



....PANORAMA P5

THE WARS WE START AT HOME

An intimate look at how Kashmiri family feuds reshape culture, memory, and childhood.



RISE IN COVID INFECTIONS

....EDITORIAL P4

....OPED P4

KASHMIR'S STILLNESS TELLS A STORY

After the Baisaran bloodbath, visitors disappeared and silence took over. But for Kashmiris, tourism isn't....



News Digest

ACB Nabs Patwari Taking Rs 10K Bribe

The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday caught Gulzar Ahmad Ganai, Patwari Halqa Lukbhawan Larkipora in Tehsil Dooru of Anantnag district, red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000. According to an ACB statement, the action followed a complaint from a local resident who had approached the Tehsil Office Dooru seeking permission to prune branches of a Chinar tree near his home due to safety concerns | [More on P6](#)

Historic First Cherries Sent to Mumbai By Rail

A parcel train carrying 24 tonnes of cherries departed from Katra railway station in Jammu and Kashmir to Mumbai's Bandra Terminus on Saturday. The Northern Railway's Jammu division hailed the initiative as "historic," marking the first time the region's cherries are being transported via rail. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Uchit Singh, said the breakthrough followed coordinated efforts between railway authorities, fruit growers, and the horticulture department. Encouraged by the success, | [More on P6](#)

IGP Reviews Security For Mela Kheer Bhawani

Kashmir zone Inspector General of Police (IGP) V K Birdi on Saturday reviewed the security arrangements for the upcoming Mela Kheer Bhawani, an official said. Talking to reporters, Birdi said stringent security arrangements have been put in place for the smooth conduct of the annual fair on June 3 at the Kheer Bhawani temple in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. "The main function of the Mela Kheer | [More on P6](#)

Dabirah Hassan

On World No Tobacco Day, concerning statistics have revealed that Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) ranks sixth among Indian states and union territories for the highest rates

of tobacco consumption.

Health officials report that over 20 percent of J&K's population uses tobacco in some form. Smoking tobacco has a prevalence rate of 20.8%, placing the region behind only Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura,

Meghalaya, and Mizoram. However, the use of smokeless tobacco in J&K remains relatively low at 4.3%, the second lowest in India after Himachal Pradesh.

According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS 2), 35.2%

of men and 5.1% of women in J&K smoke tobacco, resulting in an overall adult smoking prevalence of 20.8%. Smokeless tobacco use stands at 6.8% among men and 1.5% among women, accounting for 4.3% of all adults. In total, 39.7% of men and 6.2%

6 IN KASHMIR, TOBACCO-RELATED ILLNESSES like lung cancer are on the rise, now the second most common cancer in the region.

of women—about 23.7% of the adult population—consume tobacco in either form.

Officials noted that in the past five years, the government has taken | [More on P6](#)

Civil Defense Mock Drills Held Across J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Mock drills under Operation Shield were conducted across Kashmir valley on Saturday to test and strengthen the preparedness for emergency situations, officials said.

As part of the mock drill, a blackout was observed from 8 pm to 8:15 pm as lights of government buildings, houses and business establishments were turned off, they said.

In Srinagar, lights were turned off in the Lal Chowk City centre, including the historic Ghanta Ghar (Clock Tower), as well, the officials said.

The drill was simultaneously carried out in Srinagar, Baramulla, Anantnag, and Kulgam districts in Kashmir and in the Jammu division the exercises were carried out in Poonch, Rajouri, Doda, and Kathua

The exercise was aimed at

familiarising citizens with emergency response protocols during blackout or crisis situations and to evaluate the readiness of the public and the administration.

Business activities, vehicular movement and routine operations were paused for the 15-minute duration, they added.

The civil defence mock drills, under the banner of Operation Shield, conducted by District Administrations in collaboration with SDRF and Civil Defence, aimed at strengthening the preparedness for emergency situations, the officials said.

Experts and personnel from SDRF, Health Department, Fire and Emergency Services, along with a large number of students and locals participated in the exercises, they said.

The exercises involved demonstrations | [More on P6](#)



KO Photo | Faisal Khan

...From Heatwave To Cold Wave

Snow & Rains Bring Sudden Chill, Disrupt Daily Life Across J&K



Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a dramatic shift from last week's sweltering heat, Jammu and Kashmir

was gripped by unseasonal cold on Saturday as fresh snowfall in the higher reaches and widespread rainfall in the plains disrupted | [More on P6](#)

KO Photo | Faisal Khan

Schools Shut, Roads Closed

Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a sudden shift in weather conditions as widespread rain, thunderstorms, and fresh snowfall lashed several parts of the Union Territory, disrupting daily life, closing key roads, and prompting authorities to shut down educational institutions in some areas. The unseasonal snowfall forced closure of many hilly roads, including Mughal road connecting | [More on P6](#)

Will J&K Get A New LG?

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Speculation was rife over the weekend about imminent gubernatorial change in Jammu & Kashmir. If media reports emanating from Delhi are to be believed, J&K may soon see a change in its Lieutenant Governor, as the Centre is reportedly preparing a significant reshuffle of gubernatorial positions, including those of key Union Territories like Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir.

The News Indian Express reported that V K Saxena, the current Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, is being considered for a move to Jammu & Kashmir. Saxena, who has served as Delhi's LG since May 2022, could replace the incumbent Manoj Sinha in J&K. Meanwhile, Manoj Sinha is said to be in line for an important | [More on P6](#)

Sindoor 'Most Successful' Anti-Terror Operation: PM

Warns Bullets Will Be Answered With Cannon Balls

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that 'sindoor' has become a symbol of valour following India's response to the Pahalgalam terror attack and warned Pakistan that bullets will be answered with cannon balls.

He described Operation Sindoor as the biggest and



most successful anti-terror operation in the country's history.

"Sindoor has now become a symbol of valour in the country. If you fire bullets, then rest | [More on P6](#)

UN Glaciers' Meet

Pak Violating IWT Through Terrorism: India

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India has said that Pakistan should stop blaming it for the breach of the Indus Water Treaty, as the unrelenting cross-border terrorism from its soil is interfering with the treaty's implementation.

Addressing the plenary session of the first UN conference on glaciers in Tajikistan's Dushanbe on Friday, Minister of State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh said that Pakistan itself was violating

the treaty through terrorism.

"We are appalled at the attempt by Pakistan to misuse the forum and to bring in unwarranted references to issues which do not fall within the purview of the forum. We strongly condemned such an attempt," he said.

Singh said it is an undeniable fact that there have been fundamental changes in circumstances since the Indus Waters Treaty was signed, which requires a reassessment of the treaty's | [More on P6](#)

Paras Hospital In Hot Water After Framing Former Doctor



Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: On May 23, Waseem Ahmad Pathan walked into Paras Hospital for what his family believed would be a routine surgery to treat an intestinal infection. He never walked out. Hours later, the 34-year-old from Bilal Colony, Pampore, was declared dead.

The hospital called it a complication. His family called it negligence. Outside the hospital gates, neighbours and relatives gathered in protest, shouting for justice. Some wept, others demanded answers.

Soon after, the Chief Medical Officer of Srinagar suspended eight staff members, including senior surgeons, anaesthetists,

6

THE PRIVATE HOSPITAL IN SRINAGAR IS FACING BACKLASH after falsely naming a former doctor in a fatal surgery case.

ICU staff, and an operating theatre technician. None of them were allowed to work until the official investigation ended.

But what shocked many was that one of the doctors named in the suspension order hadn't worked at the hospital for eight months.

Dr. Shah Naveed had resigned from Paras Hospital on October 1, 2024. By May 2025,



CSIR- Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine Jammu



Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
& President, CSIR



Dr. Jitendra Singh
Hon'ble Union Minister of Science & Technology
& Vice President, CSIR

Inauguration by

Dr. Jitendra Singh

Hon'ble Union Minister of State (I/C) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences,
Minister of State in the PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, DoAE,
Department of Space and Vice President, CSIR

1st June-2nd June, 2025
10:00am-5:00pm

Government Degree College,
Bhaderwah, J&K



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Hearing Aids Could Help Reduce Falls Among Older Adults Results From Clinical Trial Suggest

Press Trust Of India

Providing hearing aids to older adults, along with counselling their families, were found to reduce falls by nearly 30 per cent over a three-year period, according to a study published in The Lancet Public Health journal.

Falls -- a leading cause of injury and major health concern among the elderlies -- have been linked with hearing loss, among other factors, including a decline in physiological responses, mobility and cognitive skills.

Researchers, including those from Edinburgh Napier University, UK, provided hearing aids and counselling to family members of half of 977 adults in the US, aged 70-84, with untreated hearing loss and without substantial cognitive impairment. The other half -- 487 participants -- were the 'control group' and given health education. Results from the 'ACHIEVE' trial revealed that the average number of falls over three years among those receiving hearing interventions -- hearing aids and counselling -- was 1.45, compared to 1.98 in the control group.

"The intervention group had



a 27 per cent reduction in the mean number of falls over three years compared with the control group," the authors wrote.

The team said that evidence from previous studies that examined the link between using hearing aids and falls has been contradictory.

The ACHIEVE trial is the "first large-scale" randomised control trial that has explored the potential effect of hearing intervention on falls, the researchers said.

Findings from the trial suggest that hearing aids and counselling may reduce falls among older adults with hearing loss, even as further research is required to examine the longer-term effects of hearing intervention on falls.

A study, published in 'The Evidence' journal in March 2024, found that prevalence of falls among older adults in India (aged 60 and above) was 11.43 per cent. Data of 28,710 participants from the Longitudinal Aging Study of India (LASI), collected during 2017-2019, was analysed. The study attributed the risk of falling to chronic conditions, such as diseases of bones and joints, and vision problems. Self-reported poor health emerged as a strong predictor for falls, emphasising the interplay of physical health and self-perception in risk of falling, it said.

Further, women were found to be at a 31 per cent higher risk of falling, compared to men.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 14/EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl of 2025-26 under Endorsement No.:1578-83

Dated: 30-05-2025

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest money (In rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Improvement/ Upgradation of Various PMGSY road to Ziyarat Sharief Waliwar including links at roads of Waliwarb.w.o Macadamization under C&T (Machine Mix laid with Paver).	19.33	800/=	38,660	30 Days	C&T	BEE/CEE Class Civil with HMPo or MoU with Registered HMPo
2.	Improvement/ Upgradation of War Link and Pakhtoon Mohalla at Manigamb.w.o Macadamization under C&T (Machine Mix laid with Paver).	19.46	800/=	38,920	30 Days	C&T	BEE/CEE Class Civil with HMPo or MoU with Registered HMPo
3.	Improvement/ Upgradation of Dar Mohalla Bangwar road from Arhamab.w.o Macadamization under C&T (Machine Mix laid with Paver).	24.23	800/=	48,460	30 Days	C&T	BEE/CEE Class Civil with HMPo or MoU with Registered HMPo
4.	Improvement/ Upgradation of Ganie Mohalla Repora to Wandhamab.w.o Macadamization and development of berm under C&T (Machine Mix laid with Paver).	47.49	1100/=	94,980	45 Days	C&T	AAY/BEE Class Civil with HMPo or MoU with Registered HMPo
5.	Improvement/ Upgradation of Anderwan Bremshin road Rs 1500 onwards including links at Anderwanb.w.o Macadamization. (Machine mix to be laid with paver).	57.23	1600/=	1,14,460	45 Days	C&T	AAY with HMPo or MoU with Registered HMPo
6.	Improvement/ Upgradation of road taking off from Sumbal Bandipora road (graveyard) to Pehlipora-A incl allied links and stone crusher to Tangu Pehlipora A and 200KV Transformer link Wariporab. w.o Macadamization under C&T. (Machine Mix laid with Paver).	22.34	800/=	44,680	30 Days	C&T	BEE/CEE Class Civil with HMPo or MoU with Registered HMPo
7.	Improvement/ Upgradation of road taking off from Sumbal Bandipora road connecting Pehlipora to Kohistan Colony and tressa Mir Mohalla Linkb.w.o Macadamization under C&T. (Machine Mix laid with Paver/Manually).	29.14	1100/=	58,280	30 Days	C&T	AAY/BEE Class Civil with HMPo or MoU with Registered HMPo
8.	Improvement/ Upgradation of road taking off from Hakbura junction to Barakati Mohalla incl. allied links and Jarokhabagh road taking off from Temple/ Fire Service Station to Hanji Mohalla incl BHSS Safapora under C&T. (Machine Mix laid with Paver).	48.59	1100/=	97,180	45 Days	C&T	AAY/BEE Class Civil with HMPo or MoU with Registered HMPo
9.	Improvement/ Upgradation Beehama Safapora road form Sainkik School onwards to Safapora b.w.o macadamization under C&T. (Machine Mix laid with Paver).	58.15	1600/=	1,16,300	45 Days	C&T	AAY with HMPo or MoU with Registered HMPo

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders (In Single Cover) are being invited on a Percentage basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded
Project Authority: R&B Department

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-05-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30-05-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	30-05-2025 from 02.00 PM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	05-06-2025 from 04.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	06-06-2025 from 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document. (The name of the Work along with NIT No. and Serial No. must be written on the Treasury Challan).

