

[illegible]



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Thursday | 29-05-2025

2

## ‘Faking Green Credentials Can Hamper Brand Value; Discourage Sustainable Shopping’

Press Trust Of India

Exaggerating or faking "green credentials" can lead to a drop in brand value by damaging trust of consumers and discourage sustainable shopping, a study by Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow has found. The research explored how deceptive green marketing, also known as "greenwashing", can create a negative impact on the consumer trust, brand perception, and buying behaviour. Conducted in collaboration with researchers from the University of Hail, Saudi Arabia, University of Turin, Italy, Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University, Saudi Arabia, and Institute of Management Studies Ghaziabad, India, the research has been published in the prestigious journal, Business Strategy and the Environment. According to officials, greenwashing has become a common practice among brands to attract consumers, build a positive perception, and manipulate buying behaviour. Unlike earlier studies conducted which were not able to assess how it

can affect consumer attitude towards a brand, the research team bridged this gap by studying the psychology of how consumers interpret and react to greenwashing, they said. The team developed a framework us-



ing Attribution Theory and the Elaboration Likelihood Model. This framework with an emphasis on "situational involvement", meaning the degree of personal relevance a consumer assigns to environmental issues, helped in analysing "why" and "how" people react to greenwashing. "The research team tested the developed framework on 353 consumers from the United States of America and analysed the data using structural

equation modelling, a method mostly used in the social and behavioural science fields," said Sushant Kumar, Assistant Professor, Marketing Management, IIM Lucknow.

Kumar said that the study found that greenwashing does not just fool people; it also damages brand trust and discourages sustainable shopping. "Greenwashing is dangerous for brands, but consumers appreciate green claims. A business' green claims should be substantiated by evidence that can be verified by consumers. When consumers grow sceptical about a brand exaggerating or faking green credentials, their positive feelings about the brand drop," he said.

"People with greater environmental knowledge are more likely to critically assess eco-claims made by the brands and react more strongly," Kumar said. The team now plans to explore several other aspects of consumer behaviour such as recommendation of a brand or product involved in greenwashing. The team also plans to study the consumers' sentiments while consuming green brands and later discovering false claims by the brand.

### Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

#### Public Notice

The registrar birth BDO Khore Sherabad has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Salik Latief D.o.B 25/09/2019, Numan Latief D.o.B 24/09/2020 Ss/o Latief Ahmad Dar R/o Hanjiwera Bala Tehsil 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.

fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

### Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... Application of Shabir Ahmad Bhat s/o Assadullah Bhat R/o Pattan for issuance of legal hair certificate

#### PUBLIC NOTICE..

IT is inform to general public that applicants sister's legal hair certificate is under process in this office in this matter report Was sought from Patwari concerned which reveals that applicants sister namely Jabeena Begum died on 07/09/2020 and left following legal hairs.

Name	Age	Relationship with the Deceased	Marital Status
ABDUL RASHID BHAT	72	BROTHER	MARRIED
SHABIR AHMED BHAT	63	BROTHER	MARRIED

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..

fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

## ACHIEVERS ACADEMY OF LEARNING KREERI BARAMULLA

CALL: 7006287430, 7780868051

### FEE STRUCTURE

#### For 11th & 12th Class

Physics - 8000  
Chemistry - 8000  
Biology - 8000  
Maths - 8000  
PCB - 24000  
PCM - 24000  
PCMB - 32000

#### For 10th Class

For 10th

( Monthly) All subjects:3000  
complete Course: 16000

fko

## ACHIEVERS ACADEMY OF LEARNING KREERI BARAMULLA

CALL: 7006287430, 7780868051

### STAFF STATEMENT 2025-26

S.no	Name of the Staff member	Subject	Qualification	Designation
01	Intizaar Hussain Thoker	Physics	M.Sc	Unemployed
02	Sameer Ahmad Bhat	Chemistry	B. ed	Unemployed
03	Dr. Sajad Ahmad Bhat	Zoology	Ph.D Zoology	Unemployed
04	Shabeena	Botany	M.Sc Botany	Unemployed
05	Intiyaz	Maths	M.Sc Maths, B.Ed	Unemployed
06	Mr. Alijz Ahmad	History	M.A History, B.Ed	Unemployed
07	Mr Showkat Ahmad Mir	Political Science	M.Phil Pol. Science	Unemployed
08	Mr. Basharat Ahmad Sofi	Urdu	M.A Urdu, B.Ed	Unemployed
09	Rayees Ahmad Mir	English	M.A English, B.Ed	Unemployed
10	Mehraj Ud Din Chopan	Physics	M.Sc Physics, B.Ed	Unemployed

fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN

e-mail:- rmbdivisionshopian@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
CIVIL WORKS

SINGLE COVER SYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)

NIT No: 01/1171-80 /RnB/ SPN /e-Tendering/2025-26

Dated:- 27-05-2025

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

S. No	Name Of Work	Major Head of Account	Adv Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion	Cost of T/ AAA No. Date Doc (Rs.)
1	Stage contract for maintenance of various roads of Sub-division Shopian.	3054 (023-M&R)- Stage Contract	15.00	30000/-	DEE/CEE/BEE	290 Days (For current financial year)	600/- ARD/ CESK/2025-26/03
2	Stage contract for maintenance of various roads of Sub-division Ramnagri.	3054 (023-M&R)- Stage Contract	13.00	26000/-	DEE/CEE/BEE	290 Days (For current financial year)	600/- ARD/ CESK/2025-26/03
3	Stage contract for maintenance of various roads of Sub-division Hirpora	3054 (023-M&R)- Stage Contract	12.00	24000/-	DEE/CEE/BEE	290 Days (For current financial year)	600/- ARD/ CESK/2025-26/03

Position of funds:- Approved

Project Authority= PW(R&B) Department South Kashmir

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-05-2025
2	Document downloading Start Date.	28-05-2025
3	Document Downloading End Date.	04-06-2025
4	Bid submission Start Date.	28-05-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date.	04-06-2025
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	05-06-2025

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of e-Challan/treasury challan /Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive. 2.1 At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Bid cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids of a responsive bidder shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.

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

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

- Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6(A

NOTE: The "sum in dispute" shall refer to the aggregate of all the disputed amounts, both the claim(s) amount plus the counter claim(s) amount.

No: NIT/1171-80

DIPK-1968/25

Sd/-

Draftsman

Dt: 28-05-2025

Sd/-

Camp Clerk

Sd/-

Technical Officer

Sd/-

Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Shopian

### From Office of the Advocate Advocate Tawseef Gani

In the case of

1. Mst Sharifa Begum W/o Habibullah Parray R/o Hail Kreeri Tehsil Kreeri
  2. Mst Fareeda Begum W/o Abdul Hamid Parray R/o Tapper Bala Tehsil Pattan
  3. Mst Kulsuma Begum W/o Mohammad Altaf Ganie R/o Chanderhama Pattan
  4. Mst Fahmeeda Begum W/o Mohammad Ashraf Dar R/o Wagub Tehsil Sopore
- All Daughters of Late Kamal Mir

( Caveator)

V/s  
Public at large

Non-Caveators

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

fko

Sd/advocate

### Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Sub: Application of Shabir Ahmad Mir S/o Ghulam Qadir Mir R/o Doulatpora for issuance of Dependent certificate.

#### NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above ,in this context. a detailed report sought from the concerned patwari halqa which reveals tha tthe family consists of 06 members and the annual income of the applicant family from all sources is Rs 85000 moreover family structure of the applicant is as under

S. NO	NAME OF DEPEN- DENT	Relation With Deceased	AGE	OCCUPA- TION
1	Shabir Ahmad Mir	Self	49	Labour
2	Nasreena Begum	Wife	45	H/W
3	Shabnum Shabir	Daughter	25	Student
4	Ulfat Shabir	-	21	-
5	Tajamul Shabir	Son	17	-
6	Mudasir SShabir	-	15	-

It is further submitted that Shabir Ahmad Mir S/o Ghulam Qadir is labour by profession and is sloe earning member of the said family the applicant needs income dependent certificate in favour of Mudasir Shabir, Shabnum Shabir for Scholarship & Marriage Assistance .

The applicant has applied for issuance of income dependent certificate . As such the instant mater is published through newspaper . If any one is having any kind of objection may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days of the publication of this notice after passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), no objections will be entertained.

fko

Naib Tehsildar

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I Tanveer Ahmad Mir F/O Zain Ul Abidin R/o Manzimpura Shopian want to change my ward's name in birth certificate records from (old name) Abu Zain to (New Name) Zain Ul Abidin. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may contact Municiple Council Shopian within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

FKO

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 9th pass Discharge Certificate. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/he may file them in the office of the Principal Govt Model Higher Secondary Hardushoor .

Tabassum Akhter  
D/O Ab Rehman Rather  
R/O Hardushoora

bmj

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The data submitted by me, Nazir Ahmad Kambay, at the time of admission of my ward, Afaan Firdous, a student of 6th Grade at Iqra Educational Institute, Bemina, Srinagar, contains an error in the name. The correction required is as follows:

From:

AFAAN FIRDOUS S/O :- NAZIR AHMAD KAMBAY

To be changed to:

AFAAN NAZIR KAMBAY S/O :- NAZIR AHMAD KAMBAY

It is hereby requested that the necessary correction be made in the official records.

Any objections to this change, if any, may be submitted to the CEO, Srinagar / Principal, Iqra Educational Institute, Bemina, Srinagar, within seven (7) days of the publication of this notice

fko

از نیابت یومی زینہ گریبا اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار یومی زینہ گریبا درخواست منجانب ارشد احمد ڈار دلجمہ رستم ڈار اس کے لئے شات بہرام پراپری سرٹیفکیٹ بحق خود

### اشتہار ہر خاص وعام

معاملہ زیر بحث کے نسبت اول پنواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی مطابق رپورٹ پنواری لی شات میں نمبر خسرہ 394 1 کنال 4 مرلہ ، 135 15 مرلہ کل اکنال 19 مرلہ زیر مقدمہ موجود ہے جس کی اسٹانپ ریٹ سال 2025/ 1521000 ہے اور سائل اپنے حق میں property سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجار کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی غدر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اند دفتر ہڈ میں پیش کریں۔ معاذ گزرنے بعد کو کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار

fko

### AL-KABIR EYE CARE CENTRE

240, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar

#### JOB VACANCY

Optometrist / Ophthalmic Assistant

Salary: Negotiable

We are seeking a qualified individual with a solid understanding of basic ophthalmic examinations and diagnostic procedures. Interested candidates are encouraged to send their updated resume to the contact number provided below to schedule an interview.

Contact: +91 94194 67831

inf

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Rubia Jaan, D/O Gh. Mohi Ud Din Dar and W/O Irfan Hamid Kharadi, resident of Mehman Mohalla, Lal Chowk, Anantnag – 192101, wish to inform the general public and concerned authorities that my academic documents, namely:

10th Marks Card, 10th Certificate  
12th Marks Card, Graduation Marks Cards

B.Ed Marks Cards, B.Ed Certificate

M.A Marks Cards, M.A Certificate

M.Ed Marks Cards, M.Ed Certificate

Permanent Resident Certificate

have been gutted in a fire incident. I am in the process of applying for duplicate copies of the aforementioned documents from the respective departments and institutions.

If any person or authority has any objection to the issuance of duplicate documents in my name, they may kindly inform the undersigned at the address given below within seven (7) days of the publication of this notice.

Rubia Jaan

D/O Gh. Mohi Ud Din Dar

W/O Irfan Hamid Kharadi

R/O Mehman Mohalla, Lal Chowk, Anantnag – 192101

Phone: +91 97970 85393

inf

### Public Notice

The electricity connection with consumer ID 0202050000026 registered in the Name of Hakeem Mohammad Yaqoob R/O 1214, Rawalpura, Sanat Nagar Srinagar - 190005 is to be transferred in Name of Zamruda Sultan W/O Late Hakeem Mohammad Yaqoob R/O 1214, Rawalpura, Sanat Nagar Srinagar - 190005. Objections, if any, to the same must reach Electric Division II. (Rajbagh) & Electric Sub. Division. (Baghat), maximum within a week from the date of its publication.

Media line Ads

### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK0420100010976 issued in favour of AEJAZ AHMAD SOFI Parentage ABDUL RAHIM SOFI Whereas an application has been received by one AEJAZ AHMAD SOFI Parentage ABDUL RAHIM SOFI wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as AIJAZ AHMAD SOFI Parentage AB. RAHIM SOFI Which needs to be changed as AEJAZ AHMAD SOFI Parentage ABDUL RAHIM SOFI.

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.JK0420090001803 issued in favour of BILAL AHMAD THAKUR Parentage GHULAM QADIR THAKUR Whereas an application has been received by one BILAL AHMAD THAKUR Parentage GHULAM QADIR THAKUR wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as BILAL AHMAD THAKUR Parentage GHULAM QADIR THAKUR Which needs to be changed as BILAL AHMAD THAKUR Parentage GHULAM QADIR THAKUR.

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 AASHAQ AMIN BHAT ADVOCATE JK AND LADAKH HIGH COURT

SRINAGAR C/O DISTRICT COURT COMPLEX AT BUDGAM CHAMBER NO.17

In the case of:-

1. Ali Mohammad Khan S/O Mohammad Akbar Khan R/O Hardupanzoo Khansahib
2. Anees Irshad Bhat S/O Irshad Ahmad Bhat R/O Humhama Budgam

(Caveators)

Vs

Public at Large

(Non-Caveators)

In the matter of :-

CAVEAT PETITION UNDER SECTION 148 A CPC

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

WHEREAS, the Caveators are the permanent resident of U.T of Jammu and Kashmir and the Caveator No.1 is owner of landed estate at Arizaal Tehsil Khansahib District Budgam and Caveator No.2 has raised construction of sheep farm over the said land and is running Sheep farm over some portion of the said land. WHEREAS, the Caveators are having every apprehension that any person public at large may file a false and frivolous suit before the Hon'ble court of law pertaining to the subject matter and may drag the Caveators in such frivolous litigation and will succeed in getting the ex-parte order against them. The public at large are having no interest or claim over the above mentioned land of the Caveator No.1, and the Caveator No.2 is enjoying the possession of the above said land without any kind of interference from any quarter whatsoever. That if and incase the any person public at large may file any suit, application or any other petition against the Caveator before Hon'ble Court of law, no stay order, restraint order or any other interim relief be granted in favour of the any person/public at large against the Caveators unless the Caveators be put to notice and be given opportunity of being heard.

mcb

Aashaq Amin Bhat (Adv) & associates

Sd

## Former Batamaloo Legislator Noor Muhammad Rejoins PDP

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Former Batamaloo legislator Noor Muhammad has re-joined the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), sources confirmed.

According to KNT, to the development, Noor Muhammad had conveyed his willingness to return to the party fold, and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti has responded positively to the proposal.

"Noor Muhammad expressed his desire to rejoin the PDP, and Mehbooba Mufti has shown readiness to welcome him back," said a senior party insider. Sheikh Noor Muhammad joined the party in presence of party president Mehbooba Mufti.

The move comes amid a slow but steady trend of former PDP members returning



to the party, which saw a mass exodus of leaders in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

Several key figures had distanced themselves from the party during that politically turbulent period.

Notably, just a day earlier, former legislator from Pulwama, Ajaz Ahmed Mir, rejoined the PDP in the presence of Mehbooba Mufti, signaling what many see as a potential revival phase for the party.

## 'Library On Wheels' Rolls into Rainawari To Empower Girls

KO Web Desk

**SRINAGAR:** The 14th edition of Alisha's Library on Wheels was inaugurated at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Rainawari, bringing a mobile collection of competitive exam books to female students aiming for ambitious careers.

According to KNT, co-founded by US-based student Alisha Madhuvarshi and CISF officer Rakesh Nikhaj, the initiative is dedicated to delivering quality reading materials to children in underserved areas, especially those with limited access to educational resources.

The Rainawari unit features an almirah stocked with the latest books for UPSC, SSC, Banking, Law, and other competitive exams, along with a seating area for six students. "This is about creating opportunity, one book at a time," said

Alisha, addressing students virtually.

The library was formally handed over by SSP Central Jail Srinagar Sheikh Zulufikar Azad to school Principal Gulshan Afroza, with CISF Commander Rakesh Nikhaj highlighting the mission of the project.

Career expert Sheikh Inayat Ullah encouraged students to explore diverse fields and stressed early career planning, referencing UNICEF-developed tools to help students assess their strengths.

In recognition of academic excellence, three top-performing Class 11 students were given free online SSC courses worth Rs 21,000 each.

The principal thanked the team and pledged to fully utilize the resources, while Alisha announced her goal of expanding the initiative to 100 remote locations across India in the coming years.

## DC Presides Training Programme (Training-II) For YUVA DOOTS



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A day-long training-cum-orientation programme for YUVA DOOTS (Youth Ambassadors) under Mission Yuva initiative was held at the Kashmir Government Polytechnic College (KGPC), Gogjibagh, with the participation of YUVA doots who have been assigned the task of implementation of Project YUVA.

The programme was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat under the aegis of Mission YUVA, aiming to build a strong network of grassroots youth mobilizers for entrepreneurship development.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Srinagar, Rifat Aftab, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Deputy Director Employment, Dr. Sheeba Inayat, other concerned Officers and members of Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and Business Help Desks (BHDs) Committees attended the training programme.

