

J&K Cabinet Vows Not To Bow To Fear Or Violence

Tourism Must Be Conflict-neutral, Says CM During Maiden Cabinet Meet In Pahalgam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday convened a special cabinet meeting in Pahalgam, a symbolic gesture aimed at projecting defiance against terror and a steadfast commitment to the region's development.

In his first press conference since the April 22 terror attack in Baisaran meadows, Abdullah said that tourism should be "conflict-neutral" and not serve as a gauge for normalcy.



The choice of Pahalgam for holding a special cabinet meeting aims to show solidarity

with the residents of the tourist town, which has experienced a sharp decline in tourist footfall

since the devastating April 22 terror attack.

Abdullah also focused on the complex governance structure in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the context of security and tourism revival and said that "there is a strange system in JK as tourism is my responsibility, but security is not my responsibility."

"Three governments will have to work together here – the elected government of JK (Omar Abdullah's government), the un-elected | More on P10



Omar Cycles On Pahalgam Streets To Revive Tourism

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, accompanied by his sons Zamir and Zahir, undertook a bicycle tour of the hill resort on

Tuesday, in a symbolic initiative to restore public confidence and stimulate tourism in the region

This outing comes just over a month after the terrorist attack that claimed the lives of

26 people, mostly tourists, in the hill resort.

The family's cycling tour, spanning 2.5 kms, from a hotel to the base camp for the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra | More on P10

Pak Terror Deliberate Strategy, No Proxy War: PM

Observer News Service

Gujarat: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a public address in Gujarat, declared that terrorism can no longer be termed a "proxy war" but must be recognized as a calculated military strategy pursued by Pakistan. Citing the events following the May 6 Pahalgam terror attack and India's retaliatory Operation Sindoor, Modi said, "Those killed were honored with Pakistani



state funerals and military salutes—this is not proxy warfare, it's a deliberate war plan."

The prime minister asserted that India will respond with equal firmness | More on P10

Amit Shah To Visit J&K On May 29-30

Agencies

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Jammu and Kashmir this week, sources said on Tuesday. This will be his first visit after India launched

Operation Sindoor against Pakistan to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead.

Sources said Amit Shah will visit the Union Territory on May 29 | More on P10

ITR Filing Last Date Extended Till Sep 15

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Income Tax department on Tuesday extended the due date for filing ITRs for Assessment Year (AY) 2025-26 to September 15 from July 31.

The extension applies to individuals, HUFs and entities who do not need to get their accounts audited. They can now file their

tax return for income earned in the 2024-25 (April-March) fiscal by September 15.

In a statement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said the extension was necessitated to prepare Income Tax systems to incorporate changes in ITR forms and roll out the utilities.

This year, ITR forms for AY26 were notified in late April | More on P10

Heavy Rains, Hailstorms Lash Kashmir

Observer News Service


Srinagar: A heavy downpour on Tuesday afternoon brought much-needed respite from the sweltering heatwave across the Kashmir valley but also triggered waterlogging in several parts of Srinagar city and hailstorm-related damage in multiple districts.

The rain, which began in the afternoon, followed days of persistent heatwave conditions. The rain was particularly intense in Srinagar and parts of south Kashmir, including Kulgam, Anantnag, Shopian, and extended to Budgam and Baramulla districts where hailstorms caused | More on P10


Flight Operations Disrupted In Sgr

Lightning Kills Over 100 Livestock In Rajouri


Over 100 sheep and goats belonging to nomadic families were killed after they were struck by lightning in the | More on P10



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AND FARMERS WELFARE
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2

How To Download Aadhaar Card Online: Step-By-Step Guide

Press Trust Of India

The Aadhaar card, issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), is a 12-digit unique identification number for Indian residents. It serves as proof of identity and address, enabling access to government services, subsidies, and financial transactions. This guide explains Aadhaar Card Download and details UIDAI's role.

What is an Aadhaar Card? Aadhaar is a biometric-based ID system collecting demographic (name, address, date of birth) and biometric (fingerprints, iris scans) data. It's used for authentication in banking, mobile connections, and government schemes. Available in physical and digital (e-Aadhaar) formats. About UIDAI The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), established under the Aadhaar Act, 2016, operates under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. UIDAI: Issues Aadhaar numbers and cards.

Manages the Aadhaar database. Ensures data security and privacy. Provides online services like Aadhaar download and verification.

How to Download an Aadhaar Card Prerequisites Registered mobile number linked to Aadhaar.

- Internet access and a device.
- Aadhaar number, Enrollment ID (EID), or

Virtual ID (VID).

Steps 1. Visit UIDAI Website: Go to myaadhaar. uidai.gov.in or use the mAadhaar app.

Step 2. Select Download Aadhaar: Click "Download Aadhaar" under "My Aadhaar."

Step 3. Choose Identifier: Aadhaar Number (12-digit).

- Enrollment ID (EID, from enrollment slip).
- Virtual ID (VID, 16-digit).

Step 4. Enter Details: Input identifier, name, PIN code, and CAPTCHA.

Step 5. Request OTP: Click "Request OTP," enter OTP sent to mobile.

Step 6. Download: Click "Download Aadhaar" to get password-protected PDF.

Step 7. Open PDF: Password is first four letters of name (uppercase) + birth year (e.g., RAVI1990).

Via mAadhaar App Download mAadhaar app.

Log in with Aadhaar number and OTP. Select "Download Aadhaar" and follow OTP process. Types of Aadhaar



Regular Aadhaar: Full Aadhaar number. Masked Aadhaar: Shows last four digits for privacy. Troubleshooting OTP Not Received: Verify mobile number linkage. Incorrect Details: Use "Retrieve Lost EID/Aadhaar" on UIDAI website. Password Error: Check format (name + birth year). Website Issues: Clear cache or use app. Security Features Password-protected e-Aadhaar.

Masked Aadhaar for privacy. Virtual ID (VID) for secure authentication. Aadhaar locking to prevent misuse. Other UIDAI Services Aadhaar updates (demographic/biometric). Authentication history. Paperless e-KYC. Locate enrollment centers. Importance of e-Aadhaar e-Aadhaar is as valid as physical card, eco-friendly, and easily accessible. Download only from UIDAI sources. Precautions Use official websites (uidai.gov.in, myaadhaar.uidai.gov.in). Share Aadhaar cautiously; prefer masked Aadhaar/VID.

Report fraud to 1947 or help@uidai.gov.in.

Conclusion Aadhaar is vital for India's digital identity system, managed securely by UIDAI. Downloading e-Aadhaar is simple via UIDAI's portal or app, with robust security. Follow this



**IAPM Department
Zonal Office Pulwama.**

TENDER-CUM-SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF HYPOTHECATED VEHICLES

Notice is hereby given to the public in general that the below described Vehicles, hypothecated to J&K Bank Ltd. Branches mentioned below, will be sold on "As is, Where is", "Whatever there is" and "No Recourse" basis on 17.06.2025, for part recovery of outstanding amount due in below mentioned accounts.

| S. No | Account Name | Branch | Reg. No. Vehicle | Vehicle type | Reserve Price in Lacs | EMD in Lacs |
|-------|--|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Mr. Imtiyaz Ahmad S/o: Ab Kareem Ganie R/o: Reshinagri Shopian. | H.R. Shopian | Bulldozer-BACKHOE LOADER-BOBCAT B-900 | Bulldozer-BOBCAT B-900 BACKHOE LOADER-Model 2020 | Rs.15.40 Lacs | Rs.1.54 Lacs |
| 2 | Mr. Sheeraz Ahmad Poswal S/o: Ali Mohammad Poswal R/o: Chottipora Shopian. | H.R. Shopian | JK22-B-6762 | TRUCK, TATA LPT 3518 BS-VI COWL-Model-2020 | Rs.21.38 Lacs | Rs.2.14 Lacs |
| 3 | Mr. Nasir Ahmad Chachi S/o: Bashir Ahmad Chachi R/o: Ringtranzi Devpora, Shopian. | Batpora, Shopian | JK-22C-4459 | TATA YODHA Model-2022 | Rs.4.83 Lacs | Rs.0.49 Lacs |
| 4 | Mr. Ishfaq Majid Wani S/o: Abdul Majid Wani R/o: Mugalpora, Pulwama. | GulzarPora Pulwama | JK-13-H-8135 | Maruti Suzuki Alto K10 STD Model-2023 | Rs.2.90 Lacs | Rs.0.30 Lacs |
| 5 | Mr. Abdul Saboor Ganie R/o: Abdul Aziz Ganie R/o: Hardoo-Handew, Shopian. | D.K.Pora, Shopian | JK-22-B-7083 | TATA LPT 1918 Euro IV (Truck) Model-2020 | Rs.13.17 Lacs | Rs.1.32 Lacs |
| 6 | Mr. Gh Qadir Shergojri S/o: Abdul Samad Shergojri R/o: Manghama,Pulwama | Wahibug, Pulwama | JK13-H-1596 | MarutiEeco 75TR Model-2021 | Rs.3.20 Lacs | Rs.0.32 lacs |
| 7 | Mr. John Mohammad Bhat S/o: Noor Mohammad Bhat R/o: Laribal, Bongam Kakapora, Pulwama. | Kakpora, Pulwama | JK-13-G-8811 | Bharat-Benz Signa 1918 K BSV1 (Mini-Tipper) | Rs.14.22 Lacs | Rs.1.42 Lacs |

The reserve price for the proposed sale (includes GST as applicable) has been fixed as per the above mentioned table. The Vehicles are available for inspection on any working day between 11:00 a.m to 04:00 p.m at the premises of J & K Bank Zonal Office, Pulwama and IGC Lassipora. Sealed quotations in the prescribed format are invited from the interested parties for the purchase of said Vehicles to be accompanied by EMD amount mentioned above in the table, in the form of Demand Draft drawn on any nationalized/scheduled Bank in favour of J&K Bank Ltd, Branches mentioned above, payable at Pulwama, which is to be deposited with the undersigned on or before 16.06.2025 during working hours at Zonal Office Pulwama. The sealed tenders will be opened on 17.06.2025 at 11.00 A.M. at the office of the undersigned in presence of the Bidders who choose to remain present on the given day and time. The Tender document containing the terms and conditions can be obtained, along with the prescribed Bid Form, from the office of the undersigned or from J & K Bank Ltd., Branches mentioned above, on any working day between 11:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m by or before 16.06.2025.

**Sd/-
Altat Ahmad Ringshawl
In-charge, IAPM Department,
J&K Bank Ltd.
Zonal Office Pulwama**

Dated:26.05.2025

ab

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my bank records my name is wrongly written as Rifat Gulzar instead of Rifat R/O check saderbal Nigeen srinagar branch name REC Srinagar bearing account no 0391040150000253 .Now I m applying for the correction of the same.if anybody has any objection in this regard can kindly contact the concerned authorities within seven days.After that no objection will be entertained.
Contact no:-9596319544-

inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

the name of my Son has inadvertently recorded as Ummer Farooq in adhaar card bearing number:- 2249-6295-4943 which is incorrect while his correct name is Ummer Farooq Parray. Which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this rgard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Farooq Ahmad Parray
F/o Ummer Farooq Parray
R/o Wailoo Kralpora Tehsil Kunzer

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan.

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

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Sadia Fayaz D/o Fayaz Ahmad Pala R/o Seriguo Dangerpora with verified date of birth 08/01/2021 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 Mohammad Arham Malla s/o Tanveer Ahmad Malla R/o Mehrajpora kongamdara with verified date of birth 28/05/2021 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

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Sajad Rasool Kumar, S/o Gulam Rasool Kumar, R/o Raitan, Tehsil Khansahib, District Budgam, has applied for the issuance of a Date of Birth Certificate with date 16/01/1988 through the office of the Tehsildar Khansahib, Budgam. If any person has any objection regarding the issuance of the said certificate, they may submit their objection in writing to the office of the Tehsildar Khansahib, Budgam within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

rmb SD/
Tehsildar Khansahib Budgam

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK0420120015601 issued in favour of IRFAN AMIN SHAH Parentage MOHAMMAD AMIN SHAH

Whereas an application has been recieved by one IRFAN AMIN SHAH Parentage MOHAMMAD AMIN SHAH wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as IRAFIN AMIN SHAH Which needs to be changed as IRFAN AMIN SHAH.

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir
mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK042010000045 issued in favour of JAVEED AHMAD DAR Parentage ABDUL RAZAQ DAR

Whereas an application has been recieved by one JAVEED AHMAD DAR Parentage ABDUL RAZAQ DAR wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as JAVEEDF AHMAD DAR Parentage AB. RAZAQ DAR Which needs to be changed as JAVEED AHMAD DAR Parentage ABDUL RAZAQ DAR.

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

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir
mcb

OFFICE OF ADVOCATE YAKOOB HUSSAIN SOFI J&K HIGH COURT SRINAGAR

Cell No. 9906517553, 9419068005

In the case of:

- Ab Rahim Dar aged 60 years S/o Mohammad Anwar Dar
 - Mushtaq Ahmad Dar
 - Nadeem Ahmad Dar
- Sons of Ab Rahim Dar
Residents of Barsu Pulwama

...Caveator

Versus
PUBLIC AT LARGE

...Non-caveators

IN THE MATTER OF:

Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148-A of C.P.C. The Caveators have reasons to believe/apprehension that non-Caveator(s) may file a suit/application/petition or any other type of proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court, District Courts, Revenue Courts or any other forum and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/ex-parte against the caveators and in such eventuality, the caveators will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators may be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble Court before passing any order or direction.

Yakoob Hussain Sofi
(Advocate)
bmg

DG CRPF Visits Sgr, Takes Stock Of Security

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director General (DG) CRPF, G P Singh Tuesday visited Srinagar and reviewed the operational preparedness of the Central Reserve Police Force.

The DG, who is on a 3-day visit to the Valley, proceeded to 181 Bn, CRPF, Charar-e-Sharif shortly after landing in Srinagar.

As per a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the DG, accompanied by Vitul Kumar, SDG Ops Dte, Rajesh Kumar, ADG J&K Zone, Vineet Brij Lal, IG, Pawan Kumar Sharma, IG, and Mitesh Jain, IG inspected 181 Battalion and deliberated upon the security scenario and Ops preparedness with the commanders on the ground.

In addition to the review

of the overall security scenario, the DG's visit also focuses on the readiness and preparations of the Force in the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025.

The DG then interacted with the Jawans in a Sainik Sammelan and addressed their grievances. In his address, the DG lauded the personnel for their steadfast commitment to duty and their service to the Motherland. He also, expressed his confidence that the Force will continue to serve the Nation with zeal and valour.

Returning to Srinagar on the same day, the DG interacted with Range DIGs and Commanding Officers of 47 Battalions deployed in the valley in a conference that lasted more than 03 hours.

Delegation Of Anjuman Sharie Shian Calls On LG



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A delegation of Jammu and Kashmir Anjuman-E-Sharie Shian led by Agha Syed Mujtaba Abbas Mosavi, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. During the meeting, the delegation apprised the LG of various important matters concerning the smooth and peaceful conduct of Mu-

harram, with particular emphasis on the arrangements for the historical Youm-e-Ashura procession.

The Lieutenant Governor gave a patient hearing to the concerns raised and assured the delegation that all necessary steps will be taken to ensure that the issues highlighted are addressed in a timely and appropriate manner.

'Sewage Flows Freely Into Jhelum At Multiple City Localities'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The River Jhelum, the lifeline of Srinagar, is being openly defiled as raw sewage continues to flow unchecked into its waters at several locations, notably at Nawa Kadal, Safa Kadal, Aali Kadal, and Cement Kadal.