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (Dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date).

4. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Allotted Cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal within 03 days before Fixation of contract and shall be released after completion of DLP and the 2% EMD shall be released in favour of successful bidder only after the receipt of 5% Performance Security. (Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Central Kashmir's Circular No.- CE-CK/WS/6458-79 of 2024-25 Dated: 19-08-2024.

DIPK-2068/25
dated: 31-05-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Ganderbal

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS NARBAL DISTRICT BUDGAM

Tele fax 01951.260.276

Pin Code 193401

NOTICE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

It is hereby Notified That Applicant Namely Altaf Ahmad Dar S/O, W/O, D/O Abdul Gani Dar, R/O Tehsil Jawaharpora, Distt. Budgam -- Had Applied For The Issuance Of Birth Certificate Of His Son / Daughter Namely Mohammad Zaid S/O Altaf Ahmad Dar. The applicant intends to Register the D.O.B. of his son/daughter as per school record / vaccination card 07-05-2019.

If Anybody is having any objection / claim regarding the same he/she may approach the office of under signed with in a period of seven days (07) days from the date of publication of this notice or else any such claims / objections shall not be entertained.

Dated: 31/05/2025
bmg

Executive Magistrate
1st class Narbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my daughter FOZIA ZEHRA the fathers name is entered as MOHAMMAD YOUSUF RATHER while actual name is MOHD YOUSUF RATHER. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

MOHD YOUSUF RATHER
F/o FOZIA ZEHRA
R/o MAHWARA BUDGAM

mcb

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

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

PUBLIC NOTICE..

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Aazima Shabir D/o Shabir Ahmad Ganie R/o Ganiepora Buran Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 21/03/2019 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

NOTICE

I Mohd Asif Itoo S/o AB Rehman Itoo have lost my Driving Licence bearing Licence No: JK- 04 201 90004984. Now I want to its Duplicate. Regarding this, if anybody is having any objection may file the same to the RTO office Srinagar within a week time after that no objection will be entertained.



Media Line

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for Transfer of Power Bill bearing Consumer id 0213040018503 from Tajamul Islam Parra S/O Ghulam Mohammad Parra. R/o Andergam Pattan To Ghulam Mohammad Parra S/O Ghulam Ahmad Parra R/O Andergam Pattan District Baramulla. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the PDD sub division Pattan within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Ghulam Mohammad parra S/o Ghulam Ahmad Parra
R/o Andergam pattan district Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my passport bearing noL T0887263 . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Passport Office Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shabir Ahmad Shah
S/o Gh Mohi-u-din Shah
R/o Gamboora Tehsil Beerwah

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer id no: 0213040006485 from my father namely Sanauallah Bhat S/o Habib Bhat R/o Tapperwaripora Baramulla to my name Nazir Ahamd Bhat S/o Sanauallah Bhat R/o Tapperwaripora Pattan . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nazir Ahamd Bhat
S/o Sanauallah Bhat
R/o Tapperwaripora Pattan

fko



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

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

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

OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

VISIT

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

OR SCAN



Sgr Police Arrest 2 In Facebook Donation Fraud

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a swift and decisive action, Srinagar Police on Saturday said to have busted an online fraud racket involving a fake medical donation appeal on social media platform (Facebook).

“On 30th May 2025, Police Station Nowhatta received a written complaint from Muneer Ahmad Misger son of Mohammad Sadiq Misger resident of Mughal Masjid, Nowhatta, stating therein that an unidentified journalist had uploaded a photograph of his sister on Facebook with a fabricated story to appeal for public donations for a surgery that never occurred. The act, carried out with malicious intent, amounted to cheating and exploitation,” a police spokesman said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 21/2025 was registered under sections 318(2) and 319(2) of the (BNS) and investigation was initiated.

“During the course of the investigation, the administrator of the Facebook page

involved in the fraudulent post was identified as Mohammad Lateef Lone son of Ali Mohammad Lone, resident of Tujan, Pulwama. Another accused, Amir Yousuf Khan son of Mohammad Yousuf Khan, resident of Bandipora, presently residing in Gulab Bagh, Zakoora, was also identified. Investigation revealed that he had provided the bank account details into which the fraudulent donations were being collected. Both the accused persons have been arrested. The investigation remains ongoing to identify and apprehend other individuals involved in the scam,” police said.

Meanwhile, media personnel and the public are strongly advised to not share or engage with the said Facebook post, as it is part of a fraudulent scheme. Circulating such misleading content and false information may further the criminal motive and cause additional distress to the victim’s family, the statement added.

J&K Police urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious and illegal online fundraising activities to the nearest police station.

DC Chairs Rent Assessment Committee Meeting

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to finalize the various Rent Assessment Cases of the buildings under utilisation of different Government Departments, meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Mir Imtiyaz-Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Superintending Engineer R&B South, Tehteel You-suf, Superintending Engineer R&B North Shabir Ahmad, the meeting was attended by members of all the concerned Departments whose Offices are functioning from private buildings in the District.

During the DRAC meeting, as many as 20 rent cases

of buildings presently used by Government Departments including School Education, Handicraft & Handloom, ICDS, Health, Skill Development, Sheep Husbandry, Libraries & Research and J&K Buildings & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board were put forth before the Committee for fixing of monthly rent.

The Committee deliberated over all the rent assessment cases in detail and each case was examined thoroughly.

At the outset, out of the total 20 cases, 13 cases were approved while 7 other cases were scheduled to be put up again due to some technical deficiencies.

On the occasion, the Chairman DRAC impressed on Officers to ensure that vacant Government buildings are given priority for functioning of various Offices. He also stressed on clearing all pending rent assessment cases.

Shantamanu Assesses Civil Defence Preparedness In Sgr

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education, (Mentor District Srinagar), Shantamanu, on Saturday chaired a meeting of Civil Defence Coordination Committee here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Srinagar to assess the on ground preparedness regarding civil defence, emergency services and public reassurance measures in Srinagar district.

Shantamanu had a detailed assessment of the Civil Defence preparedness, focusing on the readiness to handle emergencies and ensure the safety of critical installations and residents in the district.

The ACS also discussed in detail all aspects of Civil

Defence measures viz, district preparedness, exigency plan and essential services to be provided through any troublesome circumstances. He reviewed the measures being taken to further strengthen the civil defence mechanisms, ensuring security of critical infrastructure and citizen safety.

He underscored the importance of seamless coordination among various departments and agencies to bolster public confidence and enhance the effectiveness of emergency responses and confidence on the ground.

The ACS acknowledged the proactive measures taken by the district administration Srinagar, to fortify civil defence measures and ensure swift action in times of emergency.



"Operation Shield" Comprehensive Mock Drill Successfully Conducted In City

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As a part of ‘Operation Shield’ a Civil Defence Mock Drill was conducted at Amar Niwas Complex here on Saturday to assess on ground preparedness regarding Civil Defence, Emergency Response in Srinagar District.

The exercise took place in presence of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat who is also the Chairman of District Disaster Management Authority in bolstering readiness and addressing critical gaps to handle

emergencies and ensure the safety of critical installations and residents in Srinagar District.

Personnel from multiple Civil Defence services participated in the Mock Drill as part of the nationwide exercise to test and strengthen the preparedness.

The ‘Operation Shield’ has been designed to simulate hostile situations, including air raid sirens, blackout protocols, and various emergency response actions, to evaluate the preparedness of civil authorities, emergency services, and local populations.

The Drill was also aimed to

replicate real-time scenarios that may arise from potential external threats, any troublesome circumstances besides measures being taken to further strengthen the Civil Defence mechanisms, ensuring security of critical infrastructure and citizen safety.

The Drill is expected to significantly improve inter-agency coordination, public awareness, and the ability of the administration to respond swiftly and efficiently in the event of any hostile act or natural disasters and test the effectiveness of safety protocols.

Will Roll Out Structured Campaign Against Smoking: Director SKIMS

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In observance of World No Tobacco Day, the Director of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, on Saturday said that the institute will launch a well-structured pro-

gramme against smoking and other social evils.

Speaking to the media, he said that tobacco use remains one of the leading preventable causes of death. SKIMS is committed to spearheading awareness and outreach initiatives, and as part of this commitment, a structured campaign will

be launched to combat smoking and associated social issues.

The institute will soon roll out a comprehensive anti-tobacco programme aimed at tackling this pressing public health concern through sustained education, community engagement, and clinical support, he said.



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 associated with OCD



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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 <p>HIJRI CALENDAR</p> <p>04 Zil-Hajj 1446</p>	<p>PRAYERS</p> <tr> <td>FAJR</td><td>3: 39</td></tr> <tr> <td>ZUHR</td><td>12:28</td></tr> <tr> <td>ASR</td><td>5: 27</td></tr> <tr> <td>Magrib</td><td>7:40</td></tr> <tr> <td>ISHA</td><td>9: 19</td></tr>	FAJR	3: 39	ZUHR	12:28	ASR	5: 27	Magrib	7:40	ISHA	9: 19
FAJR	3: 39										
ZUHR	12:28										
ASR	5: 27										
Magrib	7:40										
ISHA	9: 19										

This Day In History

- 1922- Over 50,000 Fascists gather for a meeting in Bologna where Mussolini warns that he will lead a full-scale revolt against a government favoring 'anti-Fascist reaction'
- 1927- Peace Reaction between US & Canada opens
- 1941- British troops occupy Bagdad, Iraq
- 1943- Germany shoots down a civilian flight from Lisbon to London, all die
- 1947- Photosensitive glass developed
- 1948- Israel & Arabs agree to a cease fire
- 1949- 1st magazine on microfilm offered to subscribers (Newsweek)
- 1949-Microfilm copies of "Newsweek" magazine 1st offered
- 1970- Soyuz 9 launched into Earth orbit for 18 days
- 1972 - Iraq nationalizes Iraq Petroleum Company's (IPC) concession owned by British Petroleum,
- 1974 - Arab oil ministers decide to end most restrictions on exports of oil to the United States but continue embargo against the Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa, and Rhodesia
- 1976 - Great Britain and Iceland end the "cod war"
- 1978 - The first international applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty are filed

From KO Archives

All Project Info To Go Public From Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- To bring transparency in the execution of development, schemes, Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has made it mandatory for all the departments to display information about works conspicuously from Friday.

The departments have been asked to display at prominent places at district, tehsii and block levels soon on painted walls or erected boards the detailed information indicating the name of the scheme, executing agency, estimated cost and date of commencement and completion of schemes for information of the general public.

Speaking to the district, tehsil and block level officers of Ladakh at two separate meetings at Leh and Kargil Thursday, Chief Minister said that while the monitoring of physical and financial progress of works by the officers is essential, the public based mechanism is also vital to make the monitoring fool-proof.

Azad said that government functionaries hold the key to progress, as such, ought to render service to the best of their capacity. "Not only public representatives but government functionaries are equally answerable to people", he said and called for coordinated approach in mitigating the difficulties of Public.

Azad said that the liberal funding from the centre has enabled us to expand the orbit of progress and development in the state. "Presently, massive infrastructure development in education, health, drinking water supply, irrigation, power, road communication and other sectors is in full swing. History has provided us golden opportunity to develop. We have to take best advantage and march towards the goal of prosperity", he added.

Over Rs. 15000 crore worth of development projects especially in power development, road connectivity, public health engineering, education and other sectors have been formulated with the central funding targeted to be completed in next three years, Chief Minister said, adding that administration should be fully pre-pared to shoulder this responsibility.

In order to sensitize the administration and gear it up to be able to spend huge amounts judiciously and complete projects in fixed timeframe, fast track personal interactive meetings with the officers at various levels in the districts have been held, Azad said.

(Kashmir Observer, 01 June, 2007)

Fateh Khawani

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Ali Mohammad Joo, Son of Late Ghulam Hussain Joo, resident of Nabidpora Zadibal, Srinagar** who passed away on **Friday 30th May, 2025** after met an accident at Bemina Srinagar.

