



She added that one of the students has a mild | **More on P6**

[illegible]



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Friday | 30-05-2025

2

8% Infectious Disease Outbreaks During 2018-2023 Spread From Animals To Humans: Study



Press Trust Of India

Over eight per cent of outbreaks reported under India's infectious disease surveillance system between 2018 and 2023 were zoonotic -- spread from animals to humans, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, according to an analysis. Zoonotic outbreaks consistently peaked during June, July, and August, researchers from the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai said. Typically, about seven zoonotic outbreaks -- also sometimes called 'spillover events' -- occurred in a month, and such instances significantly increased over the years, specifically, post-pandemic, the study published in The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia journal found. The team analysed a total of 6,948 outbreaks reported under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP) to identify trends. Of these, 583 (8.3 per cent)

were zoonotic -- Japanese encephalitis was found to account for 29.5 per cent of zoonotic outbreaks, followed by leptospirosis (18.7 per cent) and scrub typhus (13.9 per cent). Region-wise, the northeast part of the country contributed 35.8 per cent of zoonotic disease outbreaks, followed by the southern (31.7 per cent) and western regions (15.4 per cent), the researchers found.

Of the 6948 outbreaks reported in IDSP, 583 (8.3 per cent) were zoonotic, with a median of seven monthly zoonotic outbreaks. Outbreaks significantly increased over the years

They added that late reporting of disease outbreaks has declined over the years -- 52.6 per cent in 2019, 40.9 per cent in 2021, and 5.2 per cent in 2023. Overall, a third of the outbreaks during the study period were reported late, the team said. "Of the 6948 outbreaks reported in IDSP, 583 (8.3 per cent) were zoonotic, with a median of seven monthly

zoonotic outbreaks. Outbreaks significantly increased over the years," the authors wrote. The researchers said that while outbreaks of measles, chickenpox, and dengue have been individually analysed, zoonotic events from the national-level infectious disease surveillance system have not been comprehensively examined. A lack of analysis of geographical patterns and

documentation of reporting delays hindered evidence-based decision-making and targeted interventions, the team said. "Critical gaps in weekly outbreak reports were identified, particularly the lack of follow-up documentation. To address these gaps, we recommend strengthening disease-specific surveillance systems in hotspots regions," the authors concluded.

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT District Hospital Shopian (KMR)-192303.

Email: hospitald4@gmail.com
amdshshopian@gmail.com

LL: 01933-261845

TENDER

Subject: Annual Rate Contract for Refilling of Medical Gases in Bulk, Medium & Pin Type Cylinders for the Financial Year 2025-26.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible Registered manufacturers/Stockiest/ Distributors/ Dealers for refilling of Medical Gases in Bulk, Medium & Pin type Cylinders to refilling of Medical Gases in Bulk, Medium & Pin type Cylinders to Government District Hospital Shopian on Annual Rate Contract Basis to submitted under Two Bid Cover System- Cover I "Technical Bid" & Cover II "Price Bid".The tender documents/detailed specification are available at www.jktenders.gov.in

Important Dates and Cost of EMD & Tender Fee:		
S.No	Event	Date
01.	Date of Publishing of Tender	29-05-2025
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	29-05-2025
03	Clarification start Date	30-05-2025
04	Clarification end Date	05-06-2025
05	Bid Submission Start Date	29-05-2025
06	Bid Submission closing Date	09-06-2025
07	Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online)	11-06-2025
08	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 15000/= in the form of CDR/FDR
09	Cost of Tender Document	Rs.500/= (Rupees One Thousands & Five Hundred Only) DD

1. The cost of tender document shall be furnished in the shape of Demand Draft (DD) and Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR in original pledged to the Medical Superintendent District Hospital Shopian shall reach in the office of Medical Superintendent District Hospital Shopian through speed post/Regd. Post/courier/ or by in person under proper receipt by or before bid submission end date along with other required documents. Belatedly submission of documents in original shall be deemed to be disqualified. EMD exemption eligibility (see GFR 2017 rule 170. The Successful bidder have to submit Performance Bank Guarantee as per GFR 2017, Rule 171

3.The tenderers have to submit their tenders online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The tenders cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature. No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on the website www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Shopian (tender receiving authority). The bids of the successful bidder shall remain valid for One Year from the date of issuing of contract. The intended bidder should go through the tender documents properly before submitting the bid.

S/d

Medical Superintendent,
District Hospital Shopian

NIT No: MS/DH-SPN/e-Tenders/2025 /83-86
DIPK-2004/25 Dated: 29-05-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bashir Ahmad Khan, S/O Mohammad Sultan Khan, R/O Dar Mohalla, Soura, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir do hereby inform that I lost the NCC (No Objection Certificate) that was issued by Mahindra Finance pertaining to the Loan/ Finance liquidation against Vehicle bearing Registration No. JK01AF-8950.I lost the said document on 26-05-2025 while I was travelling from Bachpora to Pandach, Srinagar.

Now, through the medium of this Publication, I intend to inform the Public (in general) and to report the concerned Department pertaining to the document lost by me on the date (as above) so that I can apply for the fresh N.O.C from Mahindra Finance

Owner: Bashir Ahmad Khan S/O: Mohammad Sultan Khan
R/O: Dar Mohalla, Soura, Srinagar, J&K

inf

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No.JK0119990094632 issued in favour of PARVAIZ AHMAD SOFI Parentage MOHAMMAD YUSUF SOFI Whereas an application has been received by one PARVAIZ AHMAD SOFI Parentage MOHAMMAD YUSUF SOFI wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as PARVAZE AHMAD SOFI Parentage MOHAMMAD YUSUF SOFI Which needs to be changed as PARVAIZ AHMAD SOFI Parentage MOHAMMAD YUSUF SOFI.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer 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

Public Notice

The electricity connection with consumer ID 0202040002205 & Installation No:- 635-R1/L-0.750 registered in the Name of Abdul Khaliq Hafiz is to be transferred in Name of Shahnawaz Nabi Hafiz W/O Ghulam Nabi Hafiz R/O Budshah Nagar, Natipora, Srinagar - 190015. Objections, if any, to the same must reach Electric Sub .Division. (Chanapora), maximum within a week from the date of its publication.

Media Line Ads

NOTICE

The electricity connection with consumer ID 020402000157917 registered in the Name of Meenu Jan W/o Javid Ahmad Beigh R/O Alamar Colony Sector 7 Buchpora Srinagar - 190020 is to be transferred in Name of Nargis Naseer D/o Naseer ud Din. Objections, if any, to the same must reach Electric Division II. (Khanyar) & Sub .Division. (Rainawari), maximum within a week from the date of its publication.

Media Line Ads

PUBLIC NOTICE

My ward's Date of Birth has been wrongly recorded in the School record, Lumberdar record, Chowkidar record as 12/07/2014 instead of 12/07/2016 Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Eternal Success School Menander Shopian within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Khursheed Ahmad Naikoo
F/o Muhammad Ibraheem Naikoo
R/o Saidpora Bala Tehsil & District Shopian

fko

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 Aabid Hamid D/o Abdul Hamid Ganie R/o Shipora tehsil pattan with verified date of birth 25/07/2011 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

SD
Naib Tehsildar Pattan
fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR TILGAM EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS

Subject:- Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar births and deaths (Block Development Officer) Khaipora has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth/Death of Ateega Begum D/W/O Peer Ab Jabbar R/O Chandseer Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (Birth/Death) as 27-05-1940 occurred at Home. In this connection if anybody having objections to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Naib Tehsildar Tilgam
fko

Subject.Grant of registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name & Style of M/s.TRIPGLOBE " situated at Sopore Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr./ Arfat Ahmad Dar C/o Maqsood Ahmad Dar R/o Jamia Qadeem Mohalla Lathi Shathi Baramulla intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Travel unit under the name and style" M/s. TRIPGLOBE" situated at Sopore Baramulla Tourist Trade Act1978/82/2011-12. Whereas,I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate,Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department). Bank statement (minimum balance 1000),site plan, Affidavit,Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting),Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection,if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley.No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

fko



THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA, SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed / appeared in (Class 10th) under Roll No: 139024053 Session: Regular 2025 Year: 2025 through THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION. The error has been committed by mistake against Surname of my parents as Suhail Rasool "Bhat" / Shaguftha Arif "Beigh" instead of Suhail Rasool / Shaguftha Arif.

Now I have applied for correction in the Jammu And Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates Kashmir Division within seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public. The correct particulars in respect of me and my parents are as under:

Name:	Maheen Bhat
Father's Name:	Suhail Rasool
Mother's Name:	Shaguftha Arif
Date of Birth:	25.07.2009
Residence:	Harco Lane Rawalpura, Srinagar.
Mobile No of parents:	9419018626, 7006132442

ss



Subject.Grant of registration of the proposed Paying Guest house unit under the name & Style of M/s. BROOKSIDE NOOK " situated at Satrina Kangan Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Mr./ Areeba Ali .D/o Nasir Ali R/o Baghwan Pora Srinagar Kangan intends to apply in the Department of tourism for registration of my proposed Paying Guest house unit under the name and style" M/s. BROOKSIDE NOOK " situated at Satrina Kangan Ganderbal under Tourist Trade Act1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas,I will submit state subject/Domicile certificate, Qualification Certificate,Pan card, Experience certificate (minimum 05 years), Character certificate (Police department). Bank statement (minimum balance 1000),site plan, Affidavit,Rent Deed duly attested sub-registrar, printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting),Photograph of the unit (indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photograph to the department of tourism as prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operation. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the competent Authority the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/financial institutions/Ban/ Organisation, etc for objection,if any and the same should reach to the deputy director tourism Registration (e-mail ID:-ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspaper of the valley.No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Plot No.280 of 65x45 size Housing Colony Jawaharnagar Srinagar Kashmir has been allotted to Arjan Nath Warikoo, vide Govt. Order No.38-3-B-76 of 1962 dated 21-04-1962. The ownership rights of the said plot are under the process of transfer to 1.Burhan Arshid W/O Arshid Abbass R/O Jawaharnagar Srinagar 2. Sheeba Jan W/O Sajad Hyder Farid R/O Khaja pora Nowshera Souria Srinagar Kashmir on the basis of sale deed. Any person having any objections to this transfers hall furnish the same in writing to the office of Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Green Belt Park Gandhi Nagar Jammu within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. However, no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period.



- Burhan Arshid W/O Arshid Abbass R/O Jawaharnagar Srinagar
 - Sheeba Jan W/O Sajad Hyder Farid R/O Khaja pora Nowshera Souria Srinagar
- fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate. As my certificate issued by Police Station Kreeri my DOB Is 22-05-1997. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the BDO Pattan within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Manzar Bashir
S/o Bashir Ahmad Bhat
R/o Tapper Waripora Tehsil Pattan

fko

ازنیات بومی زینگیئر

عنوان :- درخواست مخائب
افروزہ یگم پوہ اشتقاق احمد گوہری ساکنہ ہرن تحصیل زینگیئر

بغرض لیگل ہیر سرٹیفیکٹ

اشتہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض لیگل ہیر سرٹیفیکٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے پورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن واقعی ذات سے تعلق رکھتی ہے اور ساکن وہ بڑا میں میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور بھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکن کا تہذیبیہ افراد پر مشتمل ہے

علی محمد تمام ولد محمد رجب تمام مزدوری 55 سال
سمانہ دھادہ جنگ زد جنگی کھم گھر پلو کام 50 سال
باسط علی پیر علی محمد تمام زیر تعلیم 24 سال
گوہری علی پیر علی محمد تمام -- 22 سال

سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفیکٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کنڈیک میو ارا مدنی 8500 روپے تک ہے ۔ سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی غریا یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشترکہ اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر آئے بغرض یا اعتراض دفتر حذا کو دفتر ای اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں ۔ بعد گزرے بعد کا کوئی بغرض یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا ۔

FKO

ازنیات بومی

عنوان :- درخواست مخائب
باسط علی ولد علی محمد تمام ساکنہ سیلو ہر ادا جرائی OBC

تحت 176 SRO بحق سائل خود

اشتہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفیکٹ بذمرہ تمام پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے پورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی ذات سے تعلق رکھتی ہے اور ساکن وہ بڑا میں میں رہائش پذیر ہے اور بھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل کا تہذیبیہ افراد پر مشتمل ہے

علی محمد تمام ولد محمد رجب تمام مزدوری 55 سال
سمانہ دھادہ جنگ زد جنگی کھم گھر پلو کام 50 سال
باسط علی پیر علی محمد تمام زیر تعلیم 24 سال
گوہری علی پیر علی محمد تمام -- 22 سال

سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفیکٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے اور کنڈیک میو ارا مدنی 8500 روپے تک ہے ۔ سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی غریا یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشترکہ اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر آئے بغرض یا اعتراض دفتر حذا کو دفتر ای اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں ۔ بعد گزرے بعد کا کوئی بغرض یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا ۔

فکو

Long-Delayed Noor Jehan Bridge At Qamarwari Set To Open Soon

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to expedite the progress of works on construction of Rs 14.77 crore vital project of Noor Jehan Bridge over River Jhelum at Qamarwari, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat has been monitoring the progress on the long delayed vital project of the bridge on regular basis.