Locals expressed deep anguish over the utter neglect by authorities, accusing the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) of allowing the historic river to turn into a dumping channel for untreated domestic waste.

"It's a shame that such a vital water body is being systematically destroyed, right under the nose of those responsible for protecting it," said a resident of Nawa Kadal.

Eyewitnesses confirmed that foul-smelling black sewage water can be seen gushing from pipes and drains directly into the river, emitting a stench and posing serious health hazards to those living nearby. The scene is no different at Safa Kadal and other areas, where locals say the river is now a "breeding ground for disease."

Sources revealed that Prof.

Saifuddin Soz, the former Union Minister for Environment, Forests & Water Resources, had raised the issue with the SMC Commissioner last year, urging immediate intervention to prevent further ecological damage. However, no concrete steps were taken, and the situation has only worsened.

"It's not that the administration doesn't know, it's that they don't care," said an activist based in Aali Kadal. "The river is getting polluted, and so is our environment."

Environmental experts warn that the continued discharge of untreated sewage into the Jhelum could have catastrophic consequences not only for aquatic life but also for groundwater and public health.

Despite repeated appeals and public outrage, there is little sign of any ongoing cleanup or sewage treatment efforts in the affected areas. Residents have called on the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee and higher environmental authorities to intervene and compel the concerned officials to act. (KNT)

Rakh-e-Aarth Colony Left To Suffer In Silence, Say Inhabitants

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Residents of the Rakh-e-Aarth Colony in Bemina, who were relocated from Srinagar's Dal Lake, staged a protest against what they described as the government's complete failure to provide even the most basic civic amenities.

The aggrieved families, most of whom were displaced from Dal Lake under the rehabilitation plan, blocked local paths and raised slogans, expressing deep resentment over the continued lack of electricity, clean drinking water, and proper roads in the colony.

"Had we known we were being sent into isolation and darkness, we would never have left our boats and homes in the Dal," said an elderly resident. "We were told this was a model colony, but there's nothing here, no power, no water, not even a road to walk on."

The colony, located on the outskirts of Bemina, was sup-

posed to be a well-equipped resettlement zone under the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA). However, years after the relocation, the infrastructure remains rudimentary and unfinished, forcing inhabitants to live in what they called "inhuman conditions."

Protesters held placards demanding immediate attention from authorities. "We appeal to the Vice Chairman of LCMA to visit this colony and see the ground reality for himself," said one resident during the demonstration. "We were promised a better life, but this is worse than where we came from."

Locals also complained of the absence of medical facilities, poor sanitation, and the dangers posed to children due to open drains and incomplete development work. "We feel abandoned. We don't want more promises, we want action," said another resident. (CNS)



HEAVY RAINS LASH SRINAGAR, triggering waterlogging across the city.

KO PHOTO, FAISAL KHAN

Commissioner Secretary H&UDD Reviews Urban Development Projects

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Aimed to oversee and expedite ongoing urban developmental works, Commissioner Secretary Government Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur conducted a comprehensive on-ground inspection of various urban projects being executed across Srinagar city.

She was accompanied by Commissioner SMC, Dr Owais Ahmad, along with senior officials from SMC and other line departments.

The Commissioner Secretary visited key sites that are focal points for Srinagar's urban beautification and infrastructure development. The sites included Tulsi Bagh, Rambagh, Karan Nagar, Qamarwari and Nallamar Road in Downtown Srinagar.

The primary objective of this extensive visit was to assess the progress on multiple ongoing projects aimed at transforming Srinagar into a more sustainable, environmentally friendly and visually appealing city. The review focused on aspects such as urban beautification, environmental sustainability, infrastructure improvements and public amenities. Throughout the tour, the Commissioner Secretary actively interacted with the project teams, enquiring about the current status, challenges faced and expected completion timelines. Her hands-on approach reflects commitment in ensuring that developmental works are executed efficiently and effectively.

During the visit to Karan Nagar, she planted a sapling while emphasising the importance of green spaces within the urban settings.

Mandeep Kaur emphasized the critical need for timely project com-



THE COMMISSIONER SECRETARY VISITED KEY SITES THAT ARE FOCAL POINTS FOR SRINAGAR'S urban beautification and infrastructure development. The sites included Tulsi Bagh, Rambagh, Karan Nagar, Qamarwari and Nallamar Road in Downtown Srinagar.

pletion, urging the agencies to work in a coordinated manner to avoid delays. She highlighted the importance of fostering stronger inter-agency collaboration and stressed increased community participation to ensure that development projects are aligned with the needs and aspirations of local residents. This participatory approach, she stressed, is essential for sustainable growth of Srinagar.

The officials expressed their commitment in addressing bottlenecks and accelerating project timelines to realize the vision of a modern, eco-friendly Srinagar.

DC Reviews Progress On Implementation Of Mission Yuva

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to review the progress on the implementation of Mission Yuva, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex here on Tuesday.

During the meeting, DC took a detailed appraisal of the progress and performance of the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and Business Help Desks (BHDs) established under Mission Yuva. He also assessed the roles, achievements, and impact of the Yuva Doots on the ground.

At the outset, DC underscored the importance of seamless coordination among various departments to provide comprehensive support to Nano-Enterprises and MSMEs. He highlighted that the initiative represents a vital step towards boosting self-employment and entrepreneurship across Srinagar district.

Deputy Director Employment provided an overview of the structure, roles, and responsibilities of BDUs and BHDs, stressing their significance in facilitating entrepreneurship, business development, and financial linkages.

All stakeholders actively engaged in the deliberations, sharing insights into their respective roles in



strengthening the business support ecosystem at both district and sub-division levels.

It was informed during the meeting that a total of 190 Yuva Doots have been appointed for District Srinagar, covering all 74 electoral wards. In each ward, three Yuva Doots have been assigned, ensuring coverage of at least four polling booths per Doot. Additionally, 100 Yuva Doots have been placed on the reserve list to meet future deployment needs or replacements.

These Yuva Doots have been strategically deployed to cover and engage with 30,000 potential entrepreneurs, who were identified during a baseline survey conducted by the Department of Labour and Employ-

ment in January 2025. This survey provided critical insights into the entrepreneurial potential across the district and forms the foundation of outreach efforts under Mission Yuva.

Assessing the current performance of the Yuva Doots, DC directed the SBDU, District Srinagar to conduct special training sessions for all appointed Yuva Doots. The purpose of this training is to enhance their capacity and ensure the effective on-ground implementation of Mission Yuva initiatives.

Dr Bilal emphasized that continuous training and monitoring will help in optimizing the impact of Mission Yuva, fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in District Srinagar.

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

| | |
|--------|--------|
| FAJR | 3:41 |
| ZUHR | 12: 28 |
| ASR | 5:26 |
| Magrib | 7:37 |
| ISHA | 9:15 |

This Day In History

- 640 - Severinus begins his reign as Catholic Pope (elected in 638)
- 1037 - Holy Roman Emperor Conrad II removes "Constitutio the Feudis"
- 1156 - Battle at Brindisi: Norman-Sicilian King William beats Byzantine fleet under John Doukas and Alexios Bryennios
- 1349 - 60 Jews murdered in Breslau, Silesia
- 1358 - Daint-Leu at Oise begins French boer uprising
- 1431 - Joan of Arc is accused of relapsing into heresy by donning male clothing again, providing justification for her execution
- 1521 - Pope Leo X signs treaty with Holy Roman Emperor Charles V
- Charles V
- 1588 - Spanish Armada under the Duke of Medina-Sidonia departs Lisbon to invade England
- 1741 - Spain and Bavaria sign treaty
- 1863 - 1st black regiment (54 Mass) leaves Boston to fight in US Civil War
- 1871 - Paris communards revolt put down
- 1900 - Total solar eclipse occurs
- 1901- Laws against phosphor matches enacted (inhibition white phosphorous)
- 1912- Australian cricket spin bowler Jimmy Matthews takes 2 hat-tricks on same day in Triangular Tournament v South Africa at Old Trafford (3/16, 3/38); only player to achieve the feat
- 1918- Azerbaijan gains independence and declares itself a Democratic Republic
- 1918- The Armenian National Council declares Armenia independent from the Russian Empire
- 1926- Military coup by General Manuel Gomes da Costa in Portugal
- 1926 US Customs Court created by congress
- 1928- American automobile makers Dodge Brothers Inc and Chrysler Corporation merge
- 1929 1st all color talking picture "On With the Show" exhibited (NYC)
- 1932- Netherlands closes off the Zuiderzee - a new system of dams and dykes to reclaim land and provide flood protection. The country's largest hydraulic engineering project of the 20th century.
- 1934- Near Callander, Ontario, the Dionne quintuplets are born to Olivia and Elzire Dionne, later becoming the first quintuplets to survive infancy
- 1936- Alan Turing submits "On Computable Numbers" for publication, in which he set out the theoretical basis for modern computers.
- 1937- Neville Chamberlain becomes Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- 1940- Belgium surrenders to Germany, King Leopold III gives himself up
- 1940- British-French troops capture Narvik, Norway
- 1941- Allied troops begin evacuation of Crete
- 1942- 1,800 Czechs murdered by Nazis during attack on Heydrich
- 1946 1st night game at Yankee stadium (Senators 2, Yanks 1)
- 1946- Manuel Roxas is inaugurated as the last President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines
- 1946- US Patent filed for a hydrogen bomb
- 1948- Iraq captures Ge'ulim settlement
- 1948- Israeli Air Force is officially founded shortly after the start of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War
- 1952- The women of Greece are given the right to vote.
- 1953- Premier of 1st animated 3-D cartoon in Technicolor-"Melody"
- 1958- French government of Prime Minister Pierre Pflimlin resigns; 200,000 demonstrate against Charles de Gaulle
- 1959- Monkeys Able & Baker zoom 300 miles (500 km) into space on Jupiter missile, become 1st animals retrieved from a space mission
- 1961- Amnesty International founded in London (Nobel Peace Prize 1977)
- 1963- Cyclone hits Chittagong, Bangladesh; about 1 million houses destroyed
- 1963- Estimated 22,000 die in a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal (India)
- 1964- Palestine National Congress forms the PLO in Jerusalem
- 1964- Unmanned Apollo 2 Saturn test launched into Earth orbit
- 1965- Fire & explosion at Dhori mine in Dhanbad India kills 400

'Syria And Israel In Direct Talks Focused On Security'

Agencies

Jerusalem: Israel and Syria are in direct contact and have in recent weeks held face-to-face meetings aimed at calming tensions and preventing conflict in the border region between the two longtime foes, Reuters reported on Tuesday, citing five people familiar with the matter.

The contacts mark a significant development in ties between states that have been on opposite sides of conflict in the Middle East for decades, as the US encourages the new rulers in Damascus to establish relations with Israel and Israel eases its bombardment of Syria.

For all the latest headlines

On the Syrian side, the sources said contacts have been led by senior security official Ahmad al-Dalati, who was appointed governor of the province of Quneitra, which borders the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, after the fall of al-Assad. Earlier this week, al-Dalati was also put in charge of security in the southern province of Sweida, home to Syria's Druze minority.

Reuters could not determine who participated on Israel's side, though two of the sources said they were security officials.

Three of the sources said there had been several rounds of in-person meetings in the border region, including in territory controlled by Israel.



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They also build on back-channel talks via intermediaries since opposition forces, led by the "Hayat Tahrir al-Sham" (HTS) group, toppled Syrian strongman Bashar al-Assad in December, said two Syrian and two Western sources, as well as a regional intelligence source familiar with the matter.

The sources spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject for two nations with no official ties and a history of enmity. The direct talks and their scope have not been previously reported.

Public Employees To Lose Retirement Benefits On Dismissal In New Pension Rule

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The dismissal or removal of an employee of a public sector undertaking (PSU) will lead to forfeiture of the retirement benefits, the Centre has said.

However, the decision of such dismissal or removal shall be subject to review by the administrative ministry concerned, it said.

The Personnel Ministry has effected key changes in the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021 in this regard.

According to the recently-notified Central Civil Services (Pension) Amendment Rules, 2025, "the dismissal or removal from service of the public sector undertaking of any employee after his absorption in such undertaking for any subsequent misconduct shall lead to forfeiture of the retirement benefits" for the service rendered under the government also.

"...and in the event of his dismissal or removal or retrenchment the decision of the

undertaking shall be subject to review by the ministry administratively concerned with the undertaking," read the new rules notified on May 22.

Earlier, the rules did not allow forfeiture of the retirement benefits in case of dismissal or removal from service of the public sector undertaking employee, after his absorption in such undertaking, for any subsequent misconduct.

The new rules further said that the provisions related to continuation or grant of "pension and family pension subject to future good conduct" and "compassionate allowance" would also be applicable on such dismissed or retrenched employees.

The Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 2021 apply to the government servants appointed on or before December 31, 2003, except "railway servants", "persons in casual and daily rated employment" and officers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFoS) among others.



India Clears Deck for Desi Stealth Fighter Jet

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the "execution model" to implement a mega project to indigenously develop a fifth generation deep penetration advanced medium combat aircraft for the Indian Air force India has been working on the ambitious AMCA project to develop the medium weight deep penetration fighter jet with advanced stealth features to bolster its air power capability.

The defence ministry said on Tuesday that Singh has approved the "Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Programme Execution Model." "In a significant push towards enhancing India's in-

digenous defence capabilities and fostering a robust domestic aerospace industrial ecosystem, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Programme Execution Model," it said.

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is set to execute the programme through Industry partnership.

The defence ministry said the "Execution Model" approach provides equal opportunities to both private and public sectors on competitive basis.

"They can bid either independently or as joint venture or as consortia. The entity/bidder should be an Indian company compliant with the laws and regulations of the country," it said in a statement.

"This is an important step towards harnessing the indigenous expertise, capability and capacity to develop the AMCA prototype, which will be a major milestone towards Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in the aerospace sector," it said.

The cabinet committee on security led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given in-principle approval to the fighter jet programme last year.

The initial development cost of the project has been estimated at around Rs 15,000 crore.

The IAF has been pushing for the AMCA project in view of its long-term requirement.

India's confidence in the development of the AMCA saw a significant jump after the development of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.

Outrage Erupts Over Netanyahu's Tunnel Visit Under Al Aqsa Mosque

Huda Ata/Gulf News

Dubai: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, currently wanted by the International Criminal Court, released a video on Monday showing himself walking through a massive un-

derground tunnel dug beneath

the Al Aqsa Mosque, one of Islam's holiest sites, in a highly controversial move that has triggered regional condemnation.

The tunnel, which reportedly stretches from the neighbourhood of Silwan to the area directly underneath Al Aqsa, has long been a focal point of tension



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The tunnel, which reportedly stretches from the neighbourhood of Silwan to the area directly underneath Al Aqsa, has long been a focal point of tension

the 58th anniversary of Israel's 1967 occupation of East Jerusalem, and many observers interpreted the timing and the location as a deliberate and provocative message.

The video was released as Israeli settlers, under heavy military protection, staged large-scale incursions into the Al Aqsa compound, with more than 2,090

individuals documented by the Islamic Waqf as having entered the site in a single day.

Among them were senior Israeli officials, including National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, Negev and Galilee Minister Yitzhak Wasserlauf, and multiple members of the Knesset from the Likud, Jewish Power, and Religious Zionism parties.