His congregational Fateha Khawani will be held on **Monday 2nd June 2025** at their ancestral graveyard **Gulshan Zehra Baba Mazar, Zadibal Srinagar** at **6:30 am**. After that a daylong condolence meeting will be held at the residence of Late Haji Ghulam Hassan Joo near Green Land School, Nabdipora, Hawal, Zadibal



BEREAVED

Nazir Ahmad Joo, Muhammad Yousuf Mugloo, Nadeem Ali Joo (Son) Cell No: 9596589433

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

Rise In Covid Infections

After a long pause, COVID-19 infections are resurfacing across the world. India too is witnessing a fresh wave of the infections with health officials and doctors across states urging caution without panic. So far, the resurgence is marked by mild symptoms and low hospitalisation rates, but rising outpatient visits and increased testing indicate a renewed public health concern.

In recent weeks, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) reported that several Omicron subvariants are currently circulating. Omicron first surfaced in November 2021 and soon spread through the world forcing WHO to declare it a ‘Variant of Concern.’ It held strong through 2022 causing millions of infections worldwide and an estimated one million deaths. However, its subvariants are associated with mild illness. The Union Health Ministry has reported over 750 new cases nationwide in the past week and has convened meetings with top medical institutions to assess readiness. State governments have reactivated pandemic protocols: isolation wards, oxygen supplies, PPE kits, and Covid testing kits are being stocked in preparation.

Symptoms in this wave resemble common flu and respiratory infections, making clinical distinction challenging. Fever, sore throat, cough, cold, body ache, and fatigue are common to both flu and Covid. However, a hoarse voice, loss of taste or smell, and mild gastrointestinal discomfort such as diarrhoea have been reported in several Covid patients.

Outpatient departments in hospitals are seeing an increase in cases with symptoms like dry cough, runny nose, headache, and fatigue. While most patients recover at home, doctors warn against using antibiotics or steroids without medical advice. Similarly, the elderly, immunocompromised, and those with co-morbidities have been asked to avoid crowded places and maintain hand hygiene.

So far two cases have been identified in Kashmir. They are two postgraduate students from Kerala who tested positive upon returning to Srinagar. The cases were mild, and both are under isolation in their hostel at the Government Dental College. However, the authorities have activated preventive protocols, which should be followed by the people. On a positive note, the experts have maintained that the illness remains mild, but continued vigilance, mask usage, and prompt testing are essential to prevent wider outbreaks.

The takeaway from the horrific COVID-19 experience is that we can’t ignore the advent of any new infection. The world will be watching the Omicron subvatians, their severity and the spread in the weeks to come. In Kashmir, we experience many seasonal infections, some of them very severe, so we also need to take precautions. While the current surge in Omicron infections may not yet pose a global threat, it serves as a reminder of the need for vigilance, preparedness, and adherence to preventive measures to mitigate the risk of any potential health crisis.

Files, Fear and False Readings

In Jammu and Kashmir, government officers often misread court orders, stall public work, and deny information. What’s missing? A legal training institute to teach them how the law actually works.



Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat

A few years ago, I stood on a patch of road in Dagerpora village, Budgam, watching nothing happen. The road was supposed to be widened and protected by a retaining wall. The money had been sanctioned. The villagers had waited for years. The machinery never showed up.

The officials said a court had stayed the work. I asked for the order. They showed it to me. I read it. The stay was on a different piece of land. The road wasn’t even mentioned.

Still, they refused to build. This wasn’t laziness or corruption, not this time. It was confusion. They just didn’t understand the court’s language. And this isn’t rare.

Across Jammu and Kashmir, government officers routinely misinterpret court orders. Sometimes they misuse legal terms like “sub-judice” to block development work or deny public information. Sometimes they are afraid of contempt charges. Often, they just don’t know what the law says or means.

I’ve seen it firsthand. In Budgam, the survey numbers on the court stay didn’t match the land where the road passed. Locals showed me revenue records they had obtained under RTI. The order clearly mentioned survey number 790. The road passed through 791 and 792. That’s public land.

But the Junior Engineer was too nervous to proceed. He said, “Talk to my boss.” The Executive Engineer said, “Let me check.” The Chief Engineer didn’t respond. Three years passed.

The work was never done. The funds sanctioned under PMGSY likely lapsed.

A legal system that’s meant to ensure fairness often becomes a trap when the people implementing its orders don’t understand what they mean.

In another case, the RTI Act was misused to withhold basic information. A citizen named Ashudeep Kohli from Jammu wanted to know why his bid for a shop in Channi Himmat wasn’t accepted. He filed an RTI. The Housing Board denied him information, saying the matter was “sub-judice.” He appealed. No relief. He went to the State Information Commission. Finally, on February 18, 2016, the Commission ruled that the word “sub-judice” doesn’t even appear in the RTI Act’s exemption clauses.

The then Chief Information Commissioner G.R. Sufi made it clear: unless a court expressly forbids the release of information or unless disclosure would amount to contempt, the information should be shared.

But most officers never read these rules. Or they don’t remember them. Or they’re just not

pretation can shut down a village’s roadwork for years. How misreading one word in a court order can block a citizen’s access to public information. How fear of courts can paralyze entire departments.

I’m not speaking from theory. I’ve spent years filing RTIs, visiting villages, meeting officers who are honestly confused. I’ve sat with engineers flipping through court papers like they’re reading a foreign language. I’ve seen the panic in their eyes. “What if I get into trouble?” they ask. I tell them, “You won’t, if you actually read what the order says.”

But they don’t know how. This isn’t just a bureaucratic problem. It’s a governance failure. And it’s one that can be fixed.

We need refresher courses. Workshops. Mock trials. Real case discussions. Invite retired judges, practicing lawyers, RTI experts.

“Across Jammu and Kashmir, government officers routinely misinterpret court orders. Sometimes they misuse legal terms like “sub-judice” to block development work or deny public information. Sometimes they are afraid of contempt charges. Often, they just don’t know what the law says or means.

trained to understand them.

In most departments, the legal officers—the ones supposed to interpret and guide—are themselves confused. I’ve seen responses delayed in courts because the law officer didn’t file a reply in time. I’ve seen government offices miss critical deadlines because someone somewhere didn’t understand the law. Citizens suffer. Projects stall. Information gets buried.

What’s missing? Training.

We need a dedicated Legal Training Institute in Jammu and Kashmir. A space where government law officers, engineers, revenue officials, and clerks can go to learn how to read a court order, how to understand RTI exemptions, how to respond to judicial summons.

We already have a Judicial Academy, but it trains judges, not the ones who execute court decisions on the ground.

Legal education isn’t just about memorizing laws. It’s about learning how the system works in real life. How a small mistake in inter-

Let officers ask questions they’re too afraid to ask in courtrooms. Build their confidence. Build their knowledge.

Right now, too much rests on guesswork.

We expect our officers to follow the law, but we don’t train them to understand it. That gap between courtrooms and construction sites, between legal text and real-world action, is costing citizens time, resources, and justice.

The law should serve the people. But when its meaning gets lost between lines, so do basic rights.

It’s time the government sets up a legal training institute for its officers. Until then, we’ll keep watching court orders being misunderstood and justice delayed—for no good reason at all.

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow and Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement.

Kashmir’s Stillness Tells a Story

After the Baisaran bloodbath, visitors disappeared and silence took over. But for Kashmiris, tourism isn’t just about survival, it’s about hope.

Ahmad Ayaz

“Roughly one in five people in Kashmir depend on tourism, directly or indirectly. That includes hotel owners, drivers, guides, cooks, craftspeople, and ponywallahs.

line or a conflict zone. It’s a place where people live, work, and dream.

For young people, tourism offers more than jobs. It gives them purpose. Many are trained guides, photographers, café owners, or social media storytellers.

When the recent attack in Pahalgam made the news, everything changed in an instant. Tourists cancelled their trips. Hotels sat empty. Streets that usually buzzed with life fell silent.

In places like Lal Chowk and Dalgate, even the usual evening crowd faded fast. It wasn’t just a dip in business, it felt like a wound reopening.

This is what violence does to Kashmir. It doesn’t just take lives. It takes away the everyday rhythm of living.

Tourism here isn’t just a seasonal industry. It’s the thread that ties together livelihoods, memories, and hope. When a visitor steps into a shikara on Dal Lake or hikes through the meadows of Gulmarg, they do more than admire the view. They help keep entire communities afloat.

Roughly one in five people in Kashmir depend on tourism, directly or indirectly. That includes hotel owners, drivers, guides, cooks, craftspeople, and ponywallahs.

When a tourist comes, it sets off a chain. A houseboat gets cleaned, a basket of fresh apples is delivered, a shawl is sold, and a family eats dinner that night.

Handicrafts - those delicate papier-mâché boxes, Pashmina shawls, and hand-knotted carpets - aren’t just souvenirs. They’re cultural legacies. But with no tourists to buy them, they gather dust in locked shops.

After COVID-19, things were finally picking up. Kashmir welcomed over 18 million tourists in 2022. In 2023, the number touched

2.1 million just in the first quarter. And then, this attack happened.

You can see it in the early shutters. In the anxious eyes of shopkeepers. In the silence where there should be stories, laughter, footsteps.

But the impact isn’t just economic. Fear crawls into people’s routines. Street vendors don’t set up stalls. Families skip evening strolls. It’s as if the city holds its breath, waiting for calm to return.

For locals who’ve lived through decades of tension, every incident feels like a setback. A reminder of a past they’re trying to leave behind.

What many don’t realize is how deeply tourism connects Kashmir to the outside world.

A tourist isn’t just a guest. They’re a listener, a witness. They sip kahwa in a local home, buy bread from the same bakery a family does, ask a shopkeeper about the best place to eat.

In doing so, they see a side of Kashmir that headlines miss. And that matters.

These small encounters build trust. They cut through the fog of misinformation. They remind everyone that Kashmir is not just a head-

We trust its people. We want to know more.

That’s powerful. In a place scarred by strife, tourism becomes a kind of persistence. A choice to keep going.

But Kashmiris can’t do it alone. The government needs to step up. Not with statements, but with action. Security must be tight but not intrusive. Infrastructure has to keep up with the rising tourist numbers. Relief for those affected by cancellations is urgent. So is investment in training young people and supporting women entrepreneurs.

And the media? It has a role too. Sensational headlines help no one. What’s needed are stories of resilience. Stories of pony handlers who waited weeks for a single customer, of café owners who still open every day, hoping someone walks in, of artists who still paint their valleys in bright colors.

Kashmir is not asking for pity. It’s asking for presence. It wants visitors who come not just to see, but to listen. To be part of its story, not just consumers of its pain.

So the next time you think of a getaway, ask yourself: what does a trip mean to you? Relaxation? Escape?

For someone in Kashmir, it could mean rent paid, a loan cleared, a child’s school fees covered. It could mean being seen — truly seen — not as a problem, but as people.

Ahmad Ayaz is a freelancer, national TV debater, and columnist. Views are personal. Reach him at ahmadayaz08@gmail.com

Will Matters in Valley

In Jammu and Kashmir, a will deed isn’t just a paper, it’s the key to passing land and property smoothly to the next generation. But many families don’t know how to make it count legally.

Mohammad Amin Mir

Land means everything in Kashmir. It’s family history, livelihood, and legacy wrapped into one. So when someone passes away, the question often is: who gets the land next?

That answer lies in a document called a will deed. It’s supposed to be straightforward. This piece of paper says who gets what when the owner is gone.

But making it work isn’t always simple.

A will deed lets a person clearly spell out how their property—land, houses, even movable stuff—should be handed down after death. But not just any note scribbled on paper counts.

For a will to hold water legally in Jammu and Kashmir, it needs to meet certain conditions. The testator, the person writing the will, must be at least 18 and of sound mind.

The will must be voluntary, free of pressure or tricks, and signed in front of at least two witnesses who also sign it. Sounds formal? It is. Because any slip-up here can lead to long family fights or legal trouble.

One thing that confuses many is whether you have to register the will deed or not. Technically, no. The law doesn’t demand registration for a will to be valid. But let me tell you, skipping this step can cause headaches.

When you register a will with the local Sub-Registrar’s office, it becomes a public record. This simple act offers proof that the will is genuine. It also keeps away fraud, forgery, and endless arguments over authenticity.

Imagine a document locked away somewhere versus one on public record that anyone involved can check. Which would you trust more?