In this regard, DC conducted several inspections to the project site to personally monitor the progress on a regular basis. He has been rigorously pushing for the expeditious completion of the long pending connectivity project in the City.

Dr Bilal is actively monitoring the project's progress and has directed the executing agency to expedite the remaining works. Once completed, the Noor Jehan Bridge will serve as a crucial link between Noorbagh and Qamarwari, alleviating pressure on the existing Cement

“**Dr Bilal is actively monitoring Rs 14.77-crore vital project’s progress and has directed the executing agency to expedite remaining work.**”

Bridge and improving connectivity in Srinagar.

During his visit, DC was apprised that the 127 meters span vital Noor Jehan bridge is being constructed at cost of Rs 14.77-crore and is finally nearing completion and is set to be thrown open to the public by July 15, 2025, providing huge relief from traffic congestion to the local residents, commuters of the adjoining areas.

Commissioner SMC Reviews Preparations For Mela Kheer Bhawani, Eid-ul-Adha

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to assess the arrangements for the upcoming Mela Kheer Bhawani and Eid-ul-Adha celebrations, Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed on Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the SMC Headquarters, Karan Nagar.

Primary focus was to ensure the implementation of effective sanitation and cleanliness measures to facilitate these important religious festivals.

The meeting was attended by senior SMC officers and officials, who discussed strategies to uphold hygiene standards during the festivities.

Commissioner emphasized the vital importance of maintaining cleanliness in and around the Kheer Bhawani shrine and other religious sites across Srinagar

Special directives were issued regarding free hooper service for collection/dispos-

al of animal skins and hides following Eid-ul-Adha, along with enhanced sanitation services around mosques and religious places. The meeting also stressed community participation in keeping the city clean and urged residents to actively contribute to sanitation efforts.

To assist the public, SMC reminded residents to utilize the 24x7 Control Room services established for sanitation, waste management and related concerns. These helpline numbers are available round the clock to provide guidance and support: 0194-2474499, 0194-2470465, 1800-180-7038.

The Commissioner reaffirmed the SMC’s commitment in maintaining high hygiene standards and ensuring a safe, clean, and peaceful environment during these festivals. He urged residents to cooperate with municipal authorities and make use of the helpline services for a smooth and successful celebration.

Woman Dies After Mysterious Fall From Height

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A 50-year-old woman from the Brein Nishat area of Srinagar succumbed to injuries after allegedly falling from a height at her residence, officials said on Thursday.

According to officials, the woman, identified as Shahzada, wife of Abdul Salam Jan, was critically injured in the fall and was immediately shifted to SMHS Hospital in Srinagar for

treatment. Despite efforts by the medical team, she could not be saved and succumbed to her injuries.

The incident has cast a pall of gloom over the locality, with family members and neighbours mourning her tragic demise. The exact circumstances leading to the fall remain under investigation.

Relatives and locals have started arriving at her residence to pay their final respects.

Youth’s Body Recovered From Jhelum After Four-Day Search

Observer News Service

Srinagar: After an intense four-day search operation, the body of 24-year-old Umar, who had jumped into the Jhelum River near the Zaina Kadal Bridge, was finally recovered on Thursday morning.

Rescue teams comprising personnel from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the River Police had been conducting relentless search efforts since the day of the incident. Their perseverance paid off when the body was located and retrieved from the river.

Following standard procedure, the body was taken for medico-legal formalities before being handed over to the bereaved family.

The tragic incident has cast a pall of gloom over Umar’s native locality in Kawdara, Srinagar. His funeral, attended by heart-broken relatives, friends, and neighbours, was marked by an outpouring of grief and sorrow as the young man was laid to rest.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the case.

SKIMS Hosts Historic Directors Conclave, Former Heads Call For Revival

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) hosted its first-ever Directors’ Conclave on Monday, bringing together all its former directors for a landmark roundtable titled “SKIMS Legacy and Way Forward.” The event marked a moment of reflection, appreciation, and vision, as veteran leaders of the institution shared their experiences and perspectives on reviving SKIMS as a centre of excellence in healthcare, research, and education.

Director SKIMS, Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, who also serves as Ex-Officio Secretary to the J&K Government, welcomed the distinguished gathering and emphasized the importance of such an event. “These doyens envisioned SKIMS as an institution of excellence. Their experiences will be a guiding light for me in leading this institution forward,” Prof. Ganie said.

He recalled the contributions of each former director, including the founding director, Dr. A.K. Nagpal, acknowledging their pivotal role in transforming SKIMS into a premier healthcare institute with a global reputation.

Dr. Muzaffar Maqsood Wani, Professor of Nephrology and Secretary of Faculty Forum SKIMS, coordinated the felicitation of the guests and expressed admiration for their enduring commitment to the institute.

In his address, Dr. A.K. Nagpal, the founding director, reminisced about SKIMS’s formative years and stressed the importance of institutional autonomy. “SKIMS should continue growing like AIIMS New Delhi, PGIMER Chandigarh, and other international institutions such as Harvard and Oxford. The autonomous public hospital model has proven effective across the globe,” he stated.

Dr. M.S. Khuroo, former Dean and Director, echoed the sentiment, asserting that SKIMS is much more than a hospital. “It is a research-intensive and academic institution. We must focus on cutting-edge research and outstanding teaching,” he said. Dr. Khuroo emphasized the importance of recruiting top faculty and acquiring the best equipment to ensure world-class patient care.

Prof. Mehrajuddin, the longest-serving director and a noted anesthesiologist, recalled SKIMS’s journey through various crises. “We’ve faced numerous challenges, but SKIMS has always emerged stronger. Its

has a role in this vision,” he remarked.

All former directors expressed deep gratitude to Prof. Ganie for organizing the conclave and acknowledged his proactive leadership. They assured



dream of being a model institution is still alive,” he said.

Former Director Prof. Abdul Hameed Zargar, a renowned endocrinologist, pointed to the pressing need for staff recruitment and infrastructure upgrades. “Patient load is rising, and deficiencies must be addressed urgently. Full utilization of available budgets is essential,” he urged.

Prof. Showkat Ali Zargar, former Director and a leading gastroenterologist, called for SKIMS to be expanded into a full-fledged Medical University, as was initially envisioned. “Dr. Ganie must take this forward. SKIMS should become a mentoring hub for medical colleges across J&K, supporting capacity building and strengthening peripheral healthcare,” he said.

Dr. A.G. Ahangar, former Director and veteran cardiothoracic surgeon who led SKIMS during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighted the need for greater autonomy. “SKIMS must be academically, financially, and administratively autonomous to truly compete with institutions of global eminence,” he noted.

Renowned clinician Dr. Omar Javid Shah, known for the surgical innovation “Omar’s Technique,” said SKIMS already has the foundation and manpower to become globally relevant. “The skill and dedication of our faculty must be fully harnessed. Every staff member

him of their continued support in realizing the vision of a globally competitive SKIMS. A consensus emerged on creating a detailed roadmap for the institute’s advancement in its founding objectives of clinical excellence, academic leadership, and research innovation.

Prof. Ganie, responding to the inputs, assured the gathering of his full commitment. “We are already moving on timelines for faculty recruitment, procurement, and infrastructure expansion. The government has been fully cooperative. We plan to involve SKIMS alumni in academic programs and introduce awards, orations, and emeritus professorships,” he said.

The roundtable discussion concluded with a series of speeches by the former directors at the SKIMS Auditorium. The event was organized by Prof. Ashraf Bhat (HOD Nephrology), Dr. Mushtaq Dangroo (Rheumatology), and Dr. G.H. Yatoo (HOD Hospital Administration), and attended by faculty, students, residents, and staff.

Prof. Shariq Masoodi, Dean Medical Faculty and a noted endocrinologist, delivered the vote of thanks. “The presence and suggestions of our former directors will shape our future administrative and academic policies. Their wisdom is invaluable,” he said, acknowledging the efforts of all participants in making the event a grand success.



Kashmer

Aspire. Strive. Achieve

OBSESSIVE

COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY



I did wash my hand ... but....

did I clean it enough?

?Wash it again?

is it clean now?



It's not just

RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING

BUT

UNSEEN PAIN

distress

myths and stigma

associated with OCD



KASHMIR Kashmir American Society of Healthcare.

Medical Education & Research

In collaboration with

HPVT Help Poor Voluntary Trust

is initiating a free 8 weeks Group therapy for the individuals

suffering with OCD by

a team of counselling clinical psychologists led by leading

consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.



If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial.

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

There is no need for referral , simply call us for registration.





Happy & Healthy minds Office, HPVT Building (First Floor), Daresh Kadal Chowk, Srinagar



9070806160



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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUBHERA: 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

02 Zil-Hajj

1446

PRAYERS

FAJR

3: 40

ZUHR

12:28

ASR

5: 26

Magrib

7:39

ISHA

9: 17

This Day In History

- 1591- Spanish troops in Zutphen surrender to Dutch and English forces under Maurice of Nassau
- 1626- An explosion at the Wanggongchang Gunpowder Factory in Beijing destroys part of the city and kills 20,000 people
- 1631- The Treaty of Fontainebleau signed between Maximilian I, Elector of Bavaria, and the Kingdom of France, establishing a secret alliance between them during the Thirty Years' War.
- 1635- The Peace of Prague signed between the Habsburg Emperor Ferdinand II and the Electorate of Saxony (representing Protestant states of the Holy Roman Empire). It effectively ended the civil war aspect of the Thirty Years' War
- 1646 -Spain & Netherlands sign temporary cease fire
- 1783- Benjamin Tower of Philadelphia publishes 1st daily newspaper in US
- 1808- Napoleon Bonaparte annexes Tuscany and gives it seats in the French Senate
- 1814- Napoleonic Wars: War of the Sixth Coalition - the Treaty of Paris (1814) is signed returning French borders to their 1792 extent.
- 1822- George Wilson and Joe LaRoche betray a planned slave revolt organized by Denmark Vesey in Charleston, South Carolina, confirming an earlier warning from Peter Prioleau. 35 Black people are later hanged. (date is approximate)
- 1842- John Francis attempts to assassinate Queen Victoria
- 1848- Second Battle at Giotto: Sardinia-Piemonte beats Austrians
- 1848- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo between US and Mexico comes into force, giving California Nevada, Utah and most of Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona to the US in return for \$15 million
- 1862- Battle of Booneville MS - captured Gen Beauregard evacuates Corinth
- 1864- Battle of Bethesda Church [Totopotomoy Creek], cavalry battle fought in Hanover County, Virginia, inconclusive result (US Civil War)
- 1876- Ottoman sultan Abd-ul-Aziz is deposed and succeeded by his nephew Murat V.
- 1896- First car accident occurs; Henry Wells hits a cyclist in NYC
- 1902- Spanish King Alfonso XII, who was elected as a constitutional monarch, suspends the Cortes, Spain's parliament
- 1904- The Japanese Army capture the City of Dairen after landing troops along the south coast of Manchuria
- 1913- Treaty of London signed by the Great Powers, the Ottoman Empire and the victorious Balkan League (Serbia, Greece, Kingdom of Bulgaria, and Montenegro) bringing an end to the First Balkan War
- 1914- The new and then largest Cunard ocean liner RMS Aquitania, 45,647 tons, sets sails on her maiden voyage from Liverpool, England to New York City.
- 1921- Salzburg, Austria, votes to join Germany
- 1933- Patent on invisible glass installation
- 1941- British Army enters Baghdad, chasing pro-German coup government
- 1943- French General Charles De Gaulle arrives in Algiers
- 1943- US troops reconquer Attu Aleutians
- 1946- United flight 521 crashes on takeoff at LaGuardia Airport (NY) 42 die
- 1949- East German constitution approved
- 1959 - Iraq terminates milit assistance pact with US due to neutrality
- 1959 - World's 1st hovercraft (SR-N1) tested at Cowes, England
- 1966 - US launches Surveyor 1 to Moon
- 1967 - Biafra declares independence from Nigeria
- 1967 - King Hussein of Jordan visits Cairo
- 1971 - US Mariner 9 1st satellite to orbit Mars launched
- 1982 - Spain becomes 16th member of NATO
- 1990 - 135 die in a (6.4) earthquake in Peru
- 1990 - Earthquake hit Peru, killing 135
- 1992 - UN votes for sanctions against Serb-led Yugoslavia to halt fighting