The provocations extended into the streets. In Bab Al Amoud (Damascus Gate), hundreds of Israeli nationalists took part in the annual "Flag March", waving Israeli flags, performing choreographed dances, and chanting inflammatory slogans such as "Death to Arabs" and "Flatten Gaza."

Several participants carried banners with slogans like "Jerusalem is ours since 1967" and "Gaza will be ours in 2025," further fueling concerns about expanding territorial ambitions.

The move has ignited anger across the Arab world, though the reaction has thus far been limited to statements of condemnation. Activists criticized what they called a shameful silence from international and regional actors, arguing that the lack of meaningful response has emboldened Israel to escalate its activities in occupied East Jerusalem.

What Saudi Official Said On Reports Of Kingdom Lifting Alcohol Ban

Reuters

Dubai: A Saudi official denied on Monday media reports saying the kingdom, the birthplace of Islam, would lift its 73-year-old ban on alcohol, which is prohibited for observant Muslims.

The report, which was picked up by some international media after it appeared on a wine blog last week, said Saudi authorities planned to allow the controlled sale of alcohol as the country prepares to host the 2034 soccer World Cup. It did not give a source for the information.

The report sparked a vigorous online debate in the conservative kingdom, whose king also holds the title of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques - Islam's most revered places in Mecca and Medina.

Saudi Arabia's de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, known as MBS, is pushing a series of reforms to open up the country for tourism and business, as part of an effort to strengthen non-oil sectors of the economy.

The government ended its prohibition on allowing women to drive in 2017, and has eased some rules on sex segregation in public spaces and reduced the power of the religious police.

A minor step towards allowing alcoholic drinks to be consumed in the kingdom was the opening of the first alcohol store in the capital, Riyadh, last year serving exclusively non-Muslim diplomats.

A minor step towards allowing alcoholic drinks to be consumed in the kingdom was the opening of the first alcohol store in the capital, Riyadh, last year serving exclusively non-Muslim diplomats.

Prior to that, alcohol was available only through diplomatic mail or on the black market.

Saudi Arabia has strict laws against drinking alcohol, which can be punished by deportation, fines or imprisonment. Jail terms have largely replaced possible sentencing with hundreds of lashes.

University Of Liverpool To Set Up Campus In Bengaluru

Welcome first batch in August 2026



Press Trust Of India

Bengaluru: The University of Liverpool is set to open a campus in Bengaluru and will welcome its first batch of students in August next year, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced on Monday, as he handed over the Letter of Intent to the varsity administration here.

The move comes after the University of Liverpool, part of the United Kingdom's Russell Group, received formal approval from the University Grants Commission (UGC) to open the first foreign university campus in Bengaluru.

The University of Southampton was the first UK university to receive approval and is set to start offering academic programmes in Gurugram by July 2025.

Pradhan also announced

that 15 foreign universities will be coming to India by this academic year.

"Delighted to hand over the Letter of Intent to University of Liverpool, one of UK's premier academic institutions, for setting up a campus in India. Today's development is another milestone in India's journey of deepening academic partnerships with leading global universities," the minister said, adding that the development was a reaffirmation of India's emergence as a trusted partner in global higher education.

Expressing confidence in Liverpool's Bengaluru campus, the Union Minister said, "It will be a global campus that will push the boundaries of research and innovation and foster scientific temper for contributing to global welfare and prosperity."

Bombay HC Grants Bail to Student Over Indo-Pak Post, Slams Govt.

Press Trust Of India

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted bail to a 19-year-old student from Pune arrested for her social media post on Indo-Pakistan hostilities and ordered her immediate release while rebuking the Maharashtra government for its "radical" reaction to her post.

A vacation Bench of Justices Gauri Godse and Somasekhar Sundaresan said it was "absolutely shocking" that the student has been treated like a "hardcore criminal" by the government.

The court ordered the student to be released on bail forthwith, noting that she should not have been arrested at all since



she had deleted the post immediately, expressed remorse and apologised for the same.

"The applicant shall be released on bail by the Yerwada prison on Tuesday itself," the Bench said. The officer con-

cerned of the prison is directed to ensure that she is released today evening itself so that she can appear for her college examination, the court said.

The court also suspended the rustication order passed by

the girl's college and directed the institution to issue her a hall ticket so that she can appear for the examination.

The student was arrested earlier this month for her social media post criticising the Indian government during the Indo-Pakistan hostilities amid Operation Sindoor.

While the girl had initially moved the HC challenging the decision taken by her college rustivating her, her lawyer Farhana Shah on Tuesday also filed a petition seeking quashing of the FIR and bail.

The court granted the girl bail and allowed her to appear for the ongoing examinations. It also cautioned the girl from acting responsibly and refrain from uploading such posts on social media.

UP Man Goes To Mumbai, Attacks Teen Girl With Brick For Not Taking His Calls

Press Trust of India

A 19-year-old man from Varanasi has been arrested for allegedly attacking a teenage girl in western Mumbai after she ignored him, a police official said here on Monday.

Accused Rahul Singh targeted the 17-year-old girl at Gosalia Road in Sanjay Nagar of Kandivali (West) on May 24 when she was walking with a friend.

Singh allegedly abused her, picked up a brick lying on the roadside and slammed it on her head. He also smashed her mobile phone, the official said.

The teen sustained serious injuries and was rushed to the civic-run Shatabdi Hospital. During the probe, police learnt that Singh, a resident of Varanasi, came

to Mumbai as the girl was not taking his calls, the official said, adding that the two know each other very well.

The accused has been booked under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Pro-



tection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. A probe is underway, the official said.

‘OPERATION SINDOOR’**Northern Railway Felicitates Over 200 Employees For Excellent Service****Agencies**

JAMMU: Northern Railway's Jammu division today felicitated over 200 employees of the operating and commercial department for providing excellent service during 'Operation Sindoor'.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Jammu Division, Uchit Singhal handed over certificates to 209 employees at a special programme organised by the railways in their honour for their duties with dedication. "The main objective of the program was to honour the employees of the operating and commercial department of Jammu division who provided excellent service during operation Sindoor," Singhal said.

He said all the trains were operated by the department as per their scheduled time and the commercial department helped the passengers to reach

their destinations safely during the tense situation.

"The employees of both the departments took special care of the safety and facilities of the passengers and helped them coming from outside to reach their destination station conveniently," the senior divisional manager said.

During this time, he said many reserved special trains were also operated in the Jammu division to facilitate return of the stranded passengers.

The Railway Ministry had issued a special advisory for all the employees of the department in the wake of 'Operation Sindoor'.

"The advisory was strictly followed by the employees and along with respecting the Indian Army soldiers, special attention was paid to ensure their reservation on priority, arrangement for stay at the station and seating during travel in trains," he said—(KNO)

Former PDP MLA Ajaz Mir Rejoins Party**Press Trust Of India**

SRINAGAR: Former PDP MLA Ajaz Mir rejoined the party on Tuesday, less than a year since he had quit it after he was not given a ticket in the assembly elections.

The former MLA from Wachi in Shopian district of south Kashmir was welcomed to the party fold by PDP president Mehboba Mufti.

"After many ups and downs, it was heartening to welcome Ajaz Mir back home. Our shared journey has seen its share of challenges, but I am hopeful we will walk forward with renewed

purpose," Mufti said.

In a post on X, she said "Was lovely to see Ajaz Mir @MirAjaz89 after a long time today. Our shared journey has witnessed many ups & downs. I am confident that we will fulfill Mufti sahab's vision together."

Mir reaffirmed his "commitment to serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir while strengthening our shared democratic values".

Mir had quit the party in August 2024. He unsuccessfully contested the 2024 assembly elections as an independent candidate. He represented the Wachi assembly seat from 2014 to 2018.

Secy RDD Reviews Preparations For Amarnath Yatra**Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Tuesday conducted an extensive tour of Baltal base camp to assess the sanitation facilities being put in place along the Sonamarg axis for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY), 2025.

He also visited different camps along the route, starting from Neelgrath Helipad, Baltal Base Camp, Domail Camp and trekked up to Railpatri Camp to oversee the sanitation arrangements for the upcoming yatra.

He was accompanied by Director General (DG) Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra; Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Ganderbal, Abdul Majeed; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Ganderbal, Altaf Hussain and other district officers.

The Secretary reviewed installation and functionality of various sanitation infrastructures including the toilets, washrooms, dustbins, drainage

for grey water disposal, segregation of wet waste site, plastic waste management site and other sanitation facilities on the Baltal axis.

The Secretary examined the installation of dustbins around the base camp and yatra route to ensure effective waste disposal, segregation of waste at source and promote cleanliness among the pilgrims. He stressed the importance of maintaining high standards of cleanliness and called for implementation of a zero-landfill policy along the entire pilgrimage route.

A total of 6,038 prefabricated toilets and baths (5,033 toilets and 1,005 baths) are to be installed along both the axes and on the yatra route. This included installations at the SASB's permanent base and the Anantnag Railway Station. Additionally, 1,576 Toilets and baths units are designated for operation and maintenance only. The Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department is responsible for a total of 7,614 toilets and baths, comprising 6,609 toilets and 1,005 baths.

CM Omar Reviews Amarnath Yatra Preparations At Nunwan Base Camp**Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday visited the Nunwan Base Camp of the Amarnath Yatra to review preparations for the pilgrimage set to begin in the first week of July.

The chief minister reviewed the arrangements for the yatra and interacted with officials on the ground.

He emphasised the importance of coordination for ensuring safety and comfort of the pilgrims.

"Visited Nunwan Base Camp to take stock of arrangements

for the Amarnath Yatra. Reviewed facilities, interacted with officials on the ground, and emphasised seamless co-ordination to ensure the safety and comfort of pilgrims," Abdullah said in a post on his official handle on X.

The yatra is scheduled to begin on July 3.

Anti-Terror Operation Launched In Kathua**Press Trust Of India**

JAMMU: Security forces on Tuesday launched search operations in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district following information about movement of suspected terrorists, officials said.

The joint cordon and search operation by police, army and CRPF was underway in the upper reaches of Lowang and Sarthal in Bani area since this morning, they said.

They said security forces received information about suspected movement of terrorists and immediately started the anti-terror operation to neutralise the threat.

Special Operations Group of Jammu and Kashmir Police, meanwhile, also conducted a thorough search operation Manohar Gopala and Shatala camp area in Samba district



for several hours this morning. The operation was part of the area domination exercise and concluded peacefully, the officials said.

The officials said a joint search operation is also continuing in the densely forested Singhpora area of Chatroo in Kishtwar district for the sixth day on Tuesday.

The operation started on May

22 following an encounter with terrorists which left one soldier dead. However, the terrorists managed their escape taking advantage of the thick foliage and challenging topography.

There was no further contact with the terrorists even as a search operation to track down and neutralise the terrorists continued in the area, the officials said.

Kashmir Is Peaceful, Welcoming: Dr Farooq Urges Tourists**Observer News Service**

PAHALGAM: In a heartfelt appeal to both domestic and international tourists, National Conference President and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday urged people to shed all fears and visit the Kashmir Valley, which he described as "as peaceful as any other place in the world."

Speaking to reporters in the picturesque town of Pahalgam, Dr Abdullah acknowledged the impact of a recent terror incident but maintained that peace and normalcy are steadily returning to the region.

"Yes, an unfortunate incident took place recently, and it shook us all. But that should not overshadow the prevailing environment of peace. Tourists were arriving in large numbers, hotels were full, and people were earning a dignified livelihood—not just depending on government jobs," he said.

Emphasising Kashmir's unmatched tourism potential, Dr Abdullah said, "This is paradise on earth. I have travelled across



the globe, but nowhere have I seen natural beauty that rivals Kashmir. For golf lovers in particular, this region offers a truly unique experience amid breathtaking landscapes."

Calling for peaceful dialogue as the only solution to conflicts, the NC chief underlined that sustainable peace comes from negotiations, whether between India and Pakistan or in broader international disputes like the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

"Let me be clear—I am no one's agent. But history shows that every lasting resolution has come through talks, not war," he stated.

Encouraging people from across India to visit the Valley and experience its charm, he said, "If we live in fear,

we stop truly living. Unity is built through trust. Coming to Kashmir helps strengthen that collective national bond."

Dr Abdullah also expressed hope for a smooth and well-attended Amarnath Yatra. "This sacred pilgrimage has been a part of our tradition for generations. I hope devotees arrive in large numbers, seek blessings from Lord Shiva, and carry back with them a message of peace, harmony, and the famed hospitality of this land," he said.

Referring to a recent cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Pahalgam, Dr Farooq said it sent a powerful message of unity and public confidence.

"The cabinet's presence here signals solidarity. We must engage with local stakeholders like ponywallahs and hoteliers, whose livelihoods are deeply tied to tourism. They are crucial to sustaining our tourism ecosystem," he added.

Dr Abdullah concluded, "Kashmir stands ready to welcome the world—not with fear, but with warmth and open arms."

Authorities Close 4 Medical Shops In Kulgam**Observer News Service**

KULGAM: In order to ensure safe and quality medicine reach the general public, as many as 20 inspections were conducted today in several areas of Kulgam district.

On the occasion, inspections were conducted in Gudar, Laisoo, Qasba Khul, D.K.marg, Badi jalan, Sarmarg, Kutamarg, Dandward, Gulzarabad (all remote areas of Dist. Kulgam) and drug samples were lifted for testing and analysis.

4 medical shops were found violating conditions of licenses and rules, and their operations were closed down on the spot.

Bandipora Temple Reopens As Pandits Return To Emotional Homecoming**Agencies**

BANDIPORA: After remaining shut for over 35 years, the historic Shri Nand Kishore temple in north Kashmir's Bandipora district witnessed a large gathering of Sumbali Mavas on Tuesday as the temple was opened. This marked a significant moment for the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community.

The temple, which was closed in the wake of the 1990 insurgency, witnessed emotional scenes as nearly 300 Kashmiri Pandits from different parts of India gathered to celebrate the birth anniversary of Shri Nand Kishore.

Special prayers and rituals were held, with community members offering prayers for peace and harmony across the country.

"This is not just a religious revival, but a cultural and emotional homecoming," one of the visiting devotees said.

Many described the event as a symbol of hope for communal

unity and reconciliation in the conflict-ridden region.

The devotees said that Kashmiri Muslim neighbours were taking care of this temple for three decades. "The brotherhood, which was in 1990, is still in the valley," said another devotee.

The locals said it was a day of joy for them as the temple was opened. They expressed hope that more and more devotees would visit, strengthening the bond between the two communities.

"We always welcome them with open hearts. Their community is a part of our Kashmir and Kashmiriyat," said Abdul Rashid, a local.

Another local said the Kashmiri Muslims have been taking care of this temple for years. "It is our duty to ensure its safety. Today, their visit has brought us great joy," he said.

Meanwhile, local administration and security forces have made special arrangements to ensure a peaceful gathering—(KNO)

PMFME Workshop Held At CFL Center Kangan**Observer News Service**

GANDERBAL: Fisheries Department Ganderbal on Tuesday organized awareness-cum-workshop on the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Enterprises (PMFME) scheme at the Centre for Financial Literacy (CFL), Kangan.

The event saw active participation from all line departments and farmers, aimed to promote the scope and benefits of the PMFME scheme among local stakeholders.

The session highlighted the potential of the PMFME scheme in district Ganderbal, with detailed presentations from various experts and officials.

District Nodal Officer PMFME, underscored the importance of the scheme and discussed the financial benefits available to individual farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

District Resource Person elaborated on the detailed com-

ponents, scope, and incentives under the PMFME scheme, encouraging participants to take advantage of the initiative.