Addressing the Training programme, DC highlighted the importance of youth-led development and grassroots entrepreneurship. He emphasized the importance of youth-led initiatives in promoting self-reliance and economic sustainability at the grassroots level. He also encouraged Yuva Doots to act as catalysts of positive change within their communities.

While highlighting the importance of the programme, DC said that such trainings are pivotal to provide de-

tailed insights into the operational structure of the programme, roles and responsibilities of YUVA doots and the support framework available at the district level.

He urged the YUVA doots on targeted mobilization, focusing on aspirants most likely to benefit from the initiative.

DC underlined that with a well-defined action plan and comprehensive training, YUVA doots are now equipped to begin their grassroots outreach activities, promoting entrepreneurship and youth-led development across district Srinagar under Mission YUVA initiative.

The training aimed to equip them with the knowledge, skills and tools required guiding aspiring entrepreneurs and spreading awareness about self-employment schemes under Mission YUVA.

Deputy Director Employment Srinagar, Dr. Sheeba Inayat presented an overview of Mission YUVA, its objectives, and the Institutional Business Support Mechanism, emphasizing the importance of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for result-oriented implementation.

The training programme also featured interactive sessions conducted by resource persons from J&K Bank and DE&CC Srinagar, which included live demonstrations of the Mission YUVA App/Portal. Key topics such as mobilization techniques, scheme eligibility, documentation processes, and reporting mechanisms were thoroughly covered.

# Dy CM Inspects Progress On 250 Bedded IPD In SKIMS

Sets 3 Month Deadline For Completion Of Pending Works



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Wednesday conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing development and construction works at SKIMS Medical College and Hospital Bemina, Srinagar.

The works included construction of 250 bedded IPD block and College Laboratory block to be raised at an estimated cost of Rs 83.94 crore and Rs 88.23 crore respectively.

The visit was aimed at assessing the pace and quality of the construction activities being undertaken to upgrade the hospital's infrastructure.

It was informed that IPD block will have 7 stories with facilities like wards in Orthopedic, Medicine, Psychiatry, Labour, Obstetrics, General Surgery along with administrative block, medical record section, board room and lecture theatre.

**THE WORKS INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF 250 BEDDED IPD BLOCK AND COLLEGE LABORATORY BLOCK to be raised at an estimated cost of Rs 83.94 crore and Rs 88.23 crore respectively.**

While inspecting the construction work on the IPD block, the Dy CM exhorted upon the executing agency to expedite the pace of work and ensure that all pending tasks are completed without further delay.

The Dy CM directed the concerned officials to complete all the pending works within three months.

Highlighting the significance of infrastructure development in the health sector, the Dy CM asked the

officials to ensure strict adherence to set deadlines besides addressing any bottlenecks hindering the timely completion of such vital projects. He asked for ensuring strict adherence to all quality parameters while maintaining the timeliness for project completion.

The Deputy Chief Minister also called for regular monitoring and evaluation of ongoing works to ensure transparency and accountability. He emphasized the need for proper coordination among the executing agencies and called for close monitoring to avoid unnecessary delays.

Director SKIMS, Professor Mohammad Ashraf Ganai; Principal MCH Bemina Dr. Fazal Kadir Parray; Chief Engineer (R&B), Sajad Naqeeb; CE MED Kashmir Bodh Raj besides senior doctors and staff members were also present on the occasion.

# Eight Staff Members Of Paras Hospital Suspended Over Alleged Medical Negligence

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In response to serious allegations of medical negligence, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Srinagar has issued a formal suspension order against eight members of the medical and paramedical staff at Paras Hospital, Srinagar. The action comes in the wake of mounting public anger over the death of a patient, Was-eem Ahmad Pathan, who reportedly passed away under questionable circumstances while receiving treatment at the hospital.

The suspended personnel include senior surgeons, anesthetists, an operation theatre technician, ICU in-charge, and nursing staff. The CMO's directive prohibits all of them from continuing medical practice not only at Paras Hospital but at any other medical facility in the region until



the ongoing inquiry is completed.

The order mentions Dr. Sheikh Zahoor Ahmad, Dr. Shah Naveed, Dr. Zahid along with his anesthesia team, Dr. Syed Dawood, Dr. Khawar, the concerned OT technician, the ICU in-charge, and Nurse Insha among those placed under suspension. The directive clearly states that all the named individuals must remain available for inquiry proceedings as and when summoned. It also warns that any non-compliance will be taken seriously and dealt with under the rules and guidelines currently in force.

This disciplinary step by the CMO underscores the seriousness of the matter and is aimed at ensuring accountability in the healthcare system while the investigation into the alleged lapses in patient care is underway.

# Preparations For Festivities Of Eid-Ul-Azha Reviewed

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In connection with celebrations of upcoming Eid-ul-Azha festivities in the District, a meeting of all Sectoral/Zonal Officers was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here to review the preparations made by different Departments for seamless conduct of the auspicious religious festival.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Superintendent of Police, Umar Shah and Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umar Gulzar, the meeting was attended by Superintending Engineers of PHE, KPDCIL, R&B, all Tehsildars, Officers of Food Safety, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, FCS&CA, SMC, Fire & Emergency, Legal Metrology, and other Departments.

At the outset, DC reviewed the facilities regarding the basic amenities of line Departments at the important religious places including Masjids and Shrines where huge congregations of devotees are expected to offer prayers. The DC stressed on ensuring all the required arrangements up to the best satisfaction of the visiting devotees.

While reviewing the availability of sacrificial animals and poultry birds in the District, the DC directed concerned Officers of Animal Husbandary and Sheep Husbandry to ensure availability of sufficient quantities of animals and poultry birds to cater



to the local demand on the religious occasion.

Regarding the proper and scientific disposal of hides, he directed SMC Officers to publicize the collection centers of hides in every Municipal Ward of the Srinagar City and adequate deployment of vehicles for collection of fleeces.

To address the issue of dog menace at prime Religious Places, DC directed SMC to conduct dog catching drives to ensure safety of devotees and cleanliness of surrounding areas. The SMC authorities were also directed to take appropriate measures for ensuring proper sanitation measures across the City, besides making all street lights functional at the earliest.

To ensure availability of good quality of food items and to curb malpractice of overcharging and overpricing in the market, the DC directed for constituting joint market checking teams of Police, Food Safety, Legal Metrology, Sheep Husbandry and Tehsildars. The DC con-

stituted special teams for market checking in order to prevent profiteering and black marketing by business establishments operating in the District.

The DC also stressed the officers from PHE and KPDCIL to provide uninterrupted supply of drinking water and electricity to the consumers especially at Shrines and Masjids on the eve of the Eid Ul Azha.

Similarly, the Health Department was instructed to ensure availability of ambulances and medical staff at Dargah Hazratbal Shrine and other places.

Likewise, R&B and SMC Engineers were directed to repair roads and fill up all the potholes, particularly approach roads of prominent religious places.

Regarding Traffic Management to facilitate people to offer congregational prayers on time, the DC asked Traffic authorities Srinagar to formulate an efficient traffic plan and publicize that for the information of the general public.



- 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**  
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311


**RAILWAYS**  

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



**HIGHWAY STATUS**  


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



**HIJRI**  
**CALENDAR**  
01 Zil-Hajj  
**1446**

**PRAYERS**  

FAJR	3:40
ZUHR	12: 28
ASR	5:26
Magrib	7:38
ISHA	9:16

**This Day In History**

- 363- Roman Emperor Julian defeats the Sassanid army in the Battle of Ctesiphon, under the walls of the Sassanid capital, but is unable to take the city
- 757- St Paul I begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1138- Anti-Pope Victor IV (Gregorio) submits himself to Pope Innocentius II
- 1167- Battle of Monte Porzio: Holy Roman army supporting Pope Alexander III is defeated by Christian of Buch and Rainald of Dassel
- 1176- Battle at Legnano: Lombard League beats Frederick I Barbarossa and the Holy Roman Empire
- 1233- Chinese city of Kaifeng, capital of the Jurchen Jin dynasty, surrenders to the Mongols under General Subedei after a siege of more than a year
- 1328- French King Philip VI of Valois crowned at the Cathedral in Reims, France
- 1415- Pope John XXIII [Baldassare Cossa] formally deposed as Pope at the Conference of Constance, Germany, after he had fled the town in disguise
- 1453- Constantinople, capital of the Eastern Roman Empire falls to the Turks under Mehmed II; ends the Byzantine Empire
- 1576- Spanish army under Cristóbal de Mondragón conquers Zierik sea
- 1592- Battle of Sacheon: Korean navy led by Admiral Yi Sun Shin repels a Japanese fleet - first use of Korean Turtle ship
- 1648- King Charles I of England attempts to escape captivity at Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight, for second time by hacksawing through a barred window but caught in the act
- 1652- Battle of Goodwin Sands, off Folkestone, Kent: English 'General at Sea' Robert Blake drives out Dutch fleet under Lieutenant Admiral Maarten Tromp
- 1677 - Treaty of Middle Plantation establishes peace between the Virginia colonists and local Native Americans
- 1692- Battle at La Hogue: English and Dutch fleet beat France
- 1733- The right of Canadians to keep Indian slaves is upheld in Quebec City
- 1780- Battle of Waxhaw Creek: alleged massacre of 113 of Colonel Abraham Buford's continentals by Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton's troops after the continentals raised a white flag
- 1886- American pharmacist John Pemberton begins to advertise his patent medicine - Coca-Cola in Atlanta, Georgia
- 1916- Official flag of President of the United States adopted
- 1916- US forces invade Dominican Republic, stay until 1924
- 1919- Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity, that when light passes a large body, gravity will bend the rays confirmed by Arthur Eddington's expedition to photograph a solar eclipse on the island of Principe, West Africa
- 1988 - Pakistan President Zia ul-Haq dismisses government and disbands parliament
- 1989 - Student protesters in China construct a replica of Statue of Liberty
- 1990 - An earthquake hits Peru, killing over 200
- 1990 - Boris Yeltsin is elected President of the Russian Republic
- 1996 - Space Shuttle STS 77 Endeavour 11), lands
- 1997 - Span scientists announce new human species in 780,000 year old fossil
- 1999 - Space Shuttle Discovery completes the first docking with the International Space Station.
- 2001 - Natural gas futures plunge 6% to a 10-month low on speculation that growing US inventories will help power plants meet summer demand for air-conditioning
- 2004 - The World War II Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C.
- 2012 - Facebook's problematic public listing could cost those involved \$115 million from technical glitches
- 2012 - Indonesian police make the biggest drug bust in ten years after seizing over a million ecstasy pills valued at \$45 million
- 2014 - President Obama approves US military training of 'moderate' Syrian rebels to fight the regime of Bashar al-Assad and al Qaeda-linked groups
- 2015 - Heat wave in India centered in Telengana and Andhra Pradesh states is reported to have killed 1800 people in a week

## Student Held For Post On Indo-Pak Conflict Released From Pune Jail

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: It was an emotional reunion for a teen student with her family as she walked out of jail on Tuesday night after having spent over a fortnight behind bars for her social media post criticising the Indian government amid the Indo-Pak conflict.

The 19-year-old student of engineering was granted bail by the Bombay High Court which had made scathing remarks against the Maharashtra government for "being bent upon ruining her life" and turning her into a "hardcore criminal".

The court had also pulled up the girl's college -- Sinhgad Academy of Engineering -- for issuing a rustication order against the girl "hurriedly" without giving her an opportunity to explain herself.

The high court suspended the rustication order and directed the authorities at the Yerwada central jail, where the girl was lodged, to release her forthwith on Tuesday itself.

Pursuant to the order, the student, originally from Jammu and Kashmir, was released from the jail around 9.30 PM on Tuesday after all formalities were completed, her lawyer Farhana Shah said.

Her family members were present outside the jail for the emotional reunion and wished to stay away from the media glare and

made only general statement that they had faith in the Constitution and the legal system of the country.

The controversy began on May 7 when the student, pursuing a Bachelor of Engineering (Information Technology) degree, shared a post on Instagram from an account named 'Reform-istan.' However, realising her mistake, she deleted the post and also apologised for reposting it.

Despite her deleting the post swiftly, the Kondhwa police in Pune registered an FIR against her on May 9 and arrested her.

She was later sent to judicial custody at Yerwada prison. The college also rusticated her immediately.

Challenging her rustication and seeking quashing of the FIR, the student approached the Bombay High Court.

On Tuesday, the High Court strongly condemned the government's response, labeling it "absolutely shocking" and "radical." The court ordered her immediate release to allow her to appear for her ongoing semester examinations and directed the Sinhgad Academy of Engineering to provide her with a hall ticket and, if necessary, arrange security and a separate classroom for her exams.

The police were also instructed to ensure adequate protection for the student when she attends college, addressing her expressed fears.

## Aadhaar Optional for Document Registration in Proposed Bill

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: A new draft bill that seeks to enable online registration of land documents and other transactions provisions alternate verification mechanism for those who do not have or do not wish to use their Aadhaar, according to its content.

The bill replaces the 117-year-old Registration Act, 1908.

The draft bill prepared by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, which has been placed for public feedback, introduces provisions to support online registration, electronic presentation and admission of documents, issuance of electronic registration certificates, and digital maintenance of records.

It allows Aadhaar-based authentication with informed consent, but also alternative verification mechanisms for the people who do not possess Aadhaar or choose not to use it. The bill also enables electronic integration with other record-keeping systems.

Under the Registration Act, documents related to immovable property, like sale deeds, gift deeds, mortgage deeds, and leases, are required to be registered. Wills, powers of attorney, and other court decrees and orders related to property rights are also subject to registration.

The draft Bill expands the scope of compulsory registration to reflect contemporary property and transaction practices, and expands the list of documents required, according to the government officials.

It also modernises the organisational structure of the registration system with a more responsive hierarchy, including the introduction of additional and assistant inspectors general of registration.

The draft bill lays down the procedure for appointment of the inspectors general of registration, registrars, and sub-registrars, streamlines the appointment process for registrars in case of vacancies, and vests rule-making authority with the appropriate government to ensure alignment with the local governance.

It promotes plain language drafting, digital enablement, and transparent procedures to make the registration process more accessible, especially for individual citizens and small businesses, officials said.

While the present law requires that documents be presented at the registration office, the new draft bill says these documents can be presented "in person or through electronic means." The current law requires people registering documents to affix a passport-size photograph and fingerprints to the document.



## UN Blasts New US-Backed Aid Distribution System In Gaza

Agencies

GAZA CITY: The UN on Wednesday condemned a US-backed aid system in Gaza after one person was killed and 48 people were injured during a chaotic food distribution that saw shots fired by the Israeli military.

The issue of aid has come sharply into focus amid a hunger crisis coupled with intense criticism of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), a shadowy group that has bypassed the longstanding UN-led system in the territory.

With the war sparked by Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel entering its 600th day on Wednesday, Palestinians in Gaza felt there was no reason to hope for a better future. In Israel, the relatives of people held hostage in Gaza since the October 7 attack longed for the return of their loved ones, with hundreds gathering in their name in Tel Aviv.

"Six hundred days have passed and nothing has changed. Death continues, and Israeli bombing does not stop," said Bas-

sam Daloul, 40, adding that "even hoping for a ceasefire feels like a dream and a nightmare."

Daloul, who said his family has been displaced 20 times since the start of the war, pointed to shortages of everything from clean water and food to medicine and electricity.

According to the UN, 47 people were injured in the chaos while a Palestinian medical source said at least one had died.

The Israeli military said it fired warning shots, though Ajith Sunghay, the head of UN Human Rights Office in the Palestinian territories, said most of the wounded had been hurt by gunfire.

The UN has repeatedly hit out against the GHF, and Philippe Lazarini, head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, on Wednesday reiterated the criticism.

"I believe it is a waste of resources and a distraction from atrocities. We already have an aid distribution system that is fit for purpose," he said during a visit in Japan.

'Bread and water'  
On the ground in Gaza, the civil defence agency said Israeli

air strikes killed 16 people since dawn Wednesday.

Heba Jabr, 29, who sleeps in a tent in southern Gaza with her husband and their two children, was struggling to find food.

"Dying by bombing is much better than dying from the humiliation of hunger and being unable to provide bread and water for your children", she told AFP.

Israel imposed a full blockade on Gaza for over two months, before allowing supplies in at a trickle last week.

A medical source in southern Gaza told AFP that after Tuesday's stampede "more than 40 injured people arrived at Nasser Hospital, the majority of them wounded by Israeli gunfire", adding that at least one had died since.

The source added that "a number of other civilians also arrived at the hospital with various bruises".

Israel's military said in a statement that it "did not carry out any aerial fire toward the humanitarian aid distribution centre in the Rafah area."

## UN Nuclear Watchdog Chief Says 'Jury Is Still Out' On Iran-US Talks

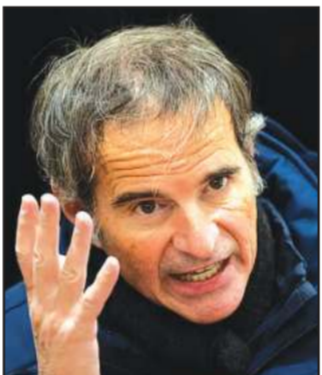
AFP

VIENNA: The head of the United Nations' atomic watchdog said Wednesday that "the jury is still out" on negotiations between Iran and the U.S. over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program, but described the continuing negotiations a good sign.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, made the comment to journalists attending a weeklong seminar at the agency in Vienna.