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

UN Sounds
Climate Alarm

The UN’s latest warning that there is now a 70 per- cent chance the planet’s average temperature from 2025 to 2029 will breach the 1.5°C threshold marks a turn for worse in climate change. The figure, drawn from the World Meteorological Organiza- tion’s annual report, is more than a data point. It shows that the world’s efforts to address climate change still fall way short and an urgent action is needed if we are to avert the catastrophe ahead.

The 1.5°C threshold, set in the 2015 Paris Agreement as an ambitious upper limit to avoid climate consequenc- es, now seems increasingly unattainable. Last two years have already been confirmed as the hottest on record. Now with an additional fraction of a degree, the world is likely to see more heatwaves, floods, droughts, wildfires and glacial melt.

In Kashmir, we have also been experiencing erratic turns in weather over the past few years. The Valley has experienced unseasonal heat spells, erratic snowfall, re- ceding glaciers, and floods that no longer feel like once- in-a-generation events. From rice fields to apple orchards, agriculture, the backbone of our economy, has suffered the whiplash of changing seasons. The once-dependable rhythm of spring rains and winter snow has faltered. We have written earlier about how the Kolahoi and Thaji- was glaciers, lifelines for the region, are shrinking at an alarming rate. These glaciers feed the Jhelum, our central river, and their rapid retreat threatens not just water availability but the very foundation of life in the Valley.

More worrying is the steady decline in precipitation. Beginning with last winter, Kashmir has seen noticeably less snowfall and rain. Over the past 28 years, nine win- ters in the Valley have gone by with little or no snow, and three of those were in just the last decade. This shifting pattern has left many in the region concerned, with signs of change becoming too frequent, and too stark, to ignore.

The WMO now estimates an 80 percent chance that at least one year between 2025 and 2029 will surpass 2024 as the hottest ever, and a newly emerging, though still slim, possibility of crossing the 2°C mark. In Kashmir, that could translate to not just harsher summers, but the per- manent erosion of winter with snow becoming an unreli- able guest and water shortages becoming the norm.

It’s time for governments, industries, and local com- munities to treat this crisis with the urgency it demands. Climate adaptation must shape every policy. The UN report isn’t fate. It’s a warning and we’re running out of time.

FINANCIAL FIX

Kashmiri Labourer's
Math of Survival

In the Valley, where daily wages barely cover food, one man faced the impossible cost of his wife’s surgery.

Irshad Mushtaq

In a narrow home on the edge of Srinagar, a Kashmiri la- bourer sat with his head in his hands. His wife needed sur- gery. The hospital handed him a bill for 47,000. He earns 700 a day, if he finds work. Some days, he doesn’t.

The doctors at the government hospital said the surgery was necessary. But it wasn’t urgent enough to happen quick- ly. So he went to a private hospital. There, the cost ballooned. 10,000 for a basic procedure. 37,000 for tests and operation the- atre charges.

He earns 17,500 in a good month. After paying for trans- port, food, and clothes, he’s left with almost nothing. Multiply that over ten working months, and his yearly income hovers around 1.45 lakh. How do you take out a third of that for one hospital visit?

He didn’t know what to do. He thought about loans. About skipping meals. He hoped the pain would pass on its own.

This is not just his story. It’s the story of thousands. In Kashmir, falling sick is more than a health crisis. It’s a finan- cial blow. There’s no cushion. No savings. No insurance. Just the weight of a bill and a family that needs you strong.

When your income barely gets you through the month, even a small surgery feels like a mountain. Without help from other family members, survival becomes a daily calculation.

His wife did get the surgery in the end. But they’re still pay- ing for it — in rupees, in stress, and in skipped meals.

Healthcare isn’t supposed to feel like a punishment. But for Kashmir’s working poor, it often does.

Writer is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Who Failed Numan?

A child died trying to meet his school’s standards. We should be asking what kind of standards those were.

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Numan Farooq Sofi was just 14. He lived in Srinagar, went to school, and had tattoos. Now, he’s gone. The cause of death, the officials said, was suicide. But if that’s all we see, we’re missing the truth.

He lived with his deaf father and older siblings. His mother was no longer around. He studied at Kash- mir Harvard Educational Institute, one of the prominent private schools in the city.

From the outside, it seemed like he was making it. But inside, Nu- man was under fire for something most teenagers shrug off as rebel- lion: tattoos.

According to his sister Me- hwish, Numan went through four painful sessions to get them re- moved. Four. The ink faded. The shame didn’t.

The school authorities, she said, wouldn’t let it go. They kept check- ing. They kept asking. They even opened his shirt to look. In a class- room, surrounded by peers.

What kind of message does that send to a 14-year-old trying to fit in?

What happened to Numan is not rare in emotion, only in outcome. Kids feel judged all the time. But not every child has the same re- serves of strength. Not every child survives it.

And what did the watchdogs do? Mostly, they looked away. For re- asons they haven’t explained. Maybe they feared backlash. Maybe they thought it wasn’t news. But when a child dies, silence should never be the answer.

Let’s not pretend this is about tattoos. It’s about how we treat our

children when they don’t fit into the neat boxes we’ve created. It’s about control disguised as disci- pline. It’s about shame passed off as moral correction.

And it’s about power.

Who gave school authorities the right to examine a child’s body? Who decided that what’s under a shirt matters more than what’s in a mind? Did anyone stop to ask if Nu- man was okay?

In Kashmir, tattooing isn’t just a fashion issue. It carries religious weight. Some Islamic scholars here

Let’s not pretend this is about tattoos. It’s about how we treat our children when they don’t fit into the neat boxes we’ve created. It’s about control disguised as discipline. It’s about shame passed off as moral correction.

have declared tattoos forbidden. They believe they block purifica- tion rituals, distort God’s creation. Others disagree. They say the ink lies under the skin, that unless the image is vulgar, it’s not a sin.

Even if tattoos are frowned upon, was this the way to address it? Do you punish a teenager for a decision likely made out of curios- ity, or maybe peer pressure? Do you strip him of dignity in front of class- mates? Do you call that guidance?

What happened to Numan feels less like a disciplinary issue and more like social suffocation. If a child dies because of persistent hu- miliation, isn’t that a form of vio- lence too?

We forget that today’s children live in a very different world than we did. Social media pours into their lives without a filter. They are

how they look. Someone who knows the difference between correction and condemnation.

Religious and moral teachings matter. But so does kindness. So does mental health. We’ve gotten so caught up in appearances—how kids dress, what music they listen to, what’s inked on their skin—that we’re ignoring what really matters: how they’re doing inside.

There’s a deeper failure here. Our schools were meant to be safe spaces. But more and more, they re- semble courts—where students are judged instead of supported. Teach- ers wield shame instead of empathy. Administrators enforce obedience without questions. Is this educa- tion? Or is this just control with a new name?

This isn’t just a school issue. It’s

a societal issue. When a child kills himself over a tattoo, it’s not the ink that failed. It’s us.

Tomorrow, it might not be tat- toos. It might be a student caught with a vape. Or one who skips a prayer. Or one who wears jeans that are too tight. Will we keep pushing until they break too?

We say Kashmir is a land of moderation, of beauty and balance. But where is that balance now? If we don’t let children make mistakes, how will they learn? If we don’t cre- ate room for differences, how will they grow?

What we owe our children is not

perfection. We owe them patience. Understanding. A chance to figure themselves out.

Numan didn’t get that chance.

And until we reckon with that, until we look hard at what happened and why, until schools become places of compassion, not surveillance, we risk losing more than just one child.

We risk losing the very soul of

what it means to raise someone well.

Let’s not wait for another obitu- ary to start the conversation. Let’s start it now.

Syed Mohammad Burhan serves as a Special Correspondent at Kashmir Observer, where he reports on politics, society, and human-interest stories.

Where Did Morality Go?

In homes, schools, and on screens, Kashmir’s moral compass is spinning. The reasons are many, but the path back starts with small steps, close to home.

It’s not something we talk about much, but most people feel it. Something has shifted in the way we live together in Kashmir.

The warmth in relationships, the sense of right and wrong, the basic manners that once made us who we are—they feel like they’re slipping.

Morality isn’t some grand theo- ry. It’s the simple stuff. Telling the truth. Helping without being asked. Respecting others. These values guided how elders raised children and how neighbours treated each other. Today, many of us are worried they’re fading fast. What changed?

One reason is parenting. Fami- lies are more stressed than ever. Parents are juggling jobs, finances, and social pressures. In the rush, they often have less time to listen to their children or teach them values.

Children grow up watching, not just hearing. When parents don’t model patience or honesty, kids pick up other cues, from screens, from peers, or from no one at all.

Schools, too, have become plac- es of pressure. Marks matter more

than morals. Teachers are buried in syllabus deadlines. There’s barely time to talk about right and wrong, let alone show how to live it. In the past, a teacher’s words shaped gen- erations. Now, moral lessons are of- ten left out.

And then there’s the phone in every hand.

Social media gives us endless content: some good, much of it not. Short videos full of shouting, show- ing off, or cruelty get the most at- tention. What do young people learn when that’s what they watch all day? It shapes how they talk, behave, and even how they see themselves.

Add to that a kind of over-pam- pering. Some parents give too much and expect too little. They fear upset- ting their children, so they avoid set- ting rules.

But children need limits. With- out them, they don’t learn respon- sibility. They grow up thinking the world owes them something.

All this adds up. We see more ag- gression, less empathy. More selfish- ness, less care. Families break down. Communities feel scattered. People

feel lonelier. And in that emptiness, stress and anxiety take hold. But the picture isn’t all dark.

Change starts small. A parent putting away the phone and talk- ing with child. A teacher taking five minutes to discuss honesty, even during a packed school day. A friend reminding another not to share hateful content online. These things may seem minor. They’re not.

We need more community spaces where people of all ages can come together. Not just for wed- dings or funerals, but to learn, talk, and share values.

We need to stop treating moral- ity like an old idea. It’s what keeps our homes safe, our friendships strong, our streets kinder.

Kashmir has always had strength in its people. Let’s not lose the soul that binds us. The change begins not with systems, but with us.

The writer is a 6th semester stu- dent, majoring in Islamic Studies, at GDC Ganderbal. She can be reached at nus Rathassan2004@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

Fix Online Fundraising: An Open Letter to J&K Chief Minister

Dear Mr. Omar Abdullah,

More and more people in Kashmir have started asking for money on- line. Sometimes it’s for a surgery, sometimes after a tragedy, and sometimes in the name of activ- ism or protest.

We see posters on Instagram, sto- ries shared on WhatsApp, reels made to pull at our hearts.

And often, we send the money. Because how can you not?

But here’s the problem: we don’t know where it ends up.

