic line-up of competitions, featuring Kabaddi, Volleyball, Kho-Kho, Carrom, and Chess for boys in the U-14 and U-17 categories. The events saw enthusiastic participation from students across various schools, highlighting not only their athletic skills but also their mental agility and teamwork. The venues buzzed with energy as students, teachers, and officials came together to promote physical education, discipline, and camaraderie.

Meanwhile, Zone Kishtwar organized the U-17 Boys Football competition, which drew impressive participation and captivated spectators with its high level of skill and sportsmanship. Simultaneously, Zone Marwah conducted Chess, Carrom, and Tug of War events, with the latter generating particular excitement among participants and onlookers alike.

Selected players from these zonal competitions will now advance to the Inter-Zonal District-Level events, where they will represent their zones and further refine their abilities under expert guidance.

In a parallel development, inter-zonal district-level competitions for Football,

## U-14, U-17 Kho-Kho & Kabaddi Tournaments Conclude In Zone Ganderbal

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal concluded the Inter-Zonal District Level Kho-Kho competition for Boys Under-14 on Monday at Government College of Physical Education Gadoora. The event witnessed participation from 43 student players representing all four zones of the district.

The competition kicked off with an exciting match between Zone Ganderbal and Zone Hariganiwan, where Zone Ganderbal secured a convincing victory. In the second knockout match, Zone Tullamulla triumphed over Zone Kangan, advancing to the final.

The grand finale saw



a fierce contest between Zone Tullamulla and Zone Ganderbal, with Tullamulla emerging victorious in a nail-biting finish to lift the championship trophy. Both the winner and runner-up teams were felicitated with trophies by the venue in-charge and other senior officials.

Meanwhile, Zone Ganderbal conducted an Inter-School Zonal Level Kho-Kho and Kabaddi competition for Girls Under 17 years at the open ground of Sultania English Medium School. The event drew a remarkable response, with 103 girls participating in Kho-Kho and 135 in Kabaddi.

## Alonso Takes Over As Real Madrid Coach, Vows To Follow In Ancelotti's Footsteps

Agencies

**MADRID:** Xabi Alonso officially took over Real Madrid's coaching job on Monday, vowing to follow in the footsteps of Carlo Ancelotti and saying he has "a good feeling" about the team's future under his command.

Madrid announced the hiring of Alonso on Sunday, a day after the club paid tribute to Ancelotti at the team's final Spanish league match of the season at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Ancelotti is taking over the Brazil job after four mostly successful seasons in his second stint with the club.

"I'm here to take over from Carlo Ancelotti, who was my coach and is a great person," Alonso said. "He is a coach who left his mark



on me and had a great influence. Without his guidance, I probably wouldn't be here. I'll pick up his legacy with pride and honor of now being in the position that Carlo was before, and I hope to live up to the expectations and lead this club to achieve all of its objectives."

Alonso said it felt good returning home to Madrid,

where he won six titles as a player from 2009-2014.

"Without a doubt this is a very special day for me," Alonso said. "I'm very happy to be at a place where I feel is my home. I may have been a few years away, but the link with Real Madrid and Madrid fans has always existed."

The ceremony to introduce Alonso began with

the showing of a video with some of Alonso's highlights as a player for Madrid, Spain and other clubs where he played as a midfielder. There were also highlights of his stints as a coach at Madrid's youth squads, Real Sociedad's "B" team and with Bayer Leverkusen, which he left after this season. The 43-year-old Alonso, who arrives on a contract until June 2028, watched the video alongside his wife and other invitees.

"Today is a very special day for all of us, it's the start of a new phase," Madrid president Florentino Pérez said. "Because we have a new coach who already is one of the best in the world and who represents the values of Real Madrid because he knows exactly what this shield and this shirt means."

## Mohamed Salah: Talks With Saudi League Officials Were Serious

Agencies

Mohamed Salah, Liverpool's talisman, said that his talks with Saudi Pro League officials were serious even though he eventually renewed his contract with the Premier League champions.

The negotiations between Salah and Liverpool were very long, and the Egyptian told NBC Sports last November that he was "more out than in".

Salah has been voted Football Writers' Association men's player of the year for the third time and gave an interview with On Sport Egyptian TV channel after the ceremony, which was aired on Sunday.

When asked about his



talks with SPL officials, the Premier League top scorer said "it was a good opportunity to me, if I hadn't renewed with Liverpool it would have happened".

"My relations with SPL officials are very good, we talked a lot, and the negotiations were serious," he added.

Salah eventually renewed his contract until 2027, and said that Liverpool's fans had a role in that.

"The negotiations were long. I know the club's policy (in negotiations), we reached a middle ground that made us all happy", he added.

He said also "Part of the

pressure on the club came from the fans, I know from the start that they wanted me to continue, and they played their role in all of this".

Salah, the second player to claim the FWA award three times after former Arsenal striker Thierry Henry, led the Premier League scoring chart with 29 goals this season, helping Liverpool win their second league title since he joined in 2017.

Salah also talked about the difference between Arne Slot, current Liverpool coach and Jurgen Klopp, the former coach.

"Every coach has a different style of play but I talk a lot with Slot and we understand each other very well," he said.



# Gen Z redefines career growth with bold shift from tradition: Report

Agencies

A new generation of workforce the Gen Z -- those under the age of 35 -- is rewriting the rules of career growth, as they are stepping away from conventional education pathways, questioning linear career growth, and disengaging from rigid corporate cultures, a senior executive of a digital recruitment platform said.

India is home to the world's largest youth workforce. And within that, Gen Z is rapidly emerging as a force of its own, they are expected to comprise

27 per cent of India's workforce by 2025.