You might think, “What about notarization? Doesn’t that prove it’s real?” Not quite. A notarized will just means a notary public saw the signatures, but it doesn’t put the will on public record. Revenue officials prefer a registered will because it makes changing land ownership in official records much smoother.

Changing ownership in official records is called “mutation.” After the landowner dies, the heirs must notify local revenue officials, usually the Patwari and Tehsildar, to update the land records. This step is crucial.

If the mutation doesn’t happen, the legal heirs might struggle to prove ownership later, whether selling, mortgaging, or simply managing the land.

Here’s how mutation works with a registered will: the heir submits the death certificate and a certified copy of the will to the Patwari. The Patwari verifies the documents and checks the land records. Then, the proposal moves to the Tehsildar, who officially updates the ownership in the village records. The process usually takes a few weeks and allows time for anyone with objections to come forward.

But remember, mutation doesn’t prove ownership by itself. That’s for civil courts to decide if there’s a dispute.

However, courts in Kashmir have repeatedly upheld mutations based on registered wills. One important ruling said mutations can’t be reopened unless a court sets aside the will itself. This makes registration a powerful shield against endless challenges.

Legal battles often arise when daughters or other rightful heirs are excluded without valid reasons. Courts have protected their rights, reminding families that personal laws can’t be bent by informal deals or family pressure.

What does all this mean for you? First, get your will registered. Don’t just rely on a handwritten note or a notarized copy. Make it official at the Sub-Registrar’s office and keep multiple certified copies safe.

Second, choose your witnesses wisely—people who can honestly confirm that you were in your right mind and acted freely. Third, once the land is mutated in your name, hold onto certified copies of the updated records. These papers prove you own the property.

Finally, don’t try to navigate this maze alone. Personal and land laws in Kashmir can be complex and sometimes change. A local lawyer or revenue expert can guide you through the process, helping avoid costly mistakes or delays.

A will deed is more than just a document. It’s a bridge between generations, a promise that your land won’t be lost to confusion or conflict.

If you handle it carefully—get it registered, follow the mutation steps, and consult professionals—you can secure your family’s legacy and save future generations from needless strife.

In a place where land holds deep meaning, that’s a promise worth making.

The author is a legal researcher and writer focused on property and inheritance laws in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Wars We Start At Home

An intimate look at how Kashmiri family feuds reshape culture, memory, and childhood.

Malik Daniyal

A wise Kashmiri elder once said, “Bache chu dilas likhmut har lafaz.” A child’s heart records every word. And yet, too often, during our family feuds, children are absent. Not just from the room, but from the emotional spaces where love should live.

Families often carry wounds and grudges that never find healing. Whether it’s a dispute over property or bitterness from a marriage alliance gone wrong, pride becomes armor, and the home turns into a battlefield.

The aangan that once echoed with the laughter of children grows cold and silent.

It’s not just the headlines about high-profile family feuds or disputes settled in court that break us. It’s the fractures that spread beneath the surface, turning the warmth of shared wanwun nights into uncomfortable silences.

These are the wars we wage behind closed doors.

In Kashmir, family feuds often start from small sparks. A sharp word during a chay paeth (tea gathering), a forgotten maafi (apology) after a slight, or pride bruised over an inheritance dispute.

But like the dry woods of our val-

leys, these fires rarely stay small. They spread quickly, fed by stubbornness, fear of losing face, and the unwillingness to admit mistakes. Conversations cease, doors remain shut, and invitations to family meals vanish.

Caught in the middle, the children and cousins, once inseparable like the chinar leaves in autumn, become silent casualties.

Children are not blind to these tensions. They don’t need anyone to explain the rift, they feel it in the heavy silence that falls over long nights, in the uncomfortable moments during family gatherings, and in the stiff smiles at weddings. They learn early to make themselves small, to watch their words carefully, and to sail through the emotional crossfire swirling around them.

But no child should have to live this way.

Cousins who once shared secrets over gushtaba and rogan josh now pass each other in the street like strangers. Their childhood memories are clouded by grudges they never asked for. Eid mornings, weddings, and funerals that once brought families together now become tense affairs — where sides are drawn, and loyalties divided.

The ripple effect of these feuds is deeply painful. The conflict spreads

through entire khandans (families). Extended relatives find themselves caught in the middle — torn between loyalties, pressured to take sides, or forced into the painful silence of neutrality. Bonds fracture along invisible fault lines, and the family as a whole bears the burden.

The bitter irony in many Kashmiri households is that the very elders who preach kindness, respect, and ikhlaaq (morality) often become the paradox of their own teachings. They speak of forgiveness during gatherings but nurse grudges behind closed doors. They demand respect, especially from younger generations yet withhold it from those closest to them. Children watch as elders teach what family should be, but model something far different.

Children witness these contradictions with aching confusion. The words of love and family unity, often spoken at tabbar milaan (family meetings) or during festive gatherings, are undone by cold looks, whispered resentments, and broken promises behind closed doors. These early lessons in love become tangled with hurt, mistrust, and confusion.

Sometimes, family feuds erupt in sharp words exchanged or slammed doors in cramped homes. But more often, the deepest wounds come from silence: the cold shoulders at Eid

prayers, the unanswered phone calls during maenz raath, and the family gatherings marked by empty seats and smiles that don’t reach the eyes.

What happens to children raised in such homes, amid Kashmir’s beautiful but often turbulent surroundings?

Some grow numb, locking away their feelings like winter ice on Dal Lake. Others simmer with anger, their hurt kept hidden like untold stories whispered in the Gulmarg winds. Many come to believe that love is fragile, conditional, or even unsafe.

Childhood, which should be a time of joy and growth, like the blooming of tulips, instead becomes a battleground for survival.

These children grow into adults who carry their burdens like the heavy snowfall on the Zabarwan hills. They become wary of closeness, hesitant to forgive, often unaware that they are walking the same old paths of silence and hurt taught within their own homes. These wounds shape how they build relationships, whom they trust, and how they find healing.

The damage doesn’t end with one family alone. When many families carry these invisible fractures, the social fabric begins to fray. Trust between neighbours, which once was

strong as the roots of the chinar trees starts to dwindle. Shared traditions lose their warmth and meaning. The values of empathy and cooperation quietly erode.

Family feuds don’t just break bonds between individuals; they fracture entire communities, cultures, and generations in Kashmir. They teach us to expect division where once there was unity, suspicion where there was understanding. The valley, known for its hospitality and warmth, risks losing the very values that hold it together.

And for what? A bruised ego over a piece of ancestral land? A harsh word spoken at a wedding? A stubborn refusal to offer maafi during a funeral? It’s often easier to carry resentment than to do the quiet, painful work of reconciliation. But each grudge and each silence leaves invisible scars on the next generation.

The truth is, children don’t want perfect families. They want honest ones. Families that may argue during a noon chai session, but still come back to each other with warmth. Families that are flawed, yet keep trying. Families where love may be tangled like the threads of a handwoven pheran, but it’s real.

A child’s deepest wish isn’t for polite smiles over kehwa that mask bitterness. It’s for a family that means

what it says — one that lives kindness instead of just preaching it at gatherings or on social media.

Children see everything — the hypocrisy behind gifts that come with grudges, the contradictions in what’s said and what’s done, the broken promises that never needed words. These early lessons shape how they learn to love, trust, and heal.

So, the question for current generation of Kashmiri parents is that what kind of family do they want to leave behind? One where silence replaces speech and division replaces love? Or one where forgiveness, understanding, and honesty heal even the deepest wounds?

The answer lies in a choice. A choice to break the cycle. To be brave enough to say, “Let’s talk.” To be humble enough to apologize. To be strong enough to forgive. Because the wars we start at home don’t just stay there. They follow us, grow inside us, and spread into the world around us.

If we want a society built on true connection, respect, and love — it must begin in the living rooms where children first learn what family means.

The author studies at University of Delhi. He can be reached at mdaniyal.054@gmail.com

New Life for Old Cities

From riverfront walkways to real-time traffic updates, the twin capitals in Jammu and Kashmir are reinventing what it means to be a city in India—smarter, greener, and built for people.

Mohammad Hanief

Walk along the Jhelum riverfront in Srinagar these days and you’ll notice something different. Maybe it’s the way the walkway lights up at night. Maybe it’s the tidy benches or the fact that the footpath doesn’t abruptly disappear. Either way, it feels new. And that’s because it is.

For the last few years, Srinagar and Jammu—Jammu and Kashmir’s summer and winter capitals—have been reshaping themselves. Part of India’s Smart Cities Mission, both cities are moving beyond plans and promises. They’re building, upgrading, and modernizing in ways that are starting to show.

Remember when city offices meant endless paper trails? Now, you can get a birth certificate or pay property tax online. Traffic used to be a guessing game. These days, digital boards at bus stops in Jammu tell you exactly when the next bus will arrive. In Srinagar, smart parking systems are making it easier to find a spot, especially in crowded areas like Lal Chowk.

Launched in 2015, the Smart Cities Mission set out to help 100 cities across India upgrade their infrastructure and services using technology and sustainable planning.

Srinagar and Jammu joined the list in 2017. Eight years later, the changes are becoming real. The mission wasn’t just about roads and lights. It’s about making cities easier to live in, for everyone.

In Srinagar, the Polo View Market has been turned into a pedestrian-only zone, complete with cobblestone paths and shaded seating. It’s cleaner, calmer, and better for small shopkeepers who now see more foot traffic. The revamped city squares and the smart e-bus system are also helping people move around without adding to the mess of traffic and pollution.

The transformation isn’t just about what’s above the ground. Underneath, the city is upgrading too. Rainwater harvesting systems, solar-powered street lights, and smart water meters are being installed in parts of Srinagar. Waste around Dal Lake is being better managed. The lake isn’t just a postcard scene anymore. It’s being cared for with the seriousness it deserves.

Jammu is also seeing big changes. Known for its temples and traders, the city now has better roads, improved intersections, and smarter traffic systems. A major highlight is the Tawi Riverfront Project, inspired by the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. The first phase is already open. There are

walking paths, green patches, and places where families come in the evening just to sit by the water. For a city that had few public spaces, it’s a quiet revolution.

Digital services are catching up, too. People in Jammu can now pay utility bills online or use mobile apps to report civic issues. The city is investing in solar energy for government buildings and using GPS to track garbage collection. It’s not flashy work, but it’s essential.

Both cities are trying to become better places to live, not just better looking. Parks now have open gyms and play areas for kids. Public Wi-Fi zones are popping up. Government schools are getting digital learning tools. In Srinagar, an Integrated Command and Control Centre keeps an eye on traffic, emergency response, and even water usage. The idea is to stay one step ahead, rather than play catch-up.

But here’s a question: can all this last?

City planning is one thing. Long-term upkeep is another. New assets need maintenance. New systems need trained people to run them. Both cities still face challenges—Srinagar struggles with winter floods, and Jammu with scorching heat. Delays in contracts and coordination slow things down. And not everyone

feels included, especially in low-income neighbourhoods where basic needs still come first.

Even so, the change is real. And it’s not just about infrastructure. Smart city work is creating jobs in construction, IT, and tourism. The new look and feel of public spaces is drawing more visitors, which means more business for hotels, taxis, cafes, and local shops. There’s a ripple effect, and people are noticing.

What stands out is how both cities have tried to keep their character intact. Jammu’s old markets and temples are being restored, not replaced. Srinagar’s cultural landmarks aren’t being paved over. They’re being protected, even highlighted.

Smart cities aren’t only about gadgets and glass buildings. They’re about making daily life a bit easier, a bit kinder. Whether it’s riding a bus that comes on time or having a clean, green space to take your kids on the weekend, that’s what this transformation is aiming for.

Srinagar and Jammu aren’t finished yet. But they’re not stuck anymore. They’re moving, with care, with thought, and with the people in mind. Maybe that’s what makes a city truly smart.

The author can be reached at m.hanief@outlook.com

A Poet Comes Home

In a hall packed with bards, scholars and schoolchildren, Dr. Rafiq Masoodi’s new poetry collection was a homecoming, a tribute, and a celebration of Kashmiri language and memory.

Rayees Ahmad Kumar

It was a Thursday afternoon in Srinagar, but inside Tagore Hall, time moved at its own rhythm. Outside, the city held its breath under May’s tender sun. Inside, verses floated through the air.

People filled every seat. Teachers, poets, bureaucrats, even lawmakers. All had gathered for the release of a book. But it wasn’t just any book.

It was Bey Pai Talash, a Kashmiri poetry collection by Dr. Rafiq Masoodi, former Additional Director General of Doordarshan Srinagar and a respected name in Kashmir’s cultural memory.