Grossi acknowledged one of his deputies was in Tehran on Wednesday. Iranian officials identified the official as Massimo Aparo, the head of the IAEA's safeguards arm. That's the division that sends inspectors into Iran to monitor its program, which now enriches uranium up to 60% purity — a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

"For the moment, the jury is



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director general Rafael Mariano GrossiFile photo | AFP

still out," Grossi said. "The fact that they continue to meet ... that is an indication of a willingness to come to an agreement."

The talks seek to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of some of the crushing economic sanctions the U.S. has imposed on the Islamic Republic, closing in on a half-century of enmity.

## Aligarh Mob Attack: Seized Meat Sample Not from 'Cow'

Press Trust Of India

Aligarh : The ongoing police investigation into a mob violence case in Harduaganj has taken a twist after a laboratory report confirmed that the seized meat sample did not belong to a "cow or any cow progeny", a police officer said.

This revelation comes after a violent mob attacked four men on 24 May, suspecting them of transporting prohibited cattle meat. Their vehicle was also set ablaze by the mob, and local Bajrang Dal leaders claimed that this was the same vehicle the villagers had intercepted a fortnight ago with similar "illegal meat". However, police had released it on that occasion, saying it was buffalo meat.

SP (rural) Amrit Jain told PTI on Wednesday that police immediately rescued the victims from the mob and admitted them to hospital.

"The meat sample was sent to a government laboratory for testing. The forensic report of the meat sample has confirmed that it was not of cow or any cow progeny. We are investigating the entire sequence of events and will take action on the basis of our findings," Jain said.

The officer confirmed that four individuals named in the FIR lodged by the victims have already been arrested, with more arrests expected as the police search for others involved. The initial report had named 12 alleged attackers and 25 unnamed persons.

**The meat sample was sent to a government laboratory for testing. The forensic report of the meat sample has confirmed that it was not of cow or any cow progeny. We are investigating the entire sequence of events and will take action on the basis of our findings**

Meanwhile, opposition leaders from various parties, including members of Parliament who visited Aligarh after the attempted lynching, have demanded stringent action against all those involved in the attack.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh, who visited the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Hospital on Tuesday, told media persons that the Harduaganj mob attack was "another incident orchestrated to polarise the society".

He has called for a fast-track court to deal with the case. A Congress party delegation, including MP Imran Masood and former MP Kunwar Danish Ali, also met the four injured men at the hospital on Tuesday.

A delegation of Samajwadi Party (SP) leaders led by Rajya Sabha member Ramji Lal Suman is expected to arrive in Aligarh on Wednesday to meet the victims.

## 'BJP Super Spokesperson': Tharoor Slammed for LoC Remark

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi : Congress leader Udit Raj on Wednesday slammed party colleague Shashi Tharoor for his reported remarks that India breached the Line of Control (LoC) for the first time during the 2016 surgical strike on a terror base, saying he should be declared a "super spokesperson of the BJP".

Congress MP Tharoor, who is leading a multi-party delegation to five countries, while speaking in Panama reportedly said that when "for the first time" India breached the LoC between India and Pakistan to conduct a surgical strike on a terror base that was something we had not done before.

Tagging Tharoor's remarks, Raj said, "My dear Shashi Tharoor, Alas! I could prevail upon PM Modi to declare you as super spokesperson of BJP, even declaring (you) as foreign minister before landing in India. How could you denigrate the golden history of Congress by saying that before PM Modi, India never crossed LoC and International border." "In 1965 Indian Army entered Pakistan at multiple points, which completely surprised the Pakistanis in the Lahore sector. In 1971, India tore Pakistan in two pieces and during UPA government

several surgical strikes were unleashed but drum beating was not done to encash (it) politically," he said.

How could you be so dishonest to the party which gave you so much, asked Raj, who is the chairman of the Unorganised Workers and



Employees Congress Other Than Professionals.

Raj's post on X was also reposted by Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Kherra.

Last month also, Raj had hit out at Tharoor for his reported "no country has 100-per cent foolproof intelligence" remarks, wondering that being a Congressman, how did he become the BJP's lawyer and was giving the ruling party a "clean chit" on the Pahalgam terror attack.

Tharoor had hit back at Raj, saying the latter is a former BJP MP and "is better qualified to understand who speaks for the BJP".

## Turkiye Will Fine Airline Passengers Who Unbuckle Before The Plane Stops

ANKARA: Airline passengers in Türkiye who unbuckle their seat belts, access overhead compartments, or occupy the aisle before their plane has fully stopped now face fines under new regulations issued by the country's civil aviation authority.

The updated rules, which aim to enhance safety and ensure a more orderly disembarkation, came into effect earlier this month. They were adopted following passenger complaints and flight inspections indicated a growing number of safety violations during taxiing after landing, according to the Turkish Directorate of Civil Aviation.

It is not unusual in Türkiye for passengers to stand up or



move inside the cabin soon after the plane has landed, often leading to chaotic disembarkation.

Under the new regulations, commercial airlines operating flights in Türkiye are required to issue a revised version of the standard in-flight announce-

ment to remain seated, warning that violations will be documented and reported, according to a circular issued by the aviation authority.

Passengers are also reminded to wait for those in front of them to exit first instead of rush-

ing forward.

The circular does not say how much passengers who disregard the regulations could be fined, but Turkish media reports have said fines of up to \$70 will be imposed.

"Despite announcements informing passengers of the rules, many are standing up before the aircraft reaches its parking positions and before the seat belt sign is turned off," the aviation authority noted.

"This behavior compromises the safety of passengers and baggage, disregards the satisfaction and exit priority of other travelers," it said.

There have been no immediate reports confirming that the newly introduced fines are being enforced.

## King Charles Picks A Side As Trump Pushes Canada To Join US

King Charles III will outline new Prime Minister Mark Carney's government priorities in a speech in the Canadian Parliament on Tuesday, 27 May. It's widely viewed as a show of support in the face of annexation threats by US President Donald Trump.

Trump's repeated suggestion that the US annex Canada prompted Prime Minister Carney to invite Charles to give the speech from the throne. The king is the head of state in Canada, which is a member of the British Commonwealth of former colonies.

Carney said in a statement the visit speaks to the "vitality of our constitutional monarchy and our distinct identity."

It is rare for the monarch to deliver what's called the speech from the throne in Canada. Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, did it twice in her 70-year reign, the last time in 1977.



The speech is not written by the king or his UK advisers as Charles serves as a nonpartisan head of state. He will read what is put before him by Canada's government.

Carney, the new prime minister and a former head of the Bank of England, and Canada's first Indigenous governor general, Mary Simon, the king's representative in Canada, met with the king on Monday, 26 May.

N E W S M A K E R S

## Drive Launched To Prevent Sunlight Exposure Of PET Bottles

Observer News Service

**SOPORE:** With an aim of ensuring shopkeepers don't keep water and soft drinks packed in Polyethylene Terephthalate PET bottles exposed to sunlight in the summer months, Tehsildar Sopore Sheikh Tariq on Wednesday launched an awareness campaign advising the shopkeepers selling packed water and soft-drinks to keep the water inside shops rather than displaying the same outside shops which is harmful to health.

Tehsildar Sheikh Tariq was accompanied by Naib Tehsildar Shahid Khaliq and Mohammad Ashraf in this drive who visited many retail and wholesale grocery shops in Sopore town and adjoining Sangrama as well.

Pertinently the officers acted after a video created by social activist Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat few days back wherein he explained the harmful effects of sunlight on plastic bottles containing water and soft drinks / juices. The video went viral on social networking sites like Instagram, facebook and X.

"Several scientific studies conducted worldwide especially by Columbia University and National Institute of Health -NIH clearly shows that exposure to ultraviolet radiation is dangerous to plastic bottles especially the Polyethylene Terephthalate PET bottles. Exposure to UV radiation, whether it is from outside storage or possibly even exposure to fluorescent lighting in retail is considered as another contributor to PET quality degradation and is harmful to human life" said Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat.

Scientific studies have proved that exposure of PET bottles to sunlight especially in summer months is very dangerous and causes release of nanoplastics which impacts human health through the bloodstream.

"I am grateful to Tehsildar Sopore and Food Safety Officers who have initiated awareness campaign on this by taking cognizance of my video " Dr Raja Muzaffar added

## Amazon Fashion Rebrands Its Gen Z OnlineStore As 'SERVE'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Amazon Fashion is doubling down on its commitment to Gen Z with the relaunch of its dedicated online storefront, formerly known as Next Gen Store, now named 'SERVE', Dishing Out Style.

The word 'Serve' meaning 'to present oneself with confidence and style, often in a way that is considered impressive or striking' is deeply rooted in contemporary Gen Z speak but has also surfaced in trending, lexicon across generations, capturing the spirit of confident, standout self-expression across fashion, beauty, and beyond. 'SERVE' responds to this evolution, functioning not just as an online store but as a continuously refreshed destination that delivers on-trend styles while empowering individual expression. The online store has seen 3X increase in Gen Z customers and a 4X surge in shoppers from Tier II and cities like Chandigarh, Kochi, Patna, Nagpur, Jaipur, and Surat. 'SERVE' is set to redefine how this crucial demographic engages with fashion.

'SERVE' offers an unparalleled selection with over 2 million products from more than 350 domestic and global brands, including new additions like Barcino, Tokyo Talkies, Highlander, The Bear House, Diljit x Levi's, Mokobara, Casio, Chumbak, Cosrx, and Moxie. 'SERVE' caters to Gen Z's dynamic tastes with a unique blend of fast fashion, sustainable options, and affordable styles. The store features monthly trend updates, seasonal lookbooks, and creator-curated style edits, reflecting micro-trends like Y2K revival, inder-fluid fashion, dopamine dressing, K-beauty, minimal glam, and conscious

Curated for India's mobile-first generation, 'SERVE' builds on Gen Z's demand for expressive, affordable, and fast fashion-offering 350+ brands, 2million+ products, rapid trend access, and a bold new design language.

fashion. This new identity includes a fresh logo and design language that is visually compelling and authentic, and scalable across platforms. The on-site experience has been enhanced, prioritizing discovery, community, and trend-forward curation, with updated imagery styles and voice & tone that reflect Gen Z's diverse interests and subcultures.

"After pioneering India's first dedicated Gen Z store in 2023, we are elevating our commitment with SERVE" says Nikhil Sinha, Director, Amazon Fashion India. "Our research consistently reveals this demographic values individuality and trend-alignment alongside affordability. With SERVE, we are democratizing trend-forward fashion bringing inclusive, accessible style to all of India, particularly Tier II and III cities where we have seen over 40% YOY growth. We have created not just a shopping destination, but a cultural platform that empowers authentic self-expression through affordable style, making fashion a tool for confidence and creativity accessible to everyone."

## 3 Live Mortar Shells Defused In Jammu's Transport Nagar

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Three unexploded mortar shells were recovered near the Regional Transport Office (RTO) in Narwal area of Transport Nagar in Jammu on Wednesday.

The shells, believed to be remnants of Pakistan's ceasefire violation during 'Operation Sindoor', prompted an immediate response from the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Indian Army's Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS).

Local residents alerted authorities to the suspicious objects, leading to a rapid deployment of security forces to secure the area.

The Bomb Disposal Squad was called in and successfully defused the three RPG shells through a controlled mechanism, ensuring the safety of the surrounding community. The operation was completed without incident, and no casualties were reported.

"These mortar shells posed a significant threat to the safety of civilians in the Narwal area. Thanks to the quick action of local residents and the expertise of our Bomb Disposal Squad, the danger has been neutralized," said a spokesperson for the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Authorities have urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious objects immediately, emphasizing the importance of community cooperation in maintaining safety.

Meanwhile, the police have registered a case under relevant sections of the law and are conducting further investigations to ascertain the origin and circumstances surrounding the shells. This incident follows recent reports of cross-border shelling, highlighting ongoing security challenges in the region.

## 'Around 60% Women Still Rely On Cloth For Menstrual Protection In J&K'

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A considerable proportion of women in Jammu and Kashmir continue to rely on traditional cloth for menstrual protection, which poses risks of infections that could lead to infertility, according to medical experts.

According to KNO, doctors stressed the importance of maintaining menstrual hygiene and encouraged women, especially young girls, to shed any feelings of shame associated with purchasing sanitary pads. They said proper hygiene practices are essential to prevent health complications.

Dr Shabeena Akhter, a gynaecologist based in south Kashmir, said that while the number of women using cloth instead of sanitary pads is decreasing, many still prefer traditional methods. "Menstrual hygiene plays a crucial role in preventing infections such as urinary tract infections (UTIs) and reproductive tract infections (RTIs), which can have serious health consequences," she said.

"Regular changing of menstrual products and maintaining cleanliness are vital to mitigating these risks," she added. Dr Akhter advised girls that there should be no shame in buying sanitary pads, as this reduces the chances of infections that may lead to infertility.

Dr Barjashta Bahar, another gynaecologist, said that affordability is not the main issue for most women; rather, lack of awareness about hygienic practices is. "Many women do not realise how unhygienic menstrual cycles can affect their health," she said.

Dr Bahar added that societal stigma surrounding menstruation continues to foster shame, silence, and discrimination. "By promoting open discussions and education about menstruation, we can break down these barriers and empower women and girls to manage their periods with dignity and confidence," she asserted.

"Good menstrual hygiene management (MHM) is fundamental in enabling women and girls to reach their full potential," she said.

Dr Bahar warned that poor hygiene can lead to itching, rashes, bad odour and more severe complications like pelvic inflammatory disease and toxic shock syndrome.

Medical professionals also said that many women using pads do so without understanding why, often treating the product as just a ready-made item. Wearing a pad for too long can cause rashes, vaginal yeast infections, and foul

odor, they warned.

While the number of women using sanitary pads is gradually increasing, a significant percentage still rely on cloth, which can cause infections such as UTIs and RTIs—conditions that, if untreated, may severely impact fertility.

"Menstrual hygiene is not merely a personal issue; it's a public health concern," the doctors stressed. "Ensuring women and girls have the knowledge, resources, and societal support to manage their periods hygienically is essential for their health, education, and empowerment. It's time to confront the silence, break the stigma and advocate for dignity in menstruation."

According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), nearly 60 per cent of women in Jammu and Kashmir still use cloth during menstruation. The survey (2019-2021) also found that only 50.5 per cent of women aged 15-24 use sanitary napkins, up from 48.8 per cent in NFHS-4 (2015-2016).

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched a scheme to promote menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls aged 10-19 in rural areas. Under this initiative, sanitary napkin packs containing six pieces each are branded as "Freedays".

**“ MENSTRUAL HYGIENE PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN PREVENTING infections such as urinary tract infections (UTIs) and reproductive tract infections (RTIs), which can have serious health consequences,”**

## Protests In Labertal Budgam Over Smart Meters

Ansar Hussain

**SRINAGAR:** A rousing chorus of women's voices echoed through the narrow lanes of Labertal village in central Kashmir's Budgam district earlier on Wednesday as local residents led largely by young women halted a government team attempting to install smart electricity meters in the village. The women, some with tin boxes, others with sticks, stage protests over smart meter installation.

"Don't install meters here. Our youth are jobless, and there are always power cuts. Said a young woman. "We voted Omar Abdullah for serving people not for his own development. We won't let these meters get installed, take both the meters and electricity away".

The protests unfolded just moments after the installation team arrived in Labertal village on Wednesday to install smart Meters.

According to Eyewitnesses "They had barely started unloading the meters when women surrounded them," said a shopkeeper. "They shouted slogans, and warned the officials not to install meters"

"We are not against development or modernization," said a schoolteacher who wished not to be named. "But we won't accept a system that increases our bills when we neither have proper



electricity nor condition to pay the huge bills. It's humiliating to see other states enjoying electricity and we are left with frequent power cuts and huge bills"

"Earlier, we used to pay Rs 300-400 per month," then it reached Rs 1500, said an elderly farmer. "Now people pay double or triple that, and the electricity still vanishes for hours."

The protest in Labertal is not an isolated incident. In recent months, similar resistance has erupted in other parts of Budgam and across the Kashmir Valley. From Magam to Charare-Sharief, residents have taken to the streets, raising concerns about transparency, affordability, and accountability in the smart meter rollout.

People accuse the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (JKPDD) of failing to consult local communities before enforcing what

many view as a burdensome system.

"It is being forced on us without understanding ground realities, we don't want these meters, our youth are jobless", said a student.

Officials state that smart meters are essential for curbing power theft, improving billing efficiency, and stabilizing the fragile power grid. According to JKPDD, the new meters provide real-time data, help detect outages quickly, and enable fair billing practices.

"What is the point of monitoring usage when there is nothing to use?" asked a protesting woman. "Do they want us to pay huge bills?, no way take them away"

PDP leader Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi visited the village to hear the grievances of the people and express solidarity with the protesters.

## Huma Qureshi Vows To Inspire More Artists To Visit J&K



Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** As part of a broader initiative led by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, a series of celebrity visits across Jammu has been launched to show solidarity with the armed forces and civilians besides inspiring revival of tourism in the region.

The first in this initiative was the visit of renowned Bollywood actress Huma Qureshi, who arrived in Jammu to extend her support and amplify the message of peace, resilience and hope.

During her visit, Qureshi engaged in an exclusive interaction with the stakeholders from the Jammu and Katra Hotel and Restaurant Associations.

The stakeholders appealed her to promote the scenic beauty, hospitality and cultural richness of Jammu through word-of-mouth and her public platforms. They emphasized that celebrity endorsements can play a vital role in rebuilding tourist confidence and encouraging footfall in the region.

The actress also visited the family of late Raj Kumar Thapa, Additional District Development

Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, who tragically lost his life in a recent attack. She offered her heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and paid tribute to his sacrifice for the nation.