Officers from HP&M Ganderbal, Agriculture Department and Animal Husbandry Department besides others discussed various strategies including marketing opportunities and avenues for business expansion.

Participants were also briefed on banking procedures, insurance schemes, and the documentation required to avail benefits under PMFME.

As part of the workshop, on-spot registration of interested farmers was facilitated by the District Resource Person to ensure immediate and effective engagement with the scheme.

The programme witnessed participation from officers of Agriculture, Horticulture, NRLM, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, and Fisheries departments, as well as representatives from banks and other line departments.

DC Budgam Reviews Ongoing Upgradation Works At Charar-e-Sharief**Observer News Service**

BIDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday conducted an extensive visit to Charar-i-Sharief Shrine at Charar-i-Sharief area and Dianag Shiv Temple in Budgam area to review the ongoing development and restoration works.

The visit is part of the broader initiative under the Archives and Restoration Scheme aimed at conserving & developing cultural and heritage sites across the district.

During his visit to the revered Charar-i-Sharief Shrine, DC inspected multiple components currently under execution as part of a major heritage upgradation plan.

Key developments include Devri Path around the shrine, additional Lavatory & Toilet Block, beautification of historic Bada-Talab which includes fencing around the water body contributing to the shrine's aesthetic and environmental revival, upgradation of Shrine Facade, Clock Tower Construction at Charar-i-Sharief area which is under construction, Parking Area which is recently opened and upgraded to facilitate better access for devotees and tourists

Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasised that these interventions aim to preserve the spiritual and cultural essence of Charar-e-Sharief while providing better amenities to pilgrims and visitors.

Later, DC also visited the Dianag Shiv Temple at Budgam, where multiple restoration and beautification works are going on.

Major components include, walnut wood panelling for enhanced aesthetic and structural quality as interiors, external facade which has Devri stone work and RCC-based retrofitting, rejuvenation of spring area which includes complete reconstruction and installation of structural steel fencing, Gate & Fencing which has reinforced cement concrete with finely chiselled Devri stone work, walkways & paths, signage boards crafted from Devri stone and stainless steel alphabets, park development involving concrete, rough chiseled Devri stone, and structural steel fencing etc .

EMPOWERING MSMEs**Observer News Service**

ANANTNAG: In a significant move to boost the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in Jammu & Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), in collaboration with the Strategic Planning and Implementation Unit (SPIU) – Grant Thornton and the District Industries Centre (DIC) Anantnag, organized a district-level RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) Awareness Workshop today at DIC Anantnag.

The workshop was presided over by Nazia Hassan, General

Manager DIC Anantnag. Speaking on the occasion, she emphasized the importance of the RAMP scheme for the holistic development of MSMEs in the region.

She also highlighted that widespread awareness and outreach are key to enabling local enterprises to access government schemes and incentives. "Workshops like these are instrumental in informing entrepreneurs about opportunities under RAMP and the broader MSME support ecosystem," she noted.

The SPIU team (Grant Thornton) delivered a detailed presentation on the RAMP scheme in Jammu & Kashmir, highlighting its objectives, components,

and key interventions aimed at empowering MSMEs.

The session was designed to raise awareness among local stakeholders and implementing agencies about the scheme's benefits and opportunities. It covered critical support areas including capacity building, access to credit and finance, skilling, market access, digital empowerment, and institutional strengthening, particularly of District Industries Centres (DICs). Special emphasis was also placed on promoting women entrepreneurship and the formalization of enterprises through digital enablement.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation of over 100 stakeholders, including representatives from JKEDI, Handloom & Handicrafts department, Lead Bank, DIC officials, MSMEs, and women entrepreneurs.

A dedicated interactive Q&A session was held to address the queries of MSMEs and officials from various implementing agencies. Entrepreneurs sought clarity on credit access, formalization processes, market support, and inclusion under government-backed interventions, indicating the strong need for continued handholding and information dissemination.

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Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Pahalgam
Cabinet Meet

The decision by the Omar Abdullah-led government to hold a special cabinet meeting in Pahalgam, over a month after a deadly terror attack in the area, is a welcome and necessary move. The timing and location certainly carry a clear political and symbolic weight.

Twenty six people - 25 tourists and one pony operator - were killed in the attack at Baisaran Valley in the hill station. Since then, not just Pahalgam but the entire Valley has witnessed a sharp decline in visitor footfall. This has impacted local livelihoods and further deepened the sense of insecurity. Convening a high-level government meeting in the same town is intended to convey a message of normalcy, reassurance, and defiance in the face of fear.

This is the first such meeting during the current tenure of the National Conference government to be held outside the conventional administrative capitals of Srinagar and Jammu, something that signals a deliberate departure from protocol for the sake of public messaging.

The government must, however, ensure that symbolism is matched by substance. A cabinet meeting in Pahalgam, though powerful in optics, cannot by itself reverse the damage caused by terror. We need a revival package for the tourism sector, and, above all, further enhancement of security on the ground to reassure the incoming tourists. And to this end, the central and the UT government will need to work together.

In recent years, tourism has been the main driver of Kashmir's economy. Last year alone, over two core tourists visited the union territory, out of which around 35 lakh tourists visited Kashmir Valley, including over 43,000 foreign tourists. But the sudden collapse in tourism, a sector that had flourished in recent years, thanks to a lull in violence, threatens to hit the livelihood of a large number of people deeply dependent on visitors drawn to Kashmir's snow-capped peaks, pristine lakes, and lush Mughal gardens. This even as the booking sites show deep price cuts, but the tourism stakeholders have little hope. Most of the bookings for the immediate future have been cancelled, and it is going to hurt.

So, the government intervention is called for. The CM Omar has also rightly suggested to public sector units and parliamentary committees to hold their meetings in Kashmir. Once the institutions of the union are seen to conduct their activities in the Valley, it will reinforce the confidence of the tourists. It is through sustained presence, not episodic gestures, that the perception of safety can be rebuilt.

The Pahalgam cabinet meeting must be seen as the beginning of a political and administrative effort to restore confidence. Its success will ultimately depend on whether it leads to meaningful interventions on the ground. Kashmir needs more than symbolism: it needs assurance, sustained engagement and a tourism revival, the last one being announced by the central government.



Breaking the Poverty Trap

Quick fixes and social pressures keep many Kashmiris stuck in financial struggle.

Irshad Mushtaq

Many people live paycheck to paycheck in Kashmir. The cost of daily life often feels higher than their earnings. Imagine earning so little but having so many bills. It's exhausting. This constant pressure can cloud judgment. When someone is desperate, they often look for a fast way out, sometimes chasing risky deals that promise quick money but end in losses.

Why do so many fall for this? Because survival feels urgent. When you're struggling, long-term plans seem like luxuries you can't afford. But that's exactly where the trap lies. Without patience and financial knowledge, it's easy to get caught in a loop of short-term fixes that don't last.

Respect plays a strange role here too. In many communities, people with money get more respect, regardless of how they earned it. Sometimes, wealth is inherited or luck-based, but it still wins social standing over honesty or hard work. That mindset pushes people toward chasing money at any cost, instead of building steady, honest lives.

What if we shifted that? What if respect came from skills, effort, and integrity? Teaching young people about saving, investing wisely, and developing useful skills could change everything. It won't happen overnight, but it's a start toward real progress.

When communities value character over cash, everyone benefits. Empowering low-income individuals with knowledge and skills isn't charity, it's an investment in a stronger, fairer Kashmir. The road is long, but with patience and education, it leads to lasting growth.

Writer is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Valley's Twin Tragedies

The Qur'an guarantees widows and orphans their inheritance, but in Kashmir, culture and corruption strip them of their rights. Why do we stay silent?

Armaan Shah



In a hushed Sopore hamlet, Zainab's house sits locked and lifeless. A year ago, her husband, Imran Lone, died of a heart attack at 48, leaving her and their two children a modest home and an apple orchard.

But weeks after his burial, Imran's brothers arrived. "This land belongs to us," they said. "You're not family anymore. Leave."

Zainab, 45, packed a few clothes and took her kids to her parents' home in Pattan. The orchard, their lifeline, was sold off. "I didn't know I had rights," she said, her voice breaking. "No one told me."

Zainab's story isn't rare in Kashmir. It's the silent, undressed agony of countless widows and orphans, robbed of their Islamic inheritance by greed and custom.

The Qur'an speaks clearly, but too many in Kashmir choose silence. Why do we let this happen?

The Qur'an isn't vague. Surah An-Nisa spells out inheritance shares: a widow gets one-eighth of her husband's property if there are children, one-fourth if there aren't.

Orphans are protected too: "And give to the orphans their properties and do not substitute the defective [of your own] for the good [of theirs]" (Surah An-Nisa, 4:2).

The warning is stark: "Indeed, those who devour the property of orphans unjustly are only consuming fire into their bellies. And they will be burned in a Blaze" (Surah An-Nisa, 4:10).

These are God's commands, not suggestions.

Yet, in Kashmir, culture often trumps faith. Widows are told, "Your mahr was enough; go back to your parents." It's a lie rooted in patriarchy, not Islam.

The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said, "The best of homes is the one where an orphan is treated kindly, and the worst of homes is the one where an orphan is treated harshly" (Ibn Majah).

Still, families in villages from Anantnag to Kupwara declare widows "outsiders," seizing homes and land. This isn't an act of faith, it's fraud.

The numbers paint a grim picture. A 2023 study by a Kashmir-based NGO found that 75% of widows in rural areas faced property disputes, with over half losing their homes to in-laws.

In Baramulla alone, 1,200 cases of inheritance disputes were reported between 2020 and 2024, most involving widows and orphans, per local court records.

Many cases never reach court. Families use bribes or forged documents to silence claims. Clerics, who should uphold Shariah, often avoid conflict. Why do we let greed win?

Take Aisha, 38, from Pulwama. After her husband died in a car accident in 2022, her in-laws took their two-storied house and 10 marlas of land. "They said I'd bring shame if I stayed," she shared.

Aisha now lives with her brother, her three kids struggling in a cramped Srinagar shelter. The land, worth 30 lakh rupees, was sold without her consent. "I didn't know the Qur'an gave me a share," she said.

Ignorance is a weapon here. Most Kashmiris recite the Qur'an but don't study Surah An-Nisa's rules. Patriarchal norms paint widows as burdens, not rightful heirs. Greed seals the deal. Families exploit social power to grab wealth. The community's silence stings most.

The Prophet said, "Help your brother, whether he is an oppressor or oppressed." When asked how to help the oppressor, he replied, "By stopping him from oppression" (Sahih Bukhari).

Every time we ignore a widow's eviction, we're complicit. In Kashmir, where community ties run deep, this silence is a betrayal. Why do we fear village gossip more than God?

The reasons are clear. Islamic literacy is low. People know verses but not their meanings. Cultural norm dismisses women's rights. Courts, understaffed and swayed by local politics, fail to deliver justice.

Last year, Kashmir's district courts could only resolve 15% of in-

heritance cases, per judicial data.

The real issue is taqwa: fear of God. When we prioritize society over Allah, injustice thrives.

So, what's the way forward? Start with education. Mosques in Sopore and Srinagar could teach Surah An-Nisa's rules, using Friday sermons or social media.

Clear wills, registered during a person's life, could stop disputes. Only 10% of Kashmiri families document property this way, per a 2022 survey by the Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority.

Community councils, blending elders and scholars, could protect widows like Zainab from predatory relatives. Legal aid centers, backed by religious scholars, could guide women through courts.

Above all, we need to revive khauf-e-Khuda—fear of answering to God. The Qur'an says, "And do not approach the property of an orphan except in the best manner until he reaches maturity" (Surah Al-An'am 6:152).

If this is God's word, who are we to ignore it?

This isn't just about land. It's about dignity, trust, and faith. When we let widows and orphans suffer, we're not just stealing homes, we're stealing our own souls.

Zainab's kids, now 12 and 15, study by a dim lamp in their grandparents' house, their father's orchard a distant memory. Aisha's children ask why they can't go home.

If we can't protect the weakest among us, what kind of Muslims are we?

Let's stop being silent witnesses. Let's be protectors, as God commands. Or we'll stand before Him, carrying the weight of stolen homes on our shoulders.

Views expressed in this article are author's own and don't necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy. Writer can be reached at armaanshah022@gmail.com



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I Opened My Books. Then the News From Kashmir Arrived.

On May 10, I was sitting in the college library, holding my exam notes, trying to study for my paper. My hands were trembling. I had already called home three times that morning, checked my phone seven or eight more. Each time, I feared a message would confirm my worst thoughts. Something had gone terribly wrong at the border.

I'm from the frontier town of Kashmir, where fear moves faster than news. I study at Ramjas College in Delhi, nearly a thousand kilometers away from home. Usually, this distance gives me room to focus on books, on building a future. But due to the recent border escalation, the distance suddenly became unbearable.

At first, things seemed normal. My two roommates—one from

Poonch, the other from Uri—were also busy with classes and work. We live in a city where no one really pauses to notice conflict unless it disrupts the metro schedule. Violence back home had become so common, we almost believed we were immune to its weight.

But our parents knew better. During our routine calls, they began hinting that things were getting tense. They didn't want to alarm us, but you can tell when fear creeps into a parent's voice.

When the news confirmed that the operation had succeeded but tensions were still high, our anxiety deepened. Our exams were days away, but how could we focus? My mind was elsewhere. My heart was back home.

That day in the library, I sat with my friends Jasmine and Lawanya.

They noticed I couldn't focus. Jasmine tried to calm me. "Things will get better," she said gently, trying to distract me with small talk. It helped, a little. But only a little.

My roommate Mehran, from Dawaran in Uri, told me his family had shifted temporarily to Sopore. Temporarily, but what does that even mean when the threat feels endless? Another friend, Shahid from Poonch, said his family had also moved. They couldn't eat or sleep properly. Neither could I.

Even my friend Shah Rukh from Rajasthan, far from Kashmir, worried about his uncle's family near Jaisalmer. The fear didn't care about borders.

There were others who didn't get it. They talked about war casually, sharing bold opinions from be-

hind screens in safe, air-conditioned rooms. For them, conflict was just a trending topic. They hadn't seen families flee with only the clothes on their backs. They didn't know what it meant to hear gunfire in the night or live with the constant fear of losing a loved one.

We breathed easier when the ceasefire was announced. I could hear the relief in my mother's voice when I called. No words, just the sound of calm.

I'm not saying others should stop their lives during moments like this. But maybe, sometimes, just listen. Ask. Try to understand what it's like to carry both a pen and a fear you can't name.

Nasir Roshan Khan
University of Delhi.

The Rise of ‘Virtual Autism’

Parents and doctors are sounding alarms about “virtual autism,” a term linking excessive screen use to autism-like behaviors in young children. But is it a genuine threat or just modern-day panic?

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

The waiting room at the Child Guidance and Wellbeing Centre in Srinagar is packed with anxious parents, their toddlers clutching tablets or staring blankly at walls.

A mother, cradling her two-year-old son, whispers about his delayed speech and tantrums. “He’s glued to the phone all day,” she says, her voice heavy with guilt.

Across town, at IMHANS Srinagar, Dr. Zaid Wani listens to similar stories daily. “We’ve seen a 50–60% spike in kids under three showing autism-like behaviors,” he tells me, his brow furrowed. “Speech delays, poor eye contact, repetitive actions—parents often say screens are the only thing calming them.”

This is the face of “virtual autism,” a term that’s sparking both worry and skepticism.

Coined in 2018 by Romanian psychologist Marius Zamfir, it describes autism-like symptoms tied to excessive screen exposure in early childhood.