"We are witnessing a profound generational shift in the workplace, one that challenges not just how we recruit, but why we exist as employers. India is at the heart of this change," said Devashish Sharma, Founding Member and CEO Taggd, a digital recruitment platform.

Gen Z is giving more importance to purpose than perks, and a non-linear growth in career over guarantees.

"They want to work for companies that stand for what's important. Whether it's sustainability, ethics, diversity or



equality," Sharma said, adding that 80 per cent of Gen Z professionals choose mentorship

and advancement over a bigger paycheck.

For Gen Z, flexibility is a

non-negotiable standard. The 9-to-5 model doesn't resonate for them. Gen Z values independence in how they work. They prefer flexible schedules, asynchronous collaboration, and environments that reward outcomes over hours.

"In order to cater to this culture, the companies are responding with hybrid structures, result-driven roles, and internal gig economies," Sharma said.

Since the Gen Z workforce is resetting the manner in which past generations have worked, organisations need to evolve in order to remain relevant. "To achieve this, top-down manage-

ment must give way to participative leadership, policy-heavy cultures must be replaced with people-first ecosystems, and, most importantly, trust must be gained via action," he said.

According to Taggd India Decoding Jobs Report 2025, there is a 35 per cent rise in skill-based hiring, as companies prioritise adaptability, problem-solving, and role-specific competencies over degrees. This change is indispensable for building a workforce ready for cross-functional roles that define the hybrid work era.

The methods of hiring must evolve to cater to the needs of

ever-evolving industries. Taggd IDJ Report 2025 predicts that hiring will skyrocket, for instance, 20 per cent in IT and 25 per cent in manufacturing.

The insights of the report were distilled from conversations with over 200 industry leaders and insights from the very people shaping the future of work.

The year 2025 is all about designing a workforce that is fluid, future-fit, and fiercely human. The companies must embrace flexibility wholeheartedly because the future belongs to organisations bold enough to reimagine work not as a place, but as a promise, Sharma said.

## 'Much Can Happen Over Coffee': Top Court Asks Couple To Settle Dispute



Agencies

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday asked a couple engaged in divorce proceedings to go on a dinner tonight to iron out their grievances and settle the dispute amicably.

A bench of Justice B V Nagarathna and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma was hearing a plea filed by a fashion entrepreneur seeking permission to travel abroad with her three-year-old child.

"You have a three-year-old child. What is the ego between the parties? Our canteen may not be so

good for this. We will provide you another drawing room. Meet over dinner tonight. Much can happen over a cup of coffee," the bench observed. The top court asked the couple to swallow the past like a bitter pill and think about the future.

Observing that it expects a positive outcome, the top court posted the matter for Tuesday.

"On prayer made by senior counsel for the petitioner for the travel of the petitioner along with the minor child, we have directed both parties to interact with each other and revert to the court tomorrow," the bench said.

## Karnataka Lawyer Invests In "Trump Hotel Rental Scheme", Loses Lakhs

Agencies

Haveri: A 38-year-old advocate was duped by cybercriminals who allegedly lured him into investing in a Trump Hotel rentals scheme using an AI-generated video of US President Donald Trump promising high returns, police said on Monday.

The issue came to light on May 6, when the victim approached the Haveri Central Crime Police Station with his complaint, they added.

In his statement, the advocate said that in January this year, he came across a video on YouTube offering an investment opportunity in "Donald Trump Hotel Rentals." When he clicked the link, he was directed to download a mobile application.

He was then asked to fill out a form, which included submitting his bank account details and IFSC code.

According to the police, the victim followed the instructions and paid Rs 1,500 to activate his account. He was promised



a 3 per cent daily return on his investment.

Initially, he received returns and made profits on his investments. Trusting the scheme, he invested more money when asked by the fraudsters, hoping to double his earnings.

In total, he deposited Rs 5,93,240 to various bank accounts, UPI IDs, and digital wallets between January 25 and April 4. However, he stopped receiving returns and was unable to recover the invested amount.

A case has been registered under the IT Act and Section 318(4) (cheating) of the Bharati-

ya Nyaya Sanhita, police said.

During the investigation, it was found that the complainant was tricked through a 'fake' link.

Consequently, Rs 1.5 lakh in the bank account to which the money was transferred has been frozen, a senior police officer said. Police have appealed to the public to stay alert and avoid clicking on suspicious links.

"It has come to light that crores of rupees have been swindled across the country through fake links such as the Trump Hotel Rental scheme, which falsely promises to double your money.

## French President Macron plays down apparent shove from wife in Vietnam

Agencies

French President Emmanuel Macron played down on Monday an incident in which his wife, Brigitte, pushed him in the face as the couple arrived in Vietnam to begin a tour of Southeast Asia.

In a video, Brigitte Macron appeared to shove her husband before he descended from the presidential plane late on Sunday, causing him to step back before he recovered and waved to the cameras on the tarmac below.

She remained momentarily hidden behind the plane's fuselage, blocking any view of her body language. The couple, who have been married since 2007, then descended the steps together, with Brigitte refusing her husband's arm.

"I was bickering, or rather joking, with my wife," Macron told reporters in Hanoi. "It's nothing."

He cautioned that this was

not the first time in recent weeks that the content of videos of him had been twisted by people he described as "crackpots".

Macron cited a video shared on social media that showed him removing a crumpled white object from a table on a train during a visit to Ukraine. Some social media users suggested -- without providing evidence -- that the object was a bag of cocaine.

Macron said it was a tissue and his office accused France's enemies of spreading fake news.

Earlier on Monday, an Elysee official said of the latest video: "It was a moment when the president and his wife were relaxing one last time before the start of the trip by having a laugh."

"It was a moment of closeness."

Macron's visit to Vietnam, the first by a French president in almost a decade, comes as he aims to boost France's influence in its former colony.

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