Later in the evening, a cultural programme was organized at the Indo-Pak border, Suchetgarh symbolizing unity and national pride. The event showcased local cultural performances and featured a touching interaction with Army jawans, BSF jawans and affected families aimed at honoring the brave soldiers and showing solidarity with affected families.

Speaking at the event, Huma Qureshi expressed gratitude for the warm reception and conveyed her admiration for the unwavering spirit of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. She vowed to inspire more celebrities and artists to visit the Union Territory and experience its breathtaking beauty, vibrant culture and hospitality.

Her visit marks not just a symbolic gesture, but a powerful message of collective strength and a renewed call to embrace Jammu and Kashmir as a vibrant and safe tourism destination.



## DC Ganderbal Calls For Strengthened Anti-Narcotics Measures

Observer News Service

**GANDERBAL:** To assess and reinforce the district's anti-narcotics efforts, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired the monthly meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) at the V.C. Room of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the Action Taken Report on directives issued in the previous NCORD meeting. Emphasizing the need for a more aggressive and collaborative approach, he called for enhanced strategies focusing on prevention, surveillance, and community engagement.

Key directives were issued to various departments, including the enforcement of computerized billing systems in medical establishments, installation of CCTV cameras, strict action against drug peddlers, and the intensification of awareness campaigns to curb drug abuse.

The DC also reviewed the

awareness initiatives conducted under the Nasha Mukti Jammu and Kashmir campaign. He instructed the concerned departments to expand their outreach by organizing awareness drives, sports events, and creative programs, particularly targeting vulnerable sections of society.

While addressing the officers, the DC stressed that all decisions made during the meeting must be implemented in letter and spirit. He urged for seamless inter-departmental coordination to achieve the shared goal of a drug-free Ganderbal.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Medical Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, District Officer Youth Services and Sorts, Tehsildars, Block Development Officers, and representatives from the Police, Excise Department, Intelligence Bureau, and other concerned departments.

INDIAN RAILWAYS

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Northern Railway that the 25 kV, 50 Hz, AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all time and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line.

Division	Section	Kilometer		Date of Energisation
		From	To	
Firozpur	Energization of OHE on 25 KV AC single phase 50 Hz supply over Electrification of Washing Line No. 1, 2 & 3 at Firozpur station/yard of Firozpur Division Northern Railway.	<b>i) Washing line no.01:</b>	<b>i) Washing line no.01:</b>	30.05.2025
		OHE Location FZR/4001, chainage Km 122/493.50	OHE Location FZR/1016, chainage Km 122/1074.00	
		<b>ii) Washing line no.02</b>	<b>ii) Washing line no.02</b>	
		OHE Location FZR/4002, chainage Km 122/493.50	OHE Location FZR/1018, chainage Km 122/1074.00	
		<b>iii) Washing line no.03:</b>	<b>iii) Washing line no.03:</b>	
		OHE Location FZR/4003, chainage Km 122/493.50	OHE Location FZR/1015, chainage Km 122/1069.50	

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD,  
Northern Railway, DRM office, Firozpur, Punjab

1583/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of  
Kashmir Observer LLP  
**Printed at:** K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,  
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam  
**Published from:** 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K  
**Editor-in-Chief :** Sajjad Haider  
**Managing Editor:** Bilal Handoo  
**News Editor:** Farzana Nisar  
**Online Editor:** Syed Hamid  
**Head Layout & Design:** Muntazir Yaseen,  
**Digital Media Head:** Amir Ali Shah  
**Distribution & Advertising:** Firdos Ali  
**RNI Registration No:** 69503/98  
**Postal Registration No-**L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
**Legal Counsel:** Tasaduq Khwaja  
**Switchboard:** (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705  
**Editorial:** (0194) 2502327  
**Email:** editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Kota Toll

The suicide of an 18-year-old NEET aspirant from Jammu and Kashmir in Kota has shaken people in Kashmir. A girl under immense pressure to crack the tough competitive examinations couldn't take it any longer and ended her life. It is not an isolated tragedy but a grim reminder about what lakhs of students go through when forced into career paths that go against their interests or aptitude. This is the 15th student suicide reported from Kota in 2025 and the second this month alone. The latest victim, Zeeshan, had previously lived in Kota for coaching but returned a month ago to prepare independently. She reportedly told a relative she was considering suicide shortly before ending her life.

According to a study, student suicides in India are rising at an alarming rate, 4% annually, double the overall suicide trend. The numbers have jumped from 6,654 in 2011 to over 13,000 in 2021. These are the lives and families being wrecked. And we need to talk about this. More so in places like Kashmir, where open conversations around mental health are still rare, and the silence can be deadly.

This is why our schools, coaching centres, and even families must make mental well-being a priority. Counselling shouldn't be a last resort, it should be available from the start. More importantly, children must know that their worth is not tied to a rank card or an exam result. They are not failures for choosing a different path.

For years now, the message to India's youth has been loud and clear: crack NEET, JEE, or UPSC, or risk being called a disappointment. Family WhatsApp groups buzz with success stories of children becoming doctors and engineers. Relatives casually ask 15-year-olds whether they want to pursue medicine or engineering. They do this out of a deeply ingrained belief that only two or three professions are worth pursuing. Even when a child resists, parents often double down, confusing pressure with love and control with concern.

The death should thus be a wake-up call. We need to acknowledge that the real failure lies with us: parents, educators, policymakers, and society at large. We have built an education culture that rewards conformity, punishes creativity, and leaves no room for emotional well-being. Rising student suicides call for fundamental overhaul of the existing social approach to education.

FINANCIAL FIX

Boom in the Mountains

*Kashmir's real estate revival is happening far from its city streets.*

Irshad Mushtaq

You can tell a lot about a place by what people are building. In Kashmir, that story is changing fast. The residential colonies of Hyderpora and Lal Bazar, once the go-to for steady real estate growth, aren't moving much these days. Prices have stayed flat for a couple of years. But if you head toward the hills—Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonmarg—you'll find a different story. Properties there have doubled, even tripled, in value since the pandemic.

It's not just because of beauty. It's business. Tourism has bounced back hard after COVID. And land in these destinations is being snapped up quickly, not by homeowners, but by hoteliers, guesthouse builders and anyone betting on Kashmir's travel revival. The contrast is sharp. In residential colonies, buyers seem to be waiting. In tourist spots, they're racing.

Other hill stations, like Lonavala near Mumbai, have long been favorites for investors. But Kashmir, despite its unpredictable politics, is seeing faster jumps in prices. It's caught up, and in some ways, pulled ahead.

But even good markets aren't bulletproof. A recent incident in Pahalgam brought things to a brief pause. These shocks, political or otherwise, are reminders. Real estate in Kashmir, while promising, is not without its risks.

That's why many investors are no longer putting all their eggs in one basket. They're branching out, into stocks, gold, silver, and even international funds. Financial advisors in the Valley are getting more calls than ever. People are asking smarter questions. They're not just buying land. They're building portfolios.

The ground is shifting, literally and financially. In Kashmir, real estate is no longer just about where you live. It's about where people want to go, and how you plan for what comes next.

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

Zahid Mushtaq

You don't need to walk through a university gate or open a dusty grammar book to see where language really lives. It's there in the chatter of school kids switching between Kashmiri and Hindi mid-sentence, in the Urdu phrases tucked between English status updates, in the auntie at the market giving directions with a mix of all three. In Kashmir, like in much of the world, language doesn't stay still. It flows, adapts, and reinvents itself, often faster than we can measure.

And yet, each time a young person hesitates in their mother tongue, someone sounds the alarm. "We're losing our culture," they say. "They don't speak like we did." But language doesn't disappear just because it sounds different. It changes because people change. Cultures do too.

Take any young student in Srinagar. She might write her college essays in English, crack jokes with classmates in Urdu, and talk to her grandmother in Kashmiri. This isn't a crisis. It's fluency in a modern, layered identity. It shows adaptability, not loss.

But there's a deep nostalgia that clings to ideas of linguistic purity, as if only an untouched version of a language is real, and everything else is a fall from grace. It's a comforting story, especially for those who no longer need to hustle for a job or impress a visa officer. But for most Kashmiris, especially the young, switching tongues is not about fashion. It's strategy.

When a mother encourages her child to master English or Urdu, she's not denying her roots. She's reading the world and making hard choices. She knows these languages open doors—to education, to work, to safety. That doesn't mean Kashmiri is dead. It just means her child is walking more than one path.

Kashmiri culture itself never grew in a vacuum. The language carries centuries of borrowings: Persian, Arabic, Sanskrit, Turkic. The Wazwan that so many cherish came with cooking influences from Central Asia. The pheran has traveled through history in forms borrowed and remade. If we insist on pure origins, we'll lose the thread of what made Kashmiri culture rich in the first place.

Still, the loudest calls to "preserve" culture often come from those who can afford to romanticize the past. They sit comfortably with



**Some of the most vibrant cultural work in Kashmir right now is happening online. Young creators are mixing languages, genres, aesthetics. They are not confused. They are multilingual, multidimensional, and unapologetically hybrid. They know how to speak to their peers, and to the world, without losing themselves in the process.**

their degrees and jobs, while urging others to stay rooted. But for many Kashmiris on the margins—by caste, class, gender, or geography—language blending offers a way forward. It helps them navigate a world that doesn't wait for those who cling too tightly to only one script.

A Kashmiri student studying computer science in Delhi, fluent in English but rooted in home traditions, is not an outsider. She's building a bridge. Her life is not a dilution of culture but an expansion of it. She doesn't want to choose between being local and global. She wants both, and she's finding ways to live both.

And that's the thing we keep missing. Cul-

Too Hot to Learn

A brutal heatwave closes schools across the Valley. But if this is our climate plan, we're failing our children.

Peerzada Aarif

Snowstorm? Close schools. Heatwave? Close schools. But what if we stopped just reacting and started planning?

Let's be honest. Most government school buildings in Kashmir aren't built to handle extreme weather — whether hot or cold. Many classrooms don't have proper insulation. Some lack fans. In some schools, even clean drinking water is hard to find. In winter, kids sit next to smoldering kangris. In summer, they sweat in crowded, airless rooms.

Is it any wonder schools keep shutting down?

This isn't just about comfort. It's about learning. How can students concentrate when they're freezing or overheating? How can teachers

teach when they're constantly bracing for the next disruption?

If we want a better answer than just "let's stay home," we need to build schools that can stay open safely through most weather events.

That means better insulation. That means ventilation that works. That means installing fans, water coolers, maybe even solar panels. Shade outside. Green spaces to cool the area naturally. Not luxuries — essentials.

And beyond buildings, there's something else we need to change: what we teach.

Climate change isn't a future threat anymore. It's here. So let's talk about it — in classrooms, with kids, early on. Let's teach them how

weather works, why it's changing, and what they can do. Let's do drills for emergencies. Let's plant trees, set up rainwater harvesters, create student clubs that lead the way.

Because if we just keep giving vacations every time nature knocks, we risk raising kids who see disruption as normal, or worse, as an escape.

What we need is resilience. Not just the kind that helps a building stand through heat and snow. But the kind that helps a child face a crisis, stay calm, think clearly, and act wisely.

Kashmir is changing. Summers are no longer what they used to be. Winters might get harsher, or shorter. We don't know exactly what's coming. But we do know this: the world our children are growing into is going to be more unpredictable than the one we knew.

So let's build schools, and a system, that doesn't fall apart every time the weather changes.

Let's make our classrooms the strongest places in our communities, not the first ones to shut down.

*Peerzada Aarif is a teacher and freelance writer from Baramulla. He can be reached at aarifpeerzada1@gmail.com.*



OBSERVER  
MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O.Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001  
email:editpage.ko@gmail.com

Kashmir's AI Boom Came Without a Rulebook

Kashmiris are used to things changing slowly. But some shifts don't wait for headlines. Artificial intelligence is one of them. It's already here, and silently working behind the scenes, altering how we learn, work, heal, and live. Most people don't talk about AI. But they're feeling its effects.

Take education. Students in Kupwara can now use an app to study for exams with lessons that adjust to their pace. AI doesn't get tired or demand tuition fees. It just works. In hospitals across the Valley, doctors are using AI tools to read X-rays and spot problems

earlier than ever before. These are small victories, but they matter, especially in places where resources are thin.

Farmers are also tuning in. In Pulwama and Budgam, some now rely on apps that predict rainfall and suggest the best time to sow seeds. That kind of help, tailored and on time, can protect crops and incomes. Even shopkeepers are turning to tools like Google Lens to read labels in unfamiliar languages. These everyday uses of AI make life easier in places where help isn't always at hand.

But there's another side. Surveil-

lance cameras in markets now use facial recognition. Officials call it smart security. But when cameras track your face and movements, it starts to feel like being watched all the time. In a region like ours, where trust is already fragile, that changes how people behave, what they say and where they go.

Jobs are shifting too. Banks use AI to filter loan requests. Offices automate customer service. That means fewer humans in roles many depended on. If AI keeps expanding without retraining workers, unemployment could rise — silently, like the tech itself.

And here's the deeper problem:

We're not building AI in Kashmir. We're only consuming it. That means we don't decide how it works or who it helps. If an algorithm trained elsewhere misreads a Kashmiri name or face, who takes the blame?

We need more than new gadgets. We need conversations. Local developers, teachers, lawmakers — they all have a role in shaping how AI fits into our lives. Because it's not just a question of progress. It's a question of power.

*Sincerely,  
Jasim Tariq  
Handwara*

# Kashmir's Sikkim Dream

Despite clean produce, willing farmers, and a ₹500 crore fund, Kashmir's organic push lacks one vital ingredient: political will.

Fiza Masoodi

The sun was still climbing over the ridges of Gurez when I stepped onto a potato field, soft with dew and dark with life. A farmer knelt beside me, his fingers moving through the soil like someone reading an old, familiar story. He didn't say much, but his silence carried the same confidence I'd once heard in the voice of Nazir Ahmad Gurezi, a senior lawmaker who stood here in 2017 and declared that Gurez could be Kashmir's organic capital.

"This place has everything it needs," Nazir had said then. And he wasn't wrong.

There's something unspoiled about Gurez. The land is high, the air is sharp, and the soil—untouched by years of chemicals—is ready. Nazir's dream was to grow clean food here: peas, potatoes, and promise.

And now, across Kashmir, from Pulwama's modest plots to the apple-heavy orchards of Baramulla, that dream is beginning to stir.

But dreaming is easy. Building takes more. And that is where, the far northeast Sikkim is showing the way.

In 2003, Pawan Kumar Chamling, then chief minister, did something few politicians ever dare. He banned chemical pesticides. Slowly, methodically, Sikkim walked toward

purity. Officers trained farmers. Compost pits multiplied. Fields were watched, nurtured, kept clean. By 2015, all of Sikkim's 66,000 farming families were organic.

"We didn't just grow food," said Prem Das Rai, a former Sikkim MP. "We built a way of life."

The land responded. Soil grew softer. Streams ran clearer. Bees returned, and cardamom yields rose. Sikkim's farmers earned more, because clean food fetches clean money. Tourists came in droves, chasing mountain air and pesticide-free meals. Schools taught children how to farm without poison. The world noticed. In 2018, the UN gave Sikkim its highest prize for environmental policy.

That's the story Kashmir wants to tell.

Kashmir's agriculture is no small affair. It feeds most of its people and brings in billions. Apples, saffron, vegetables—they grow as easily here as wildflowers after snowmelt. Already, fifty thousand hectares are organic. More than twenty thousand are certified. In Bangund village, Pulwama, farmers like Bashir Ahmed stopped using chemicals back in 2017. Last summer, I saw him stack red, firm tomatoes into crates bound for Delhi.

"We're making good money now," he told me, wiping sweat from his temple. Bangund

became Kashmir's first organic village in 2018. Just seventy-two families. Four hundred kanals of land. But it's something.

Then there's Gurez. Tucked between mountains and memories, it's perfect for growing food that doesn't need much help—off-season peas, potatoes with bite, barley with history. "Gurez could be our Sikkim," says Dr. Waseem Ahmad of SKUAST, Kashmir's agricultural university. A 2013 industry report even predicted that organic farming could bring Kashmir ₹11,600 crore and create eight million jobs by 2025. That kind of change isn't abstract, it's the difference between ₹7,800 a year and ₹19,500 in a farmer's pocket.

But the road ahead is slippery.

Kashmiri apples are also drowning in pesticides. Chemicals coat the trees each March. The same rain that makes the orchards bloom washes those toxins into the ground and the rivers. In 2010, doctors at SKIMS hospital found that nearly all of 432 brain cancer cases in orchard workers were linked to pesticides. "Our apples are our pride," says activist Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat. "But they're poisoning us."

The National Green Tribunal fined the government ₹39 crore in 2021 for pesticide pollution in Doodh Ganga. A ₹149 crore cleanup followed. But the water still runs brown during the rains. I saw it myself in Baramulla—a

stream that once reflected the sky now reflected nothing at all.

Even farmers who want to go clean hit snags. Insha Rasool tried organic farming in 2019 but couldn't find decent seeds. Showkat Husain, who runs training schools in Bandipora, says farmers crave change, but lack the tools. "They need help," he told me. Bashir, back in Bangund, just wants a truck to move his harvest. The government has a ₹500 crore fund set aside for natural farming this year. Much of it lies untouched. Political parties, for their part, rarely mention organic farming at all.

"Sikkim had a plan," says Dr. Waseem. "We're scattered."