Picture a toddler, barely two, swiping through YouTube videos for hours while the world beyond the screen fades.

Clinicians like Wani see these kids daily—socially withdrawn, emotionally volatile, struggling to connect. But is this a real condition, or are we slapping a scary label on a digital-age problem?

The answer isn’t simple, but the stakes are enormous.

In Kashmir, where nuclear families and working parents are common, the pandemic poured fuel on the issue. Kids traded playgrounds for iPads during lockdowns.

Dr. Bilal, a psychologist at the Child Guidance Centre, saw the fallout firsthand. “Online learning and less physical play have changed how kids develop,” he says.

His clinic logged a surge in cases mirroring Zamfir’s findings: kids under three, exposed to screens for over four hours daily,



showing sensory and social deficits.

Pediatric ophthalmologist Dr. Alia Gul adds another layer. “Prolonged screen time strains young eyes,” she explains. “But worse, it robs kids of real-world visual experiences they need to grow.”

The numbers are hard to ignore. The World Health Organization recommends zero screen time for kids under two and minimal exposure after that. Yet, studies show many toddlers exceed four hours daily.

Autism Parenting Magazine cites cases where cutting screens and adding play—think puzzles, storytelling, or park time—helped kids recover speech and social skills.

“The brain is plastic in those early years,”

Wani says. “It can rewire with the right stimulation.”

A 2023 UNICEF-sponsored report from IMHANS pegs autism spectrum disorder (ASD) prevalence in Kashmir at 2.34%, but clinicians suspect virtual autism cases inflate these numbers.

Not everyone’s convinced. Some experts see “virtual autism” as a buzzword, not a diagnosis.

Dr. Jenny Radesky of the American Academy of Pediatrics is blunt: “There’s no evidence screens cause autism spectrum disorder.”

Autism, she notes, is rooted in genetics, and kids predisposed to it may prefer screens for sensory reasons, muddying the link.

“Parents need to model balance,” he insists. “Screens can’t replace human connection.”

His advice echoes the Canadian Paediatric Society, which calls for age-appropriate content and mandatory physical activity in schools.

The science lags behind these stories. Large-scale studies on screen time’s long-term effects are scarce. PMC journals point to oxidative stress and mitochondrial issues in autism, hinting at possible links to digital overuse, but nothing’s conclusive.

Dr. David Sackett, a pioneer of evidence-based medicine, once said good care blends research, clinical wisdom, and patient needs.

Right now, clinicians like Wani lean on that wisdom. “We can’t wait for perfect studies,” he says. “Kids are struggling now.”

Parents feel the urgency most. In a Srinagar support group, a father shares his daughter’s progress after therapy and screen limits.

“She’s making eye contact now,” he says, his voice cracking. “It’s like getting her back.”

These stories drive the push for action: parental education, school programs, and early interventions like speech and occupational therapy. Policymakers, too, face pressure to regulate gadget ads and fund awareness campaigns.

The virtual autism debate isn’t just academic. It’s about kids who can’t say “mama,” parents losing sleep, and a society wrestling with tech’s grip.

Dismiss it as panic, and we risk ignoring real harm. Embrace it without scrutiny, and we might misguide families.

Dr. Zamfir’s early cases and Kashmir’s clinics point to a middle path: act now—limit screens, prioritize play, fund research—before a generation pays the price. The clock’s ticking. Are we listening?

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili, is a Senior Consultant Surgeon and Healthcare Policy Advisor.

This Isn’t Just Global Warming

Forget climate change for a moment. Kashmir is hurting because we’ve erased our past, and with it, our chance at survival.

Fiza Masoodi

The air outside isn’t just hot, it’s hostile. May in Kashmir has gone from mild to merciless. People are saying it’s global warming, and yes, the world is heating. But I believe something more local is happening too. Something we don’t talk about enough.

We’ve been brutal to our own land. And now it’s turning on us.

Let me explain.

Where I live, there used to be a cool stream running past the old graveyard. My grandfather called it “Shehej Kul.” He said the water never stopped, even in droughts.

That stream isn’t there anymore. It was filled in, concreted over, and replaced with a row of shops. Now, most of those shops sell bottled water.

And that’s not the only story like it.

Across the Valley, we’ve buried our water bodies under roads and markets. In old neighborhoods, people still talk about the fountains that once sprayed up from stone slabs in courtyards and public squares. Some were built centuries ago, part of a delicate system of springs and aqueducts.

Today, most of them lie beneath parking lots or asphalt highways. We covered them up like they were trash, not treasure.

The Jhelum, our main river, is supposed to be the lifeline of Kashmir. But as one local farmer near Anantnag told me last month, “This is not a river anymore. It’s just a slow-moving drain.”

He’s not exaggerating. Plastic bottles float past shriveled banks. Raw sewage runs straight into the water in many places. Nothing is being done to fix this situation.

We haven’t forgotten 2014. That flood wasn’t just water. It was a message. It drowned the city, took lives, destroyed homes, and left people clinging to rooftops. Everyone said, “Never again.”

But less than a decade later, we’re still building homes in flood basins and flattening wetlands. I saw a three-story building go up last winter on land that flooded in 2014. When I asked the contractor about it, he shrugged and said, “Yahan toh sab chalta hai.”

Maybe that’s the real problem: the system hums along, flawless in its dysfunction.

We talk a lot about climate change now. Politicians mention it in speeches,



Representational Photo

Schools hold awareness days. But when it comes to actual decisions, we act like nature doesn’t matter.

The truth is, this summer isn’t just cruel because the world is warming. It’s cruel because we’ve stripped away all the things that used to keep us cool.

Green belts that once wrapped around Srinagar have turned into colonies. Tree lines along rivers are gone. Hillsides that held snow into May are now barren brown.

I spoke with a retired irrigation engineer last week. He said, “You can’t just blame global warming for this heat. You’ve erased every natural sponge and shade in the city. This is bound to happen.”

It’s not just cities. In villages, new roads have sliced through wetlands. Concrete embankments have replaced mud bunds that let excess water seep into the soil. When the floods come next, we won’t be able to say we didn’t see it coming.

Even the language we use has changed. We used to say “vaer” for vegetable gardens, “naag” for springs, “kul” for irrigation channels. Now it’s all plots, drains, and culverts.

It’s like we erased the vocabulary of nature from our mouths before we erased it from our maps.

Some changes are subtle but telling. Elderly people talk about how evening breezes once carried the scent of yem-berzal. Now the air smells like diesel. Children grow up thinking this is normal. It’s not.

And yet, I don’t believe it’s too late. I’ve seen what a little care can do. A group of young Kashmiris cleaned a neglected canal last year. Within weeks, water started flowing again. Birds returned. So did frogs. The area went from stink to sparkle. That’s all it takes sometimes: people who care, and a bit of patience.

We don’t need giant plans or foreign aid to start fixing things. We need to look around and stop pretending we’re powerless. We need to stop saying “climate change” like it’s some far-off monster we can’t fight.

The truth is simpler, and sadder. We’ve cut down the shade. We’ve paved over the water. We’re overheating in our own mess.

And the worst part? We still call this progress.

This isn’t just about heatwaves or flash floods. It’s about losing the memory of how we once lived with nature, not against it.

So next time you wipe sweat off your forehead and curse the sun, pause. Ask yourself: where did the stream go? Where did the trees go? And what will be left when your children ask the same?

Maybe then we’ll finally decide to do something. Not tomorrow. Not after the next disaster. But now. Before there’s nothing left to save.

Author is a Srinagar-based undergraduate student.

Why Kashmir Can’t Focus

Kashmiri youth are forgetting conversations, missing school, and numbing out. This is what brain fog looks like.



Syed Duha and Mehak Fayaz

Abdul Rashid doesn’t cut wood the way he used to. A carpenter from Saida Kadal, he once shaped furniture by eye. Now he stares at the tape, measures twice, sometimes thrice. Still unsure.

“Maybe I’m getting old,” he says. But he’s only 49. His hands are steady. It’s his mind that wavers.

His 16-year-old son says he forgets mid-sentence. “The words come, then vanish,” he says, glancing at the floor.

Neither of them knows what to call it. But science does. Brain fog.

They’re not the only ones. In Kashmir, memory slips, scattered focus, and mental fatigue have become worryingly common, especially after COVID.

A 2024 global study in Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery found over 20% of long COVID patients experience cognitive issues. An Indian study confirmed 26.4% of recovered patients face similar problems.

But numbers only tell part of the story. In Kashmir, where life was already fractured by shutdowns, conflict, and constant disconnection, the pandemic didn’t just spread illness. It sank deeper. It clouded minds.

Students were hit hard. A 2021 UNICEF report said 64% of children in Jammu and Kashmir had no access to online learning during lockdown. No classes, no teachers, no friends. Just months of stillness. For many, that pause wasn’t just in their routine, it slowed their thinking, their speech, their growth.

A teenager from Pulwama said he often zones out during conversations. “I try to listen, but halfway through, I’m somewhere else,” he said. Others talked about forgetting easy words, missing steps in tasks, losing track of time.

In Baramulla, a 22-year-old woman described her days as “foggy and tiring.” “Even folding clothes or remembering shopping lists feels like climbing a mountain,” she said. “I wasn’t like this before COVID.”

Kashmir’s healthcare system wasn’t built to

catch this kind of illness. There’s roughly one psychiatrist for every 180,000 people. Mental health wasn’t discussed much before. Now, even when people want to talk, they don’t know where to go.

And while the mind slows, life speeds up.

The economy hasn’t recovered. The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry recorded losses of over 17,000 crore during the pandemic. One in four small businesses shut down or shrank. That kind of stress isn’t just financial. It eats into confidence, routine, and hope.

At the same time, drug use is rising. The Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) reported a 23% jump in drug-related cases after COVID. These aren’t all thrill-seekers. Many are simply looking for a way out of the fog. “It’s not about getting high,” said a 19-year-old in rehab. “It’s about not feeling broken all the time.”

So what now? Mental health experts say the region needs a system that listens. Not just at hospitals, but in schools, mohallas, homes. District wellness centres with trained counselors. Mental health check-ins in classrooms. Teachers, community workers, and ASHA staff trained to spot early signs, like sudden silence, memory lapses, or confusion.

And most importantly, experts say, families need to slow down. When a child forgets something again and again, the answer isn’t scolding. It’s listening. It’s asking what’s going on inside. It’s giving space, not shame.

Because brain fog doesn’t make a scene. It creeps in quietly, dulling attention, memory, and emotion, and blunts the edges of everyday life. In the valley, where stillness already weighs heavy, this kind of silence is dangerous.

Abdul Rashid is still working. Still cutting wood. His son is still trying to speak without stumbling. They are not giving up. But they need more than willpower. They need recognition, care, tools.

The fog may be invisible, but it is real. And it is everywhere, settling not just on minds, but on futures.

- Syed Duha and Mehak Fayaz are Master’s students at the University of Kashmir.

These Startups Rethink 'Circularity' To Stop Waste From Ending Up In Landfills

Press Trust Of India

Little over a year ago, when Steer World unveiled unWOOD as a sustainable alternative to wood at KPLEX 2024, a polymer exhibition held in Bengaluru, it was not exactly perfect. This man-made "wood", made by compacting granules that were obtained by shredding plastic waste — those pesky hard-to-recycle plastic wrappers that litter every corner of India— was coarse to touch, not particularly appealing to the eye.

In less than a year, unWOOD has ticked off the aesthetics box too, by fine tuning their proprietary Macro Molecular Fiber Matrix process that mimics the strength, look, and feel of hardwood.

You need to really get close now to the improved version of unWOOD to tell it apart from wood.

Babu Padmanaban, Founder of Steer World, said every one kg of unWOOD prevents 1.5 kg of CO2 emissions polluting our air and recycles 500gm of plastic waste.

"Of course, there is that fully grown tree that need not sacrifice itself to become your chair or bed," Vishal Mehta, Co-founder and CEO of unWOOD told PTI.

The sustainable brand hit another milestone 10 days ago when it became one of the eight transformative startups that won the newly launched Circular Economy



Catalytic Grant of Climate KIC, a European climate innovation agency that is looking at the circular economy in India through the lens of entrepreneurship.

"Early-stage ventures often struggle to access capital, limiting their ability to scale. The grant aims to change that. Alongside funding, we help to connect these ventures with local industry and ecosystem," Bjarke Kovshøj, Strategic Programmes Manager, Climate KIC, told PTI.

Launched in March 2025, the programme will support eight ventures with up to 18,000 US Dollar each in equity-free, milestone-based funding, added Kovshøj.

"One of the things that Climate KIC paid attention to while choosing these startups is upstream innovation, which aims at eliminating waste at source," said Kovshøj.

Bengaluru-based bootstrapped venture Green Goobe is a case in

point. Ramya B S, Founder, admits as ideas go, hers is not probably much different from other environmentally safe cleaning products.

Where she differs from the rest -- and possibly why her company could have won the award -- is in how she packages and markets the product.

The avid bird watcher and environmental activist has walked the talk by choosing to stay sustainable all the way through. Her products come packaged in reused medicine bottles, gin bottles, plastic Jerry cans and even the environmental nightmare, pet bottles.

Just by salvaging pet bottles and mineral water cans, Ramya said her company must have saved around 1,000kg of plastic from hitting landfills since they launched in November 2023. "So, in effect, we are helping to divert the waste away from the landfills by using what is already

there," said Ramya to PTI.

Ramya has also taken 'upstream innovation' quite seriously. Her proprietary formula is so safe that people can reuse laundry discharge, for instance, to wash the car or even water the plants.

"This is something that we promote very aggressively. The cleaners are lab tested safe and discharge can be used for multiple purposes, conserving water," said Ramya.

Climate KIC grant, said Ramya, who runs the company single handedly, came as a huge validation, because her friends and acquaintances often wrote her off by saying she will not be able to sustain such a business model.

"Even more than the money, it's the fact that they believed in the transformative power of an idea like this that matters," added Ramya.

For IIT Madras graduate Nikhil Kumar Panchal, Co-founder & CEO of Green Aadhaar — a software ecosystem for the waste management sector — Climate KIC's network events for the winners are a win-win.

"We cater to everyone — from collection, transportation to processing and I met a lot of people in these network events who could basically be our customers," said Panchal.

In a world that discards clothes faster than one can blink, textile waste is another nightmare for waste management. To tackle this, Vijaya Krishnappa has come up with a device that could help cloth be converted again into cloth.

Nagaland University Researchers Identify Stingless Bee Species To Increase Agricultural Yield

Press Trust Of India

Researchers at Nagaland University have identified stingless bee species that can be used to increase quality and quantity of agricultural yield through pollination, according to officials.

The stingless bee species identified are *Tetragonula iridipennis* Smith and *Lepidotrigona arcifera* Cockerell.

The research has been published in several reputed, peer-reviewed journals, including International Journal of Farm Sciences.

According to Avinash Chauhan, Scientist and Principal Investigator (AICRP Honeybees and Pollinators), Department of Entomology, School of Agricultural Sciences, Nagaland University.

pc and 7.92 pc over non-pollinated crop. Similarly, seed weight which is an indicator of viability or germination increased by 60.74 pc when pollinated by stingless bees.

This is the maiden attempt to work out the pollination potential of stingless bees and quality production of honey, which led to increased income and sustainable livelihood. Earlier, it was difficult to use honeybees for pollination of crops (inadequate pollination) due to their natural attributes.

"The research outcomes of last seven to ten years provided the different stakeholders with lots of opportunities to rear the stingless bees for quality honey production without fear of mixing of impurities in honey and minimizing bee losses, which led to more profitability in this profession," he said.