The event was warm, loud, and deeply personal. The hall opened with a prayer—Ya Rasool-e-Hashimi—sung in a voice that silenced the room.

Then came words of welcome, thoughtful and firm, from Mohammad Amin Bhat, president of Adbi Markaz Kamraz, the group that hosted the event. He reminded the audience of the group’s decades-long work in preserving Kashmiri literature and called for school trips to Meeras Mahal, Sopore’s small but rich museum of culture.

What followed was a careful blend of celebration and critique. Academics took to the stage: Professor Shafqat Iqbal read a stirring review of the book, tracing its emotional depth and its ties to the land.

Dr. Rafiq Raaz, a veteran broadcaster, offered a comparison between Masoodi’s two books, noting how this second one felt more grounded, more at ease in its skin.

Professor Naseem Shifayi reflected not only on the poet’s journey, but on the strength of his wife, without whose patience, she said, the book may never have happened.

The book’s release happened in two parts—first by Masoodi’s family, who stood with pride as they held up the first copies, and then by a dais full of writers and scholars. The applause was long and affectionate. Some people stood. Others reached for their phones to record the moment. A few wiped away tears.

But even in all the praise, there were questions: How many more voices like Masoodi’s are still waiting for recognition? How can schools and colleges keep the Kashmiri language alive when English and Urdu dominate classrooms?

Director of School Education, Dr. GN Ittoo, though delayed by official duties, arrived in time to offer both assurance and admiration. Born in Doru, the same village as the legendary Rasool Mir, Ittoo promised more support for local literature and called Masoodi his mentor.

Later, shawls and bouquets changed hands. Mementos were presented. A flower garland was placed gently on the

poet’s shoulders by a fellow writer. It didn’t feel staged—it felt earned.

Masoodi took the microphone last. His words were soft, but steady. He thanked his family, his colleagues, and the audience. Then he played a short audio clip from the UK—a Kashmiri-origin Minister of Justice praising the poet’s work. The clip ended with a recitation of Sahibo Sath Cham Mei Cheani—a prayer poem by Mehjoor that left the hall hushed.

One professor reminded the audience of something simple but often forgotten: Kashmiri isn’t just a language—it’s a way of seeing. “Our poets,” he said, “used similes no other language dares.”

As the crowd thinned, waiters moved through the aisles with trays of kebabs, shami kebabs and soft Kashmiri chapatis. Cups of hot tea followed. Each guest left with a copy of the book, its cover designed by Javed Iqbal, its inside pages carrying verses looking for answers—just as the title Bey Pai Talash suggests.

In the end, it wasn’t just the book that found a voice that day. It was a language, a people, a memory.

And above all, it was a poet returning to his roots, not just to be read, but to be remembered.

The author hails from Qazigund, South Kashmir.

The Village Healer Who Never Left

While his classmates left for better jobs and big cities, Munazir Bashir stayed behind in Wahibugh. His daily acts of care have made him a lifeline for those around him.

Gowher Bhat

Wahibugh is the kind of village where everyone knows each other. It sits in South Kashmir’s Pulwama district, surrounded by orchards and green fields. Life moves slowly here, but for Munazir Bashir, most days begin before sunrise.

He runs a small medical lab tucked between homes and shops, easy to miss unless you’re looking for it. Inside, a wooden bench holds a few test kits. His tools are neatly placed on a metal tray. There’s no sign outside, no receptionist, no rush. Just Munazir, 28, wearing a sweater and calm expression, ready to work.

While many of his friends from college moved to cities or even

overseas for higher-paying jobs, Munazir stayed. He has a master’s degree in medical laboratory technology. He could’ve gone anywhere. Instead, he chose to remain in Wahibugh, the village where he grew up.

“I felt it was my duty to stay and do whatever little I could for my community,” he said. “My friends may be earning big incomes elsewhere, but I find a deeper joy in knowing I’m making a difference right here, where I belong.”

He doesn’t earn much. His friends often send him photos from their new lives—offices with polished floors, cafes with expensive coffee, beaches on weekends. They ask him why he didn’t go with them.

“It’s not about earning lakhs or

living in a big city,” he tells them. “It’s about finding satisfaction in what I do.”

Most of his day is spent outside the lab. People call him when they can’t reach a doctor or can’t afford a clinic visit. Sometimes it’s an elderly man with a fever. Other times it’s a young woman needing an injection. He walks to their homes with a small black bag, full of basic medical supplies. He never asks for money.

“I don’t do this for recognition,” he said. “It’s just that money isn’t everything. There’s a greater reward in serving others. Social service is a responsibility, not a choice.”

Many in the village say he has become more than a technician. He’s someone they rely on when things feel uncertain.

Saima Firdous remembers being scared during her pregnancy. There were tests she couldn’t afford, medicines she didn’t know how to get. “I was struggling and didn’t know how I’d manage the tests and medicines,” she said. “Munazir not only helped me get the tests done but also guided me with kindness. He was there when I needed him most.”

Another resident, Mohammad Ayoub, had severe joint pain that left him unable to walk. “I had no money for a doctor or medicine,” he said. “Munazir saw my pain and immediately helped. He took me to the doctor, paid the consultation fee, and ensured I received proper treatment.”

Munazir never pretends to be a doctor. He follows instructions from local physicians carefully.

They trust him because he listens, works with care, and never pushes past his role.

His days are long. Mornings start with preparing the lab. By afternoon, he’s usually on the move. In the evening, he gets calls from families worried about loved ones. Some days, he eats dinner late, after checking on patients who couldn’t come during the day.

Still, he doesn’t complain. When asked what keeps him going, he smiles.

“As long as I can serve my people, I’ll keep doing this,” he said. “I may not have much, but I have enough. And that’s what matters.”

His work rarely makes news. There are no big headlines, no awards, no social media buzz. But in Wahibugh, people speak his

name with respect. Children wave when he walks by. Elders bless him under their breath. He brings medicine, but more than that, he brings comfort.

Even the young people in the village notice. Some say they want to study science, like Munazir. A few have started helping out at the clinic. They talk about staying close to home, of doing something that matters here, not just elsewhere.

In a place where big dreams often lead people away, Munazir’s presence reminds them that purpose doesn’t always come with applause. Sometimes, it walks softly, house to house, with a medical bag in hand.

The author is a Pulwama-based English language instructor.

JKEDI trains 228 aspirants, including 107 women, under RAMP Scheme

4-Week ESDPs conclude in eight districts of UT

Jammu/Srinagar, May 31: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Saturday successfully concluded its first batch of Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programs (ESDPs) in eight districts—Udhampur, Anantnag, Bandipora, Budgam, Ramban, Shopian, Reasi and Kulgam—under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. The initiative, funded by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, is being implemented in the Union Territory by the Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Launched on May 5, 2025, the four-week programs trained a total of 228 aspiring entrepreneurs, including 107 women, reflecting a significant step towards gender inclusivity in the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The intensive 104-hour curriculum aimed at enhancing managerial, financial, and strategic capabilities of the participants through classroom sessions, field visits, expert interactions, and practical workshops. The ESDPs were designed to enable participants to scale operations, improve



competitiveness, and establish sustainable enterprises.

The ESDP curriculum, developed by domain experts, featured modules on business planning, marketing strategies, digital tools, financial literacy, legal compliance, innovation, and leadership. Participants also benefited from mentorship sessions, case studies, and real-world exposure through field visits to successful business ventures. Valedictory sessions were held at all three locations.

All sessions were attended by faculty members and officials

from JKEDI, who played an active role in training delivery and program monitoring. Subject matter specialists from District Industries Centres and the Labour and Employment Department provided sector-specific inputs, adding value to the participant learning experience.

The programs were closely monitored by designated Range/Reviewing Officers of JKEDI, who conducted regular feedback sessions to ensure quality and relevance in the training delivery.

All-party delegation garners ‘unequivocal support’ from all the interlocutors in Indonesia

Jakarta (Indonesia), May 31 The multi-party parliamentary delegation led by JD(U) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha on Saturday concluded their mission in Indonesia where they articulated India's stance following Operation Sindoor and were able to garner “unequivocal support from all the interlocutors.”

The all-party parliamentary delegation was here with a mission to convey New Delhi's unequivocal stance about India's fight against terrorism to local political and diplomatic leadership and think tanks after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

“Through their several interactions in Jakarta in the last three days with a cross-section of important stakeholders, the delegation was able to firmly articulate India's principles and resolute stance of zero tolerance against terrorism and garner unequivocal support from all the interlocutors in Indonesia,” a statement from the Indian Embassy here said.

While departing from Indonesia for Malaysia, Jha, in a post on X, thanked the country for the “gracious hospitality, thoughtful dialogues, and unwavering support in our shared fight against terrorism.”

“Our all-party Indian parliamentary delegation deeply values the solidarity shown by your

leaders, institutions, and the Indian diaspora. From strategic cooperation to cultural harmony, this visit has reinforced our mutual commitment to peace, democracy, and regional stability,” he added in the post.

Earlier on Friday, the delegation met with KH Ulil Abshar Abdalla, Chairman of the Nahdlatul Ulama Executive Board (PBNU) and Kholidi Kholil, Committee Member of NU, the world's largest Islamic organisation and sought their unwavering support against violence and religious extremism.

“As peace-loving countries with the largest Muslim populations with shared values of Unity in Diversity or ‘Binneka Tunggal Ika’ practised as state policy as well as in daily lives, the leader of the delegation urged NU leaders to support India and condemn cross border terrorism to give a strong message to the world,” the Indian Embassy in Jakarta said on X.

“Condemning terrorism and the attack on innocent civilians, KH Ulil said he felt the pain of India & called for India and Indonesia to walk hand in hand to promote peace, economic development,” the post said.

The delegation had a “warm and engaging” interaction with members of the Indian diaspora in Jakarta on Friday where the members shared

the background of Operation Sindoor and India's united and responsible response to terrorism. “The diaspora was encouraged to spread this message across communities and platforms — as proud representatives of India abroad. We sincerely thanked them for preserving India's culture, values, and unity, and for standing strongly with the nation in its fight against terrorism,” Jha said in a post on X after the interaction.

On Thursday, the delegation met with National Mandate Party (PAN) leaders who categorically stated that “religion and race cannot serve as a basis for exporting terrorism.”

The delegation also interacted with Resident Ambassadors of 20 friendly countries in Indonesia and shared their insights on India's calibrated and strong response through Operation Sindoor. The Indian team also held an insightful interaction with scholars and researchers from Indonesia-based think tanks and academia, including the Indonesian Council of World Affairs (ICWA); Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS); Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI); The Habibie Centre; Indo-Pacific Strategic Intelligence Centre for Indonesia Policy Studies (ISIPICS); University of Indonesia, and the Indonesia Air Power Studies Centre.

Kashmir Falcons Appoint Tahseen Farooq as CEO



Srinagar, May 31: The Kashmir Falcons football franchise is pleased to announce the appointment of Tahseen Farooq as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the upcoming season. With his profound passion for football and extensive experience in youth sports development, Farooq is poised to lead the team towards unprecedented success while honoring Kashmir's rich football legacy.

Expressing his enthusiasm and vision for the team's future, Farooq stated, “I am delighted to join as CEO of the Kashmir Falcons and continue the journey of promoting youth sports in Kashmir. My ultimate dream is to see the Kashmir Falcons emerge as champions of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025, bringing pride and glory to the region.”

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Over 20% Of J&K Population

several measures to reduce tobacco use. Thousands of challans have been issued, with significant fines collected from those caught smoking in public areas. Many people in the Kashmir Valley have quit smoking, aided by counseling, pharmacotherapy, and awareness campaigns educating the public about the dangers of tobacco.

“If people become aware of the risks, there will be less need for strict enforcement,” an official said, emphasizing education as a key tool.

Under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, authorities regularly conduct enforcement drives, focusing on keeping schools and tourist spots tobacco-free. Additionally, J&K has banned the sale of loose cigarettes, beedis, and tobacco products to curb easy access and discourage casual use.

Health experts warn that tobacco users are 2.5 times more likely to develop tuberculosis (TB). Tobacco also increases the risk of TB recurrence and complicates treatment outcomes. Officials urged residents to quit tobacco for a healthier future.

Globally, tobacco remains the leading cause of preventable deaths, claiming over seven million lives each year, with over one million deaths occurring in India alone.

In Kashmir, tobacco-related illnesses like lung cancer are on the rise, now the second most common cancer in the region. Hospital data show men are particularly affected, with a strong link between smoking habits and cancer development.