But Sikkim stumbled too. Early on, its farmers panicked over smaller harvests. The government stepped in with seed kits, subsidies, storage, and roads. They didn't just ask farmers to change, they helped them do it.

Kashmir's steps are slower. There's an organic market in Srinagar now. That helps. Over 3,400 farmers have been trained. That helps too. But what about trucks? Cold storage? Real-time help when pests come? Markets in every district? That's what Bashir wants.

And then, there's Gurez. Declaring it an organic valley, like Sikkim did, could light a fuse. Eco-tourism could follow. Training centers could bloom. And farmers, seeing success in

their neighbors, might finally believe.

The world wants what Kashmir can grow. In 2022, the global organic food market hit 10.7 lakh crore. Kashmir's saffron, apples, herbs—they belong on those shelves. That same 2013 report estimates that going organic could triple farmer incomes.

Sikkim did it with just seventy-five thousand hectares. Kashmir has more. Sikkim had fewer people. Fewer resources. Less attention. Still, it worked.

"If they could," Dr. Waseem says, "we can." But it won't happen by itself. Kashmir needs leaders who dream with budgets. It needs roads, trucks, seeds, and stories. It needs teachers in the fields, not just in offices. And above all, it needs belief—real, planted-in-the-soil belief.

In Bangund, Bashir pointed to his tomatoes. His shirt was damp. His smile was shy. "This is just the beginning," he said.

Maybe it is. Kashmir has the land. It has the water. It has the farmers. What it needs now is the will. Sikkim showed the world how it's done. The question is no longer if Kashmir can do it. It's whether it will.

Writer is an undergraduate student from Srinagar.

## What Eid al Azha Teaches Us in Kashmir

A schoolgirl captures how sacrifice, sharing, and small acts of kindness shape Eid, and everyday life, in the Valley.

Misbah Parvaiz

In Kashmir, Eid al Azha begins long before the prayer. You see it in the crowded markets, where people bargain over animals and children pull their parents toward sweet shops. Tailors work late into the night. Bakeries smell like cardamom and fresh bread. Everyone's preparing for something bigger than a celebration.

This festival is built around a story most of us know: Prophet Ibrahim was ready to sacrifice his son, Ismail, to obey God. At the last moment, a ram was offered in his place. That story isn't just religious—it's deeply human. It's about giving up something you love for something greater. And in Kashmir, where life itself often asks for sacrifice, it feels especially close.

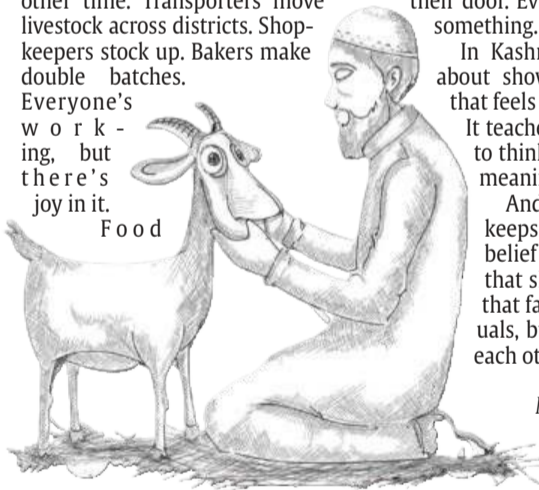
Eid morning starts early. Men gather in open fields or at mosques, shoulder to shoulder. The prayer is short, but powerful. There's peace in those few minutes, a sense of unity that's hard to describe, but easy to feel.

Then comes the sacrifice. Skilled

butchers move from house to house. The process is quick but respectful. The meat is divided into three parts: one for your family, one for friends and relatives, and one for those in need. That last portion matters most. You'll see kids carrying parcels to neighbors, or families making sure no one nearby is forgotten.

For many, this is the busiest time of the year. Farmers and herders earn more during Eid season than at any other time. Transporters move livestock across districts. Shopkeepers stock up. Bakers make double batches.

Everyone's working, but there's joy in it.



Misbah Parvaiz is a 9th-grade student at SDPS Palhallan, Kashmir.

brings people together, always. Kitchens fill with the smells of Rista, and fried delicacies. Guests drop in. No one ever leaves without eating something. The meals are rich, but the conversations are simple—about school, crops, weather, and life.

But what stands out most is the giving. People here make sure everyone is included. If a neighbor can't afford an animal, others help. If someone's alone, they get a knock on their door. Even a short visit means something.

In Kashmir, Eid al Azha isn't about show. It's about sacrifice that feels real, not just symbolic. It teaches us to let go of pride, to think of others, and to find meaning in small, silent acts.

And maybe, that's what keeps this place going—the belief that kindness matters, that sharing is strength, and that faith lives not just in rituals, but in the way we treat each other.

## One Last Look at Madinah

A personal account of one Kashmiri man's final moments in Madinah, where every tear carried a prayer and every step whispered a name.

Farooq Hussain Dar

I didn't want to leave.

The air in Madinah that morning felt different, almost heavier, as if it too sensed my goodbye. I had spent days in the city of the Prophet [PBUH], days soaked in peace and stillness, days I wanted to stretch into forever. But my time had come. The road to Makkah awaited. My suitcase was ready, my passport tucked away. Yet my heart—my heart wasn't going anywhere.

I walked slowly toward Masjid an-Nabawi, toward the Green Dome I had looked at a hundred times, maybe more. Each step felt harder than the last. How do you leave a place where your soul finally felt at rest?

When I reached the Raudah—the Prophet's resting place—I stood still for a moment. I didn't rush. I didn't speak. I just breathed. And then, quietly, I whispered the words every visitor says:

As-salamu 'alayka ya Rasul

Allah. As-salamu 'alayka ya Nabiy Allah.

I tried to hold back tears, but I couldn't. They came on their own.

There are things in life we feel more than we understand. That's how it was standing there, in front of the man who changed the world, and changed my heart. I offered my salaam not just for me, but for so many others. I had promised I'd carry their names, their love, their prayers. I said them silently, one by one. Some I barely whispered. Others caught in my throat. Dr. Eqbal. Bilal. Nissar. Altaf. Ishfaq. Tariq. There were more—too many to count. But I carried each one like a gift, and I handed them over in that sacred space.

Later, I stood before the stones of Jannat al-Baqi. There are no nameplates there, no towering monuments. Just simple graves under the open sky. But you feel it—the weight of what rests there. Hazrat Usman. Hazrat Hasan. The Prophet's family, his friends, his companions. The ones who stood beside him in life

and stayed close in death.

The silence was deep, not empty. It held stories. I didn't say much. I just stood with my head low, eyes wet, heart full. It felt like I was walking through the very roots of our faith.

Even with the sun blazing—42 degrees and climbing—there was a strange coolness in the soul. How do you explain that? The streets didn't burn, they calmed. The heat didn't drain, it wrapped you gently. It felt like Madinah breathed its own kind of mercy. Like the breeze had a memory.

And when it was finally time to leave, I kept turning back. One more glance. One more look at the Green Dome. I didn't want to blink. I didn't want to forget how it felt to be here.

Now I'm in Makkah. But I keep thinking of Madinah. Of that walk, those names, that stillness. A part of me is still there, and maybe always will be.

The author is currently on the annual Hajj pilgrimage.

## The Last Kite of Babawayil

In a Kashmiri village that once defied dowries and danced with birdsong, one man returns in memory to a time when love was simple, homes were loud, and the world felt whole.

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

I had only gone to fetch milk. A short walk to the next village, nothing dramatic. I pushed open the gate to come back, and there it was: noise, laughter, that unmistakable joy that hangs in the air when children land at their maternal home.

The courtyard was alive. Cricket balls flew, scooters zipped, kids yelled over each other, stirring up clouds of dust. Watching them, something shifted in me. I didn't plan on remembering anything that day, but suddenly, I was gone—back to my own childhood, to my own nanihaal.

I used to ache to go there. My brothers and I all did. We'd wait for our turn like it was a sacred gift. "One at a time," our parents would say. "Each of you will get your turn." And when mine finally came, the joy was electric.

It wasn't just about grandparents, though of course, they were everything. It was about the orchard too. Those grapes hidden like secrets beneath green leaves, and cherries, red and warm, dangling like jewels. It was about the smells and stories, the shade of old trees and the feel of mud floors under bare feet. Our house there wasn't fancy. It was made of mud and wood, but the love inside it was sturdy, like stone.

There was a stream once, right at the en-

trance. It sparkled, clear and constant, fed by Branan Tal, a sacred spring the villagers revered. Now, that stream is dry—a silent wound across the land.

The village itself, Babawayil, sits silently in Ganderbal. From afar, it looks like any other: green hills, thick orchards, clusters of modest homes. But it holds a distinction most don't. It is dowry-free.

In a region where marriages often carry the weight of cash and gifts, Babawayil chose another path. Here, people marry without exchanging dowries. They believe love shouldn't come with a price tag. I didn't understand the weight of that as a child, but now, looking back, I see what a radical thing it was, and still is.

The gate to our home was wooden, with a sheet of tin that rattled softly in the wind. Goats bleated near the cowshed, a calf pressed against its mother. Towering walnut trees lined the path to the verandah. That space—open, airy, grounded in earth and sky—was where mornings started with tea and evenings closed with spellbound stories. One walnut tree stood grander than the rest. It leaned toward the ground, almost like it was bowing. Its nuts were smooth, golden inside. That tree knew every secret I had.

From the kitchen window, I'd watch the birds come. They feasted on our grapes—night-

ingales, sparrows, tiny, darting guests. It was a melody I never got tired of. Now, the branches are still. The birds are gone. People say it's because of phone towers, climate shifts, shrinking green space. Maybe it's all of that. All I know is, silence has replaced their song.

My grandfather, whom we called Baba, was the village imam. But more than that, he was a kind, deeply principled man. My grandmother used to grumble when the birds got to the fruit. Baba would just smile and say, "Let them be. They eat off their right too." That one sentence taught me more about compassion than any sermon.

He had this small tradition with us. He'd bring coconut biscuits wrapped in dark brown paper. Maybe they cost two rupees back then. They weren't special, but to us, they were gold. Even now, I can taste them when I close my eyes.

My grandmother had her own ways of showing love. She kept a sandook—a big wooden chest. It smelled of old wood and time. She'd pull out chocolates or peanuts from it like magic tricks. That chest was a treasure, not for what was in it, but for how it made us feel.

And then there were the kites. Oh, the kites. I once begged my grandmother for one, and she walked me to her friend Hafeez Aapa's house. Her son handed me a kite, bright and

feather-light. I carried it home like it was made of glass. When I flew it, the whole sky opened up. In those moments, I didn't care for food or sleep. I was a boy with a thread in hand and the wind on my side.

The village shop, Amm Soab's place, was another world. No shelves, no plastic. Just tin boxes with glass fronts, filled with biscuits. It smelled sweet, familiar. The shopkeeper would tease, "Ye Serchuk kar che aamut year?"—"When did this one from Serch arrive?" My cousin Rukhsana Didi would laugh. She always walked with me. Our grandmother had told her, "Stay with him. Don't let him wander—there are dogs." And she listened. Always.

I went back and forth to that shop all day, spent every spare coin I had. My grandmother scolded me for it every time: "Why do you keep running to the shop again and again?" But I couldn't help it. That shop was happiness, packed in tin.

All three of my maternal uncles lived in that house then. They'd argue over who got to host me for dinner. "I brought meat," one would say. "No, he's eating with us," another would insist. They didn't just live under one roof—they lived with one heart. There was no bitterness, no jealousy. Just love, loud and generous.

They'd take me to the garden they called Daeji. Baba would be there, cutting grass,

working the soil. He grew cherries, almonds. He had a tree for each daughter. "Pick from her tree," he'd say. "Those are hers." Even the land knew where it belonged.

In the evenings, my aunt would take me to fetch water. There was always a shortage, and everyone would line up at the spring. Her friends would smother me in kisses, which I hated. I'd wipe their saliva off with my sleeve, right in front of them. I wasn't shy.

When we walked back, people would stop us. "Isn't this Maej's son?" I'd giggle at how they said 'Moaj' as 'Maej'. I'd repeat it just to tease them.

After sunset, my grandmother wouldn't let me outside. "There are soldiers out." Inside, the kitchen would fill with voices. My uncles, my grandparents, they'd sit and talk. No phones. Just stories, plans, debates, and jokes. I thought those evenings would never end.

But they did. The kite is gone. The shop is quiet. The stream has dried. The walnut trees stand over a house that now holds more silence than sound. My uncles live behind different doors now. We all do. Not just in new homes, but in the way we live—separate, silent, guarded. Sometimes, late at night, I wonder: did we grow up, or did we just grow apart?

Author is a Feature Writer from Ganderbal

Too Much Sitting Increases Risk Of Future Health Problems In Chest Pain Patients – New Research

The Conversation

For patients hospitalized with chest pain, the amount of time they spend sedentary afterward is linked to a greater risk for more heart problems and death within a year. That’s the key finding of a new peer-reviewed study my colleagues and I published in the journal Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes.

We asked 609 emergency room patients experiencing chest pain — average age of 62 — to wear a physical activity monitor for 30 days after leaving the hospital. The monitor measured movements, sitting time and sleep throughout the day. We then followed patients for one year to track whether they had additional heart problems or died.

We found that patients who averaged more than 15 hours of sedentary behavior daily — which does not include sleep —

were more than twice as likely to experience more heart problems or die in the year after discharge than patients who accrued a daily average of 12 hours of sedentary time.

But our goal wasn’t just to document that sitting is harmful. It was also to figure out what patients should do instead to lower their risk.

We found that replacing 30 minutes of sedentary time with moderate or vigorous movement, like brisk walking or running, was most beneficial. It was associated with a 62% lower risk of experiencing more heart problems or dying in the year after discharge. But we also found that replacing 30 minutes of sedentary time with just light movement, such as slow walking or housework, lowered the risk of heart problems and death by 50%.

Sleep was also a healthier option. Replacing 30 minutes of sedentary time with sleep lowered the risk of heart problems and death by 14%.

**Why it matters**

Over 8 million people in the U.S. are admitted to the hospital with chest pain suggestive of acute coronary syndrome, annually. This covers a range of conditions involving reduced blood flow to the heart, including angina and heart attack.

Patients with acute coronary syndrome remain at high risk of having another heart problem even with optimal medical treatment.

The risk also remains high for patients with chest pain who are discharged without a diagnosis of acute coronary syndrome, as their unexplained chest pain may be a precursor to more serious heart problems. Given this risk, there is a need to identify risk factors that can be modified to improve a patient’s prognosis after hospitalization for chest pain.

In previous research, we found that patients with acute coronary syndrome had a fear of exercise and were sedentary, spending over 13 hours a day sitting.

Given that sedentary behavior has been linked to poor heart health in the general population, we were concerned that patients were unknowingly increasing their risk of having another heart problem.

Our latest findings confirm that sedentary time is a harmful behavior for these patients. But beyond telling patients to stop sitting so much, our work provides important guidance: Any movement, regardless of how intense, can be beneficial after hospitalization. This is especially relevant for people recovering from heart problems who may find exercise difficult or scary.

While exercise provides the best “bang for your buck” in terms of health benefits, our findings are good news for patients who may not have the time, ability or desire to exercise. And for those unable to fit in more movement, just getting an extra half hour of sleep is a small, doable step that can make a meaningful difference for your health after hospitalization.

**What still isn’t known**

Researchers don’t fully understand why sedentary time is harmful. Muscles help regulate blood sugar and lipid levels. It is thought that when muscles aren’t used, such as when patients sit for hours, this can lead to harmful elevations in blood sugar and lipids.

In turn, this can cause inflammation, plaque buildup in the arteries and organ damage. More research is needed to understand the biological mechanisms so that we can determine just how much movement is needed in a day.

**What’s next**

While our study highlights the potential risks of sedentary behavior after being hospitalized for chest pain, it was an observational study. Clinical trials are needed to confirm that replacing sedentary time with activity or sleep can improve prognosis.

Local Weather Conditions Can Impact Prevalence Of Tuberculosis: Study

Press Trust Of India

Researchers who mapped tuberculosis cases in African countries found that local weather conditions and access to cities can influence prevalence of the bacterial disease.

The study’s methodology of identifying disease patterns could help fight tuberculosis in a more targeted manner around the world – particularly in regions where resources are limited, they said.

Tuberculosis (TB) mostly affects the lungs and can be deadly if untreated. The disease – symptoms of which include persistent cough, chest pain and fever – spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Focusing on 14 nations, including Nigeria and Mozambique, the team, including researchers from Curtin University and The Kids Research Institute Australia, analysed prevalence of tuberculosis from 50 population-based surveys, involving over 15 lakh people.

The researchers estimated how common the disease is at a local level, breaking each country down into grids, each five square kilometres in area, to identify hotspots. "Here we estimate 1.28 million TB cases across 14 countries, with marked spatial variations," the authors wrote in the study published in the journal Communications Medicine.

"Factors such as temperature, precipitation, and access to cities are positively associated with higher TB prevalence, while higher altitude is linked to lower TB prevalence," they wrote.

For example, rainfall tends to keep one spends indoors, thereby increasing person-to-person contact, crowding, and

affecting ventilation levels -- all of which have been linked to spreading of tuberculosis, the researchers explained.

Lead researcher Alemneh Liyew, PhD candidate from Curtin University’s school of population health, said the study uncovered dramatic differences in disease



burden between local regions within countries – which could prove vital in reducing the impact of tuberculosis.