"We are still working to improve



"Stingless bees could be used for pollination without fear of being stung. They are known for their popular medicinal honey and pollination potential, which paves the way for formulation of crop pollination calendars to benefit all stakeholders. The honey produced by the bees during the experiments also provided extra income besides good crop production," he said.

"Our team found that chilli crop, when pollinated by these bees, increases the crop production and quality as compared to crop where pollination is not accomplished. For supplementing the pollination deficit in chilli, stingless bees and honeybee species like *A. dorsata*, *A. florea* and other wild bees like halictids, syrphids and *Amegilla* need to be conserved," Chauhan said.

In king-chilli the per cent fruit set was increased to 29.46 pc over non-pollinated crop (21.00 pc). Likewise in Chilli (*Capsicum annuum*), the fruit set and healthy fruits were increased by 7.42

the beekeeping rearing techniques and to promote Scientific beekeeping with honey bees and stingless bees for better honey production and pollination of crops. The focus is also to raise awareness among the people for the conservation of other wild honey bees and pollinators," he said.

Stingless bees are reported from North East India, Eastern India and Southern Indian States, with recent additions from North, Central and Western Indian states. Unlike all the states where stingless bee rearing is still in nascent stages in North Eastern and Southern states, the stingless bees are reared in the traditional manner in homestead apiaries.

However, in the last 7-10 years, the scientific domestication of these bees involving the development of scientific hives and mass multiplication of stingless bee colonies using queen cells is achieved in Nagaland and is extended to other states like Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

'SM Misinformation Impacting Menstrual Health'

Press Trust Of India

While a majority of Indian women consider social media (SM) a good source of information on menstruation, very few rely on it during menstrual emergencies, a recent survey said.

The findings are part of the 10th annual edition of the everten Menstrual Hygiene Survey, released ahead of Menstrual Hygiene Day.

72.4 per cent of respondents were in the 19-35 age group, and 76.6 per cent had completed graduation or higher education.

The survey states that while around 71.6 per cent of women believe that social media offers adequate information about menstruation, only 11.5 per cent rely on it as their primary source during menstrual emergencies.

"The fact that more than two-thirds of women in India are relying on social media as a source of information shows that influencers and bloggers are doing a fabulous job in creating awareness on menstrual hygiene," Chirag Pan, CEO of PAN Healthcare, said.

"However, they have an even bigger responsibility in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat. It is imperative that the social media community builds viewer trust through accurate, fact-based and verified information," he added.

Several women reported encountering misleading or harmful information online.

One recurring example was the false claim that delayed periods indicate Polycystic Ovarian Disease (PCOD). Others reported being advised to consume lemonade or coffee for period pain, which only worsened their symptoms.

Some respondents came across inaccurate home remedies, while others saw mis-

information suggesting exercise during periods could harm the body — a notion that contradicts scientific evidence supporting light-to-moderate physical activity to relieve menstrual cramps and improve mood.

Hariom Tyagi, CEO of Wet and Dry Personal Care, the makers of everten said the survey highlights a significant awareness gap.

"It is evident from our survey that while several women are searching, there is a lack of awareness on safe and effective solutions for menstrual cramps," he said.

As many as 41.5 per cent of women reported not using any form of pain relief during menstruation, despite 82.7 per cent experiencing mild to severe pain.

Only 5.5 per cent were aware of the benefits of menstrual cramp roll-ons as an alternative to painkillers, which are used by 14.2 per cent of respondents, Tyagi said.



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FDI Inflows Up 13% To USD 50 Bn In 2024-25; Decline 24.5% In Jan-Mar Quarter

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Foreign direct investment in India fell 24.5 per cent year-on-year to USD 9.34 billion in the January-March quarter of 2024-25 but grew 13 per cent at USD 50 billion during the entire previous financial year, according to the government data released on Tuesday.

FDI inflows during January-March 2023-24 stood at USD 12.38 billion. These were USD 44.42 billion in the full 2023-24 fiscal.

During the October-December quarter of 2024-25 also, the inflows were contracted by 5.6 per cent year-on-year to USD 10.9 billion due to global economic uncertainties.

Total FDI, which includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital, grew by 14 per cent to USD 81.04 billion during the last financial year. It is the highest in the last three years. The same stood at USD 71.3 billion in 2023-24.

During 2024-25, Singapore emerged as the largest source of FDI with USD 14.94 billion inflows. It was followed by Mauritius (USD 3.73 billion against USD 8.34 billion), the US (USD 5.45 billion), the Netherlands (USD 4.62 billion), the UAE (USD 3.12 billion), Japan (USD 2.47 billion), Cyprus (USD 1.2 billion), UK (USD 795 million), Germany (USD 469 million), and Cayman Islands (USD 371 million).

However, the data showed that when compared to 2023-24, the inflows had declined from the Netherlands, Japan, the UK, and Germany.

Singapore accounts for 30 per cent share, Mauritius (17 per



cent) and the US (11 per cent).

Sectorally, inflows rose in services, trading, telecommunication, automobile, construction development, non-conventional energy and chemicals.

However, it has contracted in computer software and hardware, construction (infrastructure activities), and pharmaceuticals.

FDI in services has increased to USD 9.34 billion during 2024-25 as against USD 6.64 billion in 2023-24. As per the data, FDI inflows in non-conventional energy stood at USD 4 billion as against USD 3.76 billion in 2023-24.

The data also showed that Maharashtra received the highest inflow of USD 19.6 billion during the last fiscal. It was followed by Karnataka (USD 6.61 billion), Delhi (USD 6 billion), Gujarat (about USD 5.7 billion), Tamil Nadu (USD 3.68 billion), Haryana (USD 3.14 billion), and Telangana (USD 2.99 billion).

Maharashtra accounted for the highest share (39 per cent) of total FDI equity inflows, Karnataka (13 per cent) and Delhi (12 per cent).

The government has put in place an investor-friendly Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, under which most sectors are open for 100 per cent overseas inflows through the automatic route.

BMW India Offers i7 EV at Uniform Ex-showroom Price Nationwide



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- BMW India on Tuesday said it is offering its flagship electric sedan BMW i7 at an uniform ex-showroom price across the country, inclusive of registration charges and GST and compensation cess, with an aim to ensure price parity to customers regardless of location.

The current ex-showroom price of BMW i7 is Rs 2.05 crore.

Under the new pricing, customers will not incur the registration cost for BMW i7, as it will be borne by BMW India and administered by the authorised dealership, the company said.

"Registration taxes are different in every state. Even in a state it changes from time to time, which creates uncertainty among potential customers. In order to overcome that, we are offering this uniform price,"

BMW Group India President and CEO Vikram Pawah told PTI.

Whether a customer is in Karnataka or Maharashtra or any other state, irrespective of the difference in the registration tax, he said, "Everybody gets the same price. Even if the tax changes as well... it is covered." The company will bear the cost of registration charges and GST, including compensation cess as applicable, BMW India said.

"The only thing a customer has to pay is the insurance, TCS and other local tax cess levies," Pawah said.

The idea behind the move, he said it "makes it simple for our customers irrespective of what happens with the registration taxes in the states... our focus is on customer centricity and encouraging the adoption of electric mobility with added benefits."

Want Foreign Funds? Don't Print News, Centre Tells NGOs In Publication Business

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Centre has asserted that the NGOs engaged in publication-related activities and receiving foreign contribution, will not be able to publish any newsletter and must get a certificate from the Registrar of the Newspaper for India that it does not circulate any news content.

The new rules will have to be abided by the NGOs seeking registration under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, it said.

In a notification, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said it has amended the rules made under the FCRA and henceforth, NGOs which are seeking permission to get foreign funding must give an undertaking that it will adhere to the Good Practice Guidelines of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global watchdog for terror financing and money laundering.

The MHA said such bodies or NGOs, which are seeking registration must enclose financial statements and audit reports of the last three financial years, including the statement of assets and liabilities, receipts and payments account, and income and expenditure account.

If the audit reports and financial statements do not contain activity-wise expenditure for the last three financial years, a chartered accountant's certificate specifying the activity-wise amount spent



by the association, duly reconciled with the income and expenditure account and the receipt and payment account must be submitted.

In case the association or the NGO is engaged in publication-related activities or if publication activities are among its aims and objectives as stated in the Memorandum of Association or trust deed, an undertaking from the chief functionary regarding compliance with the FCRA, 2010, must be given.

The MHA said if the publication of the association is registered with the Registrar of Newspaper for India, a "Not a Newspaper" certificate from the Registrar of the Newspaper for India must be submitted.

If the NGO was previously registered under the FCRA, it will be required to submit an affidavit regarding receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution after expiry or cancellation of registration certificate.

If the expenditure on aims and objects is less than Rs

15 lakh in the last three financial years, an affidavit regarding the inclusion of capital investments must be submitted, it said.

The government stipulated that the NGOs which are seeking permission to receive foreign contribution must enclose a commitment letter from the donor, with the amount committed in the letter matching the donation amount, project report, including a detailed breakup of proposed expenses to be incurred from the foreign contribution to be received, along with a declaration that administrative expenses shall not exceed 20 per cent of the foreign contribution.

All NGOs receiving foreign funds have to mandatorily be registered under the FCRA and must utilise such funds only for the purposes it has been received.

Any Association wishing to receive foreign contributions must have a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious or social programme, the government said.



THE MHA SAID IF THE PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION IS REGISTERED with the Registrar of Newspaper for India, a "Not a Newspaper" certificate from the Registrar of the Newspaper for India must be submitted.

Instamart Drops Parent 'Swiggy' Name To Build Standalone Brand Identity

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Quick commerce platform Instamart has dropped parent Swiggy from its name, in a strategic move aimed at carving a standalone brand identity.

The move comes days after rival Zomato, which also owns Blinkit, rebranded as Eternal on the stock exchanges, with quick commerce becoming a significant driver for the firms beyond their food delivery businesses.

At multiple instances, Swiggy Group CEO Sriharsha Majety has spoken about how the company expects Instamart to surpass food delivery in terms of both penetration and scale.

"Integrated within the main Swiggy app, Instamart also launched a standalone app earlier this year. As Instamart enters this next phase, its refreshed identity reflects the brand's identity while remaining true to the Swiggy values that make it so loved,"



Swiggy said in a statement. Instamart has unveiled a fresh logo, which contains the Swiggy 'S-Pin' icon as "a subtle tribute to the brand's origins", the company informed.

"Instamart's promise has grown beyond grocery categories, tier 1 cities and food delivery users. It's become a service with its own voice, its own loyal users, and a role in everyday life that's both personal and essential.

"This rebrand is not just a

visual shift, it's a declaration: Instamart has grown beyond its origins, while still being backed by the trust of Swiggy. The new identity reflects Instamart as a standalone brand, one that is innovating across speed, selection, and daily convenience," Mayur Hota, Head of Brand at Swiggy, said.

The new identity will roll out across the app, packaging, delivery bags, communication, and campaigns over the coming weeks.



Researchers At SKUAST-Kashmir Produce India's First Gene-Edited Sheep

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- Researchers at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) here have produced India's first gene-edited sheep, marking a historic milestone in the field of animal biotechnology.

The university has called it a "ground-breaking scientific achievement".

The gene editing was performed using CRISPR-Cas9 technology and adhered to international biosafety protocols. The edited sheep contains no foreign DNA, distinguishing it from transgenic organisms and paving the way for regulatory approval under India's evolving biotech policy framework.

The feat was achieved by a team of researchers led by Dean Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, SKUAST-Kashmir, Riaz Ahmad Shah after a research of around four years.

Shah's team had previously cloned India's first Pashmina goat 'Noori'-in 2012, a milestone that garnered global acclaim.

"This path-breaking develop-

ment places India on the global map of advanced genome editing technologies and positions SKUAST-Kashmir at the forefront of reproductive biotechnology research," Shah said, adding, it marks a historic milestone in the field of animal biotechnology.

He said the gene-edited lamb has been modified for the 'myostatin' gene -- a regulator of muscle growth.

"By disrupting this gene, muscle mass in the animal is enhanced by nearly 30 per cent, a trait naturally absent in Indian sheep breeds but known in select European breeds like the Texel.

"The introduction of this mutation through gene editing, and not through traditional crossbreeding, represents a technological leap akin to the revolution Artificial Intelligence is driving in the 21st century," he said.

This achievement comes on the heels of the recent release of India's first gene-edited rice variety, endorsed by Union Minister for Agriculture, and further cements India's growing prowess in genomic science, Shah said.

Stock Markets Snap 2-Day Rally, Sensex Falls Nearly 625 Pts

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Snapping the two-day gaining streak, benchmark Sensex tumbled nearly 625 points on Tuesday due to profit-taking in banking, IT and auto shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 624.82 points or 0.76 per cent to settle at 81,551.63 in a volatile session. During the day, the barometer tanked 1,054.75 points or 1.28 per cent to 81,121.70. As many as 25 Sensex shares declined while five advanced.

The 50-issue NSE Nifty declined 174.95 points or 0.70 per cent to 24,826.20. The barometer saw sharp swings in both directions in the first half but sustained profit-taking in heavyweight stocks dragged the index down.

Key indices Sensex and Nifty had advanced around 1.5 per cent in the past two sessions.

Analysts said investors turned cautious ahead of the release of industrial and manufacturing production data for April on Wednesday and the first quarter GDP numbers, scheduled to be announced later this week.

From the Sensex firms, UltraTech Cement fell the most by 2.21 per cent, followed by ITC which declined 2.01 per cent.

Tata Motors, NTPC, Axis Bank, HCL Tech, Mahindra & Mahindra, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Eternal were among



the laggards.

IndusInd Bank, Sun Pharma, Adani Ports, Nestle and Asian Paints were the gainers.

"The domestic market witnessed volatility and snapped a two-day rally, as investors opted for profit booking driven by valuation concerns and weakness across Asian markets," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments, said.

Mid- and small-cap segments remained relatively resilient, supported by better-than-estimated Q4 earnings and moderation in premium valuation, Nair added.

The BSE smallcap gauge went up by 0.19 per cent and midcap index climbed 0.18 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, FMCG dropped 0.79 per cent, IT declined 0.71 per cent, BSE Focused IT by 0.68 per cent, auto by 0.66 per cent, bankex by 0.60 per cent, utilities by 0.57 per cent and metal by 0.52 per cent.

Healthcare, industrials, telecommunication, capital goods, realty and consumer durables were the gainers.

Rakesh Gangwal, Family Trust Sell 5.72 Pc Stake In Indigo For Rs 11,564 Cr

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- InterGlobe Aviation promoter Rakesh Gangwal and his family trust on Tuesday trimmed their holdings by divesting a 5.72 per cent stake in the airline for Rs 11,564 crore through open market transactions.

A total of 2.21 crore equity shares or 5.72 per cent were offloaded by Gangwal and his family trust, the Chinkerpoo Family Trust, whose trustees are Shobha Gangwal and JP Morgan Trust Company of Delaware, as per the bulk deal data on the NSE.

According to the data, Rakesh Gangwal sold 22.10 lakh shares or 0.6 per cent stake in InterGlobe Aviation.

In addition, the Chinkerpoo Family Trust disposed of nearly 1.99 crore shares in three tranches, representing a 5.15 per cent holding in Gurugram-based InterGlobe Aviation.

The shares offloaded in the price range of Rs 5,230.99-5,235.31 apiece, taking the combined transaction value to Rs 11,563.79 crore.