While the risk of cancer remains even after quitting, experts stress that early cessation significantly lowers this risk over time, making quitting tobacco crucial for long-term health. (inputs from KNO)

Civil Defense Mock

of rapid response tactics, simulated rescue operations, and real-time coordination between various emergency services, they added.

The drills also tested the ability to mobilize 30 units of blood for hypothetical mass injuries, besides communications checks between Civil Defence control rooms and military command centers.

Originally scheduled for May 29, the drills were rescheduled to May 31 and carried out in coordination with local administrations. The demonstrations emphasised the importance of timely, well-coordinated responses to minimize casualties and damage, the officials said.

Snow & Rains

daily life and sent temperatures plunging.

Snowfall was reported in Tulail and Razdan Top areas of Gurez valley in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, Peer Ki Gali in south Kashmir's Shopian, and Zojila Pass along the Srinagar-Leh highway. As a precautionary measure, authorities closed the Bandipora-Gurez road amid slippery conditions.

Rainfall in the plains, including in Srinagar, brought further chill, with the city recording a maximum temperature of just 14.5°C — the coldest day in May ever recorded. This came barely a week after Srinagar touched 34°C, highlighting the severity of the drop.

Elsewhere in the Valley, places like Qazigund, Pahalgam, Kupwara, Kokernag, and Gulmarg recorded day temperatures well below normal. In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded 32.9°C, Banihal 14.6°C, and Katra 28.6°C — all significantly lower than the seasonal averages.

In Ladakh, Leh recorded a maximum of 16.8°C, also several degrees below normal.

The Meteorological Department has forecast light to moderate rain or thundershowers in the plains and light snowfall in the higher elevations over the next 24 hours, advising travellers and residents to remain cautious.

Schools Shut

Poonch and Rajouri districts in Jammu with

Kashmir's Shopian district and Sinthan road connecting Kishtwar in Jammu with Anantnag in Kashmir, they said.

The snowfall in Peer Ki Gali along Mughal road and Margal top, Sinthan top and Warwan in Kishtwar and Chasana in Reasi disrupted normal life and also resulted in the death of several sheep and goats, they said.

A couple of mud-houses and cowsheds also collapsed due to heavy rains in the hilly areas of Rajouri and Reasi but there was no loss of life, the officials said.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had already warned of gusty winds reaching up to 50-60 kmph, thunderstorms, and intense showers across the region.

According to the officials, a cloudburst also washed away dozens of sheep and goats belonging to the nomadic Bakerwal community in Dachhan area of Kishtwar this evening.

However, there was no human loss in the incident, they said.

In light of the inclement weather, the District Development Commissioner Rajouri ordered the closure of all primary and middle schools in the district for May 31. The decision was taken as a precautionary step to ensure the safety of students and staff. The Chief Education Officer directed all Zonal Education Officers to enforce the order without delay.

Despite the disruptions, the sudden change in weather was a welcome surprise for tourists in Srinagar. “This cool, rainy climate has been a delightful change from the heat. Dal Lake looks absolutely stunning in this weather,” a visitor from Uttar Pradesh said.

“We heard that Kashmir experiences brief periods of heat followed by rain, and luckily, our trip coincided with this beautiful weather.”

Locals too expressed relief at the drop in temperature, calling the rains a much-needed respite after the recent heat wave.

The Irrigation and Flood Control Department confirmed that all river and stream levels remained within safe limits as of Saturday morning.

Key river levels included: River Jhelum at Sangam: 3.80 feet (Flood mark: 21 ft), Munshibagh: 6.83 feet (Mark: 18 ft), Asham: 5.09 feet (Mark: 14 ft), and Wular Lake: 1575.80 m (Flood mark: 1578.00 m).

Tributaries such as Vishow, Rambiyara, Liddar, Doodhganga, and Sindh Nallahs also remained well below flood levels, suggesting no immediate risk of inundation.

Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the Meteorological Department, said that light to moderate rainfall with isolated heavy spells is expected to continue across J&K through the weekend. “Snowfall is likely over isolated higher reaches, and gusty winds with thunder are expected in both divisions,” he said.

From June 1 to 2, light rain or thundershowers are likely at isolated locations. The forecast for June 4 to 6 predicts mostly dry weather, although brief afternoon showers may occur in some places. Scattered rain or thunderstorms could return on June 7 and 8, especially in the afternoons.

Will J&K Get

organisational role in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), leveraging his experience and close ties with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Further reports reveal that the Centre is also eyeing administrative reshuffles involving the governorship of Manipur, which might pave the way for Ajay Bhalla—currently the Governor of Manipur—to take over as the new Delhi L-G. Former IAS officer Rajesh Khullar is also in the fray for the Delhi post.

The anticipated change in Jammu & Kashmir's leadership comes at a critical time, with the region's governance and political stability remaining a top priority for the central government.

While official announcements are yet to be made, sources say formal decisions on these

reshuffles could be declared in the coming days, signaling a strategic repositioning of key bureaucratic roles ahead of upcoming elections.

Sindoor ‘Most

assured that they will be answered with cannon balls,” Modi said at the Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Mahila Sashaktikaran Maha Sammelan held on the occasion of the legendary queen's 300th birth anniversary.

“India is a country of culture and traditions, and sindoor is a symbol of women power in our tradition. Hanuman ji, who is immersed in Ram Bhakti, also sports sindoor. We offer sindoor in Shakti Puja. This sindoor has become a symbol of bravery,” he added.

Earlier this month, the Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, including the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold in Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base in Muridke. These military strikes were carried out under Operation Sindoor, two weeks after the massacre of 26 civilians in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

Sindoor, or the vermilion mark, symbolises the marital status of Hindu women, and its use as the operation's name resonated powerfully in light of the April 22 Pahalgam massacre. In that brutal attack, terrorists targeted and killed men — including newlyweds — after verifying their religious identity.

“In Pahalgam, terrorists not only shed the blood of Indians, but also attacked our culture. They tried to divide our society, and the biggest thing is that the terrorists challenged the women power of India,” Modi said.

“This challenge has become the death knell for the terrorists and their handlers. Operation Sindoor is the biggest and most successful operation in India's history against terrorists. While the Pakistan army could not even imagine it, our army destroyed the terrorist hide-outs,” he added.

Modi also highlighted women's growing role in governance: “This time, 75 women have become members of Parliament. Our effort is to increase this number. This is the spirit behind the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Women reservation in Parliament and state assemblies has now been achieved after a long wait.”

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, also known as the Women's Reservation Bill, is landmark legislation that reserves one-third of the total seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies for women.

“This means that the BJP government is empowering our sisters and daughters at every level and in every field,” Modi said.

He further said the world is witnessing the capability of India's daughters in national defence today.

“For this, the government has taken many steps in the last decade. From schools to the battlefield, the country today has unprecedented faith in the bravery of its daughters,” he added.

Referring to Lt Cdr Roopa A of the Indian Navy and her partner Lt Cdr Dilna K, who returned to Goa after successfully circumnavigating the globe in a sailing boat, the Prime Minister said these two brave Navy officers completed a sea voyage of about 250 days.

“They circumnavigated the earth by travelling thousands of kilometres in a boat powered not by a motor but by wind. Imagine staying at sea for 250 days,” he said.

Modi also remembered Ahilyabai Holkar as the guardian of India's heritage who protected temples and pilgrimage sites during times of attack.

“Our government is working on the mantra of ‘Nagrik Devo Bhava’ (citizen is god), which was the philosophy of Ahilyabai Holkar,” he added.

Ahilyabai Holkar, the revered queen of the Holkar dynasty in 18th-century Malwa, is remembered for her exceptional governance,

commitment to social welfare, and contributions to culture and spirituality.

Earlier in the day, Modi released a commemorative stamp and Rs 300 coin to mark her 300th birth anniversary.

Pak Violating

obligations.

These changes include technological advancements, demographic changes, climate change and the ongoing threat of cross-border terrorism, he said.

The minister said that the treaty's preamble states it was concluded in the spirit of goodwill and friendship, and that honouring the treaty in good faith is essential.

“However, the unrelenting cross border terrorism from Pakistan interferes with an ability to exploit the treaty as per its provisions.

“Pakistan, which itself is in violation of the treaty, should desist from putting the blame of the breach of the treaty on India,” he said.

At the International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said his country would not allow India to cross the red line by holding the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance and endangering millions of lives for narrow political gains.

“India's unilateral and illegal decision to hold in abeyance the Indus Waters Treaty, which governs the sharing of the Indus Basin's water, is deeply regrettable,” Pakistani newspaper Dawn quoted Sharif as saying.

Following the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which killed 26 people, India announced the suspension of the treaty as part of several punitive measures against Pakistan.

The Indus Waters Treaty, signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan with the World Bank as a signatory, governs the sharing of the Indus River system's waters between the two countries.

The three-day UN conference on glaciers, which ends on Saturday, aims to highlight the important role of glaciers in maintaining global ecological balance and addressing water-related challenges.

The conference is being attended by over 2,500 delegates from 80 UN member states and 70 international organisations.

Paras Hospital

he was working at Ujala Cygnus Superspeciality Hospital, just a few miles away.

So when his phone started ringing with people asking what happened during the surgery, he didn't understand. Then he saw his name listed on the operative note.

“I was not present. I was not involved. I had no role whatsoever in that surgery or incident,” he said in a public statement.

The mistake wasn't small. The same note made its way into the official suspension order from the government. Dr. Naveed said it caused him “emotional, reputational, and financial harm.”

So how did it happen?

Paras Hospital later said the issue came from its software. The hospital's operation theatre system had copied data from a previous surgery, they explained, and accidentally inserted Dr. Naveed's name. They called it a “clerical error” and sent an apology to the CMO.

But many weren't satisfied with that explanation.

“How can a hospital use old templates to fill in who performed surgery on a patient who died?” asked a senior doctor, who didn't want his name published. “This is not a typo in a prescription. This is life and death. This is someone's name and career.”

Others pointed to a bigger problem: what happens when a hospital's record-keeping system can't tell who really operated on a patient?

“This isn't just about one doctor being falsely named, it's about a system that can let

something so basic go unchecked even in a death case,” said another doctor familiar with private hospital practices in Srinagar.

Experts say accurate documentation is the backbone of any medical case. When it fails, patients, families, and doctors suffer.

“It's not just embarrassing, it's dangerous,” said one public health official.

What's more, the hospital's apology didn't mention any new safeguards. It didn't say whether staff had been trained to check documentation or if the faulty software had been fixed.

Online, doctors and health professionals rallied behind Dr. Naveed. “Solidarity with the truth,” one wrote. Others said they had worked with him and knew he wouldn't be part of such a case.

By the weekend, the anger had moved from hospital corridors to social media timelines. A post with his suspension notice crossed hundreds of views on Instagram alone.

Kashmir Observer reached out to Paras Hospital for comment. A hospital representative said a callback would be arranged on Monday.

But for many, the damage is already done. A young man is dead. A doctor's name was dragged through the mud. And the hospital now faces hard questions about how such an error could happen, and what it plans to do about it.

ACB Nabs Patwari

from gusty winds. The application was forwarded to Patwari Halqa Lukbhawan Larkipora for a report.

However, when the complainant met the Patwari, he was allegedly asked to pay a Rs 10,000 bribe for processing the request. Instead of paying, the complainant reported the matter to the ACB.

After verifying the allegations, the Bureau registered an FIR (No. 01/2025) under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. A trap was laid, and the Patwari was caught on the spot while accepting the bribe. The amount was recovered from his possession in front of independent witnesses.

Following the arrest, a search was conducted at the Patwari's residence in the presence of executive magistrates. Further investigation is underway.

Cherries Sent to

two more cherry consignments—one from Katra and another from Jammu—are scheduled for dispatch in the coming days.

“This marks a win-win for both railways and growers and will boost J&K's economy,” Singhal noted.

Ali Mohammad of the New Kashmir Fruit Association welcomed the move, saying it reduces both travel time and freight costs. However, he emphasized the need for a direct rail link with the Kashmir Valley to allow produce to be loaded closer to orchards.

“We urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the Kashmir rail service soon. The track has been ready for a long time,” he said.

The Prime Minister was earlier scheduled to inaugurate the Katra-Srinagar rail link this month, but the event was postponed due to weather, with no new date announced yet.

IGP Reviews

Bhawani is on June 3. Jammu and Kashmir Police has made stringent (security) arrangements so that the devotees coming here from different districts of the valley do not face any difficulty and they get proper security,” Birdi told reporters in Ganderbal.