A lot of this money goes straight

into someone’s personal bank ac- count. There’s no paper trail. No web- site. No accountability.

Many of the fundraisers don’t even tell us who they really are. They could be influencers, self- styled journalists, or just people with enough followers.

And most of them aren’t regis- tered under any official group or charity. That’s where the danger lies.

When there’s no system, people start guessing. And when people guess, they start to doubt. First the fundraisers, then the causes, and eventually the institutions meant to protect them.

That’s how trust breaks. That’s

how good intentions turn into grey areas, and then into something much darker.

We need rules. Not to punish people trying to help, but to protect the ones giving, and the ones who truly need it.

Why not require that all public fundraisers use official, audited ac- counts? Why not ask them to list their details on a government-run website — who they are, what they’re collect- ing for, how much they’ve received, and where it went?

Why not bring them under the Right to Information Act so they an- swer to the public they ask money from?

The state could set up local teams in every district to keep watch. And give people a place to report suspicious activity. It wouldn’t take much. Just some basic checks. And a will to act before this becomes a full-blown crisis.

Kashmir has always worked on trust. But trust needs maintenance. It can’t survive on silence.

This is a chance to fix something before it breaks completely.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ajaz Afzal Lone
Assistant Professor
Chandigarh University

Valley's Invisible Watchmen

For over a century, lumberdars and chowkidars have served as the state’s local eyes and ears. But as Kashmir’s population exploded, these village gatekeepers stayed frozen in time—without tools, training, or support. Now, many are ghosts on paper.

Mohammad Amin Mir

In a busy alley of Anantnag’s Lal Chowk, a shopkeeper folded his arms and squinted under the soft flicker of a streetlight. “There is a chowkidar here,” he said, “at least on paper. But if you ask me who he is—I couldn’t tell you.”

Around him, traffic hummed, lights blinked from rooftop cameras, and neighbours passed without a second glance. “We’ve learned to watch over ourselves.”

That’s not how it was supposed to work.

For over a century, Kashmir’s local administration has leaned on two posts that once served as the backbone of rural and semi-urban order—the lumberdar and the chowkidar.

Part colonial creation, part social role, they were village-level insiders meant to serve as go-betweeners for the people and the state.

One kept records, resolved disputes, and helped with land and revenue matters. The other kept

vigil, kept peace, and kept watch. But the world changed, and they didn’t.

Back when the British set up the system, the math made sense: one lumberdar or chowkidar for every 100 families in a village. In some towns, it stretched to 150.

Today, that ratio is a distant memory. The population of Jammu and Kashmir has grown more than five times since 1947. In areas like Baramulla and Pulwama, what were once sleepy settlements are now semi-cities.

Yet the number of lumberdars and chowkidars remains mostly unchanged.

“They’ve become invisible,” said a senior revenue officer in South Kashmir, who asked not to be named. “You can’t expect one man to cover a whole ward of 3,000 households. It’s not just unfair. It’s pointless.”

In the villages around Qazigund and Dooru, some lumberdars still show up when the administration needs them. They come for land

disputes, welfare verifications, or the occasional boundary demarcation. But they are often unsure of what to do.

“I don’t keep registers anymore,” said Abdul Rashid, a 62-year-old lumberdar from a village outside Dooru. “Everything is online now, and no one trained us how to access it.”

He smiled weakly, shrugging. “We still get calls from the tehsildar. But mostly, we feel like furniture.”

These roles were always low on the ladder: appointed, often hereditary, and paid small stipends that haven’t kept up with inflation.

Most lumberdars and chowkidars now receive under ₹1,500 a month. Their powers aren’t backed by strong laws but by tradition.

That’s fine when the system works. But in Kashmir, it increasingly doesn’t.

The Lambardari Act and Chowkidari Rules that govern their roles haven’t been meaningfully revised in decades. There’s no clause that

says how their numbers should grow with the population. No rule-book for reviewing their work. No system of feedback from the people they’re supposed to serve.

So they drift.

In some places, police stations now act without them. In others, municipal staff take on land disputes themselves. And in the worst cases—when families fight over boundaries, or encroachments happen overnight—there’s no one watching at all.

“It’s not that the idea is useless,” said a retired district commissioner from Pulwama. “We still need people who live in the area, who know every alley, every dispute, every family. But the way it’s structured now, it’s not workable.”

Other places have figured this out. In Nepal, elected ward chairs take on similar responsibilities, with proper office support. Bangladesh has shifted toward community policing, with local volunteers under trained supervision. Even parts of Rajasthan have folded

chowkidars into the police’s community beat system.

In Kashmir, by contrast, change has stalled.

“It’s not that we don’t know what to do,” said the senior revenue officer. “We’ve had three departmental reports since 2010 suggesting reform. Nothing moved.”

Ask villagers and townsfolk, and the frustration is clear. “They used to help with land records, property disputes, birth registrations,” said Shazia Bano, a schoolteacher in Baramulla. “Now if I have a problem, I go to the Internet or the SHO. I don’t even know who the lumberdar is.”

Some ideas are already on the table. Increase the number of lumberdars and chowkidars, especially in urban areas. Give them proper training. Not just on land laws and revenue codes, but on digital tools and public service. Introduce performance reviews. Create clear terms for appointment and removal. Give them tools like reporting apps, and es-

tablish dashboards for higher officials to track activity.

“Give us work, give us tools, and we’ll deliver,” said one 45-year-old chowkidar in Kulgam, who didn’t want to be named. “But right now, we are set up to fail.”

It’s easy to write off the system as outdated. But as some officers argue, starting from scratch isn’t necessary. “These are still people who know their communities better than any officer from outside,” said the retired commissioner. “They just need help catching up with the times.”

The question is whether anyone will act.

Because when a man with no training, no authority, no records, and no backup is expected to handle the safety and disputes of 3,000 people—what can he really do?

Not much. And the people know it.

Author is a legal and policy columnist focusing on grassroots governance and land issues in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Last Words of a Culture

Kishtwari, Bhaderwahi, Sarazi—these mother tongues once filled the homes of Jammu and Kashmir. Today, they’re slipping away, silenced by stigma and shame.

Ayaan Saroori

In a sleepy village tucked deep in the Chenab Valley, 64-year-old Naseem Begum used to sing lullabies in Sarazi to put her grandchildren to sleep. She still hums the tunes, but these days, the children don’t know the words.

“I ask them to repeat after me,” she said, her voice trailing off. “They giggle and switch to Hindi.”

It’s not just a family shift. It’s a slow, steady unraveling of a region’s cultural fabric.

In Jammu and Kashmir, mother tongues like Sarazi, Bhaderwahi, and Kishtwari are vanishing from daily life. What used to be spoken freely in markets, kitchens, and schoolyards is now slipping into silence.

At the center of this crisis is a difficult question: What happens to a people when they stop speaking the language of their ancestors?

Across India, the loss of native languages has triggered growing concern. But in the hilly terrains and towns of Jammu and Kashmir, the decline feels sharper.

The state’s official languages—Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri—still hold some ground. But the lesser-known dialects? They’re hanging on by threads.

Burhan Ahmed Mir, a young teacher from Kishtwar, has been sounding the alarm for years. He runs a local reading group and says they struggle to find printed material in Kishtwari.

“How will a child learn to love their language if they can’t read it anywhere?” he asked. “Even the textbooks don’t mention us.”

Burhan believes real change must begin in schools, with children taught in their mother tongues from the start. But he knows that’s



a long shot. “We don’t even have dictionaries, let alone courses,” he said. “This isn’t just about language—it’s about being seen.”

The fight to save these dialects has found some champions. The Chenab Times Foundation, a local nonprofit, has been publishing short stories, poems, and translations in regional languages. They’ve created digital archives and organized language festivals, often running on shoestring budgets and volunteer energy.

Still, the forces working against them are strong. Seventeen-year-old Arif, a student from Srinagar, said he avoids speaking Kashmiri

in public. “People laugh if I get the accent wrong,” he said. “If you mix it up with Urdu, they say you’re ‘backward.’”

That word—backward—came up more than once in conversations. Many young people said their parents actively discouraged them from

speaking regional dialects at home. Kashmiri, for instance, is often replaced by Urdu for formality or by English for ambition.

“Urdu is for school,” Arif explained. “English is for success. Kashmiri is... well, what is it even for anymore?”

It’s a painful disconnect. Language is more than a tool. It’s memory, rhythm, belonging. Losing it isn’t just about vocabulary. It’s about forgetting how to say who you are.

Dr. Saba Zargar, a linguist at the University of Jammu, said many of these dialects haven’t even been properly

researched on them,” she said.

“There’s almost no formal research on them,” she said.

“There’s almost no formal research on them,” she said.

“There’s almost no formal research on them,” she said.

“If a dialect dies without documentation, it’s like a library burning down.”

And yet, she added, the revival doesn’t need to start with institutions. “It can start with grandmothers,” she smiled. “With songs, bedtime stories, even gossip in the kitchen.”

But even nostalgia has limits. Without state support—curriculum reforms, teacher training, radio and television programs in mother tongues—the efforts will remain scattered.

Parents are the first line of defense. In households where native languages are spoken with pride, children grow up valuing them. But too often, the opposite happens. A well-meaning mother switches to Hindi because she believes it’ll help her son get ahead. A father uses English at dinner to impress guests. And so, little by little, the mother tongue is left behind.

The words don’t vanish overnight. They fade. One generation stumbles, the next forgets, and soon, nobody remembers.

In Kishtwar, Burhan still speaks Kishtwari with his mother. “She corrects me sometimes,” he said, laughing. “She says I talk like a city boy now.” He paused. “I don’t want to be the last one to speak this way.”

The warning signs are clear. The question is whether anyone’s listening.

Ayaan Saroori writes on culture and society.

For the Sensitive Ones

In homes and hostels across Kashmir, young women are breaking under the weight of being too “nice.”

Aisha Hasnain

Even though Rifat is pregnant with her first child, her mother-in-law doesn’t save milk for her.

She’s made to do most of the housework. Rifat tells me she’s too scared to take two chapatis to the office. “By the time I reach work, my stomach feels like it’s coming apart from hunger.”

She makes chapatis for the entire family before leaving. There are other challenges in her marriage too, and she’s under constant stress.

“You tell me what I should do,” she says to me with teary eyes. She knows I’ve learned things the hard way.

“What are you scared of?” I ask her.

“You’re the one making the bread, and you’re scared of saving two for yourself? Does that make any sense?” I press her gently. “Just take two from tomorrow. What’s the worst that could happen? She’ll call you an ‘evil’ daughter-in-law? That’s been the narrative for ages. Be selfish.”

Selfish is my recent word. My friends don’t like that I’ve started calling myself that lately. But there’s a personal agenda behind this shift.

Seema is a teenager. Her mother separated from her husband and moved back with her children to her parental home. It’s been a while now, and Seema misses her father. But her mother doesn’t let her meet him. Neither does her grandmother nor her uncle.

I asked Seema to describe her father. “The best you could ask for,” she told me.

I asked if her uncle could take his place. “Not a bit. He’s toxic,” she replied.

That was all I needed to hear. I

told her no power in the world could stop her from meeting her father. She confronted her mother and arranged to meet her father at the hostel.

“You have a guest coming, I hear,” her grandmother remarked.

“It’s not a guest. It’s my father,” Seema corrected her.

I know Rifat, Seema, and Aisha (and a few others like them) personally. And I know they’re practicing unnecessary patience with people.

These young women aren’t kind or tolerant, they’re scared. They need to recognize that. They’re afraid of being seen as the antagonist in someone else’s story.

Unnecessary patience is rooted in people-pleasing, in the fear of those disapproving glances when you’re seen as “difficult.” That fear stops you from saying no.

Over time, this turns into a belief that you’re being a “responsible” person by complying with everything others ask of you. You try to keep everyone happy, which only makes them love you more for the wrong reasons, and the cycle continues.

Soon, others become your priority, while your own self fades into the background. You simply don’t have time for yourself. The price you pay is your individualism.