After the latest transaction, Rakesh Gangwal's holding in InterGlobe Aviation declined to 4.7 per cent from 5.30 per cent and the Chinkerpoo Family Trust's stake has also dipped to 3.08 per cent from 8.23 per cent in India's largest airline IndiGo.

Govt Invites Suggestions On Draft Registration Bill 2025

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The government has sought public feedback on a draft bill on registration of documents affecting immovable property and other transactions that is aimed at providing secure, efficient and citizen-centric practices across the country.

The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, has prepared the draft 'The Registration Bill 2025', which once enacted will replace the pre-Constitution law -- The Registration Act, 1908.

In a statement issued here, the Rural Development Ministry said 'The Registration Act, 1908' has served as a cornerstone of the document registration system in India for over a century and provides a legal basis for the registration of documents affecting immovable property and other transactions.

"Over time, the role of registered documents has grown significantly in both public and private transactions, often forming the basis for financial, administrative, and legal decision-making. It is therefore essential that the process of registration is robust, reliable, and capable of adapting to evolving societal and technological developments," the Ministry said.

It said several states and Union territories have already introduced innovations such as online document submission and digital identity verification under the existing 1908 Act.

Gold Snaps 4-Day Winning Streak; Declines Rs 800 To Rs 98,500/10 G

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices declined Rs 800 to Rs 98,500 per 10 grams, bringing an end to its four-day rally, in the national capital on Tuesday amid a fall in precious metal rates globally, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The yellow metal of 99.5 per cent purity depreciated Rs 800 to Rs 98,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had closed at Rs 98,800 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

Additionally, silver prices plunged Rs 1,370 to Rs 99,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday. The white metal had settled at Rs 1,00,370 per kg on Monday.

On the global front, spot gold slipped by USD 45.03 per ounce or 1.35 per cent to USD 3,296.92 per ounce.

"Gold is trading below USD 3,350 per ounce, weighed down by Brussels' push to accelerate trade negotiations with the US, reducing demand for safe-haven assets," Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research at Kotak Securities, said.

Investors are now focused on upcoming US Durable Goods Orders and Consumer Confidence data later in the day for further insights into the economic outlook amid persistent tariff and inflation concerns, Chainwala added.

LIC Q4 Profit Jumps 38% To Rs 19,013 Cr

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- State-owned insurer Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Tuesday posted a 38 per cent increase in net profit to Rs 19,013 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 2025 helped by lower expenses.

The country's biggest insurer had earned a profit of Rs 13,763 crore in the corresponding quarter a year earlier.

The total income of the insurer during the reporting quarter declined to Rs 2,41,625 crore from Rs 2,50,923 crore in the same period of the preceding fiscal, LIC said in a regulatory filing.

LIC's income from first-year premium also moderated to Rs 11,069 crore in the January-March quarter against Rs 13,810 crore in the same period of the preceding fiscal.

However, the income from renewal premiums in the reporting period rose to Rs 79,138 crore compared to Rs 77,368 crore a year ago.

At the same time, expenses of management came down to Rs 16,495 crore from Rs 24,709 crore in the same period a year ago.

"The year 2024-25 was a very exciting and challenging year for our business. After registering a very strong performance in the first six months, we had to redesign and relaunch products to comply with regulatory changes," LIC MD and CEO Siddhartha Mohanty said during media interaction post-announcement of financial numbers.



Former minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is part of an all-party delegation to the Gulf region, hospitalised in Kuwait.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Cabinet Vows

government (Lt Governor's administration) in JK, and the Centre.”

This statement sheds light on the unique political dynamics of the region, where the directly elected state government operates alongside centrally appointed administrative structures. Abdullah has been critical of the dual power system of governance.

Abdullah highlighted the crucial role of the Centre in supporting JK's tourism sector, noting recent high-level discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said, “How can you revive tourism without giving a sense of security to the people?”

Asked whether the prime minister will be helping in the revival of tourism, Abdullah said, “The Prime Minister has made some strides as well. The Prime Minister chaired a meeting on how to revive tourism in JK a few days back.

“Two days back, there was a meeting of the NITI Aayog in Delhi and I got an opportunity to talk to him and we discussed the way to restore tourism in JK. While I cannot share the details here, some concrete steps will be taken by the Centre on that,” he said.

The chief minister opened by expressing profound gratitude to the people of Kashmir, particularly those in Pahalgam, for their unified condemnation of the recent terror strike.

“I want to thank the people of Kashmir, especially those of Pahalgam, who condemned and stood in one voice against the April 22 terror strike on tourists. For this, I thank them and salute them,” he stated.

Responding to concerns about the closure of tourist destinations post-attack, the chief minister indicated a cautious, phased reopening.

“The last five to six weeks have been a difficult time for the country, especially for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. So I would suggest we will conduct a security audit of various tourist destinations and gradually start opening them.”

He specifically mentioned closed sites like Aru and Betaab valleys in Pahalgam, Thajwas glacier in Sonamarg, and even Badamwari and Tulip Garden in Srinagar.

“If we have to close Tulip Garden, then we have to shut the whole Kashmir. I think we have to show some courage and reopen these destinations slowly. The time has come to review the list.”

Abdullah also detailed the ongoing discussions with the Centre regarding financial relief for tourism stakeholders burdened by loans.

He said that his concern extends from large hotel owners to small businesses like homestay operators and taxi drivers who have invested significantly.

“My concern stretches across the various facets of our tourism industry and this conversation has already started with the Centre,” he said, indicating active engagement at the central level.

The chief minister also stressed the importance of proactive outreach in promoting Jammu and Kashmir as a safe destination.

“We are actively exploring how best we can participate in the upcoming travel fairs like the TTF in Kolkata and Hyderabad,” he said, aiming to “take our message that JK wants to be open for business again to these markets”.

The Amarnath Yatra, which will begin in July, was also discussed during the press briefing with Abdullah expressing the government's commitment to its safe and successful conclusion.

While acknowledging potential impacts on some destinations, he emphasised that other areas like Srinagar, Gulmarg and Yousmarg remain “open for business,” asserting that “the yatra and tourism revival can go hand in hand”.

After the special cabinet meeting on Tuesday, the chief minister's office posted on X pictures of the meeting held at the Pahalgam Club.

In a message on ‘X’, his office posted that it was not just a routine administrative exercise, but a clear message - “we are not intimidated by cowardly acts of terror”.

“The enemies of peace will never dictate our resolve. Jammu & Kashmir stands firm, strong, and unafraid,” it said.

This is the first time the cabinet meeting took place outside the usual summer capital, Srinagar, or winter capital, Jammu, during

Abdullah's government's tenure.

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

Last week, Abdullah made this appeal at the Governing Council meeting of the NITI Aayog under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

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.

A special day-long assembly session was also held in Jammu on April 28 which unanimously passed a resolution against the Pahalgam terrorist attack and resolved to fight resolutely to defeat the nefarious designs to disturb communal harmony and hinder progress.

During the assembly session, Abdullah, in his 26-minute emotional speech, had said he would not use the terror attack as an opportunity to press for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that he does not believe in “cheap politics”.

Announces Memorial

tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. “In today's cabinet meeting, held here in Pahalgam, the Public Works Department was authorized to grant in-principle approval for this memorial,” he announced.

He added that suggestions would be sought to ensure that the memorial is not only magnificent but also dignified and respectful.

Extending heartfelt gratitude to the visiting tour operators, the Chief Minister said, “I thank each one of you for coming to Pahalgam and supporting the revival of tourism. I recognize many of you as those who reignited tourism in the Valley during the most challenging times — when even the locals feared venturing out.”

He recalled the early 1990s when tourism first resumed in the Valley with the arrival of groups from Mumbai and Gujarat. “They helped restart tourism and brought it to its peak— until the events of April 22. No matter how strongly we condemn what happened that day, it will never be enough. We lack words to comfort the families of those 26 victims. We can only bow our heads in their memory.”

While acknowledging security challenges, Omar Abdullah stressed the need for strict measures. “Although we do not fully control the security apparatus, I believe what happened should never have happened. And we must do everything possible to ensure it never happens again.”

On the reopening of tourist destinations post-Baisaran incident, he urged for transparency and openness in communicating with tourists. “Let's not focus on what's closed, but on what's open. I believe it's better to speak the truth rather than have tourists feel misled.”

He added, “The process of reopening will begin in a phased manner in the coming days. I visited Betaab Valley myself to assess the situation and to build confidence. Not all destinations will reopen at once, but some will gradually become accessible.”

The Chief Minister assured tour operators that they would be consulted throughout this process. “Together with the administration, we will ensure destinations are reopened responsibly, in a timely manner.”

On attracting international tourists, the CM said, “In our experience, international guests arrive after domestic tourism shows signs of recovery. The first sign of normalcy is when school children and domestic tourists begin visiting picnic spots again. Once this wave is visible, international bookings will follow. While we must continue to promote globally, I believe a strong focus on domestic tourism will build the right momentum.”

Reaffirming his confidence in the revival process, he said, “We have come a long way. What happened, happened. But with your courage and commitment, I am certain we will overcome this and bounce back.”

He acknowledged that certain shortcomings exist and assured these would be addressed moving forward. “We are aware of the gaps

— and we will act on them.”

Tour operators who interacted with the Chief Minister represented a cross-section of travel & operators and bodies such as Raja Rani Travels, Pooja Travels, Heena

Travels, Veena World, Offbeat Destinations, KK Tours, Jai Mata Di Travels, Arihant Travels, Madhuchanda Travels, TAFI, Kass Travels, ADTOI, Beckon Tours Pvt Ltd, Trans Global Travels, SHR Harshil Travels (representing OTOAI), Golden Tours (under ETAA), Ajay Modi Travels (Gujarat), Travel Munk (Jain Travel Associations), Thomas Cook, Tamarind, Kraft Vacations, and Travel Lounge.

Delegates from national print and electronic media also interacted with the CM, alongside local tour operators, hoteliers, travel and tourism stakeholders.

Present during the session were former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, MLAs from Pahalgam and Bijbehara, Director Tourism, MD JKTD, and other senior officials.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister chaired a cabinet meeting in Pahalgam. He described it as more than a routine ‘Council of Ministers’ session, calling it a strong message against terrorism. “The enemies of peace will not deter our resolve. Jammu & Kashmir stands firm, united, and unafraid.”

The Chief Minister also met local delegations led by MLA Pahalgam. “Valuable insights were shared about local issues and aspirations. The support extended by locals during the recent tragedy — to both tourists and the administration — was exemplary,” he said.

He also visited Nunwan Base Camp to review preparations for the Amarnath Yatra, interacted with officials on the ground, and emphasized the importance of coordination for ensuring pilgrims' safety and comfort.

The visit to Betaab Valley was followed by an impromptu cycling tour by the Chief Minister from a local hotel to Nunwan Base Camp and back, to promote new initiatives taken by Tourism Department towards sustainable tourism and eco-tourism, a message strongly advocated by CM Omar Abdullah who also holds the portfolio of Minister for Tourism in J&K.

Omar Cycles On Pahalgam

followed a special cabinet meeting led by Abdullah.

The event aimed to convey a clear message that the government will not be cowed by such acts of terrorism.

The 38-day Amarnath Yatra, which leads to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave housing a naturally formed ice-shivlingam, is set to commence on July 3. Pilgrims can choose between the traditional 48-km route from Pahalgam in Anantnag district or the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

Following the deadly April 22 attack, the tourism sector in Kashmir has faced significant challenges, with Pahalgam experiencing a drastic decline in visitors.

However, Abdullah's cycling initiative has garnered positive attention from local tourism stakeholders who viewed it as a vital step towards rebuilding confidence among potential tourists.

“This is a welcome gesture from the Abdullah family, and we are hopeful that the chief minister's efforts will contribute to the revival of tourism in the valley,” said Amir, a local hotelier.

He noted that the recent attack had cast a shadow over the region, leading to mass cancellations by prospective visitors.

“Despite the difficulties, we remain optimistic about a resurgence in tourism in Pahalgam and beyond in the coming months,” he added.

During the cycling trip, the chief minister also made several stops and interacted with the locals as well as the tourists who were there at the hill resort besides posing for a selfie.

Pak Terror

to such aggression. “If war is the method chosen, then our answer will match it,” he said, addressing a gathering during an urban development programme.

Modi's visit to Vadodara, Dahod, Bhuj, Ahmedabad, and Gandhinagar was marked by what he called a “nationwide wave of patriotism” inspired by Operation Sindoor, which

DPS Srinagar Students Shine on Global Stage with Prestigious Scholarships

Srinagar: Delhi Public School, Srinagar, proudly celebrates the remarkable achievements of two of its students, Syed Fatimah Andrabi and Zaairah Alhaq, who have each been selected for prestigious international scholarships that recognize exceptional talent, leadership, and global citizenship.

Syed Fatimah Andrabi of Class XI has earned a place in the highly coveted Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (KL-YES) Program. Selected through a rigorous, multi-stage national selection process, she is one of just 28 students from across India to receive this 100% scholarship. Fatimah will travel to the United States in August 2025, where she will spend a full academic year living with an American host family and attending a U.S. high school. As a Youth Ambassador, she will represent not only DPS Srinagar but also her city and country, working to foster cross-cultural understanding and strengthen ties between communities through the power of youth exchange.



Meanwhile, Zaairah Alhaq, also in Class XI, has been named a 2025 Global STEM Changemaker Scholar by AFS Intercultural Programs. Selected from over 7,000 applicants worldwide, Zaairah is one of only 145 global changemakers and one of just four from India to be awarded this prestigious scholarship. The AFS Global STEM Academies program includes a 12-week virtual learning experience followed by a four-week, in-person, immersive academy in Brazil. There, Zaairah will engage in collaborative, hands-on

STEM projects focused on innovation and sustainability, while developing essential leadership and intercultural skills to address pressing global challenges.

Both Fatimah and Zaairah exemplify the spirit of curiosity, leadership, and global engagement that DPS Srinagar strives to instill in its students. The school extends its heartfelt congratulations to these outstanding young changemakers and wishes them great success as they embark on these transformative journeys abroad.

details with regard to TDS deductions.

Under the I-T law, LTCG of up to Rs 1.25 lakh from the sale of listed shares and mutual funds are exempt from tax. Gains exceeding Rs 1.25 lakh/ annum are subject to 12.5 per cent tax.

Usually, the ITR forms are notified before the end of the fiscal, mostly around January/ February. This time, however, the ITR forms and the filing utility got delayed as revenue department officials were preoccupied with the new Income Tax Bill, which was introduced in Parliament in February.

Heavy Rains,

considerable damage to crops, leaving many farmers distressed.

Commuters and pedestrians in Srinagar faced difficulty due to waterlogged roads and blocked drains, even as the showers brought a welcome drop in daytime heat. The hailstorm added to the chaos, damaging orchards and fields, especially in south and central Kashmir districts.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng said satellite data and model forecasts had already indicated the possibility of widespread thundershowers. “Multiple spells have already occurred, and the intensity has varied from area to area,” he said, adding that the cloud cover and wind pattern suggested stormy weather could continue in southern districts and parts of Jammu till midnight. A gradual improvement, he added, is expected to begin from north Kashmir.

Despite the rainfall, temperatures remained on the higher side. Srinagar recorded a maximum of 32.2°C, Qazigund 31.3°C, Pahalgam 24.0°C, Kokernag 30.4°C, Kupwara 30.7°C, and Gulmarg 22.0°C. Jammu was the hottest at 38.4°C, though most other parts, barring Katra, stayed below 30°C.