"This study highlights how factors such as higher temperatures, rainfall, altitude and better access to cities can influence the prevalence of tuberculosis.

"With this data, health resources can be better targeted towards the communities that need them most," Liyew said.

The study is also the first to provide local-level tuberculosis maps across Africa, the researcher said.

"Until now, we haven’t been able to see where within countries the disease is most concentrated," Liyew said.

Author Kefyalew Alene, associate professor Curtin University, said the study’s findings could potentially help fight the disease outside of Africa. "While some aspects of the study are Africa-specific, using mapping to identify patterns associated with tuberculosis could help battle the disease in a more targeted manner elsewhere," Alene said.

Heart Attack Or Panic Attack? Why Young Men Calling Ambulances For Unmanaged Anxiety

The Conversation

Anxiety affects one in five Australian men at some point in their lives. But the condition remains highly stigmatised, misunderstood and under-diagnosed.

Men are around half as likely to be diagnosed with an anxiety disorder compared to women. Some feel pressure to be fearless and hide their emotions. Others simply don’t understand or have the language to describe anxiety symptoms.



This has serious consequences. Our latest research shows young men are turning to ambulance services when their symptoms become overwhelming – some even think they’re having a heart attack.

So why do so many men wait until they need to call emergency services, rather than seek support earlier from a GP or psychologist? And what prompts them to call? We reviewed the paramedic notes of 694 men aged 15 to 25 years in Victoria, Australia, to find out.

Young men haven’t seen others asking for help

Boys are raised to value courage, strength and self-assurance, and to suppress vulnerability.

When parents encour-

age boys to “face their fears”, rather than offering emotional comfort and tenderness, anxiety gets positioned in conflict with masculinity. This leads to a disjuncture between the support young men are met with (and come to expect) from others, and the support they may want or need.

This also means boys grow up believing their male role models – dads, brothers, granddads, coaches – don’t get anxious, deterring boys and men from seeking help. As a result, anxiety goes undiagnosed and opportunities for early intervention are missed.

Recently, we have seen positive shifts challenging restrictive masculine stereotypes. This has improved awareness surrounding men’s depression

– opening up conversations, normalising help-seeking and leading to the development of men’s mental health programs and resources.

However, men’s anxiety remains in the shadows. When anxiety is talked about, it’s not with the same weight or concern as depression. This is despite men’s anxiety having harmful health impacts including turning to alcohol and drugs to cope, and increasing the risk of male suicide.

**What does anxiety look like?**

When men are encouraged to talk about anxiety, they describe various challenges including repetitive worries, feeling out-of-control and intense physical symptoms. This includes a high heart rate, shortness of breath, body pains,

tremors and headaches.

Jack Steele, a prominent Australian personality and one half of the Inspired Unemployed, opened up about his anxiety difficulties on The Imperfects Podcast last year saying:

"I didn’t know what anxiety was. I thought I was the opposite of anxiety. The way I explain it, it’s like [...] your whole body just shuts down. My throat starts closing up and my whole body just goes numb. [...] It feels like you’re just so alone. You feel like no-one can help you. You genuinely think the world’s ending – like there’s no out."

These physical symptoms are common in men but can be frequently dismissed rather than recognised as anxiety. Our research has found that, when left unaddressed, these symptoms typically worsen and arise in more and more contexts.

**Why do anxious men call ambulances?**

Our new study investigated the consequences of men’s anxiety going unaddressed.

First, we used data from the National Ambulance Surveillance System to identify and describe the types of anxiety young men experience. We then looked at the characteristics and contexts of young men’s anxiety presentations to ambulance services.



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

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

Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

28<sup>th</sup> year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

VISIT

<https://www.youtube.com/c/kobserver>

OR SCAN



## Global Growth Strained, India Resilient: WEF Economists



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** Chief economists from across the world are the most optimistic about a strong economic expansion in South Asia, with India looking set to be the primary engine of growth in 2025 and 2026, a new survey showed on Wednesday.

The chief economists, however, warned of the overall global growth coming under strain from trade policy shocks and AI disruption, the World Economic Forum (WEF) said in its latest 'Chief Economists Outlook' report.

A majority of surveyed economists saw the current US economic policy as having a lasting global impact, with 87 per cent expecting it to delay strategic business decisions and heighten recession risks.

The global growth outlook was divided, with weak prospects in North America, resilience in Asia-Pacific and cautious optimism in Europe.

"The outlook for China remains muted, and the chief economists were divided over whether it will reach its target of 5 per cent GDP growth this year.

"Optimism remains highest for South Asia, where 33

per cent expect strong or very strong growth this year," the WEF said.

The survey of chief economists from across the world in private and public sectors found that the growth outlook for South Asia has been robust despite a challenging global environment.

Among all regions, chief economists surveyed were most optimistic about South Asia's prospects, with one-third expecting strong or very strong growth for the remainder of 2025.

However, the region's immediate challenges intensified in early May with the outbreak of military exchanges between India and Pakistan.

Across the region, chief economists expected moderate to high inflation.

The report noted that India, South Asia's largest economy, looked set to be the primary engine of growth, with GDP expansion forecast by the IMF at 6.2 per cent for 2025 and 6.3 per cent in 2026.

Although the rerouting of Chinese exports is casting a shadow over the region's economic prospects, a recently concluded trade deal between India and the UK was another source of optimism, it said.

Globally, public debt concerns were seen mounting as defence spending rises, with 86 per cent of chief economists expecting increased government borrowing.

Artificial intelligence was expected to drive growth, but 47 per cent anticipated net job losses.

## Industrial Output Growth Slips To 2.7 % In April, Dragged By Mining, Power Sectors



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** India's industrial production growth slowed to 2.7 per cent in April 2025 due to poor performance of manufacturing, mining and power sectors, according to official data released on Wednesday.

The factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), rose by 5.2 per cent in April 2024, the data showed.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) also revised upwards industrial production growth for March to 3.9 per cent from the earlier estimate of 3 per cent released last month. The IIP growth was 2.7 in February also.

The NSO data showed that the manufacturing sector's output growth slightly decelerated to 3.4 per cent in April 2025 from 4.2 per cent in the year-ago month.

Mining production contracted by 0.2 per cent as against a growth of 6.8 per cent a year ago.

Power output growth also

slowed to 1 per cent in April 2025 against 10.2 per cent in the year-ago period.

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment growth accelerated to 20.3 per cent in April 2025 from 2.8 per cent in the year-ago period.

Consumer durables (or white goods production) grew 6.4 per cent during the reporting month against a growth of 10.5 per cent in April 2024.

In April 2025, consumer non-durables output contracted 1.7 per cent compared to a decline of 2.5 per cent a year ago.

Infrastructure/construction goods reported a growth of 4 per cent in April 2025, down from an 8.5 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods contracted by 0.4 per cent in April 2025 against 7 per cent growth a year earlier.

The expansion in the intermediate goods segment was 4.1 per cent in the month under review, up from 3.8 per cent a year ago.

## Paddy MSP Hiked By 3%; Pulses, Oilseeds By Up To 9% For 2025-26 Kharif Season: Govt



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** The government on Wednesday announced a 3 per cent increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy to Rs 2,369 per quintal and up to 9 per cent rise for pulses and oilseeds for the 2025-26 kharif marketing season.

The agriculture ministry's proposal on MSP for the new kharif season was approved in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The announcement comes amid southwest monsoon reaching earlier than usual, giving a boost to the sowing of kharif crops, which contribute over 50 per cent of India's total annual foodgrain production.

Briefing media after the cabinet meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said, "Two key decisions were taken for the welfare of farmers -- kharif crops MSP and interest subvention scheme."

In the last 10-11 years, there has been a "massive" increase in the support price of 14 kharif crops in line with the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, he said.

ricultural Costs and Prices, he said.

For the 2025-26 kharif marketing season, the support price for 'common' and 'A grade' varieties of paddy has been increased by Rs 69 each to Rs 2,369 per quintal and Rs 2,389 per quintal, respectively.

Among other cereals, the support price of ragi has been raised by Rs 596 to Rs 4,886 per quintal, jowar by Rs 328 to Rs 3,699 per quintal (hybrid) and Rs 3,749 per quintal (Maldani), maize by Rs 175 to Rs 2,400 per quintal and bajra by Rs 150 to Rs 2,775 per quintal for 2025-26.

Pulses MSP has been increased by up to 5.96 per cent, while that of oilseeds by up to 9 per cent against the previous year to boost domestic production and reduce the import dependency.

The support price for tur has been increased by Rs 450 to Rs 8,000 per quintal, urad by Rs 400 to Rs 7,400 per quintal and moong by Rs 86 to Rs 8,768 per quintal for the said period.

Similarly, groundnut MSP has been raised by Rs 480 to Rs 7,263 per quintal, soyabean by Rs 436 to Rs 5,329 per quintal, sunflower seeds by Rs 441 to Rs 7,721 per quintal for the 2025-26

kharif marketing season.

Sesamum support rate has been increased by Rs 579 per quintal to Rs 9,846, while that of nigerseed by Rs 820 per quintal to Rs 9,537 for 2025-26.

Among cash crops, cotton MSP has been increased by Rs 589 per quintal each to Rs 7,710 (medium staple) and Rs 8,110 (long staple), respectively, for 2025-26.

In recent years, the government has been promoting the cultivation of crops other than cereals, such as pulses and oilseeds, and nutri-cereals/Shree Anna, by offering a higher MSP for these crops.

The increase in 2025-26 kharif crops MSP is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times the All-India weighted average cost of production.

The expected margin to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be highest in the case of bajra (63 per cent), followed by maize (59 per cent), tur (59 per cent) and urad (53 per cent). For the rest of the crops, margin to farmers over their cost of production is estimated to be at 50 per cent, the minister added.

**IN THE LAST 10-11 YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A "MASSIVE" increase in the support price of 14 kharif crops in line with the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, he said.**

## Exporters Resume Shipping Through Red Sea Route

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** Indian export consignments have gradually started moving through the Red Sea route again, exporters body FIEO said on Tuesday.

The gradual movement signals a cautious recovery in shipments after months of disruptions on the route caused by regional tensions.

Last year, the situation around the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial shipping route connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean, escalated due to attacks by Yemen-based Houthi militants.

Due to attacks, the shippers were taking consignments



through the Cape of Good Hope, encircling the African continent, resulting in delays of almost 14-20 days and higher freight and insurance costs.

"Consignments are gradually going through this important sea route. It will cut transportation time," Federation of Indian Export Organ-

isations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said.

He also said freight rates have stabilised because of a dip in ship demands from China.

Around 80 per cent of India's merchandise trade with Europe passes through the Red Sea and substantial trade with the US also takes this route. Both these geographies account for 34 per cent of the country's total exports.

The Red Sea strait is vital for 30 per cent of global container traffic and 12 per cent of world trade. About 95 per cent of the vessels had rerouted around Cape of Good Hope adding 4,000-6,000 nautical miles and 14-20 days to journeys.

## Policies, Subsidies Boost EV Sales In India But Market Share Remain Modest: Study

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** While central and state policies helped increase the total number of electric vehicles (EVs) sales between 2014 and 2023, they did not do enough to increase their share in the overall vehicle market due to challenges like consumer preference for internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles and a lack of charging infrastructure, according to a new study published on Wednesday.

India plans to reduce its carbon emissions per unit of GDP by 45 per cent by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2070. A key focus is on the transport sector, which contributes 14 per cent of India's energy-related carbon emissions. The country also wants to become a global hub for EV manufacturing to boost growth, cut imports and create jobs.

India has introduced policies, incentives and rules to promote EVs, aiming for 30 per cent EV sales in cars, 70 per cent in commercial vehicles and 80 per cent in two- and three-wheelers by 2030.

However, there are challenges such as high costs, a shortage of batteries and charging stations and the lack of clear national targets.

The analysis by the think tank Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) looked at how effective government support has been for EV growth.



It found that higher subsidies under FAME-II led to a significant increase in electric two-wheeler (E2W) sales during this period, with a 12.7 per cent jump in sales for every one-standard-deviation increase in subsidy intensity.

States with supportive policies had 54.5 per cent higher E2W sales than states with only central policies, IEEFA said.

However, the adoption rate, the share of E2Ws in total two-wheeler sales, remained at a modest 4 per cent at the end of 2023.

IEEFA researchers said this shows that subsidies alone are not enough to change the overall market. To achieve India's goal of 30 per cent EV sales in the E2W segment by 2030, India should also invest in reliable public charging infrastructure.

"The government should continue offering purchase subsidies to sustain momentum but clearly communicate a phased-down trajectory for a longer term. This will help consumers and manufacturers plan better, while nudging the market towards cost parity and self-sufficiency," says Charith Konda, Energy Specialist, IEEFA, one of the report's co-authors.

## Delhi Airport Among Top 10 Hub Airports In Asia Pacific, Middle East Regions



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** Delhi airport is among the top 10 hub airports in the Asia Pacific and Middle East regions, a report said on Wednesday.

The Airports Council International Asia-Pacific & Middle East's Air Connectivity Ranking 2024 showed a 14 per cent year-on-year increase in both Asia-Pacific and Middle East regions, driven by strong international demand, robust network recovery, and the return of major travel corridors.

Among the top 10 hub airports with connectivity leadership in 2024, Delhi airport is at the tenth spot, while the list is topped by Dubai International Airport, according to a release.

Shanghai Pudong International Airport (China) is at the second place, followed by Hamad International Airport (Qatar) and Incheon International Airport (South Korea) at the third and fourth positions, respectively.

Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport (China) is at the

fifth place, while Beijing Capital International Airport (China) is at the sixth spot.

Others in the list are Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport (Thailand) at the seventh position followed by Singapore Changi Airport (Singapore) and Kuala Lumpur International Airport (Indonesia) at the eighth and ninth spots, respectively.

"The Hub Connectivity Index assesses an airport's ability to function as an international transfer point, using factors such as viable transfer windows, route deviation from direct flight paths, and the strength of onward connectivity," the release said.

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) operates the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital.

Delhi airport provides connectivity to 153 destinations, including 81 domestic and 72 international routes. It is also in line with the government's endeavour to develop IGIA as a global transit hub, DIAL said in a separate release.

## Stock Markets Close Lower For 2nd Day; Sensex Down 239 Pts

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI-** Stock markets declined for the second straight day on Wednesday with benchmark Sensex falling by 239 points dragged by losses in FMCG major ITC.

The 30-share BSE barometer declined 239.31 points or 0.29 per cent to settle at 81,312.32. During the day, it lost 307.61 points or 0.37 per cent to 81,244.02. The 50-issue NSE Nifty dropped 73.75 points or 0.30 per cent to close at 24,752.45.

Analysts said the key indices remained largely range-bound ahead of the monthly expiry on Thursday and the release of GDP and industrial production data. FMCG, auto, and pharma shares declined while banking, mainly PSUs, media and energy shares advanced.

Among Sensex stocks, ITC fell over 3 per cent after British multinational BAT trimmed its ownership in the conglomerate by divesting a 2.5 per cent stake for Rs 12,927 crore (USD 1.51 billion) through a block deal.

IndusInd Bank, Nestle, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid, Asian Paints, Sun Pharma and Tech Mahindra were also among the laggards. Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Adani Ports and HCL Tech were among the gainers.

"The domestic indices remained rangebound with a negative bias, primarily due to the lack of support from FIIs and prevailing premium valuations. A lingering concern over India-US trade relations following the end of the 90-day pause period continues to pose an external risk," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

## Gold Climbs Rs 500 To Rs 99,000/10 G; Silver Rallies Rs 1,000/Kg

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI-** Gold prices climbed Rs 500 to Rs 99,000 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid a firm trend in the overseas markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity rose Rs 500 to Rs 98,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

Also, silver prices rallied Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,00,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) on Wednesday. The metal had declined Rs 1,370 to Rs 99,000 per kg in the previous market session.

Globally, spot gold increased by USD 23.16 per ounce or 0.7 per cent to USD 3,323.87 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded positive as markets await the release of the FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting minutes and speeches from US Federal Reserve officials for further policy signals," Kaynat Chainwala, AVP Commodity Research at Kotak Securities, said.

## Rupee Settles Flat 85.40 Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

**MUMBAI-** The rupee pared losses and settled on a flat note at 85.40 (provisional) against the US dollar in a volatile trade on Wednesday amid rising crude oil prices and a negative trend in domestic equities.

Forex traders said increased month-end dollar demand added strength to the American currency, keeping the local unit under pressure, while investors also moved cautiously awaiting cues from domestic macroeconomic data.

India's industrial production data for April will be released later in the day, while the FY25 GDP and quarterly estimates for Q4 are scheduled to be released on Friday.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 85.59 and moved between an intraday high of 85.33 and a low of 85.72 against the greenback.

The local unit ended the session at 85.40 (provisional) against the

dollar, unchanged from its previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee closed 30 paise lower at 85.40 against the greenback.

According to Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, the rupee traded flat as the dollar index remained steady.

"With major economic data lined up this week -- including the US Fed meeting minutes, Q1 GDP, and Core PCE Price Index -- the rupee's trajectory will largely be guided by foreign fund activity in the secondary markets. In the near-term, the rupee is expected to move within a range of 84.80 to 85.75," he said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.05 per cent at 99.47.

Analysts attributed the greenback's strength to improving US consumer confidence on better than expected durable goods orders and consumer confidence data.

## Cabinet Approves Continuation Of Interest Subvention Scheme For Farmers

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI-** The government on Wednesday approved continuation of Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) for 2025-26 under which farmers get short-term credit at affordable rate through Kisan Credit card (KCC).