In response to a question on fear among the people in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, the Kashmir police chief said, “The Jammu and Kashmir Police always makes security arrangements on the basis of security reviews, and the security planning has been done under the same scheme.”

Despite 77% Govt School Dominance, JK Enrolls Only 54% Students: MoE



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Despite having a share of more than 77 percent of government-run-schools in Jammu and Kashmir, the School Education Department has managed to enrol only 54 percent of students—thus raising a question on quality and functioning of the department.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) for Government of India (GoI) in a recent report has said, "The UT has 77.32 percent government schools out of the total number of schools. However, a matter of concern is that only 54.06 percent of students are enrolled in these government-run schools."

The MoE said, "It was highlighted that enrolment in private schools is higher in comparison to government schools."

"Further, the UT was advised to prioritise the improvement of the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) and Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) at the Higher Secondary level in the coming years," reads the report.

Furthermore, the ministry has said that out of the total

18,785 government schools, only 3304 that amounts to 17.6 percent schools have solar panels installed. "Further, there are very few secondary or senior secondary schools without ICT and computer labs, smart classrooms and subject specific labs in the UT."

The MoE suggested that these gaps can be saturated this year only. Accordingly UT was advised to identify the gaps through UDISE+ and propose these schools in the current year Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) for the consideration by the board.

According to KNO, earlier this week it was reported that MoE in the report had said that in Jammu and Kashmir at least 65 government schools are having zero student enrolment and more than five thousand primary schools are with less than 30 enrolment and over 1500 schools are reeling under enrolment with only 15 students each.

MoE had said, "Out of the total 18,785 government schools in the UT, there are 65 schools including 62 primary and three upper primary schools with zero enrolment."

Govt School Teacher Held For Duping Job Seekers

Observer News Service

JAMMU: A suspended government school teacher, arrested last week on duping job seekers, was on Saturday remanded to 15 days of judicial custody, an official of the Crime Branch said.

Jameel Anjum, a resident of Ustad Mohalla, was arrested on May 23 and was produced in a local court which remanded him to 15 days judicial custody, the official said.

He said Anjum was arrested following a fresh complaint lodged by Rashid Manhas of Gujjar Nagar, claiming that he was duped of Rs 10 lakh cash and gold ornaments worth Rs 5 lakh on the pretext of arranging government jobs for him and his sister, the official said.

The accused provided fake

appointment orders to the complainant and made him believe that certain posts in various government departments are to be filled by educated candidates having no one in government services and belonging to middle class strata, the official said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh constituted a special investigation team after getting the complaint for an in-depth investigation.

According to PTI, Anjum, a habitual fraudster, is currently under suspension on account of his involvement in continuous frauds, the official said, adding a total of 10 FIRs stand registered against him in Crime Branch and district Police Jammu, out of which four cases have been chargesheeted so far.

World No Tobacco Day

‘Smoking Gateway To Drug Abuse’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day, health experts in Kashmir have raised serious concerns over the rising trend of smoking and its strong association with cancer and drug abuse.

Dr Javid Ahmad Bhat, a general physician at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) said tobacco consumption is one of the leading causes of death in Kashmir and remains a major contributor to the alarming rise in cancer cases. "If we truly want to eliminate this menace, the only effective solution is a blanket ban on the sale of tobacco products," he asserted.

He said around 50,000 cancer cases have been reported in J&K in the last few years, with lung cancer being the most prevalent. Alarming, 90 per cent of lung cancer cases are directly linked to smoking, he informed.

The doctor further added that the widespread availability of tobacco, coupled with rising stress levels and social acceptability of smoking, has made it difficult to curb the habit. "Smoking is no longer seen as taboo, and that perception must change. It has also become a gateway to drug addiction—most drug abusers begin with smoking before being lured into more dangerous substances," he said.

Several doctors, who spoke to KNO on the condition of



anonymity, called for a comprehensive and enforced ban on tobacco. "On one hand, the government claims to protect public health, yet on the other, it permits the free sale of products that are killing thousands. These contradictory policies cannot coexist," one doctor said.

Dr Mir Mushtaq, Block Medical Officer (BMO) Magam, who was previously holding charge of nodal officer for tobacco control and was awarded by WHO for his extraordinary work, told KNO that the situation is equally grave among the youth.

"About 25 per cent of school-going adolescents in Kashmir are smokers, and nearly all drug addicts start their journey with cigarette smoking," he said.

Dr Mushtaq raised concerns about second-hand and third-hand smoking, which are often overlooked as second-hand smoke affects nearly 50 per cent of families, exposing them to serious health risks.

Third-hand smoke, he explained, refers to residual nicotine and harmful chemicals that settle on furniture, clothing, and other surfaces, posing long-term dangers, especially to children and the elderly.

Jammu Gears Up For Anti-Cancer Drug Production: Dr Jitendra Singh

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu is set to make a significant stride in healthcare and biotechnology with plans to begin the manufacturing of anti-cancer and other medicinal drugs, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh announced on Saturday. The initiative, being undertaken in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) Jammu and private stakeholders, marks a new chapter in the region's pharmaceutical and scientific development.

Dr. Singh, who represents the Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency, made the announcement while chairing a constituency-level meeting via video conferencing. The meeting was convened to finalize a series of programs commemorating 11 years of the Narendra Modi-led central government.

As part of this major push, a new cannabis cultivation initiative will support the pharmaceutical venture, targeting the production of cancer medications. Dr. Singh emphasized that the project would also boost employment and income through empowerment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and the integration of scientific agriculture.

He highlighted an AI-based agricultural decision support system being developed for Jammu & Kashmir, which aims to modernize farming practices and enhance productivity. He also spoke about the Gram Krishi Seva Yojana, under which four Agromet Observatories have already been established across Ladakh, Srinagar, and Jammu, with new units being added in districts like Kupwara, Baramulla, Kathua,



and Reasi in partnership with SKUAST.

Unveiling a month-long schedule to mark the Modi Government's anniversary, Dr. Singh listed a series of planned activities including exhibitions, media outreach, expert engagements, and grassroots mobilization. These events are intended to highlight the government's achievements and foster citizen involvement in building a "Viksit Bharat".

Reaffirming the government's commitment to welfare schemes, he directed officials to achieve 100% saturation under flagship programs like Ayushman Bharat, ensuring no eligible beneficiary is left out. "Every citizen must feel the impact of the government's transformational work," he said.

Touching on agricultural innovation, the minister cited operationalization of the Biotech Industrial Park in Kathua and its integration with Biotech Kisan Clusters as a model for innovation and collaboration between scientists and farmers. He praised the "Purple Revolution" that began with lavender cultivation in Baderwah and has now spread to Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, offering substantial income opportunities to young agri-entrepreneurs.

Dr. Singh also highlighted a collaborative project between the Department of Atomic



HE PRAISED THE "PURPLE REVOLUTION" that began with lavender cultivation in Baderwah and has now spread to Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, offering substantial income opportunities to young agri-entrepreneurs.

FRESH SNOWFALL

Mughal Road Among Other Roads Closed



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The fresh snowfall has led to the closure of multiple roads across Jammu and Kashmir including Mughal Road and SSG Road while an advisory has been issued for Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44).

The National Highway-44 remained open for two-way passenger traffic on Saturday even as heavy rainfall lashed the region, causing difficulties for commuters. Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMs) were allowed to ply from Jammu towards Srinagar, traffic authorities said.

An official from the Traffic department said that despite the inclement weather, passenger traffic is moving smoothly

in both directions on NH-44.

"HMs have been allowed to move from Jammu towards Srinagar. However, the entire highway stretch has witnessed heavy rain, which has made the road slippery at several points," the official said.

He added that commuters have been advised to strictly follow lane discipline and avoid overtaking to prevent congestion and possible accidents.

Regarding the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) Road and Sinthan Top Road, the official said traffic movement is stopped and the clearance operation is ongoing.

The road will be operational again after receiving clearance and a green signal from road maintenance agencies. "Cur-

Energy and the Department of Biotechnology, which has enabled extended shelf life and increased yield in crops. He noted that this technology has made it possible for Kashmiri apples to be cultivated in Jammu, alongside mangoes.

Emphasizing national pride and historical awareness, Dr. Singh urged people to mark June 26 as a "Black Day" in remembrance of the Emergency imposed in 1975, describing it as a key moment to reinforce the value of democracy and civil liberties.

Looking ahead to upcoming national observances, he called for enthusiastic participation in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign on World Environment Day (June 5), encouraged grand events for International Yoga Day (June 21) at tourist destinations, and praised the Tiranga Yatra as a continuation of the spirit exemplified by "Operation Sindoor".

He also announced the launch of a two-day Lavender Festival in Baderwah on June 1. As part of the Floriculture Mission in J&K, over 385 hectares have been brought under floral cultivation, directly benefiting more than 3,000 farmers. He cited breakthroughs such as the development of genetically modified roses that bloom in desired colors across seasons, and the expansion of tulip farming from Palampur to Ayodhya even in off-season, as further proof of the transformative potential of scientific innovation in agriculture and floriculture.

Dr. Singh's announcements reflect a broader vision that integrates healthcare, science, technology, and grassroots development, positioning Jammu as a future hub for biotech and agri-innovation.

J&K Should Be Bridge Of Friendship Between India & Pakistan: Mehbooba

Observer News Service

Srinagar: People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti said on Saturday that Jammu and Kashmir should be a bridge of friendship between India and Pakistan, and not a theatre of war.

Addressing party workers here, Mufti said Jammu and Kashmir has always borne the brunt of war and violence, likening the region to "grass trampled under the feet of two fighting elephants".

"The PDP will continue to raise its voice for peace and channel the sentiments of people. We must end the spectre of war so that people can plan their lives and revive the economy. Jammu and Kashmir should be a bridge of understanding, friendship and cooperation, not a theatre of war," she said.

According to PTI, reacting strongly to recent remarks made by the National Conference (NC) leadership, including party president Farooq Abdullah's call for intensified military action against Pakistan, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said such statements reflect a dangerous mindset.

"When the Indus Waters



Treaty was put in abeyance by the government of India, it was (Jammu and Kashmir) Chief Minister Omar Abdullah who hailed the move and even advocated for an immediate halt to water supplies to Pakistan.

"We may have political differences with the government of Pakistan, but not with its people. It is saddening that such remarks are being made by the leader of the only Muslim-majority state in the country," she added.

Reiterating her party's commitment to peace and dialogue, Mufti warned against the "rising tide of war rhetoric" that continues to impact the people of the region.

"These leaders want more war and more dead bodies. It is, however, only the PDP that has consistently advocated for an end to hostilities and spoken for the people's right to live a life of dignity," she said.

Commissioner's Post In Food & Drug Administration Lying Vacant

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The position of commissioner in Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been lying vacant since the retirement of Hashmat Ali Yauto in February, an RTI activist said on Saturday, questioning the delay in filling the vacancy.

According to PTI, Jammu-based RTI activist Raman Kumar Sharma had filed two applications in April with the health and medical education department using Jammu and Kashmir government's RTI portal, asking who had been appointed to the post of commissioner after Yauto's retirement and reason for the delay in appointing a new officer in his place.

"The Health & Medical Education Department transferred the applications to the Food Safety Department and finally it was responded to on May 19, confirming that the post is still lying vacant and that the matter is with the General Administration Department (GAD)," Sharma told PTI on Saturday.

He said no timeline or proposal was shared in the reply.

Yauto, an IAS officer, retired as commissioner of the FDA on superannuation on February

28. The FDA commissioner is responsible for enforcing food safety laws, licensing, inspections, and ensuring the availability of safe and standard quality food and medicines to the public.

According to the amended J&K Reorganisation Act, the Lt Governor has been granted powers to transfer IAS officers while the postings of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers remain with the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

"It is shocking that almost three months have passed and the government has neither appointed a new officer nor assigned the charge to anyone in an officiating capacity," Sharma said.

He said the absence of the chief has raised serious concerns about the functioning and accountability of the department.

In the past, Sharma said even the Jammu & Kashmir High Court had to intervene in the matter, underlining the importance of filling the post without delay due to its direct link with public health and safety.

"This is a critical post. The government's delay is disappointing," he said, adding, "there is no transparency and the silence of the authorities is worrying."

NC MP Ruhullah Rejects Resignation ‘Rumours’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Member of Parliament (MP) from Srinagar and senior National Conference (NC) leader, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi on Saturday rejected the reports regarding his resignation from the party, saying he doesn't have answers for "rumours".