Director of the Meteorological Department Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said intermittent rain and thundershowers, accompanied by gusty winds, are likely to continue at many places till May 31. He added that from June 1 to 3, brief and isolated spells of rain and thunder are expected.

In its latest advisory, the MeT department has warned of thunderstorms and gusty winds across several parts of the valley in the coming days.

Flight Operations

hailstorm struck parts of the Kashmir Valley, leading to the cancellation of a flight, and diversion along with delays to others.

A senior official at Srinagar Airport said that turbulent weather conditions disrupted air traffic today in the evening as strong winds created disturbances in landing and takeoff, causing several flights to either be cancelled or diverted to nearby airports such as Chandigarh.

He said flights between Srinagar and Jammu were among the worst affected and have been fully cancelled till tomorrow.

Similarly, the disruption left many passengers stranded at the airport as airlines adjusted their schedules and awaited improved weather conditions.

Moreover, incoming flights from Delhi and other cities were delayed, while others were put on hold mid-air or asked to return.

Pertinently, Kashmir Valley witnessed a heavy downpour and hailstorm this afternoon disrupting the normal life and inundating the roads and streets across Srinagar city. (KNO)

Lightning Kills

Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Tuesday.

The incident occurred in the upper reaches of the Budhal sub-division, when lightning, accompanied by heavy thunder and hail storm, hit a shepherd's camp during the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, officials said.

The nomadic families from the Targain village of Budhal had moved to the upper reaches along with their livestock as part of the seasonal migration in search of greener pastures and established their camp near Marg top as per their traditional practice.

A team of officials from the Budhal Sheep and Husbandry Department visited the site this morning and prepared a detailed report on the losses incurred by the affected families, who have made an urgent appeal for compensation and rehabilitation support.

Tribute To Op Sindoor At IPL Final: BCCI Invites All 3 Service Chiefs

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The BCCI on Tuesday said it has invited all three service chiefs of the Indian armed forces to attend the IPL final on June 3 in Ahmedabad, where the event's closing ceremony will also feature a tribute to their "heroic efforts" during the recent Operation Sindoor.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia made the announcement in a media statement.

"We have extended an invitation to all Indian Armed Forces chiefs top-ranked officers and soldiers for the IPL final in Ahmedabad to celebrate the success of Operation Sindoor," Saikia told PTI on Tuesday.

Saikia said that the BCCI salutes the "bravery, courage, and selfless service" of the country's armed forces.

He lauded the "heroic efforts under Operation Sindoor" which protected and inspired the nation.

"As a tribute, we have decided to dedicate the closing ceremony to the armed forces and



honor our heroes. While cricket remains a national passion, there is nothing greater than the nation and its sovereignty, integrity, and security of our country," Saikia said.

While General Upendra Dwivedi is the Chief of Army Staff, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi is the Naval Chief. Air Chief

Marshal Amar Preet Singh is the Chief of Air Staff.

Operation Sindoor was triggered by the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22 in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were gunned down by Pakistan-backed terrorists.

The retaliatory action led to a brief military showdown be-

tween the two arch foes before India agreed to halt its operations on Pakistan's request for a cease fire.

"It's a gracious gesture by the BCCI to invite the three service chiefs as the armed forces have done the country proud during Operation Sindoor. We are forever indebted to our forces for

keeping us safe," former BCCI acting president C K Khanna said reacting to the Board's decision.

We Want To Win To IPL: PBKS Batter Shashank

Punjab Kings batter Shashank Singh revealed that the team collectively 'manifested' a top-two finish after the mini-auction, but emphasised that the job is only half done, with the ultimate goal of winning the IPL trophy this season.

PBKS became the first team to secure a top-two spot and sealed their place in Qualifier 1 with a stunning seven-wicket win over Mumbai Indians on Monday.

Often labelled perennial underachievers, this marks Punjab Kings' first playoff appearance in 11 years.

"It feels surreal," Shashank said at the post-match press conference.

"Finishing top two is just half job done. We want to win. On June 4 at 12am when we are sitting in press conference having won the title, I can say that yes we are on top of the world."

YSS Budgam Holds Inter-School Zonal Competitions Across District

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Under the directions of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam Gh Hassan Lone, Inter-School Zonal Level competitions are being held across various zones of the district, witnessing participation from students of both government and private institutions.

In Zone Beerwah, a badminton competition for boys and girls in under-17 and under-age categories was conducted at BHSS and GHSS Beerwah, with a large number of students taking part.

Zone B.K. Pora organised a volleyball competition for under-17 girls at IPHSS B.K. Pora. The event was inaugu-



rated by Ghulam Mohidin, Principal Islamic Public HSS, along with Rumeet Kour (PEM) and other officials.

Zone Budgam hosted a zonal level volleyball competition (AAG) at GHSS Shogapora, inaugurated by principal Shakeel Ahmad along with PEM Shabir Ahmad

In Zone Dreygam, the under-14 boys' badminton event was held at GHS

Ichigam and inaugurated by the Head of Institution, with support from the zone's incharge.

Meanwhile, Zone Khansahib began its U-19 girls volleyball competition at GHSS Khansahib, inaugurated by Mushtaq Ahmad (PEM), Ghulam Mohidin Wani (Lecturer) and Khan Muneer Aslam (PEI), alongside other staff members.

District Level Zonal U-17 Football Tourney Ongoing In Annatnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The District Level Inter Zonal Football Tournament continued at HSS Dailgam on Tuesday. The tournament is featuring male students of U-17 age group, representing various zones of District Anantnag.

Tuesday saw competitions among eight zones of Anantnag being held, in which almost 112 students showcased their football skills. Zone Dooru beat Zone Qazigund 3-0, Zone Achabal beat Zone Mattan 2-0, Zone Bijbehara beat Ashmuqam 4-0 and Zone Anantnag got walkover,



as Zone Srigufwara failed to report on the ground in the stipulated time.

The competitions were organised by District Youth Services and Sports Office Anantnag with the aim to promote sportsmanship, nurture talent and foster healthy.

Meanwhile, ZPEO Bijbehara concluded its

Inter-School Handball Tournament for U-17 boys on Tuesday at PM Shri MS Pazzalpora Bijbehara. On the conclusion of the tournament, BMHSS Bijbehara emerged as winner and HS HP Bagh emerged as runner up. In the tournament a total of 70 male school students of U-17 age category participated.

Kabaddi Sparks District Spirit: Zone Tullamulla Boys Shine Brightest

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal hosted the District-Level Inter-Zone Kabaddi Championship for Boys U-17 on Tuesday at GCOPE Gadoora. The vibrant event saw the participation of all four zones of the district, transforming the venue into a buzzing ground of youthful energy and competitive zeal.

The tournament culminated in a gripping final between Zone Ganderbal and Zone Tullamulla, where Zone Tullamulla emerged victorious with a powerful display of tactical excellence and teamwork.

DYSSO Ganderbal, who graced the occasion, lauded the efforts of the participants and coaches alike. In an en-



couraging interaction, the officer motivated the young athletes to continue striving for excellence while emphasizing the role of sports in shaping confident and disciplined individuals.

While the spotlight shine on the district-level

Kabaddi clash, the rest of Ganderbal vibrated with energy as Zonal Level sports competitions and selection trials continued across various venues aimed at identifying potential stars for upcoming inter-district and UT-level tournaments.

Inter-School, Zonal Sports Events Held In Multiple Baramulla Zones

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Baramulla continued its series of Inter-Zonal District Level and Inter-School Zonal Level competitions on Tuesday.

On the second day of the Inter-Zonal District Level Yoga competition for all age group (AAG) Girls, held at BHS Khawaja Bagh, a remarkable total of 94 girls from multiple zones showcased their strength and discipline. Among them, 47 girls participated in the U-14 category, 39 in U-17, and 8 in U-19.

In parallel, Zone Kunzer conducted Inter-School Zonal Level Badminton competitions for U-14 and U-17 boys and girls at HSS Kunzer, witnessing active



involvement of 70 students, 35 boys and 35 girls.

Zone Nehalpora hosted a Volleyball competition for U-17 boys at BMS Nehalpora, drawing 57 players from various government and private schools. Meanwhile, Zone Tangmarg organised a mega sporting event at Government Model Degree College Tangmarg featuring Volleyball (130

participants), Kho Kho (44 participants) and Kabaddi (60 participants) in the U-14 boys category.

Adding to the momentum, YSS zone Singpora Kalan held a mega Inter-School Zonal Level event at HS Singpora Kalan for U-17 boys in Volleyball, Kho Kho and Kabaddi, witnessing a combined participation of 172 students.

Liverpool FC, A Football Club With An Identity Woven In Trophies & Tragedies

Agencies

LONDON: The somber-looking home page of Liverpool FC on Tuesday reflected the mood of a club still in shock after a man plowed a car into a crowd of fans who were celebrating the team's latest Premier League title, injuring 47 people.

Under a statement sending thoughts and prayers to those affected were references to two deadly stadium disasters involving Liverpool fans in the 1980s that had a profound impact on the club and its identity.

Below that was a digital visualization of all the trophies won by Liverpool FC in its 133-year history that make it one of the most decorated men's teams in world soccer.

It was a moving reminder that with all the silverware and success has come pain and tragedy for a club synonymous with the anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone."

Here is a closer look at those two stadium disasters referenced by the club:

HEYSSEL

In May 29, 1985, Liverpool played Italian team Juventus in the European Cup final at Heysel Stadium in Brussels.

Crowd disorder before kickoff culminated in a surge by Liverpool fans into an adjacent stand containing mostly Juventus supporters. In the ensuing chaos, some were trampled or suffocated to death as they tried to flee the violence and others died when a retaining wall collapsed.

A total of 39 people — 32 from Italy, four from Belgium, two from France and one from Northern Ireland — died and around 600 were injured.

Liverpool fans were largely blamed for the violence. Twenty-six of them were arrested and charged with manslaughter, 14 of whom were found guilty and given 3-year prison sentences.



Many also attributed the disorder to the dilapidated condition of Heysel, a 55,000-capacity structure with outdated standing-room only stands, flimsy fences and crumbling walls inside and outside the stadium, as

well as poor organization from police and UEFA, European soccer's governing body.

The 40th anniversary of the disaster is on Thursday, with Liverpool set to unveil a newly designed memorial at Anfield to

mark the occasion.

Liverpool's home page on Tuesday showed the emblems of Juventus and Liverpool above the date of the match and the Italian words "in memoria e amicizia" ("in memory and

friendship" in English).

HILLSBOROUGH

Four years later, Liverpool was involved in another stadium tragedy — this time on English soil — that led to the death of 97 of the club's fans.

The crush at the FA Cup semi-final match between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest at Hillsborough in Sheffield on April 15, 1989, is Britain's worst sports disaster.

The catastrophe unfolded when more than 2,000 Liverpool fans were allowed to flood into a standing-room section behind a goal with the stadium already nearly full for the match.

The victims were smashed against metal anti-riot fences or trampled underfoot, and many suffocated. A police officer ran onto the field and asked the referee to halt the game, which was abandoned after six minutes. Fans and rescue workers ripped up advertising boards and used

them as makeshift stretchers as police and first-aid workers treated victims on the field.

With hooliganism rife in English soccer throughout the 1980s and the events of Heysel still fresh in the memory, there were immediate attempts to assign blame on the Liverpool fans and defend policing at the match. A false narrative that blamed drunken, ticketless and rowdy Liverpool fans was created by police.

It took decades of campaigning for Liverpool supporters to prove there was a cover-up by authorities.

In 2016, a jury found that police and emergency services were to blame for the Hillsborough disaster and exonerated the behavior of Liverpool fans, saying the victims were "unlawfully killed."

The reference to Hillsborough on Liverpool's website displayed the number "97" with the date of the match and the words "Never Forgotten." (AP)

Short TAKES

Iranian Wrestler Lifts Title As 'Dangal' Returns To Ramban After 5 Years

Iranian wrestler Ahmad Mirza Puria defeated Bupinder Ajnala from Punjab in a 'Dangal' organized in this hilly district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday after a gap of five years, organizers said.

The wrestling competition, held for the first time after COVID-19, saw over 50 wrestlers in action at the event organized by Dangal Committee Chanderkote in collaboration with police and Army, drawing hundreds of enthusiastic sport lovers.

This was the fifth 'Dangal' in the district and attracted athletes from different parts of the country and Iran as well, a member of the organizing committee said.

Ramban MLA Arjun Singh Raju thanked the organizers especially police officer Majid Ali, and said the event successfully conveyed two messages outside the world that the security situation in the Union territory is peaceful in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack and subsequent Operation Sindoor to destroy terror infrastructure across the border.

He asked the local youth to take up sports and stay away from drugs.

Suryavanshi A Fantastic Attraction For The Sport: Steve Waugh

Can he play the same way next year?, wondered Steve Waugh as he spoke about India's newest IPL batting sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi, expressing disbelief at the 14-year-old's impeccable timing and advising him to focus on 'control' to avoid being a supernova.

The legendary former Australian captain, who doesn't follow the IPL religiously, said Suryavanshi is a 'fantastic attraction' but one that needs to be kept grounded for his own good -- a thought that has been echoed by multiple followers of the game.

"I watched that century and I just couldn't believe how well he struck the ball and how easy he was hitting the sixes and how relaxed he was," Waugh said in a media interaction alongside Anil Kumble, Matthew Hayden and Robin Uthappa on 'Australian Summer of Cricket 2025-26' organised by JioStar, Cricket Australia and the Australian Government.

PCB Won't Have DRS For Home Series Against Bangladesh

The Pakistan Cricket Board has decided against using DRS technology during the three-match T20 home series against Bangladesh due to cost issues.

A reliable PCB source said due to the lack of interest in the series which begins Wednesday the Board had decided against having the DRS technology.

Bangladesh are missing some key players due to various reasons including their experienced left arm pacer Mustafizur Rehman who injured his thumb while playing in the IPL.

A few Bangladesh players and members of the support staff have also opted out of the tour because of security concerns with Liton Das leading them in the three matches. Bangladesh reached Lahore after suffering an embarrassing 2-1 loss against UAE in Sharjah in a T20 series.

The PCB and broadcasters also didn't have DRS technology for the second phase of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) which was held after the recent border conflict with India.

Casemiro Returns In Ancelotti's First Brazil Squad For World Cup Qualifiers

New Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti brought back midfielder Casemiro for World Cup qualifiers against Ecuador and Paraguay next week.

The 33-year-old Casemiro was the Brazil captain at the 2022 World Cup but has been absent from the national team for about a year. Striker Neymar, who is still struggling to return from injury, was not picked.

Ancelotti arrived in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday night after leaving Real Madrid, and the Italian is the first foreigner to coach the five-time World Cup champion full-time in a century.

BRAZIL:

Goalkeepers: Alisson (Liverpool), Bento (Al-Nassr), Hugo Souza (Corinthians)

Defenders: Alex Sandro, Danilo, Leo Ortiz, Wesley (all Flamengo), Alessandro (Lille), Lucas Beraldo (Paris Saint-Germain), Carlos Augusto (Inter Milan), Vander-son (Monaco)

Midfielders: Andreas Pereira (Fulham), Andrey Santos (Strasbourg), Bruno Guimaraes (Newcastle), Casemiro (Manchester United), Ederson (Atalanta), (Gerson)

Forwards: Antony (Real Betis), Estêvão (Palmeiras), Gabriel Martinelli (Arsenal), Matheus Cunha (Wolverhampton), Raphinha (Barcelona), Richarlison (Tottenham), Vinicius Júnior (Real Madrid)

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