Humans crave attention, ease, and space. If someone is offering these things for free, can you blame them for taking it? No. It’s your fault for presenting yourself as someone who’s always available.

If you are God with infinite resources and energy, then it is your duty to solve everyone’s problems. But if you’re human, you need to think again. What will you do with a heart bigger than your resources or understanding?

If you don’t learn to balance your emotional instincts, you’re bound to waste your potential. That’s a tragedy. You’ll become bitter, and that bitterness will turn inward. You won’t like the person you become. You won’t grow. You won’t be a reliable partner, a responsible parent, or a productive member of society in the way you could have been.

It’s all counterintuitive, really. Say your ungrateful neighbour needs help lifting a heavy bucket, and you’ve got some energy to spare, go ahead and help. But if you’ve got two heavy buckets waiting at home and no third hand from that same neighbour, save your strength. Be practical. Besides, it might teach them a life lesson.

Reciprocity matters. You can do some things without expecting anything in return but one day, you’ll need help too.

Go out of your way to help when it’s urgent or truly deserved. Beyond that, invest your emotions in the right people. You’re not emotionally invincible. One day you’ll need your friends to show up for you. Make sure you have those kinds of friends. And never let love blind you. Self-respect is non-negotiable.

Of course, serve your community but know your department. Maybe this weekend, you can volunteer at a local school and teach a class, offering skills and knowledge unique to you. Maybe today you can visit an orphanage and offer support.

But always sit with yourself first. Check in. See if you’re okay. As they say: an empty cup cannot pour into another.

The author writes under the pen name Aisha Hasnain and can be reached at aishahasnainos@gmail.com.

The Goodbye That Made a School Cry

A powerful moment in a remote school reveals how three teachers touched lives in ways classrooms rarely do.

Dr Mushtaq Rather

Still remember that day at Higher Secondary School Salia in Anantnag. The students stood silently at first. Then one by one, their eyes welled up. Some were trying to hold back tears. Others couldn’t.

It wasn’t a farewell party or a results day. It was a routine transfer of lecturers—something we in the education department are quite used to.

But what I witnessed that day wasn’t routine at all.

Students were crying—openly, emotionally—for their teacher, Basharat Hussain. In a time when the bond between students and teachers often feels like a faded relic, this felt extraordinary.

And it made me reflect: what makes a teacher unforgettable? What kind of teach-

er moves a generation?

I’ve spent years as an educator in Mattan, Anantnag. Over time, I’ve watched our roles evolve.

Gone are the days when teaching meant standing at the blackboard, talking while students silently copied. Today, we wear many hats—mentor, guide, sometimes even a parent. We deal with not just content, but emotions, dreams, doubts.

And we’re expected to keep up with a world that moves faster than ever before.

Take Basharat Hussain. He’s not just a physics lecturer, he’s an IIT graduate who chose to return to Jammu and Kashmir and teach in a government school.

What’s remarkable is not just his qualifications, but how he used them. Despite teaching medical stream stu-

dents, he managed to win over those from the humanities too. He made physics feel alive. More than that, he made students stay.

In Kashmir, it’s common for senior secondary students to skip school and head straight to coaching centres. But Basharat reversed that trend. His classes were packed.

Students came back to the school classroom, and they stayed. One student from a remote tribal village even scored 97% in the medical stream without attending a single private tuition. That’s not just an academic success, it’s a shift in mindset.

What did he do differently? He made learning real. He didn’t stick to the textbook. He brought in examples that students could touch and feel. He asked questions that didn’t

always have right answers. He gave students the space to speak, and listened when they did.

He wasn’t alone in this effort. Nadeem Salam, who teaches botany at the same school, worked politely but powerfully. His calm presence, his regular use of digital tools, and his dedication to fieldwork turned the subject from dry theory to living knowledge.

His students didn’t just memorize plant parts, they saw them, touched them, studied them in real time. Learning became a shared experience, not a solitary task.

Then there’s Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, the English lecturer. His classes were legendary: crowded, buzzing with energy.

He knew how to hold a room. More importantly, he

knew how to turn even the quietest student into a speaker. His methods weren’t flashy. But they were grounded. He encouraged collaboration, allowed debate, and brought stories alive. Students didn’t just learn English, they found their voice.

These teachers didn’t follow a manual. They didn’t rely on the same old chalk-and-talk. They experimented. They failed. They tried again. They reflected on what worked. They asked themselves hard questions: Did my students really learn today? Could I have done better? Did I listen enough?

That self-reflection, that quiet questioning, is the sign of a real educator.

Modern education throws up new challenges every day. We’re told we must teach 21st-century skills—critical

thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication. But how do we do that in overcrowded classrooms, with patchy infrastructure and tight schedules?

The answer, I believe, lies in attitude. We can’t fear change. We can’t wait for perfect conditions. We have to meet students where they are. We must use technology, yes, but not just for show. We must mix the old and the new. Teach with chalk, but also with code. Use AI if it helps. Step outside the classroom. Let students build knowledge, not just receive it.

The New Education Policy (NEP 2020) and National Curricular Framework for School Education 2023 talk about this shift, from behaviorist to constructivist models of teaching. It means treating students

not as empty vessels, but as co-creators of knowledge. It means listening more than speaking. Creating more than assigning.

It’s a tough job. I won’t pretend otherwise. We juggle syllabi, pressure from parents, administrative work, and our own personal lives. But I’ve seen firsthand how much difference one teacher can make. Not by being perfect, but by being present.

When I walked through HSS Salia on that transfer day, I saw not just emotion, I saw legacy. I saw students crying because they knew they were losing not just a teacher, but a guide, a mentor, someone who saw them not as roll numbers but as individuals.

Author is an Educator from Mattan, Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir

CUK holds workshop on ‘Vedic Mathematics’

Ganderbal, May 29: Department of Mathematics, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences, Central University of Kashmir (CUK), today conducted a National Level online workshop on “Vedic Mathematics: Unlocking the Power of Ancient Indian Maths”.

The workshop received an overwhelming response with about 700 registrations from across the country, representing around 300 academic and research institutions. The participants included 211 Assistant

Professors, 24 Professors, 42 Associate Professors, and 50 Research Scholars, with the remaining attendees comprising teachers and UG/PG students from diverse institutions.

In his keynote address, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A. Ravinder Nath highlighted the contributions of ancient Indian mathematicians and drew attention to the role of mathematics in Indian defence systems, particularly in missile interception technologies. He encouraged the department to expand its

offerings and conduct more such events to maximize outreach and impact.

Dean, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences, Prof. M Yousuf was also present.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr. Haribhau R. Bhapkar, HoD, Mathematics and workshop Convener, emphasized the vision of “rootedness in India” and the importance of nurturing pride in India's cultural and intellectual heritage. He underlined the integration of traditional knowledge systems

with modern education in accordance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and showcased the department's efforts in organizing events such as workshops on Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation Boot Camps to cultivate holistic and multidisciplinary growth.

The first expert lecture titled “Development of Mathematics in India from Ancient Time” was delivered by Prof. S. A. Katre, former Professor, SPPU, Pune.

Program on Landslides in Kashmir Himalaya – Fundamentals held at IUST

Awantipora, May 29: The Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR) at the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised a program on the pressing issue of landslides in the Kashmir Himalaya. The event aimed to bolster disaster preparedness and risk reduction awareness among students and faculty, aligning with the Centre's commitment to fostering a culture of safety and resilience. The key expert of the program

was Mr. Abdul Qayoom Paul, Director, Geological Survey of India (GSI), Kashmir, who provided in-depth insights into the triggers, impacts, and mitigation strategies related to landslides, which are increasingly affecting the fragile Himalayan ecosystem. This academic gathering served as a platform for knowledge-sharing and dialogue on disaster risk reduction (DRR), enhancing the capabilities of future professionals and

academics in managing and mitigating geohazards. Dr. Aabid Hussain Shalla, Dean, School of Sciences, while speaking on the occasion, emphasized the importance of scientific understanding in addressing natural hazards. “Equipping our students with scientific knowledge and practical tools to tackle geohazards like landslides is vital for building resilient communities in the Himalayan region,” he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Heatwaves Set To Intensify

“As per the IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report, both maximum and minimum temperatures are rising globally on an average scale, and Jammu and Kashmir is no exception. Over the past decade, we have already witnessed a rise in the frequency and intensity of heatwaves across both Kashmir and Jammu regions.”

He added that while year-to-year fluctuations are natural, the bigger picture points toward a future where extreme heat events will become increasingly common.

Danger During Monsoons Too

Scientists are also raising concerns that heat waves could now extend into monsoon months, compounding risks.

“This is especially worrying because it’ll be hot and humid, with temperatures over 40 degrees Celsius. The body's ability to cool down is severely compromised in such conditions,” Rao added.

IPCC’s sixth assessment report and other recent studies have already warned that South Asia is becoming a global hotspot for extreme heat, even during months that used to bring respite.

Glaciers and Water Security at Risk

The impact isn't limited to rising temperatures. Farooq Azam, a senior glaciologist at ICIMOD, warned that early and intense heat waves are accelerating glacier melt, which could disrupt water flows across Himalayan-fed river systems.

“Currently, we’re seeing more water because of increased melting, but this won't last forever,” Azam said. “There is a threshold known as peak water, after which rivers fed by glaciers will start receiving less water.”

Some projections suggest peak water could occur by 2050 in river systems like the Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra. Some scientists argue the Brahmaputra may already have crossed this threshold.

Kashmir, heavily reliant on glacier-fed streams for agriculture and electricity, could be among the regions most affected. The Jhelum River, which runs through Srinagar, is already showing signs of erratic flow during pre-summer months.

Azam pointed to 2022, when early heat waves in March triggered premature glacier melting. “It led to high river flows at a time when water wasn't needed — and combined with early monsoon rains, it played a key role in the catastrophic floods in Pakistan that year.”

Valley Vulnerability

While heat waves continue to make headlines in central and western India, experts say the fact that Kashmir is now breaking decades-old temperature records should serve as a wake-up call.

“There’s a misconception that Himalayan regions are safe from heatwaves. But what’s happening in Srinagar this May tells a different story,” said a local meteorologist. “If these trends continue, summers in the valley could become increasingly hostile, especially for the elderly and children.”

Rains Lash Kashmir;

its adjoining areas received intermittent rainfall on Thursday, while north Kashmir witnessed intense hail activity, particularly damaging orchards and crops in vulnerable pockets.

Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the Meteorological Department, said the union territory will likely experience spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers at most places over the next two days. “Heavy rainfall, intense showers, and gusty winds may occur at a few locations,” he added.

From June 1 to 3, the weather is expected to stay mostly dry, though isolated places may witness brief rain or thundershowers. “Generally dry conditions are expected between June 4 and 6, with isolated afternoon showers,” he said.

Issuing a weather advisory, the MeT warned of moderate to heavy rainfall, thunder, and gusty winds at scattered places on May 30 and 31. The advisory also cautioned about the possibility of landslides, mudslides, and flash floods in some vulnerable areas. People have been advised to stay away from electric poles, loose structures, and trees during intense weather activity.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng also predicted unstable weather across the Union Territory over the next 72 hours. “A stronger system is expected to impact J&K from Friday night into Saturday, bringing periods of intense showers, gusty winds, and isolated hailstorms,” Keng said.

He added that persistent cloud cover would likely keep daytime temperatures below normal. He further warned that intense showers could lead to landslides and shooting stones, particularly along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, while cloudbursts and lightning strikes remain a possibility.

The exact timing and intensity of the showers will vary by region, but authorities have urged the public to remain cautious and take necessary precautions.

2 Cases Detected

cough while the other remains

symptom-free. “They’re doing well and there’s no health concern,” she assured.

Medical experts have urged the public to remain cautious but calm, noting that the current COVID-19 strain appears to be manifesting as a mild illness across the country.

“Most cases recover on their own,” said a doctor from GMC. “There’s no evidence suggesting a severe outbreak at this stage. However, people should stay alert and follow standard precautions.”

Authorities have confirmed that health infrastructure has been strengthened since previous waves, and they are keeping a close watch on developments. For now, there are no new restrictions, but the public has been advised to practice good hygiene and report any symptoms.