"I don't keep any secrets and don't change my statements," Ruhullah told reporters here.

However, he didn't react to the query over his posts on X, formerly Twitter.

Asked about reports of his resignation, the MP said, "These are just rumours and I don't have answers for these rumours."

Mehdi said his efforts, along with his party and the incumbent government, are to fulfil the commitments and promises made to the people regarding the political agenda and public sentiments. "We need to take

steps over it and fulfil those commitments without wasting time," he stressed.

The senior NC leader said there is a need to work hard internally to revive the tourism sector. "I don't think the foreign delegations have the mandate to do so. We need to work internally in this regard. The way Kashmir has been portrayed post-Pahalgam attack, we need to fight against the bogus story," he said while replying to a query.

The MP called for highlighting the "factual story" of Kashmir, which he said is a place known for its hospitality. "Kashmiris have always respected tourists and sacrificed their lives for them. The biggest example of such is Syed Adil Hussain, who sacrificed his life while saving the tourists. We need to put efforts to promote tourism here," Mehdi added.

Kashmir Falcons Appoint Tahseen Farooq As CEO

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Kashmir Falcons football franchise is pleased to announce the appointment of Tahseen Farooq as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the upcoming season. With his profound passion for football and extensive experience in youth sports development, Farooq is poised to lead the team towards unprecedented success while honoring Kashmir's rich football

legacy.

Expressing his enthusiasm and vision for the team's future, Farooq stated, "I am delighted to join as CEO of the Kashmir Falcons and continue the journey of promoting youth sports in Kashmir. My ultimate dream is to see the Kashmir Falcons emerge as champions of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025, bringing pride and glory to the region."

Qualifier 2: PBKS Face Stern Test Against Rampant Mumbai Indians

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: A rampant Mumbai Indians will present a stern test of character for a rattled Punjab Kings in a one-sided Qualifier 2 of the Indian Premier League here on Sunday.

An eight-wicket hammering at the hands of Royal Challengers Bengaluru in a one-sided Qualifier 1 may have eroded some amount of confidence in Shreyas Iyer's Punjab Kings, who are now in a do-or-die situation as they dream of winning a maiden IPL trophy.

On the other hand, Mumbai Indians took another stride towards a potential sixth title with a comprehensive victory, which knocked out title favourites Gujarat Titans in the Eliminator.

History tells Mumbai Indians



know their way around these lanes of IPL knockouts better than either of the other two teams left in the competition and that certainly tilt the scales in favour of Hardik Pandya's side.

But coach Mahela Jayawade

For the Iyer-Ricky Ponting pair, the task would be to ensure their players put behind the crushing defeat in their last game and channel their energies to fight the fires that have erupted particularly in the bowling line-up, where Arshdeep Singh is carrying extra pressure.

The absence of Marco Jansen and unavailability of IPL's highest-ever wicket-taker in Yuzvendra Chahal was evident when PBKS scrambled to find options to apply pressure on a spicy wicket in Mullanpur against RCB.

But at the same time, PBKS camp could feel that that 'one bad day', collectively for their batters and especially in the knockouts, is now behind them and that it did not rob them of an opportunity to make the final.

PBKS would also know the

margin of error is getting leaner looking at how Rohit Sharma pulverised GT's bowling attack and set up the win for MI, riding on a couple of early lifelines to produce a match-winning knock.

A holistic view would perhaps leave one without spotting any chink in Mumbai Indians' armour who have fired on all cylinders. They would continue to lean on their rich blend of Indian players including Rohit, Jasprit Bumrah, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma and Pandya to come together.

MI will also be particularly pleased with how their new recruits Jonny Bairstow and Richard Gleeson eased into the heat of the competition to deliver their bits, which at the end, proved vital in crushing GT on a batting-friendly pitch.

Match starts at 7:30PM IST.

Short TAKES

IPL 2025: Shubman Gill Shuts Rumours Of Rift With Hardik

Cujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill has put an end to swirling rumours of a rift with Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya following a viral video from the Friday's IPL 2025 Eliminator. Social media was abuzz with speculation after the video clip from the toss went viral.

In the footage, Pandya was seen approaching Gill for a handshake, but Gill appeared to walk past without acknowledging the former's gesture. The clip went viral instantly, with many social media users interpreting it as a deliberate snub.

Gill took to Instagram to clear the air, writing, "Nothing but love (Don't believe everything you see on the internet) @hardikpandya95." The post was accompanied by a photograph of the two sharing a light moment.

Titans journey in IPL 2025 ended after being beaten by Mumbai by 20 runs in the do-or-die clash.

England Lions Reach 75/1 After Karun Nair Guides India A To 557

England Lions reached 75 for one at tea after India A raised a massive 557 in in their first innings around Karun Nair's double hundred on the second day of the four-day Unofficial Test here on Saturday.

Emilio Gay (28 batting) and Tom Haines (25 batting) were in the middle at the break after the early loss of opener Ben McKinney (16). Lions are trailing by 482 runs.

Before that, India A extended their command over the Lions with a solid batting effort led by Karun.

Karun made 204 off 281 balls (26x4, 1x6) as India A continued their strong march after resuming from the overnight score of 409 for three.

Brief scores: India A: 557 all out in 125.1 overs (Karun Nair 204, Dhruv Jurel 94, Sarfaraz Khan 92; Josh Hull 3/72, Zaman Akhtar 3/73) vs England Lions: 75/1 in 18 overs (Emilio Gay 28 batting, Tom Haines 25 batting).

Sorry But Kagiso Rabada Won't Be Over-Apologetic For Drug Ban

Agencies

South Africa fast bowler Kagiso Rabada said life moves on and he will never be "Mr I-Apologetise-Too-Much" after serving a one-month ban for testing positive for recreational drug use at this year's SA20 competition.

The 30-year-old Rabada can resume playing for his country in June, after being named in South Africa's squad for the World Test Championship final against Australia at Lord's from June 11 to 15.

Having already apologised for his actions in May, Rabada said he wanted to move on from the incident.

"I'm just glad to be playing again. The process was han-



dled really well ... I think, as a player, and a man, people will have their different opinions. I can live with that," Rabada told media on Saturday before leav-

ing for London.

"There are some people who would have been disappointed and to those people I'm deeply sorry ... The people closest to me are the ones I felt I let down.

"But life moves on. I'll never be 'Mr-I-Apologetise-Too-Much'. But I'll never condone that action."

Rabada said he has been speaking with team-mates, adding that he plans to do more in the coming days to mend any rifts the incident may have caused.

"I think I owe it to them (to talk about what happened)," he said. "They're my team mates. We've come from so far.

"I've already spoken to them and I guess we can do so in more detail when we get together for an extended amount of time."

Young Indian Team Can Achieve Something Special: de Villiers



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: India's young guns have the talent to achieve something special in the upcoming England Test series, provided they back themselves, said AB de Villiers here on Saturday, adding that it's time for the new generation to step up.

With the 25-year-old Shubman Gill at the helm, India will start a new cycle of the World Test Championship next month without their seasoned campaigners in Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, who both announced their retirement recently.

India will also miss the services of off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin who retired during last year's tour of Australia, and senior pacer Mohammed Shami, who was not selected for this tour owing to his lack of fitness for the conventional format.

"Yes, it's time for the younger guys to step up... Shubman Gill taking on the responsibility," de Villiers told the media on the sidelines of a NGO Project Mumbai event here.

"There's lots of talent in India and largely credit to the IPL for

that, (it is) really giving great exposure to some of the youngsters at a very early age."

"We saw Vaibhav Suryavanshi this year (and) many other youngsters, they come in their first year and they look very mature and ready to play cricket and it's a great platform for Indian cricket," he said.

The former South African skipper said the tour of England will be a tough test for the young Indian side, but keeping the belief could help them pull off a favourable result.

"They've got to take some responsibility on in England, it'll be a tough test, but they have all the talent in the world and if they believe, maybe they can achieve something special."

De Villiers, who shares a special bond with his former Royal Challengers Bengaluru teammate Kohli, said he will be missed in Test cricket.

"He followed his gut feel. I think he has done a lot for cricket around the world over the years. Luckily, we'll still see him on the cricket field. He will be missed in Test matches, there is no doubt about it, but he leaves (behind) a great legacy with the red ball," de Villiers said.

Pakistan Threatens To Seek Asia Cup Hockey Relocation

The Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has said it will seek the relocation of the upcoming Asia Cup from India if visas are not guaranteed for its national team.

The continental tournament is scheduled to be held in India between late August and early September, with the winner earning a direct qualification spot for next year's World Cup in Europe.

A PHF spokesperson said the federation would consider sending its team to the tournament only if the Asian Hockey Federation and local organisers provided written assurance of visa issuance.

The comments come in the backdrop of heightened political tensions between the two nations, which came close to a full-blown war early this month.

Real Madrid Most Valuable Team For 4th Straight Year, Say Forbes

LaLiga side Real Madrid topped the list of the most valuable soccer teams in the world for the fourth year in a row with a valuation of \$6.6 billion, business magazine Forbes has said.

Real became the first soccer club to bring in a billion dollars in a single year after they posted a record \$1.13 billion in revenue for the 2023-24 season, the magazine added in a report published on Friday.

England's Manchester United are second in Forbes' list with a \$6.6 billion valuation after generating \$834 million in revenue in the 2023-24 season despite a forgettable Premier League campaign where they finished eighth. Real's LaLiga rivals Barcelona are third, valued at \$5.65 billion, while Liverpool and Manchester City are fourth and fifth.

Forbes named six Premier League sides among the top 10 most valuable teams with Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea making the list after Bayern Munich and Paris St Germain.

Shoaib Akhtar Gets Rs. 1 Billion Legal Notice For Defamation

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Television host and former Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) official Dr. Nauman Niaz has served a Rs1 billion (approximately INR 30.46 crore or 346 million) defamation notice on former fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar following a controversial comment made during a channel show on May 25.

Dr. Niaz, a former Director of Sports at the state-owned Pakistan Television Network, has sent the notice through



his lawyer after Shoaib allegedly described him as a "kit man" during his time with the Pakistan team. "Dr Nauman basically used to carry our bags luggage for us in the team," Shoaib said on a podcast.

Dr Nauman served as the

data analyst of the Pakistan team on a couple of tours some years back when Shoaib was playing for his country.

Deriding the role of coaches, managers in the team, Shoaib went onto narrate about how Dr Niaz was in the team to carry bags of the players.

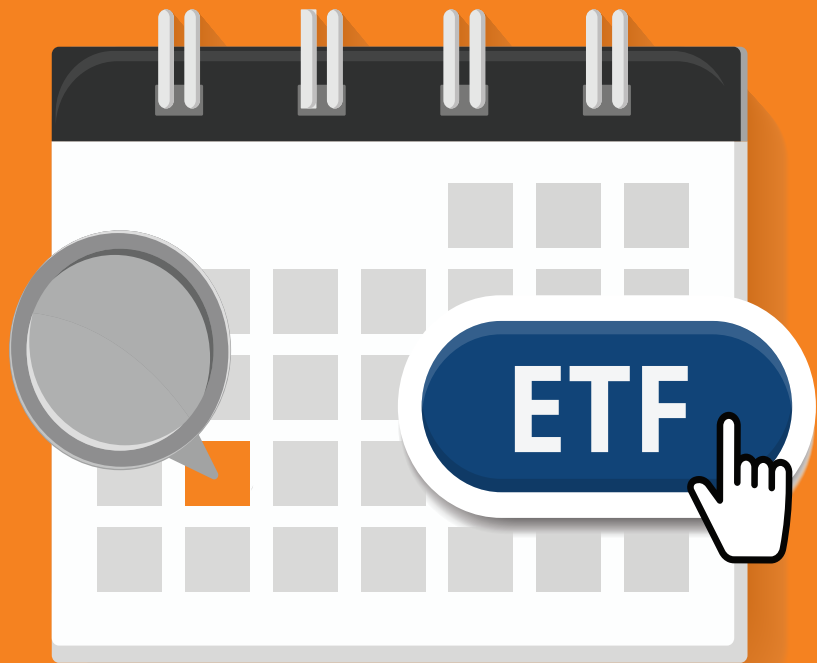
"That is what he did in the team. I don't know about anything else he did," he added.

In the notice, the lawyer has demanded an unconditional apology in 14-days time or face legal action and damages.

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Achieve financial freedom

Set up Systematic Investment Plans in Exchange Traded Funds (Shariah Based ETF)



Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

1, 10 Samad Complex, Ma Link Road, Srinagar, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar – 190001