The decision regarding continuation of MISS for fiscal year 2025-26 with existing 1.5 per cent interest subvention was taken by the Union Cabinet, informed Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav.

The continuation of the scheme will cost exchequer Rs 15,640 crore.

MISS is a Central Sector Scheme aimed at ensuring the availability of short-term credit to farmers at an affordable interest rate through KCC.

Under MISS, farmers get short-term loans of up to Rs 3 lakh through KCC at a subsidized interest rate of 7 per cent, with 1.5 per cent interest subvention provided to eligible lending institutions.

Additionally, farmers repaying loans promptly are eligible for an incentive of up to 3 per cent as Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI), effectively reducing their interest rate on KCC loans to 4 per cent.

For loans taken exclusively for animal husbandry or fisheries, the interest benefit is applicable up to Rs 2 lakh.

An official release said that no changes have been proposed in the structure or other components of the scheme.

## HC Raps Judge, Woman Over Husband's Plea For Ailing Son's Custody

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court has slammed a family court judge for refusing urgent hearing on a man's plea seeking interim custody of his 2-year-old son who has to undergo an open heart surgery, noting such conduct was "unbecoming of a judge".

Justice Rohit Joshi of the High Court's Aurangabad vacation bench on Tuesday also expressed displeasure with the child's mother for opposing the application filed by her ex-husband seeking the boy's custody for the surgery.

The court was hearing a petition filed by the child's father seeking his interim custody. As per the plea, the child has to undergo the open heart surgery at the MGM Hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar tentatively in the first week of June.

The man said he had filed an application before the family court concerned at Kaij in Beed district and also sought an urgent hearing of the same.

However, the family court refused to grant an urgent hearing.

Justice Joshi said that in such a serious matter where a child is required to undergo an open heart surgery, the family court judge has not deemed it



appropriate to take the case for hearing to consider whether interim custody should be granted to the father.

"The conduct of the judge (family court) to say the least is unbecoming of any judge," the High Court said. The high court also rebuked the child's mother for opposing the father's plea for interim custody.

"Equally shocking is the conduct of the mother who is opposing the prayer for interim custody despite specifically admitting that the child is required to undergo the operation," the court said.

The High Court bench allowed the father's plea for interim custody of the child and directed the mother to hand over the boy's custody to the father for the surgery.

"The child will be in the custody of the father during the course of hospitalization and the mother will get custody of the child back subject to further medical advice," the high court said.

## 'Single Hand Can't Clap' SC Gives Interim Bail To 23-year-old Influencer In Rape Case

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave interim bail to a 23-year-old accused of raping a 40-year-old, noting that charges had not been framed even though he has been in jail for nine months. It also said the woman was "not a baby" and "a single hand can't clap".

In scathing comments, a bench comprising Justices B V Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma also asked how Delhi Police could file a rape case against the man, a social media influencer, when the woman had gone voluntarily with him.

"A single hand can't clap. On what basis have you filed case under Section 376 of IPC. She is not a baby. The woman is 40 years old. They have gone together to Jammu. Why have you invoked 376. This lady goes to Jammu seven times and the husband is not bothered," the bench observed.

The top court said this is a fit case to grant interim bail as the accused has been in jail for nine months and charges have not been framed in the case.

The apex court directed that the accused be produced before trial court and granted interim bail subject to terms and conditions. He shall not misuse his liberty and not attempt to



contact the woman, the bench said.

The apex court also remarked on the man, asking, "Who gets influenced by such people?"

The top court was hearing a plea filed by the man against an order of the Delhi High Court which declined to grant him bail considering the seriousness of the allegations.

According to the police complaint, the woman first came into contact with him in 2021 through social media while seeking a social media influencer to promote her clothing brand.

During initial interactions, the accused allegedly requested an iPhone to enhance content creation, which she arranged through an authorised Apple Store in Jammu.

However, their professional relationship soured after the accused attempted to resell the device. The authorised seller

returned the money in the account of the woman, but after deducting Rs 20,000. Although he promised to return the money the woman after a while decided to end all ties with him, the complaint stated.

In December 2021, the man visited the woman at her house in Noida to return the Rs 20,000 and apologise. He subsequently persuaded her to travel for a brand shoot in Connaught Place. During the journey, the accused allegedly gave her sweets laced with intoxicants and she lost consciousness.

Contrary to assurances that she would be taken to Hindu Rao Hospital, the man allegedly took her to a secluded area behind the hospital, sexually assaulted her, stole money from her purse, and captured her nude photographs.

Thereafter, the woman was allegedly coerced into travelling to Jammu where she was subjected to continued sexual abuse, extortion, and threats over a two-and-a-half-year period, according to the complaint.

An FIR was registered under Sections 376 (rape), 354 (assault on woman), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation), 509 (insulting the modesty of a woman) and 34 of the Indian Penal Code.

## Trump says he warned Netanyahu to hold off on Iran strike to give US more time for nuclear talks

Agencies

Washington, May 28 (AP) President Donald Trump said Wednesday he has told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to hold off on striking Iran to give the US administration more time to push for a new nuclear deal with Tehran.

"I told him this would be inappropriate to do right now because we're very close to a solution," Trump told reporters at the White House.

"Now, that could change at any moment. It could change with a phone call. But right now, I think they want to make a deal. And, if we can make a deal, (it would) save a lot of lives."

Trump added that an agreement could come together "over the next couple of weeks, if it happens."

The Israeli prime minister's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump's comments came as the head of the United Nations' atomic watchdog said "the jury is still out" on negotiations between Iran and the US over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear programme.

But Rafael Mariano Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, described the continuing negotiations between Iran

and the US as a good sign.

Grossi said he's in near-daily conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, as well as talking to Steve Witkoff, the US Middle East envoy.

Grossi acknowledged one of his deputies was in Tehran on Wednesday. Iranian officials identified the official as Massimo Aparo, the head of the atomic energy agency's safeguards arm.

That's the division that sends inspectors into Iran to monitor its programme, which now enriches uranium up to 60 per cent purity — a short, technical step from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent.

"For the moment, the jury is still out," Grossi told journalists attending a weeklong seminar at the agency in Vienna. "We don't know whether there's going to be an agreement or not."

However, he described the meetings as a good sign.

"I think that is an indication of a willingness to come to an agreement. And I think that, in and by itself, is something possible."

Iran and the US so far have held five rounds of talks in both Muscat, Oman, and in Rome, mediated by Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi. A sixth round has yet to be set.

Talks focused on Iranian enrichment

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### Fresh Mock Drills

lost their lives.

That day also marked the first nationwide civil defence drill since the 1971 war, featuring air raid sirens, civilian shelter drills, and nighttime blackouts.

Officials have urged residents in affected areas to cooperate fully and remain calm during the drills. "Preparedness saves lives. These simulations are crucial in strengthening our national resilience," a senior civil defence official said.

With tensions simmering along the western border, the drills underscore India's dual strategy — military readiness coupled with robust civil defence — to deter threats and safeguard its citizens.

#### CM Woos Tourists

a Gondola (cable car) ride to Kongdori, a bowl-shaped area that lies between Gulmarg and the summit of Apharwat mountain range where the first phase of the ropeway ends.

At Kongdori, a group of tourists from Gujarat and Mumbai requested the chief minister's security detail for a meeting with Abdullah. The chief minister promptly acknowledged the request. He met the tourists with warm handshakes and smiles, and sought from them feedback about their Kashmir visit.

Omar lauded the courage of the tourists, and happily posed for photographs and selfies with them.

The warmth and love the chief minister attracted were reflected by his council of ministers and senior bureaucrats as well.

One of those who were awestruck by Omar's presence was Maviya from Mumbai, who celebrated his 15th birthday on Wednesday. The teenager felt ecstatic after Omar greeted him and shook his hands.

"How old are you?" Omar asked.

Trembling with excitement, Maviya said that it was the best part of his trip. "It was very cool of him to wish me. It was a great experience to meet the chief minister," he said.

Omar Abdullah also wished a tourist couple from Gujarat who celebrated their wedding anniversary on Tuesday.

The chief minister appealed to the tourists to promote the Valley as a safe and peaceful destination. The visitors expressed gratitude for Kashmir's hospitality. They lauded the government for the arrangements that made their stay comfortable.

Mohammad Aftab from Gujarat's Gandhinagar said the atmosphere in Kashmir is contrary to what they get to hear. He said the visitors felt no fear during their stay in the Valley so far.

"People are very loving. They are so helpful. The facilities in hotels are also commendable and the beauty of the places is unmatched," Aftab said.

Taking to X, Omar Abdullah said, "Met tourists at Gulmarg and was pleased to hear their encouraging feedback. Their joy and appreciation reflect the growing confidence in Kashmir as a welcoming and vibrant destination."

Omar emphasized the urgent need for synergy between the Union Government, the Lieutenant Governor's office, and the elected leadership to maintain security and public order in the Valley, especially in the aftermath of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam.

He clarified the limited role his government plays in maintaining law and order, particularly with regard to tourist safety. "Security and law enforcement are not under the purview of the elected government," he noted.

"It falls within the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant Governor. There are three power centers — the elected government, the Raj Bhavan, and the Union Government — and it is essential they work in tandem to prevent tragedies like the April 22 attack."

Abdullah acknowledged the spontaneous

public outrage against the attack, highlighting a significant shift in local sentiment. "For the first time, the people of Kashmir independently condemned the act of terror. No political or religious leader initiated it — the response came directly from the people," he remarked.

In efforts to bring back a sense of normalcy and revive public confidence, the Chief Minister has initiated several measures.

He has also directed the Education Ministry to restart school and college excursions to tourist hubs such as Gulmarg and Pahalgam.

"Life came to a standstill after April 22. Before we welcome tourists from across the country, we must first reclaim our own spaces. That's why I've asked for educational trips to resume. It's a step towards healing and resilience," Omar explained.

#### Statehood Talks Still

given to the Honourable Prime Minister and all the members of the governing council of the NITI Aayog," Omar told reporters in this tourist resort of north Kashmir, 52 kilometres from Srinagar.

Omar was responding to a question whether the Pahalgam terror attack had affected the talk about restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"So, the conversation around statehood has not stalled. The only thing I was unwilling to do was to use the special session of the (Jammu and Kashmir) assembly to talk about statehood. But that does not mean the conversation has stopped. The conversation is ongoing," he said.

On the revival of tourism, the chief minister, who chaired a meeting here, said it is the Kashmiris who should be visiting tourist places in the valley before expecting people from other parts of the country to come visiting again.

"There should be publicity and lively activity at these places. I have asked the Education minister to start picnics for schools and colleges so that we start moving back towards normalcy," he said.

Besides top civil administration officials, the meeting was attended by the inspector general of police, Kashmir, deputy inspector general, North Kashmir, and senior superintendent of police, Baramulla.

On Tuesday, Omar chaired a meeting of his council of ministers in south Kashmir's Pahalgam.

The aim behind holding meetings outside the fortified Civil Secretariat is to give the people a sense of security and trust.

"Our endeavour is that a message is sent out that Jammu and Kashmir is ready for tourism," Abdullah said.

He also said the people elsewhere must not hold the Kashmiris responsible for the attack which left 26 tourists dead.

"The people of Kashmir did not carry out this attack. It was not done with our permission or for our benefit. But still if you punish the people of Kashmir, boycott them, then what shall we do? That is why I want the Centre not to ignore this, it should use the investigating agencies to probe and stop this campaign," he said.

On a memorial for the Pahalgam attack victims, he said a decision has been taken by the cabinet in this regard and tasked the Roads and Buildings Department to frame a concrete proposal.

"The R&B department has been asked to invite expressions of interest in terms of designs for this memorial. Once it comes, we will take it forward," he added.

Omar said he was thankful that tourism delegations from various parts of the country have come to assess the situation for revival of tourism in Kashmir.

He said that at present some tourist destinations are closed altogether, while there is partial closing down at some destinations.

"This was a compulsion after April 22. We have to slowly and gradually review the list.

There was a difference between incidents in the past and this incident. People came out to protest on their own. They condemned it," he said.

Omar also said that Jammu and Kashmir being a Union Territory, the law and order and security are not the responsibility of the elected government.

"Whose responsibility is it? The Lieutenant Governor. Therefore, clearly there are three sets of power centres that need to coordinate to ensure that things go smoothly here. I can promote tourism, I can create the infrastructure, I can ensure that tourists come and have a good visit but the security of the tourists currently resides within the powers of the LG.

"That is the point I made that the Union government, the elected government here and the central government that is represented by the Raj Bhavan ... we need to work together to ensure that what happened on April 22 does not happen again," he said.

The chief minister dismissed suggestions that the relations between the elected government and the Raj Bhavan were not good.

"You only require a thaw if there was a freeze in relations.. When have you heard me alleging a freezing. I am just stating that going ahead we need to work together," he said.

#### Eid-ul-Azha On

commemorates the sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim's son as an act of respect to the divine.

#### J&K Forest Dept

approved Rs 276. 38 crore under the Annual Plan Operations (APO) and Supplementary APO submitted by the J&K Government for undertaking different activities permissible under the scheme.

As per documents, out of the approved amount, the Finance Department released an amount of Rs 238.10 crore to Forest Department. However, the Forest Department could utilise only Rs 153. 67, raising questions on its spending capacity, the documents state.

The issue came under discussion during the 25th steering committee of CAMP held under chairmanship of Chief Secretary Atul Dulloo on April 16, 2025.

In the meeting, officials claimed that implementation of the scheme was affected by elections. "It was informed that due to elections for the Parliament and the UT Legislature and the model code of conduct thereof, the physical targets achieved by the department were marginally lower than the targets," reads the record note of the meeting.

As per minutes of the meeting, officials claimed that approval of APO also faced significant impact due to LS polls.

"It was also informed that the approval of the National CAMPA for the year 2024-25 was accorded on 1st July 2024 due to the model code of conduct on account of the general election. This in a way had an impact on the implementation of the APO during the year," the record note reveals. (KNO))

#### J&K Speaker Constitutes

heads are Sham Lal Sharma (BJP) for PAC, Shamima Firdous (NC) for Estimates, Ali Muhammad Sagar (NC) for Public Undertakings, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami (CPI-M) for Environment, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi (NC) for Subordinate Legislation, Sajad Gani Lone (PC) for Government Assurances, Peerzada Farooq Ahmad Shah (NC) for Privileges, Nizamuddin Bhat (Congress) for Petitions, and Surjeet Singh Slathia (BJP) for Ethics.

Interestingly, no committee leadership was offered to the six independent MLAs or the three PDP legislators, all of whom are serving their first term in the Assembly. However, Justice Masoodi and Peerzada Farooq, both first-time legislators, were appointed as heads based on their previous experience in the judiciary and public administration respectively,

sources said.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma has opted out of all committee roles, including the one formed to look into the salaries and allowances of MLAs, citing personal reasons.

The constitution of the committees is expected to set the tone for legislative business in the coming months, with a renewed focus on transparency, governance, and administrative accountability in the newly restored Assembly.

#### HC Pulls Up

noted that the Designated Committee had failed to review these cases despite prior directions.

Ahmed also cited Supreme Court judgments that public officials lose any entitlement to government housing once they leave office, arguing that security needs do not justify continued occupation, a view earlier upheld by the court, referencing the Delhi High Court's ruling in the Subramanian Swamy case.

Responding to the court's strong remarks, Senior AAG S.S. Nanda sought one final opportunity to comply, which the bench granted, making it clear this would be the last.

Given the case's public importance, the court directed the Registry to re-notify the matter for July 7, 2025.

#### Women Are Pillars

pillars of our socio-economic progress and driving force behind accelerated development," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the Indian Constitution has given equal rights to women without any discrimination.

"In the last few years, we have intensified the efforts through dedicated programmes and initiatives for women empowerment. Our aim is to ensure that our daughters have greater opportunities in key sectors so that they can contribute to the journey of Viksit Bharat and Aatm-Nirbhar Jammu Kashmir," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor conveyed his best wishes to all the members of Kashmir Women's Organisation for their future endeavours.

Earlier, the members of the delegation briefed the Lieutenant Governor on several initiatives of their organisation aimed at women empowerment and encouraging their political participation and community engagement.

#### J&K's Top Bureaucrat

villages, maps drawn decades ago no longer match the land as it exists. Boundaries shift, families grow, and deals are sealed with handshakes, not stamps.

"This isn't just about converting paper into PDFs," said Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, Secretary of Revenue. "You need to verify, cross-check, and sometimes even investigate. Otherwise, you're just digitizing chaos."

The job ahead is massive. Officials estimate that over 6.5 million land parcels across the union territory must be mapped and recorded, along with around 100,000 ownership changes, or mutations, that are still pending. These include everything from inheritance transfers to court decisions that were never updated in the system.

To help manage this, the government has trained dozens of "Master Trainers"—local officials and experts who will lead district teams in scanning, digitizing and verifying data. The target is to deploy 100 such trainers per district.

One pilot site, Khairi Dadyal village in Nagrota tehsil, has already been fully digitized. Locals there can now see their Records of Rights on a screen at the local revenue office, and soon from their phones. Another village, Chak Wahab Din in Suchetgarh, has gone live too.

These are small steps, but they matter. In Srinagar, officials at the National Informatics Centre (NIC) have developed

custom software that allows real-time updates of Jamabandis—the core land ownership document in the region. It also supports digital deed creation, Aadhaar integration, and secure document storage via DigiLocker.

But software alone doesn't solve everything.