Amit Shah Arrives

including Singh Sabha Gurdwara.

Hold a meeting with officers to assess damage in the worst-hit areas.

Interact with Border Security Force (BSF) jawans at the Khanetar camp.

Address civilians at the Dak Bungalow.

Distribute appointment letters to next of kin of civilians killed in the shelling.

This is Shah's third visit to Jammu and Kashmir since April 6. His previous visit was on April 23, a day after the Pahalgam attack.

Ahead of Shah's visit, the Congress party urged him to announce a comprehensive relief and rehabilitation package for border residents, including the allotment of five marla plots at safer locations.

“Victims of cross-border shelling deserve immediate help. We expect the Home Minister to deliver a relief package and safer housing,” said J&K Congress working president Raman Bhalla.

Congress chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma accused the BJP-led Centre of ignoring the plight of border residents.

“It took the Home Minister thirty days to visit the region. The damage is done. No Union minister, not even the Defence Minister, visited Poonch earlier,” Sharma said, adding that Rahul Gandhi was the first national leader to visit the victims.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary welcomed Shah's visit, calling it essential given the scale of destruction in border areas.

“Eighty percent of Poonch is affected. Uri and Nowshera have also suffered. It is his duty to visit,” Choudhary said, expressing hope that individual bunkers would be sanctioned for each border family.

He also pushed for the restoration of J&K's statehood, saying this would help resolve local issues more effectively.

National Conference provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta urged Shah to announce a substantial financial package for the affected people.

Mock Drills

involving drones, aircraft, and missile scenarios. It will also test the activation of hotlines between the Indian Air Force and Civil Defence control rooms, and the operational readiness of centrally controlled air raid sirens.

The Ministry has directed all relevant departments to coordinate closely and ensure smooth execution of the exercise, which is expected to enhance synergy between local administration, volunteers, and defence agencies

US Claims India-Pak

India and Pakistan access to trade with the US to help de-escalate tensions following cross-border strikes in early May.

“For example, India and Pakistan—two nuclear powers engaged in combat operations just 13 days ago—reached a tenuous ceasefire on May 10, 2025. This ceasefire was only achieved after President Trump interceded and offered both nations trading access with the United States to avert a full-scale war,” Lutnick said, defending Trump's use of emergency powers to impose tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

The remarks were made in the context of an ongoing legal challenge to Trump's tariff policies, which a court panel recently struck down as “contrary to law.”

India, however, has rejected any claim of external mediation. “From the time Operation Sindoor commenced on May 7, the issue of trade or tariffs did not come up in any of our discussions with the United States,” MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a press briefing in New Delhi.

Jaiswal clarified that the ceasefire understanding was established directly through the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of both countries. “The plea for ceasefire came from Islamabad. There was no American mediation,” he said.

India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting nine terror infrastructure hubs across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, in response to a terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22 that killed 26 civilians.

Jaiswal also reiterated India's unchanged position on engagement with Pakistan: “Terrorism and talks cannot go together.” He added that any meaningful dialogue would

depend on Pakistan taking credible steps to end cross-border terrorism.

India also made it clear that trade and water-related engagements would remain suspended until such steps are taken.

Meanwhile, trade negotiations between India and the US are ongoing under the broader COMPACT framework. “These discussions cover a wide range of issues and are being held in the appropriate forums,” Jaiswal said.

People Of PoK

response to terrorism, underlining that any possible dialogue with Pakistan will be confined solely to two issues: terrorism and PoK.

The statement comes in the backdrop of Operation Sindoor, India's recent counter-terror operation, where Singh said the use of indigenous weapon systems highlighted the growing success of the ‘Make-in-India’ defence initiative. “We destroyed terrorist hideouts and then military bases. We could have done a lot more, but we presented a great example of co-ordination of power and restraint,” he noted.

In an emotive message aimed at PoK residents, Singh said, “They are our own. Most of them feel a deep connection with India. Only a few have been misled.” Drawing a historical parallel, he likened their situation to Shakti Singh, the separated but loyal brother of Maharana Pratap.

Reaffirming India's stance, Singh declared, “India always talks about connecting hearts... and the day is not far when PoK will return and say — ‘I am India. I have returned.’”

Pakistan Warned on Terrorism

In a pointed message to Pakistan, the Defence Minister said “terrorism is no longer a cost-effective business” and that Islamabad is beginning to realise the consequences of its policies. His remarks echo Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent comments urging Pakistan's youth to reject the “disease of terrorism.”

Defence Manufacturing and AMCA Push

Singh also emphasised India's transformation in defence manufacturing, noting a leap from 1,000 crore in exports a decade ago to 23,500 crore today. He announced that India's first indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter jet (AMCA) has cleared its execution model, with the private sector set to collaborate in the project for the first time.

“This is a historic step,” Singh said, “and a significant milestone in India's journey toward self-reliance in defence.”

Op Sindoor Not

Kashmir that left several soldiers dead, the PM said the nation's pain and anger were shared deeply in West Bengal. “The terrorists tried to wipe off the sindoor from the foreheads of our sisters,” Modi said. “But our brave soldiers made them realise the power of that sindoor.”

Launched on May 7, ‘Operation Sindoor’ reportedly involved precision strikes targeting terror infrastructure across the border in Pakistan. Modi described it as a continuation of India's zero-tolerance policy toward terrorism.

“After Pahalgam, India has sent a clear message to the world—those who carry out attacks on Indian soil will face consequences,” he asserted. “Pakistan should remember: we have entered your house and struck you thrice.”

While he didn't elaborate on the specific instances, his remarks are widely interpreted as referencing the 2016 surgical strikes post-Uri attack, the 2019 Balakot airstrikes following the Pulwama bombing, and the latest cross-border action under Operation Sindoor.

“We destroyed terror launch pads that Pakistan thought were untouchable,” Modi said, adding that the strikes had “shaken their confidence.”

He accused the Pakistani military of being complicit in promoting terrorism. “Terrorism and mass killings are the biggest expertise of Pakistan's army—because in open war, they face defeat,” he said.

Modi also invoked history, referring to Pakistan's violent role in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. “The terror they spread in what is now Bangladesh, the atrocities committed by their army—no one can forget that,” he said. Ending his address with a stern message, the PM said India would continue to hunt down those who harm its citizens. “Pakistan has nothing positive to offer the world. But India has changed. We will not tolerate cowardly acts anymore. Operation Sindoor is our answer,” he said.

“Pahalgam Terror Strike Attack On India's Soul”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Pahalgam terror strike last month was an attack on the soul and unity of India, and the subsequent Operation Sindoor was a “decisive response” to terrorists.

He asserted that the country was united in its fight against terrorism, adding that India gave a befitting reply and destroyed terror infrastructure and several airbases in Pakistan.

Describing the Pahalgam attack as a “deliberate attempt” to create a rift in India on religious lines, Modi said, “We sent out a clear message that the country is united despite the terror strike which erased the sindoor of some of our sisters”.

At least 26 people, mostly tourists, died in the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam. The execution-like killing by terrorists after reportedly asking about the victims' faith left the entire country grieving and outraged.

Addressing the 50th anniversary of Sikkim's statehood function at Paljor Stadium here, Modi said the Himalayan state is the “pride of the nation” and its people believe in democracy.

The prime minister regretted that he could not attend the function for the statehood celebrations due to inclement weather, but assured that he would visit the state in future, PTI reported.

“Operation Sindoor against terrorists in the wake of the Pahalgam attack was a befitting reply to those who unleashed terror in India. What terrorists did in Pahalgam was an attack on humanity, and we are now united in the fight against terrorism,” the PM said virtually from Bagdogra in West Bengal.

The PM inaugurated a slew of infrastructure projects and laid the foundation stones for several others.

The projects inaugurated by Modi included a 500-bed District Hospital in Namchi, ‘Swarna Jayanti Maitreya Manjari’ (at White Hall, Ridge Park), a passenger ropeway at Pelling to Sangacholing Monastery, a ‘gaushala’ (cowshed) at Mamring and a statue of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Gangtok district.

He also laid the foundation stones for a district hospital at Pakyong, a visitor experience centre at Nathula, and the conversion of Singshore Bridge into a glass skywalk.

He also unveiled the Bhaleydunga Skywalk project, a working women's hostel at Gangtok (Tadong), the Swarna Jayanti Convention Centre at Namli, and the Swarna Jayanti Sports and Cultural Centre near Gangtok.

The prime minister congratulated the people of Sikkim on the completion of 50 years of statehood and said he was glad that the people of the Himalayan state chose to join a democratic India to be part of development and prosperity.

Modi hailed Sikkim for being a “shining example of the blending of biodiversity and spiritualism”.

Sikkim is rich in biodiversity and has set examples in nature conservation, he added.

The state has also become a big tourist destination despite being small in size and welcomes around 10 lakh visitors annually, he said.

Recalling the contributions of great sportspersons Bhaichung Bhutia, Tarundeep Rai and Jaspal Pradhan, he said that Sikkim has the potential to become a hub of sports activities.

The prime minister said the NDA government was dedicated to making India a sports superpower.

“We want Northeast, including Sikkim, to move in this direction. Sikkim has the potential to become a hub of adventure sports,” he added.

The prime minister also said Sikkim was increasing organic exports, which was a big achievement for the state.

The PM said “organic fisheries” had a global market and Sikkim should explore such opportunities. He said the demand for organic fish was tremendous worldwide, and the entire Northeast could benefit from this venture.

Modi asked for a cluster approach towards attaining the goal.

The organic fisheries cluster focuses on an ecologically healthy fish farming system, avoiding the use of harmful chemicals, antibiotics and pesticides.

He said that connectivity was the main focus of the Centre, and the Sevoke-Rangpo project will link the Himalayan state with the country's rail network.

Sikkim also marked the completion of 50 years of statehood with the unveiling of a specially minted Rs 50 silver coin and a commemorative postage stamp.

The coin, crafted from 99.9 per cent pure silver and weighing 40 grams, stands as a symbol of Sikkim's remarkable transformation from a Himalayan kingdom into an Indian state. A commemorative stamp was also released to capture Sikkim's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty.

Chief Minister PS Tamang, in his address, said the release of the coin and the postage stamp serves not only as a tribute to Sikkim's past achievements but also as a symbol of hope for continued growth and harmony.

“It underscores the state's integral role within the broader Indian nation, reflecting a story of resilience, unity, and sustainable development,” he said.

SC Slams Bureaucratic

suppliers within two months, a directive that went unfulfilled.

When the payments were not made, the aggrieved contractors initiated contempt proceedings before the High Court. Instead of appearing before the single judge to explain their stance whether the payments had been made or were not legally due, the UT administration filed an intra-court appeal before the division bench, which was subsequently dismissed.

The matter was then escalated to the

Supreme Court.

The court emphasised that the appropriate course of action would have been to place the facts before the single judge in the contempt proceedings.

“In our considered opinion, it is the bounden duty of the petitioners to explain to the single judge before whom the contempt proceeding is pending that the respondents have either been paid their due amount or they are not entitled to such payment,” the court observed in its order.

The bench clarified that once the authorities provide a satisfactory explanation, it is for the High Court to assess the merits of the petitioners' defence and proceed according to law.

Addressing concerns raised by the division bench regarding a possible “roving inquiry” by the single judge, the Supreme Court stated that any such inquiry must be within legal bounds and limited to individual claims.

During the hearing, additional solicitor general Brijendra Chahar, appearing for the UT administration, argued that a show-cause notice had been issued, implying a presumption of contempt. This prompted a sharp response from the Bench.

Justice Dipankar Datta said, “The concerned officer has been asked to attend virtually. He can explain it to the court if his counsel is not in a position to explain. You should not have gone for a division bench appeal. Nobody has yet held that you are in contempt.”

When the ASG stressed the issuance of the show-cause notice, Justice Surya Kant retorted, “So what Why can't they go and explain Every show-cause notice we will start examining here, then”

Justice Datta added, “The first thing a court is required to do on receiving a petition is issue a show-cause. So you mean to say no show-cause can be issued to bureaucrats”

On the question of whether the High Court had wrongly entertained the contempt plea, the bench firmly responded: “Why should we examine? The High Court will examine it, before which contempt is pending. We are not sitting here as advisors, we will tell the High Court on behalf of these babus whether contempt is made out or not.”