"Our systems work, but they depend on the inputs," said an NIC engineer who asked not to be named. "If someone uploads wrong or incomplete data, the system can't fix that. It's only as good as what goes in."

To tackle that, Dulloo is pushing for tight verification protocols.

Retired patwaris are being called back to help compare old maps with satellite images. High-resolution mapping is underway, using drones and GPS to match physical boundaries with digital ones. A special library of virtual control points is also being created for accurate geospatial referencing.

Yet the biggest challenge might be building public trust.

Land is deeply emotional in Kashmir. For many families, it's the only thing they own. Confusion over ownership has fuelled countless family feuds, neighbour disputes, and court battles. According to court data, more than one in three civil cases in the region involve land.

Dr. Anwar Hussain, a land rights researcher, said the reform could have "generational impact."

"Land disputes have wrecked families here," he said. "If done transparently, this digitization could end decades of pain."

That's why the administration plans to involve citizens directly. Before records are finalized, village-level camps will be held where locals can check details, raise objections and suggest corrections. For rural areas with limited internet access, the government is also setting up display kiosks and offering mobile support through trained volunteers.

Beyond individual ownership, the plan also aims to clean up government records. All land parcels will soon be linked to a Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN), tied to Aadhaar data where available. This will help identify illegal encroachments, optimize land use and streamline welfare schemes like PM-KISAN.

Financial Commissioner Shaleen Kabra believes this will reshape how property is bought and sold. "Once records are online, and deeds are paperless," he said, "the whole process becomes faster and cleaner."

After the completion of the process, many reckon, people won't be forced to bribe someone to get their document moved from one desk to another.

Still, hurdles remain.

The infrastructure for 207 new record rooms—climate-proof facilities where physical documents will be stored for backup—hasn't been funded yet.

And while digitization is racing ahead in some districts, others lag due to staff shortages, outdated maps, or ongoing disputes.

A Geographic Information System consultant advising the project, said the work is intense but rewarding.

"It's like detective work," he said. "You're not just digitizing land. You're tracing stories, families, migrations. Every map tells a story."

Back in Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi is still waiting for clarity on that disputed land. But this time, he's hopeful.

"They came to our village last week with tablets and showed us our plots," he said. "They asked if the names were right. I've never seen that happen before. Maybe now, our children won't have to fight for this again."

The government hopes to complete most of the digitization by next year. Whether that deadline holds or not, one thing is clear: Jammu and Kashmir's land history is finally being rewritten by codes, maps, and shared data.

# Kashmir's Suhail Ahmad Bhat Earns India Call-Up For Thailand Friendly

Press Trust of India

**KOLKATA:** Suhail Ahmad Bhat on Wednesday became the latest footballer from Jammu and Kashmir to earn an India call-up as head coach Manolo Marquez announced a 28-member squad for an international friendly against Thailand on June 4.

The fixture in Thailand is part of India's preparations for the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Qualifiers Final Round, where the Blue Tigers will face Hong Kong on June 10 in Kowloon City.

The 20-year-old central forward, who hails from the Bemina region of Srinagar, was a key figure in Mohun Bagan Super Giant's triumphant Indian Super League campaign last season and is seen as a promising attacking talent.

The squad, which includes talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri, who came out of retirement in March to bolster a struggling side, had been camping in Kolkata for the past 10 days.



In Kolkata, Marquez's men underwent six full days of training, with gym sessions in the mornings and on-pitch training in the evenings.

The Blue Tigers played two practice matches on May 26 and 27.

India are placed in Group C

of the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Final Round Qualifiers alongside Bangladesh, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

The group stage will follow a home-and-away round-robin format.

Before Suhail, midfielder Danish Farooq was the most recent Kashmiri to play for India, featuring in two friendlies against Bahrain and Belarus under Igor Stimac in 2022.

Mehrajuddin Wadoo remains one of the most prominent names from the Valley, having earned 31 caps between 2005 and 2011.

Wadoo, hailing from Srinagar's Rainawari area, famously scored the winning goal against Bangladesh in the 2005 SAFF Cup final in Karachi.

He was also part of India's victorious campaigns in the 2007 and 2009 Nehru Cup and the 2008 AFC Challenge Cup.

Before Wadoo, Mushir Ahmed represented India as a defender.

He made his debut on April 9, 1985, against Thailand in a Pre-World Cup match in Kolkata. He played nine matches for the national team and was known for his solid presence at the back.

Abdul Majid was one of the earliest footballers from Jammu and Kashmir to represent India. He made his debut on August 26, 1983, against China in the President's Gold Cup in Dhaka.

He played 33 matches for the country, captaining the team in three of them and scoring one goal.

Majid was a dependable defender and a respected leader on the field.

## IPL Playoffs: Iyer's Tact Up Against RCB's Flair In Battle Of Equals



Press Trust of India

**MULLANPUR:** Shreyas Iyer's inspiring leadership will face its toughest test yet when Punjab Kings host an equally upbeat Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Qualifier 1 of the Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

Having earned the cushion of a top-two finish, one can expect both teams to have a no holds barred approach knowing they will get another shot at reaching the final even if they come up short on the opening night of the play-offs.

Punjab Kings find themselves in unfamiliar territory having made the play-offs for the first time since 2014 but they are not carrying the baggage of the past in the Iyer-Ricky Ponting (head coach) era.

RCB, on the other hand, are way too familiar with heartbreaks of the knock-out stages and like every season, are hoping to end their title drought. In their own words, the job is only half done for both title contenders.

The Iyer-Ponting partnership has resulted in a stellar turnaround for Punjab Kings, who have finally cracked the consistency code after more than a decade of under-performance.

The combination has managed to get the best out of the players making them a well-oiled unit.

The opening duo of Prabhsimran Singh and rookie Priyansh Arya has laid the platform for the likes of Iyer and Josh Inglis to build.

Finisher Shashank Singh continues to improve his game with each passing season and more recently, Australian import Marcus Stoinis finding his range with the bat makes the batting look more formidable.

The concerns lie in the bowling department, especially after the departure of South African Marco Jansen, who has returned home for national duty.

Jansen bowled the crucial overs both in the powerplay and death and the team will certainly miss him on Thursday night.

Kyle Jamieson showed promise in his debut for the franchise but will need

to bowl better upfront to make an impact. Batting all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai could take Jansen's spot.

Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who missed the last two games due to a finger injury, is expected to return for the big game and bowl alongside the ever accurate Harpreet Brar.

Arshdeep Singh has been the standout pacer for his longtime franchise, delivering in all phases of the game.

RCB too had injury concerns going into the business end of the tournament but they have been allayed to a good extent.

Pacer Josh Hazlewood is expected to regain full fitness and Tim David would be available for selection, lending more balance to the side.

It would be important from the team's point of view that Phil Salt is at his destructive best in the powerplay and Virat Kohli keeps batting like he has been through the season, racking up fifties with ridiculous ease.

Match starts 7.30 PM.

## Inter Zonal District Level Martial Arts Events Held In Budgam

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam is organising Inter-School and Inter-Zonal Level competitions across the district. On Wednesday, the department held Inter-Zonal District Level Martial arts competitions at Indoor Stadium for U-14, U-17 and U-19 girls in Taekwondo, Kick Boxing, Judo, Karate and Weightlifting, etc.

At the Inauguration ceremony, District Sports Officer Ghulam Hassan Lone along with In-charge Sports Activities Ghulam Hassan Khanday and Shakeel-ur-Rehman inaugurated the competitions in the presence of senior officials of the department.

On this occasion, Ghulam Hassan addressed the children and encouraged them to focus on healthy activities like sports.



ties like sports.

It should be noted that Inter School Tournaments are also ongoing in all zones of the district under the supervision of the department's District Officer Ghulam Hassan Lone. The Martial art session witnessed a large number of girls who showcased their skills.

Meanwhile, the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Zone Hardpanzoo, conducted a three-day Inter-School Kabaddi Tournament for Girls from May

26 to 28, 2025. The event, held at the zonal level, witnessed participation from several government and private schools across the region.

The tournament was inaugurated by the Headmaster of HS Arizal, joined by Farooq Ahmed Sheikh, In-charge Activity ZPEO Hardpanzoo, and Tasaduk Hussain, Overall Incharge, along with other zonal officials. The dignitaries lauded the initiative for promoting physical health, discipline, and confidence among schoolgirls.

Throughout the competition, young athletes demonstrated remarkable spirit, coordination, and tactical prowess. The final match in the U-14 category saw IEI Arizal defeat HS Arizal with a commanding 10-5 win to secure the title.

In the U-17 category, HS Dachan emerged victorious by defeating HSS

## Short TAKES

### Zone Ganderbal Clinches U-17 Girls Inter-Zone Kabaddi Tournament



The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal on Wednesday hosted an Inter-Zonal District Level Kabaddi competition for Girls Under-17 at BHS Arch, where Zone Ganderbal emerged victorious after a series of intense matches. A total of 48 players representing all four zones of the district showcased their talent and sportsmanship in the one-day tournament.

The final match witnessed a gripping contest between Zone Ganderbal and Zone Tullamulla, with Zone Ganderbal sealing the win and lifting the championship trophy after an impressive performance.

District Youth Services & Sports Officer Ganderbal, Sheikh Shafqat Iqbal, along with the Activity Incharge, visited the venue and interacted with the participants. In his address, the DYSSO applauded the enthusiasm of the young athletes and encouraged them to continue pursuing sports not just as a hobby but as a potential career path.

### IPL 2025: Punjab Police On High Alert For Playoff Games In Mullanpur

The Qualifier 1 and Eliminator of the ongoing Indian Premier League is unlikely to be impacted due to security reasons in the aftermath of the recent conflict between India and Pakistan following the barbaric Pahalgam attack, the Punjab Police said on Wednesday.

The IPL schedule had to be tinkered after the tournament was suspended for a week following the military conflict between India and Pakistan.

According to the revised schedule, Mullanpur will host the qualifier 1 on Thursday and the eliminator on Friday, while the qualifier 2 and the final will be held in Ahmedabad on June 1 and 3.

"There are two very important matches at Mullanpur stadium tomorrow and day after tomorrow. There is a qualifier and an eliminator. People are coming from all corners of India. There is a lot of enthusiasm among the people," Arpit Shukla, Special DGP (Law and Order), Punjab said.

"We have arranged for extensive security around the stadium and its periphery. Today, there is a review of it. Our police force is deployed around 65 Gazetted officers and more than 2,500 is deployed.

"We will ensure that those who are coming do not face any kind of trouble. On the other hand, the security measures will be very strict. Yesterday, we had a rehearsal of the mockdrill. Today also the police force is rehearsing the mockdrill," he added.

### Inter To Don Unseen Kit For Champions League Final Against PSG

Inter Milan will dress for the occasion by wearing their third, golden yellow kit in Saturday's Champions League final when they face Paris St Germain in Munich in the first official meeting between the sides.

Inter have played in six Champions League/European Cup finals to date, the first in 1964, and have never used their third kit in the showpiece match so far.

Since the Parisians are designated as the home team in the final, they will wear their first-choice kit -- navy blue shorts and shirts with a white and red stripe in the centre -- so Inter cannot play in their classic black and blue striped jerseys.

The Italians, however, did not opt for their second strip -- white shirts with blue details -- choosing to wear the third kit instead, a golden yellow shirt with black details and black shorts.

### Teenage Sensation Lamine Yamal Extends Barcelona Contract Until 2031

Barcelona's teenage sensation Lamine Yamal has signed a contract extension that will keep him at the Spanish champions until 2031, the club announced on Tuesday. The 17-year-old forward, whose deal was due to expire in 2026, enjoyed a stellar season, helping Barca win LaLiga and the Copa del Rey, with 18 goals and 25 assists in 55 matches.

Local media have reported that the exciting Spanish international could become the Barcelona squad's highest-paid player if he meets certain performance-related clauses. Having displayed such entertaining football this season, Yamal is a leading contender for this year's Ballon d'Or.

## From Suryavanshi's Ton To Pant's Struggles: IPL's Highs & Lows Till Now

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** IPL's costliest-ever player Rishabh Pant at last delivered the goods with a ton in the final match but Lucknow Super Giants missed the bus. Axar Patel's Delhi Capitals nosedived from cruise control. Former winners Chennai Super Kings, Rajasthan Royals and Kolkata Knight Riders cut a sorry figure while Sunrisers Hyderabad misfired all the way through.

In all, it took 67 days including a 10-day break, for the IPL to go through its preliminary round of 70 matches this year which witnessed some surreal highs and disappointing lows.

Here's a recap so far before the playoffs begin:

### Young Guns Make A Strong Dent:

RR's Vaibhav Suryavanshi was a 13-year-old when he was picked in the mega auction last December and at 14 in May, he became the youngest ever to

score the fastest IPL ton for an Indian off 35 balls and second fastest ever, against Gujarat Titans.

His finesse in stroke play and spunk at the biggest stage captivated the game's greats.

While India T20I opener Abhishek Sharma was also among those who hit centuries, it also included Punjab Kings' uncapped Priyansh Arya, who took apart a lowly CSK with his maiden IPL ton. Prabhsimran Singh also showed he has got the goods while Ayush Mhatre gave CSK some reasons to smile.

### Daunting SRH Misfire:

Last year's runner-up SRH came in with one of the most intimidating batting line-ups but the all-out attack approach fell flat on its face.

SRH began the IPL with the second highest total ever of 286/6 against RR and ended with the third highest, of 278/3 against KKR.

In between, it looked like SRH never had a Plan B with the



bat, Nitish Kumar Reddy largely disappointed and not having a quality spinner to bowl in the powerplay hurt them.

### CSK Learn Their Lessons The Hard Way:

Change is the only constant goes the old adage and CSK learnt it the hard way this year. The side was forced to part with

its philosophy of keeping young talent on the bench and rely only on seasoned players such as MS Dhoni.

At the top, the 17-year-old Mumbai batter Mhatre thrived against the odds while Proteas' Dewald Brevis dazzled towards the end. The 20-year-old Afghan Noor Ahmad emerged as CSK's most successful spinner with R

Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja being the other options.

### Sai Sudharsan Comes Of Age:

The young Southpaw showed that a no-risk approach with relentless attack at every opportunity can be a way to amass runs. He tops the charts right now with more than 670 runs and was deservedly rewarded with a national call-up for the Test tour of England.

From being retired out for batting slowly in 2023 to being one of the best batters in 2025, Gujarat Titans' Sudharsan proved his time has come.

### Mumbai Indians Do A Mumbai Indians:

Four defeats in first five games marked yet another typical Mumbai Indians' start to an IPL, but Hardik Pandya's men came back roaring to win next six matches to establish themselves among the front-runners. Rohit Sharma and Tilak Varma have blown hot and cold but

Suryakumar Yadav showed why he is among the best in the business with remarkable consistency, while Jasprit Bumrah's 17 wickets in 10 matches must set alarm bells ringing in opposition camps.

### RR's Forgettable Season:

From sweating on Sanju Samson's fitness and form to lack of gumption shown by others, RR endured a forgettable season to finish second last ahead of CSK.

Parting ways with key players including Jos Buttler, Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal and Trent Boult disturbed their balance more than perhaps RR imagined.

### High-Flying DC Nosedive:

The Capitals began this IPL looking like they won't put a foot wrong but when it came to being clinical and consistent, the fight petered out.

DC began with five wins in first six matches and were perched at the top of the table, but a stunning nosedive saw them lose five

out of the next eight.

### KKR Misfire But Rahane Stands Tall:

Rahane waged a lone battle of sorts but the season was also poor for the franchise's costliest player and vice-captain Venkatesh Iyer. With five defeats in first eight matches, it was all but over quite early for the defending champions who failed to play like one.

### Marsh, Pooran Stand Tall In LSG Rabbble:

Five wins in first eight games -- built largely on the top-order's success -- gave LSG a chance to finish in the final four but there were more areas of concerns than bright spots.

Pant's horror run with the bat, lack of depth in middle order and lack of variation in bowling saw them miss out on playoffs again but Mitchell Marsh, Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram gave them the substance amid Digvesh Rathi's theatrics.



## Protect your Health from Everything that comes its way



Bajaj Allianz Extra Care Plus policy along with the added benefits of Health Prime Rider ensures that you don't have to settle for less when it comes to you and your family's growing healthcare needs.

### Bajaj Allianz Extra Care Plus's Features:



**Long Term Discount**



**Option to Opt for  
Air Ambulance**



**Free health check-up**

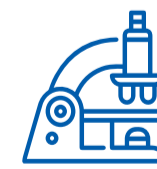
### Benefits of Health Prime Rider:



**Rider for both Individual & Family  
Floater Basis\*\***



**24\*7 Unlimited  
Tele-Consultation**



**Investigations Cover**

\*\*Based on the variant opted in health plan

To know more, contact your **J&K Bank's Relationship Manager**

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd., Bajaj Allianz House, Airport Road, Yerawada, Pune - 411006. IRDAI Reg No.: 113. | CIN: U66010PN2000PLC015329 | UIN: BAIHLIP23069V032223 - Extra Care Plus, BAIHLIA24087V022324 - Health Prime Rider | web: www.bajajallianz.com | Toll free: 1800-209-5858 / 1800-209-0144

J&K Bank Ltd is a licensed Corporate Agent [bearing License No.: CA0029] of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company Ltd. [IRDAI registration No. 113]. The benefits/features of products are indicative and for more details on risk factors and Terms and Conditions, please read the sales brochure before concluding a sale. | BIAZ-P-JK-0013/03-11-2023