The court concluded that if any punishment is ultimately imposed by the single judge, the affected officer retains the right to appeal before the division bench of the High Court.

This sharp judicial rebuke by the Supreme Court said that the Government officers must engage sincerely with judicial processes and avoid using appeals as a tool to evade accountability.

J&K HC Grants

belonging to the poor strata of the society is not deprived of an opportunity to get an admission in the MBBS course just because of the indolence/inaction of the competent authority under the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2005, to issue the EWS certificate within the stipulated time.”

“This court deems it proper to direct the respondent 2 (authorities) to grant the admission to the petitioner (Basit Khurshed) in the next academic session of MBBS course,” the court said, adding, “Respondent No. 2 shall take appropriate measures for enhancing the total seats by one seat, so as to accommodate the petitioner in the next academic session.”

The court observed that the select list issued by BOPEE revealed that 12 candidates having NEET score of 461 and 404 were selected under EWS category and Basit was having NEET score of 462 but because of non-availability of EWS certificate, he was not considered for selection under EWS category.

Basit participated in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for undergraduate course for the session 2024-25 (NEET-UG-2024-25) under the EWS category. On 9 August last year, the candidates belonging to Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, who qualified NEET-UG-2024-25 having scored cut off marks prescribed by NTA, were directed to register themselves and to upload the required documents online from 19 to 23 August so that the provisional merit list of such eligible candidates was prepared. Basit possessed the EWS certificate having a life till 3 August 2024 and as per him, he immediately applied for the renewal of the certificate on 4 August 2024. Authorities concerned thereafter issued a provisional merit list on 25 August 2024, wherein Basit was shown to have secured the rank of 462 under the EWS category with the remarks “Form Deficient”. As soon he came to know regarding the remarks made in the provisional list, he submitted a representation with the authorities stating therein that EVS certificate issued in his favour was valid only till 3 August 2024 and he had applied for renewal of the same. BOPEE notified the schedule for conduct of counseling commencing from 28 to 31 August and it was provided that the candidates having failed to submit category certificates till the cut off date i.e. August 23 will be converted into the Open Merit category.

Aggrieved by the notification, Basit filed a petition before the High Court for quashing it and for directing the authorities to consider his candidature under EWS category.

RAMPing Up Skills

Handicrafts & Handloom
Kashmir Trains 100 Artisans



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Srinagar, successfully conducted a Capacity Building Programme at the Conference Hall, Kashmir Haat, under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative.

The programme, aimed at enhancing the capabilities of GI, ODOP, and DEH-registered artisans and weavers in the areas of branding and packaging, witnessed an enthusiastic participation of over 100 craftspeople from across the Kashmir region.

The event was graced by Sh. Sudershan Kumar (JKAS), Managing Director, Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), as the Chief Guest. Also in attendance were Sh. Mussarat Islam (JKAS), Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir; Dr. Monika Gupta, Director NIFT Srinagar; Sh. Zubair Ahmad, Director ICT, officers from the Handicrafts and Handloom Department; officials from CDI, faculty /experts from NIFT Srinagar.

In his welcome address, Sh. Mussarat Islam highlighted the

department's efforts under the RAMP programme to strengthen the handicrafts and handloom ecosystem. He assured full facilitation to artisans and weavers and urged the MD, JKTPO to consider waiving exhibition stall fees for department-registered craftspeople at local, national, and international platforms - a move that would significantly aid in their socio-economic upliftment.

Dr. Monika Gupta, Director NIFT Srinagar, reiterated NIFT's commitment to supporting the sector and announced that a reserved seat at NIFT is available for children of artisans and weavers wishing to pursue design education. She also encouraged participants to provide feedback to help refine future training modules.

Sh. Sudershan Kumar emphasized the crucial role of entrepreneurship in today's market and urged artisans to explore RAMP-linked initiatives being implemented through the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom and other organizations like JKEDI, SIDBI, etc. He advocated for strong branding, innovative packaging, and media outreach to capture wider markets and assured consideration of the stall fee waiver request made by the Director, H&H.

PAL KIA Kashmir Unveils Premium
Facelifted Carens Clavis MPV



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: PAL KIA Kashmir Pvt Ltd, an authorised dealer for KIA India, on Thursday unveiled the all-new premium facelifted version of the Carens Clavis MPV at their showroom in Pantha Chowk, Srinagar. Prices for the vehicle start from ₹11.49 lakh.

Designed to strengthen the brand's foothold in the competitive MPV segment, the Carens Clavis is positioned as a more upmarket offering alongside the existing Carens lineup. It introduces bold design elements, advanced technology features, and enhanced safety provisions.

The unveiling ceremony was graced by Ashutosh Sareen, General Manager Corporate Banking, JK Bank Ltd, as the chief guest. Other dignitaries present included Nishikant Sharma (DGM Corporate Banking, JK Bank), Mushtaq Ahmad Wani (COO, PAL KIA), and Tariq Mir (MD, International Advertising), along with officials from

JK Bank, M&M, SBI, PNB, Chola Mandalam, and senior staff members of PAL KIA. The event also witnessed a large gathering of enthusiastic customers.

Speaking at the launch Parvaiz Majid stated, "The Clavis is available in both six-seater and seven-seater configurations, catering to larger families as well as urban buyers." He added that the MPV is loaded with premium features including Level 2 ADAS, 360-degree camera, electric parking brake, powered driver seat, multi-drive modes, and an updated connected car suite.

While retaining its familiar MPV silhouette, the Carens Clavis gets a refreshed front fascia, redesigned alloy wheels, and connected LED tail lamps, marking a new design signature for Kia. The interior features a dual digital screen setup, premium blue-and-beige upholstery, and updated dashboard trims, aimed at delivering a refined and luxurious cabin experience.

TSWO Tral Organizes IEC Event On
Nasha Mukht Bharat Campaign

Observer News Service

TRAL: The Tehsil Social Welfare Office (TSWO) Tral organized a one-day Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) programme under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan at Roop Reshi Modern Public School, Kuchmulla.

The event witnessed active participation from students, teachers, and members of civil society, all coming together to raise awareness against the growing threat of drug abuse. Speaking on the occasion,

TSWO Tral, Ms. Rifat Jan, emphasized the significance of collective community efforts in combating the drug menace. She said, "Substance abuse is a serious threat that is ruining the lives of our youth. It is the responsibility of every section of society to join hands and work together to eliminate this menace from our communities."

The campaign aimed to educate the public, especially the younger generation, about the harmful effects of drugs and the importance of a drug-free society.



Ground-breaking
Medical Procedure EVAR
Performed At GMC Sgr

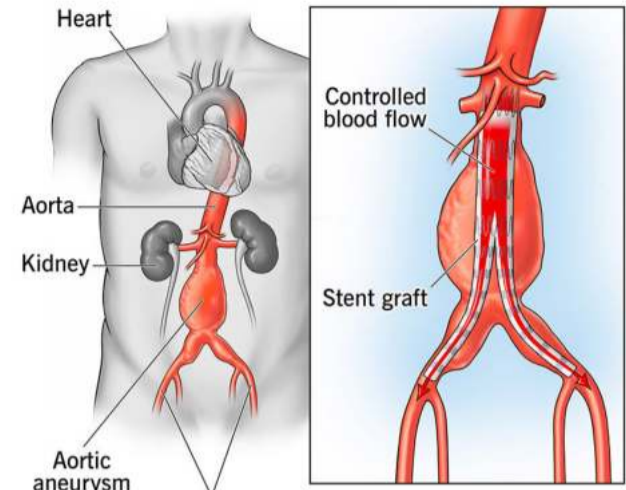
Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Department of Cardiology at SSH Hospital, GMC Srinagar in collaboration with a team of vascular surgeons, led by HOD Cardiology, Prof Dr Khalid Mohi u din successfully performed its first Endovascular Aortic Aneurysm Repair (EVAR) procedure in GMC Srinagar.

This minimally invasive technique is used to treat abdominal aortic aneurysms, a potentially life-threatening condition.

EVAR is a cutting-edge procedure that involves inserting a stent graft through a small incision in the groin to repair the aneurysm. This approach reduces the risk of rupture and promotes faster recovery.

The patient, a 65-year-old male, is doing well and is being discharged in a stable condition. This achievement marks a significant milestone in the hospital's peripheral vascular service program.



The introduction of EVAR at GMC Srinagar will provide patients with a less invasive and more effective treatment option for abdominal aortic aneurysms. This procedure will likely improve patient outcomes and reduce the risk of complications associated with traditional open surgery.

This achievement demonstrates the hospital's commitment to providing high-quality care and advancing medical services in the region.

Prof Dr.Iffat Hassan Principal/Dean GMC Srinagar congratulated and complimented the team for the successful EVAR procedure.

THE PATIENT, A 65-YEAR-OLD MALE, IS DOING WELL AND IS BEING DISCHARGED IN A STABLE CONDITION. This achievement marks a significant milestone in the hospital's peripheral vascular service program.

Dy CM Inspects Development
Works In GMC Udhampur, Bailey

Observer News Service

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Thursday conducted an extensive tour of Udhampur to inspect the ongoing construction works on the Government Medical College Udhampur at Bailey, being executed by the Public Works Department.

He was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Prem Singh along with senior officers from the line departments and executing agencies.

During the visit, Executive Engineer, PWD Udhampur, briefed the Dy CM about the current status and progress on the ongoing construction works.

The Deputy Chief Minister issued necessary directions to the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work and ensure completion of the project within the stipulated timeline of July 2025. He instructed the executing agencies to deploy additional manpower, introduce double-shift work schedules and improve overall site efficiency. He emphasised the importance of timely execution without compromising on the quality of construction.

The Dy CM also directed the Executive Engineer PWD, to monitor progress regularly and conduct joint inspections to ensure seamless and uninterrupted execution. He stressed the importance of rigorous quality checks for construction materials like sand and bricks. He also directed for strict compliance with labour laws and safety protocols for on-site workers.

During the inspection, the Dy CM reviewed all components of the project including construction status. He called for immediate resolution of



any bottlenecks impeding the project progress.

Surinder Choudhary also directed the executing agencies to mobilize resources efficiently and work with enhanced synergy and commitment to achieve optimal outcomes. He further instructed the Executive Engineer PWD, to maintain close coordination with the construction agency to ensure accelerated work on the ground.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the Baglamukhi Temple in Udhampur, where he paid obeisance and prayed for peace and prosperity of the people of J&K.

Javed Rana Reviews Key Infra
Initiative Along Mughal Road



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department is all set to undertake several initiatives aimed at enhancing pilgrim infrastructure at Pir Ki Gali and promoting environmental conservation along the Mughal Road.

As part of these efforts, the department will construct transit camps, build eco-friendly huts and undertake an aggressive and extensive plantation drive.

Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, issued on-spot directions to senior officers of the department in this regard during his visit to Pir Ki Gali today.

The Minister emphasized the importance of these initiatives in creating a sustainable and welcoming environment for the pilgrims while pro-

tecting the scenic splendour of the area. He said that the department will construct transit camps for the pilgrims at Pir Ki Gali, providing them with comfortable and well-equipped resting places, he added. Eco-friendly huts will be built to cater to the needs of travellers, minimising the environmental impact while ensuring a comfortable stay, he added.

The Minister said that an extensive plantation drive will be undertaken along the Mughal Road to promote greenery and environmental conservation.

During his visit, the Minister also inspected the Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary, where he reviewed Markhor revival efforts. He assessed the impact of human activities and livestock grazing by the non-traditional migratory herders on Markhor and its habitat.

Javed Rana directed for timely removal of fallen timber in the Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary to prevent forest fires and maintain forest health. He also directed the wildlife authorities to engage with local communities to promote sustainable livelihoods and reduce human impact on Markhor habitats, emphasising focussed conservation efforts to protect the Pir Panjal Markhor and its habitat.

Javed Rana said that the government led by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, remains committed towards protecting the region's natural resources and promoting sustainable development.

He said the initiatives along Mughal Road are part of a broader effort to balance the economic growth with environmental conservation, ensuring a better future for the region's ecosystem and communities.



Centre Notifies ESZ Around
Tral Wildlife Sanctuary

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around Tral Wildlife sanctuary.

In a notification, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the Union Ministry notified that an area to an extent of zero to 3.26 kilometers from the boundary of Tral Wildlife Sanctuary as its ESZ.

"The extent of the eco-sensitive zone around the Tral Wildlife Sanctuary ranges from 0 kilometer to 3.26 kilometer from its boundary, encompassing an area of 127.10 square kilometers, which includes 26 villages," reads the notification.

Historically- parts of the protected area, namely Shikargah and Khangund, previously designated as Conservation Reserves- have the distinction of being among the oldest notified protected areas in the country. Their notification dates back to 1945, when they were governed by the game laws of the Maharajah of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.

In 2019, these conservation reserves, along with the adjoining areas comprising territorial forest compartments, were up-graded to a Wildlife Sanctuary.

The sanctuary came into existence on October 23, 2019 through a notification issued by J&K government.

The Tral Wildlife Sanctuary forms an important corridor for the movement of Hangul.

"The declaration of the eco-sensitive zone shall help in creating a buffer around the sanctuary area leading to a secure, suitable and viable habitat for the last remnant Hangul population," reads the notification

The Sanctuary is among the few areas outside Dachigam National Park where critically endangered Kashmiri Red Deer (Hangul), a Schedule I species as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and designated as 'critically endangered' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red Data Book, still survives.

It is also home to other endemic species like Kashmir Musk Deer (*Moschus cupreus*) and Kashmir Gray Langur (*Semnopithecus ajax*).

NASHA MukT ABHIYAN

DIPR, DSEK Organize Cultural
Awareness Program

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) organized a day-long awareness-cum-cultural program under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan at Pandit Bhajan Sopori Auditorium, DIPR complex, Polo View, Srinagar.

The event aimed to sensitize and educate youth about the devastating effects of drug abuse, a growing concern in Jammu & Kashmir through music, dance and theatre as mediums of communication.

Nitish Rajora, Director Information and Public Relations, presided over the event. Among the dignitaries present were Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director PR Ahsan-ul-Haq Chishti; Cultural Officer Kashmir, Burhan Hussain, along with several other officers of DIPR.

Program featured vibrant cultural performances that captivated the audience and carried strong social messages.

Highlights included Kashmiri Rouf by Yemberzal Cultural Group, Thematic Dance

performance by MJ Nasir and Group, a powerful short play by Tulkul Arts and Media Collective, theme-based folk music by Feroz Shah and Party, widely acclaimed by the audience.

A large number of students and teachers from DSEK participated enthusiastically, reflecting the collective concern over the rising drug menace.

In his address, Joint Director Information, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari emphasized the importance of disseminating the powerful messages conveyed through such cultural initiatives. He urged continued efforts in engaging youth across the valley.

Cultural Officer Kashmir, Burhan Hussain briefed the audience on DIPR's ongoing initiatives and strategic efforts to combat drug addiction through impactful outreach.

Proceedings of the event were conducted by AEEO, Syed Shakeel Shan, who called upon educational institutions to collaborate with DIPR in the fight against drug abuse.

The event also featured the screening of a short film on drug abuse, further reinforcing the message of awareness and action.

DC Budgam Hands-Over 15 New
100 KVA Transformers To KPDCL

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: In order to augment power infrastructure in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo on Thursday handed-over 15 new 100 KVA Transformers to KPDCL procured under District Mineral Funds.

This dedicated buffer stock of 15 distribution transformers of 100 kVA each shall be put into use by the Electric Division Budgam to improve power availability in the entire district.

The buffer stock, procured under the District Mineral Fund (DMF), will act as a strategic reserve to be deployed swiftly in case of transformer failures, overloads, or emergency scenarios, particularly during winter when power infrastructure is often stressed due to snow accumulation and increased demand.

Speaking on the occasion, DC stated, "This initiative has significantly augmented our winter preparedness. Earlier, the District Administration

had provided five Distribution Transformer Assemblies (DTAs) under the Capex Budget. Now, with the addition of 15 more transformers through the DMF, we are better equipped to respond swiftly to any outages. This will greatly help in ensuring reliable and uninterrupted power supply to our citizens especially during the harsh winter season."

He further added, "Our objective is to minimize downtime and reduce public inconvenience during peak load periods. The availability of these transformers as a buffer ensures that any damaged or overloaded unit can be replaced immediately, without waiting for fresh procurement or lengthy logistics."

Labroo said this is part of our ongoing efforts to build resilient infrastructure and improve the quality of essential services. "Reliable power is not just a convenience—it's a critical necessity, especially during winters when people are most vulnerable," he added.



IPL Eliminator: Gill's Fumbling GT Up Against Might Of Mumbai Indians

Press Trust of India

MULLANPUR: Among the title favourites but battling a loss of momentum, Shubman Gill's Gujarat Titans will be up against the mighty Mumbai Indians, who also have issues to be addressed, in the winner-takes-all IPL Eliminator here on Friday.

It is a knock-out game but both sides are used to the stage with Mumbai Indians being the five-time champions. Titans have made the play-offs thrice in the last four seasons, including the trophy-winning run on their debut in 2022.

However, both Shubman Gill and Hardik Pandya, have a point to prove. Gill, the newly appointed India Test captain, would build up his leadership



credentials immensely if Titans go all the way.

Hardik has got the love of the fans back after being booed on his return to the team last year and an IPL trophy will cement his place in the list of the fabled greats of the franchise.

But in their pursuit of glory, both leaders must find a way to address the issues at hand.

Titans have more to be worried about as they have lost momentum going into the play-offs. Having conceded 465 runs in their last two defeats, they need to up their game with the ball.

Mohammed Siraj, the de facto

leader of the pace battery, will need to provide breakthroughs in the powerplay.

The struggles of left-arm pacer Arshad Khan with the new ball has added pressure on the likes of Prasidh Krishna who has been the Titans' trump card this season with 23 wickets.

In addition to the shortcomings in the pace department, the ineffectiveness of spin all-rounder Rashid Khan has aggravated their bowling woes.

On the batting front, the top three, including Sai Sudharsan, Gill and Jos Buttler contributed massively to their play-off journey.

Considering that, the absence of Buttler, who left for national duty after the league stage, is bound to be felt.

Like Titans, Mumbai Indians

too have been impacted by the loss of foreign players.

Ryan Rickelton had done a fine job for them at the top of the order alongside Rohit Sharma but the South African has now reported for national duty. The same goes for English batter Will Jacks.

Out of favour England batter Jonny Bairstow is one of the replacement players for Mumbai Indians alongside Richard Gleeson and Charith Asalanka.

Bairstow could open alongside Rohit Sharma at the top of the order.

Suryakumar Yadav has been doing the heavy lifting in the batting department with a record 640 runs in a season. In case he fails, Mumbai Indians will have a real task at hand.

Match starts: 7.30pm IST.

Short TAKES

Srinagar Premier League: Kashmir Avengers, AG's Office Enter Final Phase

The second round of the Srinagar Premier Football League 2024-25, held under the banner of My Youth My Pride and organised by the J&K Sports Council in collaboration with DFA Srinagar, concluded with thrilling performances from all participating teams.

Kashmir Avengers FC topped the table with 6 points, closely followed by AG's Office XI with 5 points. Both teams have officially qualified for the final phase, where they will join Real Kashmir FC (Reserves) and JK Bank XI, who had already secured their spots earlier.

The round witnessed intense competition, with J&K Police XI and Downtown Heroes FC also showcasing commendable efforts and sportsmanship throughout.

The stage is now set for an electrifying final round featuring the top four teams vying for supremacy in the valley's most prestigious football league.

RCB Bowl Out PBKS For 101

Royal Challengers Bengaluru bowled out Punjab Kings for 101 in Qualifier 1 of the Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

On a surface where hitting through the line proved to be tricky, the all-out attack strategy of the Punjab Kings contributed to their downfall after they were put in to bat. Their innings lasted just 14.1 overs.

RCB bowlers justified skipper Rajat Patidar's decision to field first by packing off PBKS for a paltry total in just 14.1 overs. Marcus Stoinis was top-scorer with 26.

Young leg-spinner Suyash Sharma (3/17) did the star turn for RCB by picking up three wickets pacers Josh Hazlewood (3/21), Yash Dayal (2/26) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/17) left PBKS reeling at 50 for five in the seventh over.

Brief scores:

Punjab Kings: 101 all out in 14.1 overs (Suyash Sharma 3/21, Josh Hazlewood 3/21, Yash Dayal 2/26).

Anger Over Mom's Mugging Fuelled Hasan Ali's T20I Comeback

Pakistan pacer Hasan Ali has revealed that his mother was mugged at his hometown of Gujranwala before the first T20 International against Bangladesh here and he channelised his anger over the incident for a match-winning five-wicket haul in the game.

Hasan, making a comeback to the Pakistan team after nearly a year took 5 for 30, his best T20 international figures, to set up a 39-run win for Pakistan at the Gadafii stadium in Lahore on Wednesday night.

"I was very upset about hearing about the incident with my mother but my family told me to focus on my comeback," Hasan said. His mother escaped unhurt but the muggers snatched her purse in a market, resulting in the loss of 230,000 Pakistani Rupees.

Despite being shaken by the incident, Hasan said he was quite happy with his performance.

Kashmir Falcons Joins Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025, powered by Athwas Hyundai, on Thursday announced the addition of Kashmir Falcons as its sixth franchise team. Owned by entrepreneur and sports enthusiast Muzaffar Nazir, Kashmir Falcons is set to make a significant impact in the league.

Paritosh Dixit, through his company Sponsorshipvilla, brings his expertise and passion to the world of football. "We're excited to be part of Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025," said Dixit.

The Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025 is shaping up to be an electrifying tournament, featuring top-level competition, thrilling matches and a celebration of football culture in the Valley. With Kashmir Falcons on board, the league is



poised to reach new heights.

Kashmir Falcons is a proud addition to the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025. With a strong commitment to sportsmanship and community development, the team aims to make a positive impact in the region.

Sponsorshipvilla is a leading company "Oxford of the East" Pune dedicated to promoting sports and events in India. Through their partnership with Kashmir Falcons, they aim to support the growth of football in Kashmir.

The Khyber Cement Kashmir

Super League 2025 is a professional football league in Jammu & Kashmir, powered by Athwas Hyundai. The league aims to promote football in the region, provide a platform for local talent, and entertain fans with high-quality matches.

Athwas Hyundai is a leading automotive company in Jammu & Kashmir, committed to providing top-notch vehicles and services. As the power partner of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025, Athwas Hyundai is excited to support the growth of football in the region.

Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions Continue Across Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Under the directions of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam, Gh. Hassan Lone, Inter-School Zonal Level competitions are being conducted across various zones of the district.

On Thursday, the Zonal Physical Education Office Beerwah organised Volleyball competitions for Girls (U-14 & U-17) at GHSS Beerwah, drawing a large number of spirited participants.

In Zone B.K. Pora, a Volleyball competition for Boys (U-19) was held at HSS Bugam. The event was inaugurated by the Principal, Shamim Ahmad, alongside Rumeet Kour (PEM), and

other officials.

Zone Nagam conducted Badminton events for Boys and Girls (U-17) at GHSS Nagam and BHSS Nagam, respectively. Both government and private schools took part, as the event commenced with motivational speeches by ZPEO Nagam Jahan Aara (Principal BHSS Nagam) and Principal GHSS Nagam.

Zone Dreygam organised Badminton competitions for Girls (All Age Groups) at GHS Ichigam. The event was inaugurated by Fehmeeda Akhter (HOI) along with Zone Incharge Farooq Sajad.

Meanwhile, Zone Chadoora hosted the Kabaddi Event for Girls (All Age Groups) at the Open Ground, Ranger.



28th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

 YouTube

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 TVs 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.

VISIT

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

OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR