



Government of
Jammu & Kashmir

Viksit Bharat | Viksit Jammu & Kashmir



A Historic Milestone in
India's Railway Journey



Dedication to the Nation of
Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link

worth about ₹43,800 cr

- **Seamless All-Weather Connectivity**
Links Kashmir Valley to the rest of India —fast, reliable, and year-round.
- **Boost to Local Economy & Trade**
Easier transport of local goods like apples, saffron and handicrafts to major markets.
- **Tourism Growth**
Improved access to popular destinations like Gulmarg, Pahalgam & Vaishno Devi.
- **Job Creation**
Thousands of employment opportunities in railways, tourism, and logistics sectors.
- **Access to Better Healthcare & Education**
Simplifies travel to major cities for medical care and universities.

by

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Katra | June 06, 2025 | 10:00 AM

Linking Jammu & Kashmir with Every Heart



...OPED P6

KASHMIR CAN'T AFFORD TO SLEEPWALK INTO COVID

Low numbers in J&K offer comfort, but not safety. Let's not forget how quickly the virus changes course.

**ON TRACK NOW**

...EDITORIAL P6

...PANORAMA P7

GOOGLE KNOWS ME, BUT I DON'T KNOW MYSELF

In a hyper-connected world, a young Kashmiri voices the anguish of a generation fluent in data but...

**News Digest****Constable Among 3 Fired Over Terror Links**

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday dismissed three government employees for their alleged links with banned terror outfits Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM). The sacked individuals—Malik Ishfaq Naseer, a police constable; Ajaz Ahmed, a teacher in the School Education Department; and Waseem Ahmad Khan, a Junior Assistant at Government Medical College, Srinagar—are | [More on P10](#)

India's Active COVID-19 Cases Cross 4,000

India's active COVID-19 cases have crossed the 4,000 mark, with Kerala remaining the most affected state followed by Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Delhi, according to the Union Health Ministry data released on Tuesday. There are 4,026 active cases in India and five fresh deaths have been reported in the last 24 hours. Since January this year, 37 deaths have been reported in the country. | [More on P10](#)

Anantnag Police Warn Against VPN Use

Police in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir have asked people not to use Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) as their use has been banned in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack. The Anantnag district magistrate had on May 7 suspended the use of all VPNs for two months as police reported large-scale use of these networks to access websites and content blocked by the Centre in the aftermath of the April 22 | [More on P10](#)

Growers Seek Crop Insurance After Hailstorm

Following a severe hailstorm that devastated orchards and farmlands across several areas of south Kashmir, fruit growers have condemned the meagre compensation provided, saying it amounts to "rubbing salt on their wounds" given the extent of their losses, which run into crores. Growers from Chitragam and surrounding areas in Shopian district expressed their anger, saying the relief of only a few thousand | [More on P10](#)

Early School Timings In Kashmir Spark Parental Outcry

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A recent decision by the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) to shift school timings to an earlier summer schedule has ignited widespread concern among parents, who argue the change is detrimental to their children's well-being.

Effective from May 26, schools within Srinagar's municipal limits now operate from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., while those outside function from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The DSEK stated the shift was implemented to mitigate the impact of rising temperatures. However, on the ground, parents report the new schedule is having the opposite effect.

"Our kids are now waking up even earlier than before, barely getting proper rest. And by the time they leave school, | [More on P10](#)

**Every Year, They Return: The Day Kashmir Comes Home To Its Saint**

On the day of Urs at Khanqah-e-Maula, thousands walk back through time to a wooden shrine by the Jhelum River. They return with memories, grief, skill, and a faith that still shapes who they are

Fiza Masoodi

Srinagar: Haleema doesn't speak right away. She stands at the edge of the shrine courtyard, eyes closed, breath

slow. The sounds around her—chants, whispers, a bazar bustle—blend into silence. She holds a copper bowl filled with rose petals. Her other hand clutches her daughter's arm.

"I've been coming here since I was a little girl," she says finally, opening her eyes. "Except for a few difficult years, I've rarely missed this day." She is 87 now. And for

nearly 70 times in her life, she is back at Khanqah-e-Maula, a centuries-old wooden shrine built along the Jhelum River in Srinagar's old city. It's the | [More on P10](#)

PM To Inaugurate Kashmir Rail Link On June 6

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: In his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir since the launch of Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the long-awaited Kashmir rail project later this week, marking a historic leap in the region's connectivity.

Modi will begin his visit on June 6 by dedicating to the public the iconic Chenab Rail Bridge



— the world's highest railway arch bridge — which is a crucial part of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL), finally linking the Kashmir

Valley to India's national rail network. "History in the making... Just 3 days to go! The mighty Chenab Bridge, the world's highest | [More on P10](#)

LG Chairs Preparatory Meeting

Ahead of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Inaugurate Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge and opening of Vande Bharat train service connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari, on 06th June 2025, a preparatory meeting of Senior Administrative and Police Officials was chaired by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Srinagar, Raj Bhawan. | [More on P10](#)

Domicile Rules, Job Quotas Announced For Ladakh

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The government on Tuesday introduced new reservation and domicile policies for the Union Territory of Ladakh, reserving 85% of government jobs for local residents

and one-third of seats in Ladakh's Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) for women.

The new rules also define who qualifies as a domicile: anyone who has lived in Ladakh for 15 years, or studied for 7 years | [More on P10](#)



LG Manoj Sinha visits Lal Chowk, interacts with traders on local issues.

Passport Can't Be Seized for Pending Probe: HC Orders Relief To Ex-IAS Officer

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Mere pendency of investigation would not give power to the authorities to impound passports, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has said.

A bench of Justice Sindhu Sharma made the observations while allowing a petition by a former IAS officer, Sajad Ahmad Khan, challenging rejection of his application for release of his passport by Special Judge Anti-Corruption CBI Cases Jammu on 11 September 2021.

"The power to impound the passport under Section 10 of the Passports Act is a serious restriction on the fundamental rights of the citizen and order of impounding passport without sufficient cause or without following principles of natural justice is liable to be set aside," the court said, adding, "Thus, the order of impounding the passport of the petitioner under Section 10(3)(c) has not been validly exercised by him."

This apart, the court said, the passport | [More on P10](#)

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan**Stress-free Investments****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

Registered Office: Sharekhan Limited, The Ruby, 18th Floor, 29 Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West), Mumbai 400 028, Maharashtra, India. Tel: 022-67502000. Fax No: 022-24327343. Correspondence Address: 10th Floor, Cignaplex Bldg, No. 9, Raheja Mindspace, Jyoti Knowledge Park Rd, MIDC Staff Colony, TTC Industrial Area, Andri, New Mumbai, Maharashtra 400710, India. Tel: 022-63399000/63330000. Fax No: 022-63399099. SEBI Regn. Nos: SEI / MSE / CASH / F&O / CDO / MCX / Commodity / IN2000171337; DP: NSDL/CDSL-IN-509-365-2018; CIN: U99999MH1999PLC027498; Sharekhan Ltd. (AMFI registered Mutual Fund Distributor) Mutual Fund: APN 20669 (date of initial registration: 03/07/2004, and valid till 02/07/2026); IRDAI Registered Corporate Agent (Composite) License No: CA0950, valid till June 21, 2027. PMS: INPMS000786; Research Analyst: INRAD00045123, RCM Number: 04625. For any complaints email at: sebi@sharekhan.com. Compliance Officer: Mr. Jyoti John Mathur, email id: compliance@sharekhan.com. Tel: 022-62283305. Please refer the Risk Disclosure Document issued by SEBI and go through the Rights and Obligations and Do's and Don'ts issued by Stock Exchanges and Depositories before trading on the Stock Exchanges. For commodities derivatives, please note that Commodities Derivatives are highly leveraged instruments. PMS is not covered in Commodity Derivative Segment by Sharekhan Limited. Before investing in the asset class consider your investment objectives, level of experience and risk appetite carefully. Mutual Fund investment are subject to market risk. Read all the scheme related documents carefully before investing. Brokerage will not exceed SEBI prescribed limit. Mutual Funds are not Exchange traded products and all disputes with respect to the distribution activity would not have access to Exchange investor redressal forum or Arbitration Mechanism. The figures shown above are as of 30th November 2024. Such representations are not indicative of future results. For more details visit www.sharekhan.com. (SEBI Regn. Nos.: SEI-51074801502725, MSE-2000770051)

'Musk's Tesla Not Interested In Manufacturing In India'

NDTV

New Delhi: Tesla, the Elon Musk-owned electric vehicle giant, is not interested in manufacturing in India and is keen on opening showrooms, Union Minister for Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy said on Monday.

The remarks came amid the government's push to promote domestic manufacture of passenger cars, with a special focus on electric vehicles (EVs).

"Tesla...they are only to start showrooms. They are not interested in manufacturing in India," the minister said.

Heavy Industry Secretary Kamran Rizvi, however, added, "The real intent we'll know when we open the application".

"If the company still feels like investing. What the minister is telling is about what people...they

but "high import duty" structures were a bone of contention.

Tesla's intention to come into India had intensified after India announced its new EV policy, under which import duty was reduced to 15 per cent and many incentives were provided for setting up a manufacturing plant in India.

Meanwhile, Elon Musk's father, Errol Musk, who is in India, appeared keen on Tesla's presence in the country.

"That is something that I have to be careful not to say too much about. Tesla is a public company. It's not ours...When you look at India and the population, the kind of people you've got here, the energy and everything and when I hear that, with great respect, BYD and various others are coming in, and Tatas and Mahindra are making great cars, I'm very inclined to say, wait, why aren't we having Teslas here. But I can't say too



come and tell informally," he said.

The minister added that many European companies like Hyundai, Mercedes Benz, Skoda and Kia have shown interest in manufacturing units in India under the new EV policy.

Earlier, there were reports that Tesla was interested in importing Tesla cars into India and subsequently selling them through their showrooms in India.

Tesla boss Musk had in the past indicated that he was interested in investing in India,

much. That's just a personal point of view," he said.

He was answering a query about plans for Tesla's presence in India.

The central government on Monday notified guidelines for the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India.

The central government approved a forward-looking scheme to promote the domestic manufacture of passenger cars, with a special focus on electric vehicles (EVs).

Maharashtra to Introduce Basic Military Training from Class 1 in Schools

Press Trust of India

Mumbai: Basic military training will be imparted to students from Class 1 in Maharashtra in a move to instill a sense of patriotism, discipline and promote the habit of regular physical exercise, state School Education Minister Dada Bhuse has said.

Retired soldiers will be roped in for training the pupils, he said.

"A decision has been taken to give basic level military training to students from Class 1. This will help inculcate love for the country, encourage habits like doing physical exercise regularly and discipline that will benefit the students," Bhuse said.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has responded positively to the proposal, he noted.

To implement the proposal, help of 2.5 lakh ex-servicemen will

A decision has been taken to give basic level military training to students from Class 1. This will help inculcate love for the country, encourage habits like doing physical exercise regularly and discipline that will benefit the students

be taken along with sports teachers, National Cadet Corps (NCC), Scouts and Guides, the Shiv Sena minister added.



Professional Militaries 'Not Affected' by Temporary Losses: CDS

Pakistan Using 1,000 Cuts Tactic; New Redlines Set: CDS Chauhan

Press Trust Of India

PUNE: Professional militaries are not affected by temporary losses as the overall outcomes are much more important than such setbacks, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan said on Tuesday.

The top military commander said that Pakistan has been following an approach of bleeding India by thousand cuts but New Delhi drew a completely new redline against cross-border terrorism by conducting the Operation Sindoor.

In an address at the Savitribai Phule Pune University, Gen Chauhan appeared to reject criticism against him for acknowledging that India lost an unspecified number of combat jets during the initial phase of the operation. "When I was asked about losses on our side, I said these are not important as results and how you act are important," he said.

It would be not very correct to talk about losses and numbers,

he said, responding to a question.

In war, even if there are setbacks, you need to maintain your morale, he said adding losses are not important but outcomes are.

The Chief of Defence Staff highlighted various elements of war including politics and violence and noted: In Operation Sindoor too, war and politics were happening as a parallel kind of phenomenon.

Gen Chauhan also made a mention about Pakistan Army chief Gen Asim Munir "spewing venom" against India and Hindus just weeks before the Pahalgam attack to emphasise that Islamabad's approach has been to "bleed India by thousand cuts."

What happened in Pahalgam was profound cruelty towards victims, he said.

The thinking behind Operation Sindoor was that state-sponsored terrorism from Pakistan has to stop and that country should not be able to hold India hostage to terrorism. India is not going to live under the shadow

of terror and nuclear blackmail, Gen Chauhan said.

On India's military offensives, he said Indian armed forces carried out very deliberate precision strikes on Pakistani targets and some of them were as narrow as two metres. Explaining the process of the understanding on cessation of hostilities, he said Pakistan planned to carry out its counter operations against India for 48 hours but it folded up in about eight hours. And they wanted to talk, he said, highlighting the impact of Indian strikes.

Pakistan's decision to talk to India on May 10 stemmed from the realisation that it will suffer more if its operation continues, Gen Chauhan said.

Around 1 am on May 10, Pakistan aimed to get India to its knees in 48 hours as multiple attacks were launched, he said.

Pakistan's operation that they thought would continue for 48 hours folded up in about eight hours and they wanted to talk, he added.

PM Modi Unlikely To Attend G7 Summit In Canada Amid Strained Ties: Report

Press Trust of India

New Delhi:: For the first time in six years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is unlikely to attend the upcoming G7 summit to be held in Canada's Alberta province, people familiar with the matter said on Monday.

Canada is hosting the summit from June 15 to 17 that is expected to deliberate on pressing challenges facing the globe including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the situation in West Asia.

It is learnt that Ottawa was yet to send an invitation to the Indian prime minister for the summit, but PM Modi, in any way, would have skipped it as such a visit would have required a lot of groundwork considering the current state of ties between the two sides, said the people cited above.

The India-Canada relations hit rock bottom following then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in 2023 of a potential



Indian link to the killing of pro-Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

However, Liberal Party leader Mark Carney's victory in the parliamentary election in April triggered hopes for reset of the relationship.

The assessment in New Delhi has been that there was no clear indication yet from the new government in Canada to address India's concerns over the activities of the pro-Khalistani elements in that country.

Moreover, there has been no significant forward movement by New Delhi and Canada to restore each other's high commissioners.

In October last year, India recalled its high commissioner and five other diplomats after Ottawa attempted to link them to the Nijjar case.

India also expelled an equal number of Canadian diplomats. "For a prime ministerial visit, we needed to carry out a lot of groundwork considering the state of bilateral relations," explained one of the people.

Above all, security is a major issue, said another person aware of India-Canada ties.

In the last few months, the security officials of India and Canada resumed contacts and both sides were looking at the possibility of appointing new high commissioners.

The exit of Trudeau was seen as an opportunity to improve bilateral ties.

Earthquake Sparks Escape Of 216 Inmates From Pak Prison

Al Jazeera

Islamabad: More than 200 inmates have escaped from a prison in Pakistan after they were moved from their cells for safety amid earthquake tremors, officials have said.

Several dozen of the prisoners that broke out of the jail in Karachi were quickly recaptured, police said on Tuesday, but at least 130 are understood to remain unaccounted for. Authorities added that raids are under way to apprehend those still at large.

Of the 216 prisoners who had fled from Malir prison during the night, 78 had been recaptured,



Police and paramilitary soldiers stand guard outside the Malir prison from which more than 200 inmates escaped overnight, in Karachi, Pakistan, on June 3, 2025 (AP)

Several dozen of the prisoners that broke out of the jail in Karachi were quickly recaptured, police said on Tuesday, but at least 130 are understood to remain unaccounted for

oped amid a bid to put one of the escapees back into custody.

Kashif Abbasi, a senior police official, told the AP news agency. He stressed that none of the escaped prisoners were convicted fighters.

Escapes are not common from Pakistani jails, which have stepped up security measures since an attack on a prison by the Pakistani Taliban in the town of Dera Ismail Khan, which freed hundreds of inmates.

One prisoner was killed and three security officials were wounded in a shootout that devel-

In comments carried live on local TV news channels, Lanjar said the prison break was one of the largest ever in Pakistan, the Reuters news agency reported.

Impeachment Motion Against Justice Varma in Next Session



A fire incident at Varma's residence in the national capital in March this year when he was a judge at the Delhi High Court had led to the discovery of sacks of cash in the outhouse.

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The government will bring an impeachment motion against Justice Yashwant Varma in Parliament's next session and will seek to build an all-party consensus for action against the Allahabad High Court judge embroiled in a case of suspected corruption.

Government sources said on Tuesday that Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju will be speaking to leaders of different parties to get them on board for the impeachment motion against the judge following his indictment by a three-member committee con-

stituted by the then Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna.

A fire incident at Varma's residence in the national capital in March this year when he was a judge at the Delhi High Court had led to the discovery of sacks of cash in the outhouse.

Though the judge claimed innocence, the Supreme Court-appointed committee indicted him. Justice Varma, who was transferred to the Allahabad High Court during the controversy, was nudged to resign but has refused, prompting Khanna to write to the President and the Prime Minister to take measures for his removal.

Kamal Haasan Refuses To Apologise

Movie 'Thug Life' will not be released in Karnataka on June 5, the scheduled date for the pan-India release of the much anticipated movie, Kamal Haasan informed the Karnataka High Court on Tuesday.

The court posted to June 10 the hearing on his plea seeking adequate security at theatres planning to screen it in the state amidst the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) boycott.

Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that the producers of the movie have said that they are not willing to screen the movie in Karnataka, unless there is a dialogue or a trialogue involving the KFCC.

The court also strongly criticised Haasan for his recent remark suggesting that "Kannada was born out of Tamil", and observed that a "single apology could have resolved the situation".

The remark, reportedly made by Haasan at a promotional event in Chennai for his upcoming Tamil film 'Thug Life', sparked a backlash in Karnataka, prompting the KFCC to announce that the film would not be screened in the state unless Haasan



apologised.

In response, Raajkamal Films International—the production company co-founded by Haasan—filed a plea before the High Court seeking protection for the film's release. PTI

Punjab Man Arrested For Sharing Army Details During Op Sindoor With Pak

Chandigarh: A man hailing from Punjab's Tarn Taran district was arrested for allegedly sharing with Pakistani intelligence operatives sensitive information about troop deployment and strategic locations during Operation Sindoor, police said on Tuesday. He was also allegedly in contact with Pakistan-based pro-Khalistan leader Gopal Singh Chawla.

Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said the accused has been identified as Gagandeep Singh alias Gagan, a resident of Mohalla Rodupur, Gali Nazar Singh Wali, in Tarn Taran.

He was arrested for allegedly sharing sensitive information related to the army's movements during Operation Sindoor with Pakistani Intelligence Operatives (PIOs).

Police also recovered a mobile phone containing information, which he shared with the PIOs.

The accused was allegedly in contact

with Pakistan's intelligence agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and also received money for passing on sensitive information, the police said.

He was arrested in a joint operation of the Tarn Taran police and the Counter Intelligence wing of the police.

"Arrested accused had been in contact with the #Pakistan #ISI and (Pakistan based Khalistani supporter) Gopal Singh Chawla, sharing sensitive information concerning army movements during #OperationSindoor," the DGP said in a post on X.

Investigations said the accused was engaged in sharing classified details, including troop deployments and strategic locations, posing a threat to national security.

Gagandeep had been in touch with Khalistani supporter Chawla for the past five years, through whom he was introduced to the PIOs, Mr Yadav said.

"He also received payments from #PIOs via #Indiachannels," he further said.

Recovered a mobile phone containing intelligence that he shared with the PIOs, as well as the details of over 20 ISI contacts, he said.

Thorough financial and technical investigations are underway to trace other linkages and establish the full scope of this espionage network, the DGP added.

An FIR has been registered under the Official Secrets Act at Police Station City, Tarn Taran, and further investigation is in progress, he added.

Under Operation Sindoor, the Indian armed forces carried out pre-dawn missile strikes on May 7 on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, including the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold of Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base in Muridke, in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives.

Earlier, police had arrested six persons for allegedly spying for Pakistan.

N E W S M A K E R S

Urs Of Shah-e-Hamdan (RA) Observed With Religious Fervor

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The annual Urs of Shah-e-Hamdan (RA), was observed with religious fervour across the Kashmir Valley on Tuesday, with a large gathering of devotees witnessed at the revered shrine of Khanqah-e-Moula in Srinagar and Khanqah Faiz Panah in Tral alike.

Devotees from different parts of the Valley thronged the shrine of Hazrat Amir Kabir Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (RA) since morning to offer special prayers and seek blessings in Srinagar and Tral.

According to KNO, emotional scenes were witnessed as people recited verses and prayed in unison. Special arrangements were made by the administration to accommodate the large number of people visiting the shrine.

Ghulam Qadir, a devotee from Srinagar said, he has been coming here every year. “It gives me peace to offer prayers at this holy place. The spiritual atmosphere cannot be described in words,” he said.

Earlier, night-long Shab Khwani (special prayers) were held on Monday at Khanqah Faiz Panah in Tral, Pulwama and Srinagar where a large number of people gathered to pay their respects.

Local cleric, while ad-



Emotional scenes were witnessed as people recited verses and prayed in unison. Special arrangements were made by the administration to accommodate the large number of people visiting the shrine

dressing the gathering, spoke about the life and teachings of Shah-e-Hamdan (RA) and his significant role in spreading Islam and promoting spirituality, education, and social welfare in Kashmir.

“The message of Shah-e-Hamdan (RA) remains relevant even today, compassion, unity, and devotion to Almighty,” said a local resident in Srinagar.

Pertinently, the Urs is observed every year in memory of the revered Sufi saint, who is widely credited for laying the foundation of Islam in Kashmir through peaceful preaching and humanitarian work.

Moreover, the security and traffic arrangements were in place to ensure smooth movement of devotees.



LG Sinha Visits Lal Chowk, Sips Tea With Shopkeepers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday visited the heart of Srinagar city, Lal Chowk, where he interacted with local shopkeepers and assured redressal of their grievances.

The Lt Governor, who has been on the invitation of the Lal Chowk Traders Association, had tea at a local fabric shop.

Mohammad Saleem Bhat, General Secretary of the association, said a 14-member delegation from the traders' body welcomed LG Sinha.

“We had met him at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar yesterday and invited him to visit Lal Chowk. He accepted our invitation and came today,” Saleem said.

Bhat said he, along with the association president, Mohammad Iqbal Khan, vice president and other senior members, were present during the interaction with LG.

“We raised key issues related to parking, the court complex and encroachment. The LG patiently listened and assured us that necessary solutions will be taken up promptly,” he said.

Bhat said officials, including the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar and other officers, accompanied LG Sinha during the visit. They also took note of the concerns raised by the traders.

Meanwhile, as part of the visit, the Lieutenant Governor stepped into a fabric shop, ‘NK Mehra Fabrics’, located near

The LG, as per the statement, assured that appropriate action will be taken to address the issues projected by them.

Meanwhile, LG Sinha, after interacting with shopkeepers, visited the Balidan Stambh (Martyrs’ Memorial) at Lal Chowk.

He conducted on-site inspection and reviewed progress of allied works at Balidan Stambh in Srinagar.

“We raised key issues related to parking, the court complex and encroachment. The LG patiently listened and assured us that necessary solutions will be taken up promptly

the popular “Mummy Please” outlet in Lal Chowk. He sipped tea there and assured them of a timely solution to their issues.

According to KNO, the traders' association, in its meeting with LG Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Monday, raised important matters regarding the improvement of civic amenities at Lal Chowk and other issues of the business community.

Sinha ascertained the progress at the site and directed the officials for timely completion of the works.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Dr. Owais Ahmed, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation and other senior officials.

Grand Mufti Urges Simple Weddings

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a stirring address delivered at the annual Urs of Hazrat Ameer-e-Kabir Mir Syed Ali Hamadani (RA) at Khanqah-e-Moula in Srinagar, the Grand Mufti of Jammu and Kashmir, Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam, called on the people of the region to adopt austerity and simplicity in marriage ceremonies.

Expressing serious concern over the growing trend of extravagant weddings, the Grand Mufti revealed that approximately 30 percent of young women remain unmarried due to the financial strain associated with lavish marital customs. “Our daughters are suffering because families cannot bear the burden of societal expectations. Simplicity is not just a choice—it is a necessity,” he said.

Mufti Nasir urged fami-

lies to reduce the scale of wedding feasts, recommending that instead of serving multiple elaborate dishes—often numbering twenty or more—hosts should restrict themselves to just one. “This is not about abandoning tradition but about restoring compassion and a sense of community responsibility,” he noted.

His appeal struck a chord with many in attendance, who acknowledged the pressing need for social reform in this area. Religious scholars and community leaders present at the event also supported his message, encouraging a collective return to the values of modesty and simplicity, as exemplified by saints like Ameer-e-Kabir.

The call for restraint comes amid growing debate on the economic and social pressures linked to marriage in the region.

Awareness Program Under 'End Plastic Pollution-Initiative' Held

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Following the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, and Social Forestry Department organized several environment awareness programmes in the City parts by launching Anti-Polythene, Anti-Plastic and cleanliness drives in Cheshma Shahi area and Hyderpora Block of the Social Forestry Department.

The events were aimed to highlight the hazardous impacts of plastic waste on the environment and human health, and to encourage sustainable practices among the people to combat this growing menace.

Pledge taking ceremonies were also organized, during which participants and staff of the Social Forestry Department took part with great enthusiasm and promised to reduce the use of plastic and keep the environment clean.

Food Safety Dept Intensifies Market Checking

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Following the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, the Food Safety Department intensified market checking across the City in order to ensure the highest Food Safety and Hygiene Standards across all sectors.

A team led by Assistant Commissioner, Yameen ul Nabi carried out intensive inspections of bakery shops in various areas of Srinagar District, including, Safa Kadal, Sakedafar, Nawakadal, Rajori Kadal, Nowhatta and other adjoining areas.

During the inspections,

some products were found to be over dated and were destroyed by the Food Business Operators (FBOs) voluntarily on the spot.

The main aim of the drive is to maintain a close vigil on the quality of food products being manufactured and sold at retail outlets.

To ensure that all food products meet the highest safety standards, Food Safety Department directed all FBOs to adhere to Food Safety norms and storage practices.

Any FBO found compromising with quality or storage practices will be dealt with strictly as per the provisions of the Food Safety Act, the department said.

DEMISE

This is informed with heavy heart that Mohammad Rafiq Sheikh S/o Late Ghulam Rasool Sheikh R/o Shah Aabad Saida Kadal at present Aiwa Kadal Danmarg, left for heavenly abode due to heart attack on 02/06/2025. May Allah Grant Jannat ul Firdous to departed soul. This is to inform that Fatah Khawani will be observed (Tomorrow) at 10.00 AM,04/06/2025, at his Ancestral Grave Yard Shah Aabad near Syed Sahab Srinagar and there will be no Condolence gathering at home".

Bereaved Family
Cell No. 9797972235



SAD DEMISE

This is inform that the wife of Late Noor Mohammad Malik R/o Sonwar Near Jamia Masjid passed away on 02 June, 2025. Rasmi Fateh Khawani will be held on 5 June, 2025 Thursday at their Ancestral Graveyard at Gupkar Road Near Kashmir Nursing home at 9.AM.

Note : Ladies are requested not to bring any eatables or Fruits with them.

Bereaved Family

7006089536
6006037255
9596220011





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

AIRPORTS

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS


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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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





HIJRI CALENDAR

07 Zil-Hajj
1446

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 37
ZUHR	12:29
ASR	5: 28
Magrib	7:41
ISHA	9: 21

This Day In History

- 781 BC - Oldest Chinese recording of a solar eclipse
- 1039- Henry III becomes Holy Roman Emperor
- 1070- Roquefort cheese created in a cave near Roquefort, France
- 1647- English Parliamentary army under Cornet George Joyce takes King Charles I as a prisoner during Second Civil War
- 1666- Battle at Dunkirk: English vs Dutch fleet
- 1769 - A transit of Venus is followed five hours later by a total solar eclipse, the shortest such interval in history
- 1783- Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier make 1st public hot-air balloon flight (unmanned), covering 2km and lasting 10 minutes with an estimated altitude of 1,600-2,000m
- 1792- Captain George Vancouver claims Puget Sound for Britain
- 1805- Tripoli forced to conclude peace with US after war over tribute
- 1824- First free press (without government approval) founded in Australia - the Hobart Town Gazette by ex-convict Andrew Bent [1]
- 1850- Self-deodorizing fertilizer patented in England
- 1859- Second Italian War of Independence: Battle of Magenta, results in a French-Sardinian victory under Napoleon III over the Austrians under Marshal Ferencz Gyulai
- 1878- Cyprus ceded by Turkey to Britain for administrative purposes
- 11887 - Pasteur Institute founded by French biologist Louis Pasteur in Paris
- 1899- MLB Boston Beaneaters pitcher John Clarkson 1st to throw an "immaculate inning" (strikes out three batters on nine pitches) against Philadelphia Quakers
- 1912 - Cone of Mount Katmai (Alaska) collapses
- 1916- General Aleksei Brusilov begins a massive Russian offensive on the Eastern Front (WWI)
- 1918- French troops, with the aid of US troops, stop the Germans at Chateau-Thierry as they attempt to cross the Marne
- 1920- Peace of Trianon between Allies & Hungary
- 1928- President of the Republic of China Zhang Zoulin is assassinated by Japanese agents.
- 1940- British complete the "miracle of Dunkirk" by evacuating 300,000 allied troops from France

From KO Archives

Legislators Ward Off Heat, Head To Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- As temperatures rise across the country, legislator's from several states, including Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand, are making a beeline for the cool climate of the Kashmir.

An eight-member team from Jharkhand legislative Assembly is arriving in Srinagar on a Sunday for five-day study tour, official sources said.

The team includes chairman, members and officials of the question and call attention committee of the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly they said.

Another team of 30 members is arriving in Srinagar on Tuesday from Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly on a study tour for eight days, the sources said.

They said the team comprises members, their spouses and officials on the committee on welfare of Scheduled Castes, Schedules Tribes and other backward classes of MP Legislative Assembly.

The Question Reference Committee of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly will join the other team in Leh district of the State from June 6 for a seven-day visit, the sources said.

The 25-member team comprises of the chairman of the committee, members, spouses and officials, they said.

(Kashmir Observer, 04 June, 2007)

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
On Track Now

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate five new train services connecting Delhi to the Kashmir Valley on June 6, a development of profound significance for the region, which otherwise had so far only a road and air connectivity with the rest of the country. The highlight of the visit will be the dedication of the Chenab rail bridge, the world's tallest railway bridge, which forms a crucial part of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL). Modi is expected to travel by train from the newly inaugurated bridge to Katra, inspecting key engineering feats like India's first cable-stayed Anji Khad bridge along the way. At Katra, he will flag off two Vande Bharat trains, one to Baramulla and another in the reverse direction, marking the symbolic completion of a project that has taken nearly three decades and over 41,000 crore to realize.

The trains will use modern technology to handle extreme weather conditions, including snow and cold. The trains will boost connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country. Unlike road travel, the train journeys will be both comfortable and economical. So, in a sense, it will be a boon for tourism and, as a result, for the economy.

Tourism, a key driver of Kashmir's economy, stands to benefit more from the operationalization of the railways. The scenic route, passing through Anantnag, Awantipora, Pampore, and other stations, presents a unique opportunity to highlight the natural beauty of the region. The prospect of a Vande Bharat Express running through this picturesque landscape adds an extra dimension to the tourist experience, making Kashmir more accessible for travelers, otherwise held back by the high-priced air tickets.

In the short term, more visitors could also pose challenges for the government. The Valley's existing tourism infrastructure is not in a position to accommodate a disproportionately enhanced inflow of tourists. So, while the tourist infrastructure needs to be upgraded and expanded, an unregulated flow of visitors will not be advisable for the Valley's fragile ecology. But the government can be hoped to take care of any adverse fallouts of the increased inflow of people to Kashmir.

However, not just tourism, trains will be a bigger boost for the local economy. Train is expected to not only reduce the cost of ferrying goods to the Valley but also connect the region directly to other parts of the country, offering more avenues for business for the local traders and businessmen. The train to and from Kashmir must go hand in hand with policies that prioritize sustainable development, ensuring that the region's unique identity and fragile ecosystem are preserved while it embraces new opportunities.

FINANCIAL FIX

The Hidden Cost of Earning in Kashmir

In low-income homes, one wrong financial move can ruin years of hard work.

Irshad Mushtaq

In many villages across Kashmir, you'll often find men coming home exhausted from long days of labour — construction, farming, driving, whatever pays. They make just enough to get by. And then, often without warning, the money's gone.

Sometimes it's a loan for a motorcycle they didn't need. Other times it's an investment that sounded too good to be true — and was. You hear stories. A friend said he knew a guy. Someone promised double returns. The details blur, but the result doesn't: they lose everything.

Why does this keep happening?
It's not stupidity. It's stress. Pressure. The hope of something better. And, more often than not, the simple fact that nobody taught them how money works. In school, kids memorize equations. But nobody explains interest rates or what a savings account does.

Take the case of Bashir, a mason from South Kashmir. He took out a loan for a smartphone he couldn't afford, thinking he needed it to find more work online. When payments piled up, he had to borrow again just to stay afloat. This is how debt spirals start.

It doesn't have to be this way.
Families can start small. Save a little every month. Say no to big purchases that aren't urgent. Use YouTube to learn — it's free. Kids who know how to read and write can help their parents look things up. These conversations can shift everything.

When parents feel respected, when children pitch in with knowledge, when neighbours share what worked and what didn't — things begin to change. No one needs a finance degree. Just better habits, honest talk, and support from home.

The future isn't about getting rich quick. It's about not losing what little you have.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

“
And if carrying a mask and using hand sanitizer is what helps us get through this with fewer hospital visits and more peace of mind, is it really too much to ask?

Kashmir Can't Afford to Sleepwalk Into Covid

Low numbers in J&K offer comfort, but not safety. Let's not forget how quickly the virus changes course.

Covid-19 never really left. We just stopped talking about it.

Now it's back in the headlines, with numbers ticking upward again. Across India, there are 3,395 active cases. Kerala tops the list with over 1,300. Maharashtra and Delhi follow. In Jammu and Kashmir, just nine new infections have been reported. Nothing major. Nothing alarming. But still, it's back.

The virus behind this small spike is a newer Omicron offshoot called JN.1 and its cousins. They're part of the same family that's been circulating for a while. Doctors say it's clever — it sneaks past some immunity — but not more dangerous.

That's good news. Most cases are mild. Low-grade fever, a dry cough, maybe a sore throat or a runny nose. Sometimes headaches or nausea. In rare cases, people feel too tired to get out of bed.

So what's the big deal?

That's a fair question. The short answer: we don't want to be caught off guard again. Even if hospital beds aren't filling up, we still need to pay attention. This new variant is good at spreading. It's moving across Asia. And while it doesn't seem severe, we've learned that Covid can be unpredictable. Especially in vulnerable groups — older adults, people with diabetes, or heart problems. For them, even a mild case can take a turn.

Doctors across the country, including in Jammu and Kashmir, say there's no need to worry. The illness, so far, is manageable. Officials from the Health and Medical Education Department have consulted experts from top institutions. They all agree: this isn't the

start of a crisis. But they also say we should stay alert.

How do we do that without slipping back into fear?

It starts with the basics. Watching the numbers. Tracking how the virus changes. Doctors call this genomic surveillance. It's a simple idea. If we know what the virus is doing, we can prepare.

But right now, India doesn't have a consistent system for environmental surveillance. That's a gap. And gaps can turn into problems.

We don't need lockdowns or panic. But we do need caution. Simple steps go a long way. Keep a mask handy, especially in crowded indoor places. Wash your hands. Give people space. And if you're feeling unwell, stay home. Not forever. Just until you feel better.

The challenge is that we're tired. Everyone is. After years of hand sanitizers and cancelled plans, it's easy to get careless. Festivals, birthdays, weddings — these moments matter. But so does our health. Celebrating at home isn't always fun. But in the long run, it might help avoid another wave.

If you live with older parents or grandparents, think of them. They may not say it, but they worry too. Before hugging them, wash your hands. Throw on a mask. Take a minute. It's a small gesture, but it says you care.

And let's not forget: Covid isn't the only thing we're up against. The health system is already stretched. A sudden spike, even a small one, could strain it further. Especially in rural areas where resources are fewer and response times slower.

We've seen how quickly things

can change. A new variant, a local surge, or just a superspreader event. These don't need much to get going.

That's why it's smart to stay ready.

This isn't about fear. It's about respect. Respect for the virus, for science, and for each other. We've learned a lot since 2020. Now is the time to use that knowledge. Wear your mask when needed. Carry sanitizer like you carry your wallet. Be kind to people who choose caution.

And listen to the experts. They've trained their whole lives for this. If they say stay calm but alert, that's exactly what we should do.

We don't know what the next few months will bring. Maybe the virus will fade again. Maybe another variant will appear. But if we keep our eyes open, and our habits in check, we'll be ready — this time, without panic.

The truth is, living with Covid doesn't mean pretending it's gone. It means treating it like the weather. You check the forecast. You dress accordingly. You don't ignore the clouds, but you also don't cancel your life.

And if carrying a mask and using hand sanitizer is what helps us get through this with fewer hospital visits and more peace of mind, is it really too much to ask?

Let's not wait for the storm to hit. Let's stay one step ahead.

Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit is a Gujarat-based journalist, writer, and cartoonist, known for his award-winning work and appearances in the Limca and India Book of Records.

Kashmir's Lost Hours

Across the Valley, young Kashmiris are spending more time scrolling than studying, dreaming, or even resting. What is this doing to their future?

Showkat Ahmad

It starts so casually. A schoolboy in Shopian sets down his pen after an hour of study. He picks up his phone, thinking, “Just five minutes.”

A reel pops up on Instagram—funny, short, harmless. He swipes to the next, then the next. Before he knows it, two hours are gone. His book lies open, untouched. The clock keeps ticking.

This scene isn't rare. It's not even unusual anymore. It's the new normal for a generation of young people in Kashmir and beyond. We've all fallen into it at some point—the endless scroll.

In Srinagar's tuition centres, at the university hostels in Baramulla, inside the cozy living rooms of Pulwama, students are glued to their phones, heads bent, eyes scrolling. There's no violence in this addiction, no screaming urgency. But it's stealing something precious: time. Time that should belong to their

dreams. To their families. To their future.

What's really going on here? Why is it so hard to stop?

Social media isn't just a tool anymore. It's a trap, and a smart one. The apps are built to keep you hooked. The colours, the sounds, the likes—they all feed tiny bursts of dopamine to your brain. Your mind starts chasing that rush, often without realizing it. It doesn't matter whether you're in a Srinagar café or in a Kupwara college dorm; once you open the app, you're in its world.

It doesn't take long before the real world begins to fade. Conversations dry up. Books gather dust. Sleep gets pushed back. The most harmful part? You don't notice the change while it's happening.

This isn't just about wasting time. It's about what that wasted time could've been. Students preparing for competitive exams in Kashmir—aspiring doctors, engineers, civil servants—are losing vital hours. Hours that could build their future. Every minute spent in passive scrolling chips away at focus, discipline, and clarity.

discipline, and clarity.

Ask yourself this: when was the last time you picked up your phone for a 10-minute break, and actually stopped at 10?

It's not your fault entirely. The system is rigged. But knowing this is the first step to fighting back.

Some students in Kashmir are trying. A group of undergrads in Ganderbal decided to switch off social media every Friday. They called it a “Digital Roza”, a fast from screens. The first time they tried, one broke the pact within an hour. The second time, they all lasted half the day. Now, three months in, they've started looking forward to Fridays. Not for reels, but for real conversations and long walks by the stream.

The change wasn't easy. But it was possible.

We need more such efforts. We need to talk about this problem in classrooms, in homes, in community spaces. Not with scolding, but with understanding.

Phones aren't evil. Social media isn't the enemy. But anything that steals our attention without giving

back something real should be questioned. Is it teaching us anything? Is it making us laugh for the right reasons? Or is it just pulling us in, again and again, until we lose sight of what really matters?

In a place like Kashmir—where time is already heavy with history, loss, and longing—we can't afford to waste what little of it we have in our hands. Let's ask ourselves, every day: are we scrolling toward something meaningful, or away from it?

Small steps matter. Put your phone in another room while you study. Take breaks without screens. Replace the “just one more reel” with a real goal. One less hour online could mean one more chapter read, one more story written, one more dream sharpened.

The future of this valley doesn't lie in the glow of a screen. It lies in the hands of its young people, if only they can look up long enough to see it.

The author is a student of economics from Kashmir. He writes about social change, youth, and development issues affecting the valley.

Letter to Editor

Kraaw: The Homecoming Kashmir Forgot

I grew up in a home where even silence spoke of belonging. Where a daughter, though married and gone, was never forgotten. And once every year, in the season when bean plants ripened, we remembered that bond through a tradition called Kraaw.

You've probably never heard of it. Even many young Kashmiris haven't. But for those who have, it still brings a lump to the throat.

Kraaw wasn't loud or showy. It wasn't celebrated in the streets or shared on social media. It happened inside homes, silently, patiently.

A few days before the appointed day, a father, or a brother, or sometimes an uncle would make a respect-

ful visit to the daughter's in-laws. He'd ask if she could come home for a few days. The moment held meaning. It wasn't just about visiting. It was about remembering her roots, reminding her that her place in the family hadn't vanished with her marriage.

Children, of course, were always welcome in their mother's childhood home — nanihaal. But if the son-in-law was invited too, that was something else entirely. It was a signal. A subtle way of saying: We trust you're taking care of our daughter. We see your love in her eyes.

On the evening of Kraaw, the daughter would arrive, children in tow, her pockets stuffed with sweets

and nuts. The cousins would rush to her, shouting and laughing. But what I remember most is the cooking. Fresh beans from the garden, cut and simmered with home-raised chicken. The smells filled the house, just like the chatter did.

That night, everyone sat together. There was teasing, laughter, a few tears. The older women — mothers, aunts — reminded the daughters to be kind in their new homes. To hold on to love, even when life got hard. No lectures, just gentle nudges.

Kraaw was never about the meal. It was about saying: We still see you. You still belong. It gave daughters a place that time and marriage didn't take away.

Today, that tradition is nearly gone, especially in the southern parts of Kashmir. No more messengers. No more cooked beans. No more homecomings.

It hurts to watch something so tender vanish. But is it too late to bring it back?

Traditions like Kraaw stitched our families together. They reminded us that relationships take care, that love doesn't always shout, that home waits. If we let them disappear, what do we have left?

It's not too late. We can still revive what made us feel whole.

Sincerely,
Bashir Ahmad Dar
Kulgam

How One Sufi and 700 Disciples Changed Kashmir Forever

Seven hundred years ago, a Sufi saint named Shah-i-Hamdan arrived in the Valley. What he left behind still shapes Kashmir's soul, brick by brick, prayer by prayer.

Rayees Ahmad Kumar

In the fall of 1372, a man from Hamdan walked into Kashmir with fewer than a hundred companions. The king was away on a campaign. The people were uncertain. And yet, this group of travelers would change the course of the Valley's story.

They followed Hazrat Amir Kabir Mir Syed Ali Hamdani. Most people today simply call him Shah-i-Hamdan, the King of Hamdan. Others call him the man who brought Islam to Kashmir.

He was born in faraway Hamdan, in present-day Iran, on October 21, 1314. His parents, Syed Shahabuddin and Syeda Fatima, traced their roots to the Prophet Muhammad [PBUH]. His father ran the affairs

of the city, but it was his mother's brother, Syed Alluddin Simnani, who raised the boy. Under his care, young Hamdani memorized the Quran and found a path in Sufism.

That path took him far from home. His teacher, Sheikh Sharfuddin Mazdaqani, introduced him to the Kubrawi Sufi order, shaping his religious, spiritual, and intellectual world. Hamdani grew up not just as a thinker, but as a traveler, teacher, and builder.

But why Kashmir? And why then?

The Valley had just emerged from chaos. A Tatar raider named Zulchu had swept through in the early 1300s, leaving destruction behind. Only a handful of families survived in Srinagar. Soon after, Rinchan Shah, a Buddhist from Ladakh, rose

to power. Through another Sufi from Central Asia, Bulbul Shah, he embraced Islam and became Sadruddin.

That moment opened the door. Before setting foot in Kashmir, Hamdani sent two of his cousins, Syed Tajuddin Simnani and Mir Syed Hussain Simnani, to understand the ground. By the time he arrived, the air was ready for change.

His first stay lasted six months. He prayed, preached, and built bonds. He left for Makkah soon after. But he wasn't done.

He returned in 1380. This time, he brought 700 Syeds with him.

Imagine the sight: a caravan of scholars, craftsmen, and mystics crossing high mountain passes, finally reaching Srinagar. Sultan Qutubuddin welcomed them warmly.

They settled near the river, in what was then called Allauddin Pora. They prayed by the waters. Soon, a modest wooden building came up. Today, it is the Khanqah-e-Moula, the heart of Kashmir's spiritual life.

Shah-e-Hamdan stayed two and a half years this time, walking across the Valley, visiting villages, teaching Islam not through conquest but conversation. He built khanqahs not just in Srinagar, but in Tral, Pampore, Wachi, Monghama, and even as far as Shey, a remote village in Ladakh where his followers constructed the region's first mosque.

His final visit came in 1384. He stayed less than a year. Illness forced him to leave.

On the way back, he rested in the village of Shey. Then in Pakhli. Then Kunnar, where a local king begged

him to stay. But his health was failing.

On January 19, 1385, he passed away in Swat. His followers later carried his remains to Koulab, in present-day Tajikistan, fulfilling his wish to be buried there. His entire family rests beside him.

But his presence in Kashmir never really left.

His son, Mir Muhammad Hamdani, continued the work. He returned to the Valley during Sultan Sikan-dar's reign and began the construction of the Khanqah-e-Moula as we know it.

It began in 1396 and took three years. Sculpted wood, small bricks, carved stone—its design spoke of Central Asia but sat firmly on Kashmiri soil.

Today, the Khanqah rises on the banks of the Jhelum, green-roofed

and solemn, a place of prayer, of poetry, of peace. Faithful feed pigeons and paupers there. Children run through its wooden corridors. The scent of incense lingers in the air.

More than 600 years have passed. The mosques Hamdani's followers built still stand. The ideas they carried—kindness, humility, discipline—still ripple through lives.

And what remains strongest is not just the architecture, but the memory: that someone once came here from far away, not with armies, but with verses. Not to take, but to give. Not to rule, but to remind.

Kashmir listened. And never forgot.

The author hails from Qazigund and can be reached at rayeeskumar31@gmail.com

Ghosts in the Girdawari

Kashmir's age-old crop inspection system, once rooted in field visits and firsthand observation, is now mostly done from behind a desk. The consequences are reshaping land rights, livelihoods, and rural justice.

Mohammad Amin Mir

For generations, farmers in Kashmir knew when girdawari season came around. A patwari would show up, usually with a notebook, sometimes with a helper, and walk the fields. They'd stop to ask questions, examine crops, check the irrigation source, and note who was cultivating what piece of land. It was routine, but also reassuring. It meant their work was seen, and their rights were recorded.

Today, that ritual has mostly disappeared.

Instead of walking the land, many patwaris now complete the girdawari — the official crop and land possession record — from their office desks. They rarely visit the fields. They often don't talk to the cultivators. They fill in the forms anyway.

This change may sound like a small bureaucratic tweak. But on the ground, it's turning into a crisis.

Why does this matter? Because girdawari isn't just paperwork. It's the foundation for crop insurance, disaster relief, tenancy proof, and even court decisions. It defines who owns or occupies which piece of land, and what they're doing with it.

If those records are wrong, everything else built on them becomes shaky.

In South Kashmir, many farmers say they're not even told when girdawari happens. They find out something went wrong only later — when they're denied relief after a flood, or when someone else claims rights over their land.

"I've cultivated this plot for 30 years," said a farmer from Anant-

nag. "But when I applied for insurance under the PM scheme, they told me someone else is listed in the girdawari. I don't even know who that person is."

These aren't isolated stories. They reflect a system under strain.

Part of the problem is that patwaris now juggle dozens of non-revenue tasks. From election duties to certificate verifications, their calendars are packed. On top of that, some halqas — the local land record units — have no full-time patwari at all. Others have one for multiple villages. There's little time left for the slow, seasonal work of walking fields.

The push to digitize land records was supposed to modernize the revenue system. But in practice, it's pulled patwaris deeper into their offices — where they now spend hours scanning, uploading, and editing records. Fieldwork suffers.

Oversight has also weakened. Earlier, girdawars and naib tehsildars used to verify entries by physically checking fields. Now, few such inspections take place. There are almost no consequences if a patwari skips field visits altogether.

And the consequences are piling up.

In some cases, encroachers get their names inserted into the record. Over time, those entries can help them claim legal possession. In other cases, rightful owners — especially those living outside the village — are left out. They have no idea their names are missing until it's too late.

During natural disasters, government relief sometimes ends up in the wrong hands, because the official record doesn't match the ground re-

ality. Legal disputes multiply. Courts get flooded with cases of conflicting claims — both backed by separate girdawari entries.

Even mutations, the official process of changing land ownership, become questionable if the underlying girdawari is based on guesswork.

Can this be fixed?

Yes, but not without effort. Field-based girdawari must return. It should be a legal requirement, with penalties for skipping it. Simple mobile apps can help patwaris upload geo-tagged crop photos during field visits. Notices about girdawari timing should be announced in every village, and a portion of entries must be cross-checked by revenue inspectors.

Farmers deserve to be seen and heard. Their fields aren't just patches of soil; they're the foundation of their identity and livelihood. When that connection is severed — when records are made without walking the land — the system stops working for them.

The patwari is not just a clerk with a pen. He's the state's witness to the truth on the ground. If he never leaves his desk, then the system stops seeing. And when the system stops seeing, people lose trust.

Maybe it starts with something simple. Let the patwari walk again. Let the cultivator speak. Let the record reflect the truth in the fields — not the comfort of the office.

Mohammad Amin Mir is a legal researcher and writer based in Kashmir, specializing in land and revenue laws.

The Generation We Forgot to Raise

As Kashmiri teenagers grow up in an uncertain world, many are drifting without guidance. A teacher asks: are we helping them fly or leaving them behind?

Bhat Tawheed

In the bylanes of Pulwama and the schoolyards of Sopore, something is slipping away. It's not just innocence or tradition. It's the sense of purpose our children once held onto.

Ask a teacher at a government school or a father running a shop downtown, and they'll tell you: the values that once shaped our youth are no longer strong. The world they grow up in now feels faster, noisier, and more hollow.

What's going wrong?

In Kashmir, growing up was never easy. But it used to be clearer. Families lived close, elders gave advice, and mosques, schools, and homes all pointed in one direction — toward becoming a good human being.

That meant kindness, honesty, struggle, and a sense that life had a greater meaning. Religion wasn't just a ritual. It gave life structure. And being the "Ashraf-ul-Makhlukat" — the noblest of all creation — meant living with dignity and responsibility.

But somewhere along the way, that compass broke. These days, children scroll endlessly on phones, eyes glued to influencers selling lifestyles that seem out of reach but deeply desirable.

For many of them, especially teens, real friendships are replaced by likes and followers. What matters is attention, not authenticity. In a region that has seen decades of political trauma, economic loss, and social tension, this new wave of confusion has only added another layer to

the pain.

It isn't just a generational shift. It's a crisis of meaning.

The teenage years, psychologists say, are crucial. And we don't need a textbook to tell us that.

In Kashmir, this age is when children face their most defining questions. Who am I? What do I believe in? Who do I trust?

It's also when they start to pull away from parents and test boundaries. For many, this is the first time they experience real freedom, and the first time they're expected to handle it wisely.

But wisdom doesn't come on its own.

That's where the problem lies. We expect too much and give too little. At schools, overworked teachers struggle to go beyond the syllabus. At home, parents are often too busy or too tired to ask the right questions. Conversations that once happened around the fire or over a cup of nun chai now happen less, or not at all.

In many cases, they don't happen at all.

And so, young people fill the gap with what they find online or in peer groups. Sometimes they're lucky and find mentors. But often they fall into circles that feed on fear, anger, or apathy. Instead of eagles, as poet Allama Iqbal once hoped for, we're raising vultures — young people who look for shortcuts, avoid hard work, and chase validation instead of value.

This isn't their fault. It's ours. Across Kashmir, data shows

that school dropout rates remain concerning, especially in rural areas. Unemployment continues to rise, and the stress of uncertain futures weighs heavily on teens.

Add to this the pressure to succeed fast, to earn early, to impress constantly, and you get a generation growing up too fast and too lost.

But this can change.

Teenagers, despite everything, still carry hope. They want to be heard. They want to explore, question, and dream. They want to test limits, but they also want boundaries. They want meaning, not just distraction.

Our job — as teachers, parents, neighbours — is to show them that meaning still matters. That success without integrity is empty. That questions are good, but answers built on values are better.

Kashmir has always produced people of deep thought and strong spirit. But to keep that alive, we must return to what really counts. A little more time, a little more listening, a little more guidance. Let them fly. But first, let's help them grow wings.

Because the future isn't something far away. It's sitting in our classrooms, walking home from school, or waiting for someone to notice that behind the silence, they're asking for direction.

Bhat Tawheed is a teacher in the Department of Education in Kashmir. He writes about youth, education, and the moral questions facing society today.

Google Knows Me, But I Don't Know Myself

In a hyper-connected world, a young Kashmiri voices the anguish of a generation fluent in data but foreign to its own depths.

Meer Shahzaib

Mornings in Kashmir begin with a blue glow. Not the sky. The screen. The first breath is not breath. It's a refresh. Our thumbs swipe before our eyes open fully. There's no pause, only feed. And somehow, in all that speed, we've forgotten how to sit still. How to just be.

We know the world. But do we know ourselves?

Ask anyone on the street in Srinagar how many times they touched their phone today. They won't know. Ask them how they're really feeling. They'll hesitate, joke, deflect. That's the story now: a generation fluent in trivia, but tongue-tied in the language of the self.

We're overflowing with information. Flooded. Drowning in articles, apps, updates, alerts. Everything explained, nothing understood. We know the signs of climate collapse but not the cause of our own coldness. We can recite steps to happiness but forget what our own laughter sounds like. Our memories now live in cloud folders. Our emotions, in archived chats.

There's something tender and tragic

about it.

Take Arooj, nineteen, from Rainawari. Her phone speaks ten languages. She's read about love, grief, healing, and quoted it too. But when night falls and the silence thickens, she writes one line in her diary: "I feel like I don't live in my own life." She is a digital scholar. But her soul? A locked screen.

Or Inaam, the coder from Sopore. His days are precise. Clean, efficient, debugged. His nights are anything but. "I can fix code," he says, "but I crash inside my own head." He can silence errors on a screen. But what about the ones that scream at 2 a.m.?

We've become museums of noise. Curated. Branded. Broadcast. But beneath the captions, the reels and the story highlights, there's a stillness we're scared to enter. We scroll like miners, digging for meaning in pixels. But meaning isn't cached and clickable.

Here's the sharp truth: our attention is not ours anymore. It's been sold, sliced, gamified. We're not browsing. We're being browsed. Algorithms know us better than we do. They predict our next question before we've asked the first. And in that convenience, we've

lost the hard work of introspection.

Scroll fatigue. That's what psychologists call it now. The brain, burnt out not from labour, but from stimulation. You read twenty articles. Remember none. Watch ten self-help videos. Feel worse. Productivity hacks pile up while the to-do list grows moldy. Stillness is a tab we never open.

We're not alert, we're anxious. Not awake, we're wired. There's a difference. Alertness twitches. Awareness listens.

Sometimes I wonder: do we even know how to feel anymore, without filters?

We post about healing but refuse to cry. We write about love but won't sit through heartbreak. We celebrate solitude in captions, yet panic when left alone for five minutes. Our vulnerability is performative. Our privacy, performed. Even grief is streamlined now. Google "What to wear to a funeral," and you'll find it. But what about what to feel?

We've mistaken the mirror for the self. But the digital mirror is warped. It shows us not who we are, but who we wish to appear. And we've grown so fluent in appearances, so polished in

projection, that we forget: healing happens off-camera. Real life, the kind that aches and transforms, has no comment section.

In Kashmir, we know the value of silence. Our elders sat by fire without words. Our mothers whispered truths in the spaces between chores. But now, even in Gurez or Pulwama, the silence buzzes with signal. We're never really alone. Not with our phones breathing beside us, lighting up with every ghost of a message.

Solitude used to be spiritual. Now it feels like failure.

What does that say about us?

We save screenshots of things that once moved us, but never return to them. We hoard quotes about self-love while ignoring our own mental mess. Our minds resemble our photo galleries—cluttered, nostalgic, disorganized. We call it memory, but it's just digital dust.

And so, I ask you—not through a tweet or a thread, but like a friend across a cup of noon chai—what would it take for you to turn inward again?

Maybe not much. Five minutes. A page, written by

hand. A walk without music. A room, phone facedown, silence allowed in. Maybe it starts there, with the ache you've been avoiding. With the boredom you've been filling. With the self you've been outsourcing.

Google won't tell you who you are. It will try. It will offer 7.2 billion answers in half a second. But the real answer doesn't live in results. It lives in reflection.

And reflection takes time. Slowness. Repetition. Grace. The world will always demand your opinion. But your awareness, that's yours to keep. And to protect.

Because in the end, the smartest phone can't feel your pain. The sharpest AI can't hold your truth. The cloud won't carry your soul. Only you can do that.

So pause. Let the screen sleep. Let your senses wake. Breathe. Then ask yourself: "What am I feeling right now?" And listen like it matters. Because it does.

The author is a BA Honours student of Economics and Political Science at Amar Singh College, Srinagar.

Expect India-US Trade Deal
In Not Too Distant Future,
Says Top Trump Aide

Press Trust Of India



WASHINGTON: US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick has said one should expect a trade deal between India and the US in the “not-too-distant future” as the two countries have found a place that works for them.

“So the idea is when they put the right person and India put the right person on the other side of the table, and we’ve managed, I think, to be in a very, very good place,” Lutnick said in his keynote address at the eighth edition of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit here Monday.

“And you should expect a deal between the United States and India in the not-too-distant future because I think we found a place that really works for both countries.”

“I would say very optimistic,” Lutnick said about the trade deal between India and the US.

Noting the high tariffs that India has, Lutnick said that President Donald Trump is willing to call that out straight away.

“Now the President is willing to call out things straight away, meaning India is very protectionist with tariffs. They have a 100 per cent tariff on this, and a 100% tariff on that. And if you ask them why, the answer is, ‘I don’t know why. It just is.’”

Lutnick said the ‘idea of really

looking at those things, thinking about them and bringing them down to a level that is reasonable and appropriate “so we can be great trading partners with each other, I think is absolutely on the table and it’s not stressful” and the sides are now working to “make this a proper trading relationship.” On the trade deal with India, he further said that “earlier countries get a better deal. That’s the way it is.”

He noted that India is trying hard to be one of the earlier countries, “which I appreciate. But these kind of deals used to take two or three years, and we’re trying to get them done in a month, which is, just not the ordinary DNA of trading relationships between countries.

“But what I hope to achieve is we would like market access. We would like our businesses to have reasonable access to the markets of India. Now, it’s not going to be everywhere, and it’s not going to be everywhere, but we want to have the trade deficit reduced,” he said.

In exchange for that, Lutnick said India is going to want certain key markets, to want to make sure that they have special access to the American marketplace.

“And so that’s the trade-off. If I say, ‘Look, I’ll treat you incredibly kindly on the things that are really important to you, and you bring down your tariffs and give us market access and let’s find the proper place in the middle.’”

Underlining the importance of having the right person on the other side for negotiations, Lutnick said that “if they put a normal trade minister, it’s an endless set of talking and no outcome because they’re used to saying, ‘this kind of deal would take three years, we’ll get this done in two years’, and that’s not really fun for me.”

Markets Extend Losses For 3rd
Session Amid Broad-Based
Selloff; Sensex Slips Below 81k



Press Trust Of India

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled nearly 1 per cent on Tuesday, weighed down by a widespread sell-off amid renewed foreign fund outflows and growing geopolitical uncertainties.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 636.24 points or 0.78 per cent to settle at 80,737.51. During the day, it dropped 798.66 points or 0.98 per cent to 80,575.09.

The NSE Nifty plunged 174.10 points or 0.70 per cent to 24,542.50.

From the Sensex firms, Adani Ports declined 2.42 per cent. Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Power Grid, Eter-

nal, IndusInd Bank, Maruti, Tata Consultancy Services and UltraTech Cement were among the biggest laggards.

Mahindra & Mahindra emerged as the only gainer in the pack.

Adani Group’s 10 listed companies ended lower.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,589.47 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

“The ongoing foreign fund outflows, coupled with weak global cues such as geopolitical tensions and uncertainty over trade deals, are adding pressure to the markets,” Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

In Asian markets, Shanghai’s SSE Composite index and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng settled in positive territory, while Japan’s Nikkei 225 index ended lower. South Korean markets were closed.

European markets were trading lower. US markets ended higher on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.28 per cent to USD 64.81 a barrel.

After tumbling 796.75 points or 0.97 per cent to 80,654.26 in intra-day trade on Monday, the 30-share BSE Sensex witnessed volatile trends and later ended 77.26 points or 0.09 per cent lower at 81,373.75. The Nifty dipped 34.10 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 24,716.60.

THE ONGOING FOREIGN FUND OUTFLOWS, coupled with weak global cues such as geopolitical tensions and uncertainty over trade deals, are adding pressure to the markets,”



52% of Indians Prefer Quieter
Summer Spots: Report

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: As many as 52 per cent of Indian travellers are picking quieter locations over popular tourist destinations, marking a significant shift in choice of destinations this summer, reveals a new report.

The “Smarter Summer Report” by travel app Skyscanner, based on a survey of 2,000 Indian respondents, highlights a growing desire among Indian travellers for more meaningful experiences.

According to the report, 58 per cent of the travellers plan to visit destinations they haven’t previously considered, while 51 per cent aim to explore multiple locations in a single trip – indicating a trend toward exploration and creating lasting memories.

“This shift in preferences is also reflected in their choice of destinations – over half (52 per cent) of Indian travellers prefer quieter, less-crowded locations over the usual tourist hotspots. It’s not just about where they go, it’s also about when – the shoulder season is gaining popularity among Indian travellers, with one in two open to travelling during these periods to avoid crowds

and surge pricing.

“Together, these choices reflect a move away from the frenzy of peak season tourism and towards a summer experience that is more intentional,” reads the report.

Although nearly 49 per cent of Indian travellers have yet to book their summer holidays, travel remains a high priority – with an impressive “96 per cent”, as per the report, planning to take the same number or even more trips than last year.

In fact, the report notes that 95 per cent of respondents consider making the most of their summer vacations a top priority in 2025, indicating that Indians are now paying close attention to every detail of their travel plans.

“Summer is a popular time for Indian travellers to take a well-earned break and explore new places. What’s different this year is how intentional people are about planning. They want to get the most value from their trips, but many are still unsure about when and where to go and how to plan it all, within their budget,” said Mohit Joshi, travel and destinations expert at Skyscanner.

Court Rejects Patanjali's Plea
Against ₹273.5 Cr GST Penalty

Press Trust Of India

PRAYAGRAJ: The Allahabad High Court has dismissed Patanjali Ayurved Limited’s petition challenging Rs 273.50-crore goods and service tax (GST) penalty.

A division bench comprising Justices Shekhar B Saraf and Justice Vipin Chandra Dixit rejected Patanjali’s argument that such penalties constitute criminal liability and can be imposed only after a criminal trial.

The bench was of the view that tax authorities can impose penalties under Section 122 of the GST Act through civil proceedings without requiring criminal court trials.

The court clarified that GST penalty proceedings are civil in nature and can be adjudicated by proper officers.

“After detailed analysis, it is clear that the proceeding under Section 122 of the CGST Act is to be adjudicated by the adjudicating officer and is not required to undergo prosecution,” the bench said.

Patanjali Ayurved operates three manufacturing units at Haridwar (Uttarakhand), Sonapat (Haryana) and Ahmednagar (Maharashtra). The company came under investigation following information received

by authorities about suspicious transactions involving firms with high Input Tax Credit (ITC) utilisation but no income tax credentials.

The investigation led to allegations that Patanjali “acting as a main person indulged in circular trading of tax invoices only on paper without actual supply of goods”.

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Ghaziabad, issued a show-cause notice on April 19, 2024, to Patanjali Ayurved, proposing a penalty of Rs 273.51 crore under Section 122(1), clauses (ii) and (vii) of the Central Goods and Service Tax Act 2017.

Later, the DGGI dropped tax demands under Section 74 through an adjudication order dated January 10, 2025.

The department found that “for all commodities, the quantities sold were always more than the quantities purchased from the suppliers, thereby making the observation that all the ITC which was availed in the impugned goods was further passed on by the petitioner”.

Despite dropping the tax demand, authorities decided to continue with penalty proceedings under Section 122, prompting Patanjali to challenge this before the high court.

Investor Alert: Here Is Why Stock Markets
Are On The Decline In Early Trade

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early trade on Tuesday amid uncertainty on the geopolitical and global trade front.

Foreign fund outflows also weighed on investors’ sentiments.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 194.65 points to 81,179.10 in early trade. The NSE Nifty dipped 62.35 points to 24,654.25.

From the Sensex firms, Adani Ports, Larsen & Toubro, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel and Hindustan Unilever were among the biggest laggards.

Eternal, Tata Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra and IndusInd Bank were among the gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 2,589.47 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

“With a lot of uncertainty in geopolitics, tariffs and trade, the market will continue to remain volatile. Therefore, investors may persist with the strategy of buying on dips,” V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment



With a lot of uncertainty in geopolitics, tariffs and trade, the market will continue to remain volatile. Therefore, investors may persist with the strategy of buying on dips,”

Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

In Asian markets, South Korea’s Kospi, Japan’s Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai’s SSE Composite index and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng were trading in the positive territory.

US markets ended higher on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.57 per cent to USD 65 a barrel.

After tumbling 796.75 points or 0.97 per cent to 80,654.26 in intra-day trade on Monday, the 30-share BSE Sensex witnessed volatile trends and later ended 77.26 points or 0.09 per cent lower at 81,373.75.

The Nifty dipped 34.10 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 24,716.60.

Gold Marginally Higher;
Silver Rises ₹100/ kg

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold prices gained Rs 70 to Rs 99,000 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday, supported by rupee depreciation, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity climbed Rs 200 to Rs 98,600 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

Silver prices went up by Rs 100 to Rs 1,00,200 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday.

The rupee declined 21 paise to settle at 85.60 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, weighed down by a firm American currency and outflow of foreign funds.

Meanwhile, spot gold in the global markets fell by USD 25.22 per ounce or 0.75 per

cent to USD 3,356.41 per ounce.

“Gold prices are trading lower on profit-booking but underlying bias remains positive amid a rise in the safe-haven demand due to broad weakness in the US dollar, and escalation in the Russia-Ukraine war, rising economic uncertainty due to US-led

tariff war,” Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG of Commodity & Currency Research at JM Financial Services, said.

HDFC Securities’ Senior Analyst of Commodities Saumil Gandhi said traders are now anticipating the release of US macro-economic data, such as JOLTS Job Openings data, along with speeches from key Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) members, will influence the bullion prices.

GOLD PRICES ARE TRADING LOWER ON PROFIT-BOOKING BUT UNDERLYING BIAS REMAINS POSITIVE AMID A RISE IN THE safe-haven demand due to broad weakness in the US dollar, and escalation in the Russia-Ukraine war, rising economic uncertainty due to US-led tariff war,”



Tata Harrier.ev Launched, Prices
Start from ₹21.49 Lakh

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Tata Motors on Tuesday expanded its electric vehicle range in the country with the launch of Harrier.ev, a battery electric SUV, featuring a driving range of around 500 km.

The company expects the new electric SUV to attract customers from the mainstream premium SUV segment, which currently witnesses sales of around 25,000 units per month.

Price of Harrier.ev starts at Rs 21.49 lakh (ex-showroom). Booking will commence from July 2.

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Managing Director Shailesh Chandra said that with the model, the company expects to attract a new set of customers, right from small-time explorers to off-road enthusiasts.

“In the high SUV segment, we have been seeing tremendous growth, and we also felt that in this segment, there is an opportunity to come up with a product which is exhilarating in performance, which has alternate capability and which takes the comfort to the next level,” he stated.

Tata Motors currently has a market share of around 25 per cent in the high SUV segment with two products – Harrier and Safari. Chandra said that Harrier.ev, which comes with an all-wheel drive prowess and a torque of 504 NM, would help in expanding the company’s volumes and market share as well.

He noted that the overall SUV segment is witnessing year-on-year growth and now accounts for 54 per cent of the overall

passenger vehicle sales in the domestic market. He noted that with Harrier.ev, the company has broken barriers in terms of pricing and driving range, making it comparable with the internal combustion engine models of the same size.

“Charging speeds have been increased significantly, so there’s no barrier. So a person will now view this as a car as very much comparable to the options that they have on the ICE side, with a better set of features, comfort, luxury, convenience and performance,” Chandra stated.

He further said, “So therefore, I believe that it should really attract the mainstream buyers who are buying high SUVs.” “From defining the SUV segment in the 1990s with iconic nameplates to

democratising it by boldly entering new whitespaces in the 2020s, our journey has always been driven by innovation and leadership,” Chandra said.

With the launch of Harrier.ev, the automaker is not just introducing a new electric SUV or challenging convention, but re-writing the rules of what’s possible, he added. Tata Motors sold about 65,000 EVs in FY25, a drop of 10 per cent as compared with FY24.

The Harrier.ev comes with two battery pack options, including a bigger 75 kWh option. Tata Motors has announced a lifetime warranty on the battery packs. The model comes with various features, including auto park assist, six terrain modes and over 55 connected car features.

Interfaith Dialogue Conference Echoes Call For Peace & Coexistence

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: In a show of unity and shared values, Budgam on Tuesday hosted the 7th Interfaith Dialogue Conference to commemorate the life and teachings of Late Imam Khomeini (R.A). Themed “Interfaith Dialogue: Its Role in Cultivating Peace,” the event brought together a broad spectrum of voices—from religious scholars to civil society representatives—committed to nurturing understanding and peace in a divided world.

The conference served as a melting pot of faith, intellect, and conscience, where participants reflected not only on Imam Khomeini's global legacy but also on the urgent need for meaningful dialogue in Kashmir and beyond.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, one of the key voices at the gathering said that in today's deeply polarized world, war cannot be a solution.

“When religious and community leaders come together to advocate for justice and understanding, we move a step closer to building a society rooted in compassion and co-existence. Every community leader should come together and leave aside differences for the sake of humanity. Together, we must build bridges, not barriers,” Mirwaiz said.

President of Anjuman-e-Sharie Shian, Aga Syed Hassan Al-Moosavi Al-Safavi said that Kashmir is a land of saints and Sufis, and we are proud of our spiritual and cultural legacy.

“People here have always lived peacefully and harmoniously with each other. Imam Khomeini's message was to make the world a peaceful place, and it is important that we follow his teachings in today's times. Walking in his footsteps would be the best tribute

we can offer to such a towering figure.”

Senior PDP leader and MLA Waheed ur Rehman Parra lauded Imam Khomeini for his visionary leadership and humanitarian outlook.

“The message of Imam Khomeini is that of truth and justice,” he noted. “He did a lot for humanity. He was a leader who offered real solutions to contemporary problems, and we must try to walk in his footsteps.”

Adding to the chorus of unity, social activist Angad Singh Khalsa underlined the importance of interfaith dialogue, especially in times of silence and disconnection between communities.

“It becomes absolutely necessary to talk about interfaith understanding when two religious communities have differences and stop communicating,” he said. “That gap is often exploited, both politically and socially. Dialogue is the only way to counter that.”

Also in attendance were several notable figures from academia and civil society, including Dr. Siddiq Wahid, former Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology, G.N. War, President of the Private Schools Association, Dr. Aga Syed Mudasir, Aga Syed Mujtaba, Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat and other scholars and leaders from various religious communities.

Their collective presence underscored a shared conviction that peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of understanding—a message deeply embedded in the teachings of Imam Khomeini.

Throughout the event, every speaker reiterated that peace cannot be achieved through confrontation or silence but through honest dialogue, mutual respect, and an inclusive approach that gives every community the space to live with dignity.

Sakina Itoo Reaffirms Govt’s Doorstep Service Commitment



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakina Itoo on Tuesday reaffirmed the government's commitment to delivering essential services to the public at their doorsteps. She made the remarks while inaugurating a state-of-the-art Dialysis Centre at the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Pampore.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by MLA Pampore Retired Justice Hasnain Masoodi, MLA Rajpora Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir, District President Pulwama Mohammad Khalil Band, and several senior health officials.

Speaking to the media, the minister said the upgradation of health facilities will be prioritised only after proper consolidation and strengthening of the existing healthcare infrastructure. “Scattered and fragmented setups lacking staff and infrastructure serve no purpose. Our focus is on making current institutions fully functional and robust before we proceed towards expansion,” she said.

Itoo noted that several health institutions were accorded district hospital status during the tenure of the previous Omar Abdullah-led government, but

the successive administration failed to implement necessary developments, causing significant delays in progress.

She said the government has already initiated the establishment of dialysis centres at sub-district hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir. “At many places, such centres have already become functional, while work is underway at others,” she added.

Highlighting the challenges faced by kidney patients due to overcrowded dialysis facilities, the minister said the newly inaugurated centres will significantly ease their suffering.

Earlier in the day, the minister also visited the under-construction SDH Kakapora to review the pace and quality of the ongoing development work. She was accompanied by local legislators and officials from the Health Department.

Addressing concerns over staffing shortages in peripheral hospitals, Itoo emphasized that doctors attached elsewhere have been directed to return to their original postings. “This step is crucial to ensure healthcare accessibility in rural and underserved areas. Any defiance will invite strict disciplinary action,” she warned.

Youth killed In Qazigund Accident

Observer News Service

QAZIGUND: A teenage boy was killed and two others were injured after a motorcycle they were riding collided with a bus on Tuesday evening, officials said.

An official said that the accident took place at Bonigam on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, involving a motorcycle and a school bus.

He said one boy died on the spot, while two others sus-

tained injuries. The injured were shifted to a hospital for treatment, officials said.

The deceased has been identified as Sanif Salam Bhat, son of Abdul Salam Bhat, resident of Bonigam. They have been identified as Huzaif Nawaz Bhat, son of Nawaz Ahmad Bhat, resident of Baihama and Zaid Ahmad Shah, son of Mohammad Shafi Shah, resident of Baihama.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the accident.

KHEER BHAWANI MELA

Faith More Powerful Than Fear, Say Kashmiri Pandits

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Faith will always trump fear - this was exemplified by the large number of Kashmiri Pandit community members who gathered here on Tuesday for the annual Kheer Bhawani Mela, held in the shadow of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and heightened border tensions.

The revered temple of Raginya Devi, nestled in the shade of mighty chinar trees in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, was decked up for festivities with thousands of devotees from across the country offering prayers on the occasion of 'Zyeth Atham' also known as 'Jyeshtha Ashtami'.

A multi-layer security ring was thrown around the temple complex, situated around 25 km north-east of Srinagar, and along the routes for the Mela in the Valley, which is still reeling from the aftermath of the horrific Pahalgam attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were gunned down by terrorists.

“There is some impact (of the Pahalgam attack)," Nanna Ji, a Kashmiri Pandit, said.

He said the attack was a ploy by Pakistan to destroy the age-old Hindu-Muslim brotherhood.

“But, I want to say this that a Kashmiri Pandit is incomplete without a Kashmiri Muslim, and Kashmiri Muslim is incomplete without a Kashmiri Pandit,” he said, adding such conspiracies will never be allowed to succeed.

The atmosphere brimmed with religious fervour and communal animity between Hindus and Muslims as locals opened not just their homes but their hearts as well for the people.

Among the pilgrims were many whose families were forced to leave the Kashmir Valley after the outbreak of militancy. Many said they prayed for peace in the Valley and for their dignified return, putting an end to their 'ban-waas' (exile).



© Faisal Khan/VO

Bharat Bhushan, a Kashmiri Pandit currently living in Jammu, said the large attendance of the devotees at the Mela was a befitting reply to the Pahalgam attackers.

“This is a befitting reply to them. We want to tell them -- faith is more powerful than fear and faith will always trump fear. We will respond to terror and fear through faith,” Bhushan said.

He also appealed to the tourists to visit the Kashmir Valley.

“There are some bad elements who want to destroy the Hindu-Muslim brotherhood. They tried to do that (in Pahalgam). But, today, on this occasion, we want to respond to them and say that the brotherhood will continue to exist.

“We appeal to our tourist brothers to come and visit Kashmir - 'the paradise on earth'. Bad elements are in every community, they should be identified and dealt with according to the law of the land,” he said.

Muktesh Yogi, a young Kashmiri Pandit whose family migrated from Mattan area of Anantnag district, said the presence of a large number of devotees at the Mela will send a good message.

“I think the people deserve to be congratulated the way they have come here and there is such a fervour. The large attendance of the devotees here is a good message for the country that there is no threat per-

ception and people of Kashmir are welcoming,” he said.

Yogi said faith is always more powerful than fear.

As devotees jostled with each other to move closer to the main temple, walking barefoot and carrying rose petals, the chants of hymns echoed through the temple compound.

Men took a dip in the stream close to the shrine. The devotees paid obeisance to the deity while offering milk and kheer (pudding) at the sacred spring within the complex.

It is believed that the colour of the sacred spring water which flows below the temple indicates the situation in the Valley.

While most of the colours do not have any particular significance, black or darkish colour of the water is believed to be an indication of inauspicious times for Kashmir. The water in the spring was clean and milky white this year.

“We want to return. It is a good thing. A dialogue process should start. But it should not end with mere statements. Something concrete should be done,” Yogi said.

Nanna Ji said Kashmiri Pandits, who have waited for over three decades to return to the Valley, prayed for their return and rehabilitation to take place sooner than later.

“The Mata should call us sooner. I want the Kashmiri Muslims to come out and call us back home,” he said.

WE APPEAL TO OUR TOURIST BROTHERS TO COME AND VISIT KASHMIR.
Bad elements are in every community, they should be identified and dealt with according to the law of the land.

‘Mela Kheer Bhawani Centuries-Old Embodiment Of India’s Civilizational Heritage’

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Reaffirming the cultural and spiritual significance of the Mela Kheer Bhawani, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Tuesday said that the centuries-old festival is an embodiment of India's civilisational heritage and would continue to be celebrated for generations to come, despite attempts by terrorists to create fear.

Speaking at the revered Mata Kheer Bhawani temple, a prominent Shakti Peeth, Chugh, “This mela has been held for centuries and it will be held for ages to come. No one can stop it. The temple is not just a religious place but a powerful symbol of India's unity and resilience.”

Condemning April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, Chugh

asserted that the terrorists who attacked innocent civilians have been given a “befitting reply” by India's armed forces. “Our armed forces have made the 'saudagars of terror' and 'mout ke saudagars' bite the dust. 140 crore Indians are proud of our brave forces,” he said, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had empowered the military to act decisively, which led to the destruction of terror camps and air bases deep inside Pakistani territory.

Offering condolences and prayers for the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, Chugh stated that the BJP was seeking strength from Mata Kheer Bhawani to eliminate terrorism and its handlers through “Operation Sindoor.” “Those who spread terror have been punished, and they will face even harsher consequences,”

he warned.

According to KNO, Chugh also highlighted the efforts of India's All-Party Delegations in presenting the country's stance on terrorism globally, and exposing Pakistan as a hub of terrorism. “It is unfortunate that while the world is being shown the real face of Pakistan, some leaders at home are echoing Pakistan's language. They questioned surgical strikes, mourned terrorist deaths, and now are even challenging the patriotism of our All-Party Delegation,” he remarked, calling it a “sick mentality.”

“Whenever India's sovereignty and integrity are under question, we must all stand united. But some are busy trying to become Pakistan's blue-eyed boys, speaking like ISI's charming stars,” Chugh said in a scathing attack on political opponents.

Div Com Jammu Reviews Progress Of Smart City Projects

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, who is also Chairman Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL), Ramesh Kumar on Tuesday reviewed the to-date progress of different JSCL development projects being executed in different parts of the city of temples.

The development projects being implemented in Jammu city include city beautification, smart urban mobility and up-gradation of other public facilities.

The meeting was attended

by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, CEO JSCL, SSP Jammu, Chief Engineers of PWD, JPD-CL, I&FC and other concerned.

The Divisional commissioner inquired about the physical and financial progress of each mega project, besides other ongoing works and issued necessary directions.

The Div Com conducted a detailed review of the progress of work on Tawi River Front Development project and channelization of adjoining sewerage drains to Sewerage treatment Plant.

Other major projects re-

viewed included Waste to Wonder Park, High Street Development Residency road, Canal road to Talab Tillo street development, Heritage Conservation and Development works, development of Junctions and rotaries, Development of Gummatt Bazaar, construction/upgradation of Landoi choi nallah in Nanak Nagar.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasized timely project completion, resolving implementation bottlenecks, and improving coordination among departments.

Jammu- Srinagar Record Rooms Go Digital

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Financial Commissioner Revenue, Shaleen Kabra, on Tuesday launched online services of Central Record Room Jammu and Kashmir aiming at improving the public access to government programs and enhancing citizen services.

These services have been integrated with the JK Revenue Portal and are part of a broader initiative to streamline government processes, reduce bureaucratic hurdles and provide more convenient, efficient access to essential services. These online services included access to important revenue-related documents which are available in the Central Record Rooms of Jammu and Srinagar.

The key benefits for the citizens of this initiative will be greater convenience to access services without needing

to visit government offices i.e. Central Record Room Jammu and Srinagar in person. Besides, this will ensure reduced wait times, improved efficiency by submission of applications easily, faster responses, enhanced transparency and reduced paperwork.

The citizens can avail these services by visiting jkrevenue.nic.in via their computers, smart phones or tablets. The Revenue Department has affirmed its commitment to continually expand its digital offerings to meet the evolving needs of the public and further enhance government service delivery.

The launch event was attended by Kanta Devi, Regional Director Survey and Land records Jammu and Dr.Tahir Firdous, Additional Commissioner with Financial Commissioner Revenue J&K.

Staff Shortage In Pulwama

Retired Employees Managing Food Distribution Centres

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCSCA) department in South Kashmir's Pulwama district is facing an acute shortage of staff, forcing retired employees to run food distribution centres in several areas.

The local residents of Litter Shahoor, Prichoo and many other areas have raised concerns over this arrangement, urging the department to deploy regular, in-service employees to ensure accountability and seamless delivery of essential services.

“One of the government distribution centres at Manzpura Litter is currently being run by two retired employees of the department. While they are trying their best, they may get engaged with personal responsibilities or emergencies. In such a case, who will be held accountable if something goes wrong?” said a local resident.

Residents have appealed to the concerned authorities, especially the Food and Supplies officials, to appoint a permanent staff member to the location. “Having a regular official will serve both the public and the department better,” they said.

According to sources within the FCSCA Pulwama, the staff shortage has reached a critical stage, with most employees holding multiple charges—some overseeing three to five sales depots at once.

Officials revealed that the department has not received any significant recruitment since 2013, even though over 200 employees have retired in the past decade. During the same period, only 15-20 new employees have been inducted.

Despite the advertisement of over 100 posts—including storekeepers, Kandamen, and depot assistants—since 2013, no appointments have been made. “While candidates in

other districts who were selected through the same recruitment process have even been promoted, Pulwama continues to grapple with the same unresolved issues,” an official said.

The backlog is largely due to litigation. In 2014-15, a recruitment shortlist was challenged in court after aspirants alleged discrepancies in the criteria used. Since then, the case has been in judicial limbo, bringing the entire recruitment process to a halt.

The staffing crisis is so dire that even watchmen and helpers are managing multiple sale depots, while officials at the district and tehsil headquarters hold additional depot responsibilities—hampering the overall efficiency of the department.

Adding to the woes is the absence of a full-time Assistant Director (AD) for the district. The position has been lying vacant since 30 September 2024, with the AD of Shopian holding additional charge. However, the official's primary presence in Shopian has left residents of distant areas like Tral, Khrew, Aripal, and Sangervani in distress, often returning without their issues being addressed.

Aspirants who had applied for various posts in the department are now appealing to the government to expedite the stalled recruitment process and appoint a full-time Assistant Director for Pulwama without further delay.

They emphasize that addressing the staff shortage is essential not only for administrative efficiency but also to ensure that the residents of the district receive uninterrupted access to basic food and civil supplies.

Meanwhile, an official of the department said that five employees of Pulwama who were working in different mills have been sent to Pulwama while the posts are being referred as the process has been taken up—(KNO)

LADAKH UT

Hindi, Bhoti, Urdu, Purgi Among 5 Languages Notified As Official Languages

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Union Government on Tuesday notified English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti and Purgi as official languages of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The President of India promulgated the Ladakh Official Languages Regulation, 2025 to declare English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti and Purgi as official languages of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

As per the notification, a copy of which is in possession of Kashmir Observer, English language shall continue to be used for all the official purposes of the Union territory for which it was being used before the date of commencement of this Regulation.

It also states that the Administrator of UT may take such necessary steps as may be provided by rules to be made by him to strengthen the institutional mechanisms for the promotion and development of other languages in the Union territory and the establishment

of the Academy of Art, Culture and languages.

According to the Regulations, the institutional mechanisms shall make special efforts for the promotion and development of other native languages of Ladakh: Shina (Dardic), Brokskat (Dardic), Balti and Ladakhi.

The President of India has also promulgated Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (Amendment) Regulation, 2025 to reserve 1/3rd seats in Hill Councils of both Leh and Kargil for women.

As per amendments carried out in Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils Act, 1997, not less than one-third of the total number of seats in the Council shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different territorial constituencies.

The rotation of constituencies reserved for women shall be made on the basis of serial number allotted to each constituency by notification in the official gazette, the notification states.

CUK organises social service camp for devotees at Mela Kheer Bhawani

Ganderbal, June 3: The Directorate of Students Welfare (DSW) in association with the National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit and Health Centre, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) organised a social service and health camp for the devotees attending the Mela Kheer Bhawani here on Tuesday.

Scores of devotees including men, women and children, who had come from different corners of the Valley and other parts of the country, visited the camp



and consumed the refreshments served by the volunteers, faculty members, DSW and NSS staff and other officials of the varsity. The devotees expressed

gratitude to the CUK staffers for serving the refreshments during the day-long Mela. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, said the camp

aimed to provide essential support and assistance to the devotees participating in the Yatra, ensuring a smooth pilgrimage experience. He hailed the volunteers and other staff members of the university for participating in the camp and providing refreshments to the devotees. He said the university has been conducting such camps regularly and offering its services during the annual Mela since its establishment in the Ganderbal district.

India’s Active COVID-19 Cases Cross 4,000

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: India’s active COVID-19 cases have crossed the 4,000 mark, with Kerala remaining the most affected state followed by Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Delhi, according to the Union Health Ministry data released on Tuesday.

There are 4,026 active cases in India and five fresh deaths have been reported in the last 24 hours.

Since January this year, 37 deaths have been reported in the country.

There were 257 active patients in the country on May

22. The figure rose to 3,395 by May 31 and subsequently to 4,026 cases.

Presently, Kerala has 1,446 active cases, the highest in the country followed by Maharashtra with 494, Gujarat with 397 and Delhi with 393 cases, PTI reported.

Five deaths ---one each in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal and two deaths in Maharashtra -- have been reported in the last 24 hours, according to the data.

Official sources on May 31 stated that the COVID-19 situation in India is being closely monitored while stressing that

the severity of infections is low, with most of the patients being under home care and that there was no cause for worry.

Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Dr Rajiv Behl on Monday stated that genome sequencing of samples in West and South have shown that the variants leading to the current rise in cases are not severe and are sub variants of Omicron only.

The four variants that we have found are sub variants of Omicron --- LF.7, XFG, JN.1 and NB. 1.8.1. The first three have been found in more cases, he said.

CONTD. FROM 3RD PAGE

Every Year, They

660th Urs of Mir Syed Ali Hamdani [RA], the 14th-century Persian saint who brought Islam to Kashmir, and transformed much more than faith.

For the valley’s faithful, he became Shah-e-Hamdani, a title that still lives in every prayer and breath.

His sanctum stays soulful. There’s a sweet, smoky smell in the air. Pigeons beat their wings near the minaret. Devotees walk in bare-foot, some holding prayer books, others just their thoughts.

In one corner, a young woman sits by herself. Her face is covered, but the shaking of her shoulders is not. She cries softly, pulling her scarf closer.

“There is something about this place,” she says, without being asked. “It reaches deeper than words. On this day, that feeling becomes stronger. It becomes everything.”

There’s no grand speech or sermon here. Only return. This is a day when people come home. Not to walls, but to memory.

Muhammad Shaban walks with a carved wooden stick, tulips etched into its sides. He used to live just down the lane. The 72-year-old man grew up in the shadow of the shrine. But in the 1990s, like many others, he moved out, pushed by the political unrest that changed the city.

Still, he returns every year.

“We left the neighbourhood,” he says, “but not the shrine. We grew in its light. Without it, something in us feels lost.”

Faith, for him, isn’t just about belief. It’s about a place, a rhythm, a way of remembering who you are.

The Khanqah itself hasn’t changed much. The walls are still decorated in gold script. The ceiling, made of delicate woodwork, opens like a sky. Inside, it’s meditative but never empty. Time seems to slow here. Even stop, sometimes.

Among the visitors are the men and women whose families have kept the city’s oldest skills alive. Woodcarvers, carpet weavers, paper maché artisans. Their forefathers came to Kashmir with the saint himself.

Shah-e-Hamdani didn’t come only to preach. He taught and introduced trades that gave people not just faith, but a way to survive. Carpets, shawls, walnut wood panels—what the world now calls “Kashmiri” began with his vision.

Abdul Rashid still carries that inheritance. A master woodcarver from Khanyar, he walks slowly but proudly through the shrine’s wooden archway.

“Shah-e-Hamdani is our mentor,” he says. “He didn’t just guide us. He gave us tools and hands that could build.”

But these hands now face uncertainty. Many of the younger generation aren’t picking up the tools. Some are leaving the valley. Some are stuck between hope and joblessness.

Sadiq Shah, a needlework artisan from Safa Kadal, looks around the crowded courtyard with a kind of urgency.

“Our youth are restless,” he says. “Many of them are lost, unemployed, depressed. If only they understood what this saint taught - how skill is also prayer - they would find a way forward.”

There is no stage or star speaker here. And yet, thousands arrive. Some walk for hours. Some carry offerings. Others bring nothing but a heart full of weight.

And somehow, that seems enough.

The shrine holds it all. The tired breath of an old woman. The tears of a girl finding peace. The silence of men who have carved for years without complaint. The whisper of the river outside.

Faith, here, doesn’t ask for a show. It asks for presence. And on this day, presence is everywhere.

A boy hands out dates and sweet meatballs to strangers. A woman feeds pigeons by the riverbank. Some sing slowly under their breath. Others spread prayer mats by the wooden pillars.

The saint himself is long gone. But what he left behind—the rhythm, the reason, the return—still pulls people in. They come with petals. They come with prayers. And for one day each year, they find their way back.

PM To Inaugurate

railway bridge, stands tall in Jammu and Kashmir... PM to inaugurate the Chenab Bridge on June 6. A proud symbol of New India’s strength and vision!” Union Minister Jitendra Singh posted on X.

Following the inauguration of the Chenab Bridge, Modi is expected to travel by train to Katra, inspecting en route the Anji Khad bridge — India’s first cable-stayed rail bridge. The Prime Minister will also interact with railway engineers, including retired personnel who were part of this decades-long engineering feat.

At Katra, the base camp for pilgrims to Mata Vaishno Devi, Modi will flag off two Vande Bharat trains — one from Katra to Baramulla and another from Baramulla to Katra — signalling the operational readiness of the entire

USBRL project. However, railway officials clarified that passengers travelling to and from the Kashmir Valley will need to change trains at Katra.

The Prime Minister is also scheduled to address a public rally after the inauguration.

A Project Three Decades in the Making

The USBRL project was launched in 1997 but has faced repeated delays due to the region’s challenging topography, complex geology, and harsh weather. Originally projected to be completed in much less time, the final cost has exceeded 41,000 crore.

Out of the total 272 km, 209 km has already been commissioned in phases:

Qazigund-Baramulla (118 km) in October 2009

Banihal-Qazigund (18 km) in June 2013

Udhampur-Katra (25 km) in July 2014

Banihal-Sangaldan (48.1 km) in February 2023

The final 46-km Sangaldan-Reasi section was completed in June 2023, with the remaining 17-km stretch between Reasi and Katra finished by December 2024.

The current visit comes weeks after Operation Sindoor, India’s military retaliation to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives, mostly tourists.

Engineering Marvel in the Mountains

According to railway officials, the Kashmir rail link is one of the most technically challenging railway projects ever undertaken. Of the 111 km Katra-Banihal section:

97.4 km (87%) runs through tunnels, including the 12.77-km-long T-50 tunnel, the longest railway tunnel in India.

The project includes 25 main tunnels (97.42 km) and 8 escape tunnels (66.4 km), ensuring safety in line with international standards.

There are 49 bridges — 27 major and 16 minor — spanning a combined length of 7,035 km. These include four mega bridges: the Chenab Bridge, Anji Bridge, Bridge 220, and Bridge 224.

The Chenab Bridge, standing 359 metres above the riverbed and taller than the Eiffel Tower, has been engineered to withstand wind speeds of over 250 km/h and high-magnitude earthquakes, making it one of the world’s most resilient railway bridges.

“Every inch of the track is under watch,” a senior official said, referring to the CCTV surveillance systems installed for commuter safety. “This line doesn’t just connect Kashmir; it brings with it a new sense of security, reliability, and hope.”

With the launch of this project, nearly three decades in the making, officials hope that the railway line will not only transform mobility in the region but also deepen Kashmir’s integration with the rest of India — socially, economically, and emotionally.

“Today, after nearly 30 years, the dream has become reality,” the official said.

LG Chairs Preparatory

The Lieutenant Governor discussed various aspects of preparations and appealed to the people to participate in large numbers and make the launch event a memorable one.

Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link, a 272-km mega project is India’s most ambitious project connecting Kashmir valley with Kanyakumari. The Rail Link will ensure Year-round connectivity to the Valley.

Prime Minister will dedicate Chenab bridge, the world’s highest railway bridge, to the nation. This engineering marvel is the highest railway arch bridge in the world at 359 meters.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; Anand Jain, ADGP Armed; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Vivek Gupta, IGP Railways; M. Suleman Choudhary, IGP Traffic; Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Reasi and Udhampur and senior officials of civil and police administration.

Large Devotee

administration has made good arrangements for the mela. “The work on yatri niwas is going on,” he added.

Regarding the annual Amarnath Yatra scheduled to begin on July 3, Sinha confirmed that all preparations for the pilgrimage have been completed.

“In terms of security as well, the security arrangements have been done and I appeal to the devotees from across the country to come here and take Baba’s blessings,” he said.

The Kheer Bhawani mela will be held at five Ragnya Bhagwati shrines at Tulumulla in Ganderbal, Manzgam and Devsar in Kulgam, Logripora in Anantnag and Tikkar in Kupwara on Tuesday.

Leaders Renew

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, after visiting the shrine, called the turnout a “befitting reply to those trying to disrupt communal harmony.” He said the presence of devotees at the Mela reflected a growing sense of safety and hoped it would mark the beginning of the Pandits’ return to their homeland.

“This is Mata’s doing. She has called her children back,” he said, urging unity across communities.

Abdullah said Kashmir is a place of “rishimunis and sufis”, and the Kheer Bhawani Mela is part of this common faith.

He expressed hope that the mela would spark the Kashmiri Pandits’ return to their homeland.

“People come here for darshan, to pray for an end to their problems as well as the problems facing the country. We have also come here and hope the mela is the beginning of the return of our brothers and sisters so that they can live here.

“We have come here with the hope that Mata will bring them back home so that they live here comfortably,” he said.

Echoing the sentiment, J&K Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra highlighted the need for political empowerment of the Pandit community. “Cosmetic measures won’t work. Their return must be natural and inclusive, with reserved seats enabling them to contest elections and integrate fully,” Karra said.

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said the return of Pandits was crucial to completing any political process in J&K. “There is no military solution to Kashmir. Until the Pandits return with respect and dignity, the issue remains incomplete,” she said, adding that she had submitted a roadmap for their phased reintegration to LG Manoj Sinha.

LG Sinha, who also attended the Mela, described the large turnout as a “positive sign” and assured that adequate arrangements had been made. “This is the first large gathering since the April 22 attack,” he noted.

The Mela was simultaneously held at five Ragnya Bhagwati shrines across the Valley — in Tulumulla (Ganderbal), Manzgam and Devsar (Kulgam), Logripora (Anantnag), and Tikkar (Kupwara). The temple at Tulumulla was decked up amid a multi-layer security cover, with many pilgrims saying they prayed for peace and an end to their decades-long ‘banwaas’ (exile).

Domicile Rules

and appeared in Class 10 or 12 exams there. Children of central government employees, PSU staff, and others who’ve served in Ladakh for 10 years are also eligible.

The 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) will remain in place.

English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, and Purgi have been declared official languages of Ladakh, with English continuing for official work. The administration also plans to promote other native languages like Shina, Brokskat, Balti, and Ladakhi, and set up an Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

As per the amendment to the LAHDC Act, 1997, one-third of council seats will be reserved for women, rotating across constituencies through official notifications. The rule applies to both Leh and Kargil councils.

The new policy comes amid growing public demands in Ladakh for protection of land, jobs, and culture after the revocation of Article 370 in 2019. Since then, Ladakh has been governed directly by the Centre as a UT without a legislative assembly.

Following protests and several rounds of talks, including one on May 27, 2025, the Centre had assured Ladakh leaders that their concerns would be addressed. A High Powered Committee, led by Union MoS Nityanand Rai, was formed to suggest safeguards.

In August 2024, the government created five new districts in Ladakh — Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang — to improve governance. Later, in October, activist Sonam Wangchuk held a protest fast in Delhi, demanding constitutional safeguards for the region.

The new rules came into effect from Tuesday through a series of official notifications.

Early School Timings

around 2:30, the sun is at its peak — harsher than the morning hours,” a parent from Srinagar said.

Many parents question the efficacy of the new timings. “If heat was the concern, shouldn’t they be out before noon? What’s the point of changing the timing if children still return home under the blazing sun?” Rabia, a parent remarked.

She pointed out that the early start means children are getting ready in the morning only to commute home in the afternoon’s intense heat.

The situation is further complicated by recent weather patterns. Kashmir has experienced cooler temperatures, cloudy skies, and even light rainfall in recent days, rendering the original justification for the change less relevant.

“It’s not even that hot anymore. Mornings are cold. They should review the decision based on current conditions,” Irfana Akhter, another parent explained.

Parents are now collectively calling on the education department to re-evaluate the schedule, urging them to align school timings with the actual ground conditions and

prioritize the health and needs of the students. Repeated attempts to contact the Director of School Education by the reporter went unanswered.

Passport Can’t

of Khan has been impounded on the recommendations of authorities on the ground of registration of the FIR and the investigation therein which would fall under clause 10(3) (e) i.e. the matters in which criminal case is pending.

“It is well settled that mere pendency of the investigation would not give power to the authorities to impound the passport under Section 10(3)(e). Since mere registration of the FIR by the investigation agency is also no ground for refusal to issue, renew or impound the passport,” the court said, adding, “It is only upon the filing of a charge sheet and the court taking cognizance of the offence that it may be said that a criminal case is actually pending.”

Besides setting aside the order by Special Judge Anti-Corruption (CBI cases), the court directed the Regional Passport Officer to pass an appropriate order either to release Khan’s passport or issue a fresh passport to him after completion of all formalities.

Passport of Khan, a senior citizen and an IAS officer retired on 31 March 2018, was seized on 12 October 2021 and according to Khan in his plea he was informed that a case (FIR) was registered regarding issuance of arms licenses by Deputy Commissioners of UT of J&K. During investigation his passport, two mobile phones and other documents were seized by CBI.

In his plea Khan submitted that he intends to travel abroad for religious pilgrimage and that the right to travel is a fundamental right as per the mandate of Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

Constable Among

currently in jail. Their termination was carried out under Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution of India, which permits dismissal without a departmental inquiry in the interest of national security.

A senior security official said the three were working for terror groups and assisting in the execution of attacks on security forces and civilians. “Having a mole and a dangerous terrorist associate in the police or any government department poses a grave risk to national integrity,” the official stated.

Waseem Ahmad Khan, appointed in 2007, was allegedly involved in the 2018 killing of senior journalist Shujaat Bukhari and his two PSOs. Officials claim he was associated with both LeT and HM and provided logistical support to the attackers. He allegedly accompanied them during the execution of the attack and later helped them escape. His arrest came in August 2018 during an investigation into a terror attack in Batmaloo.

Malik Ishfaq Naseer, recruited in 2007, was allegedly involved in helping LeT smuggle arms, explosives, and narcotics across the border. Despite being a police constable, he used GPS technology to share coordinates for arms drops with Pakistani handlers. His activities came under scrutiny in 2021 during a probe into an arms smuggling case in the Jammu region. His brother, Malik Asif Naseer, a Pakistan-trained LeT terrorist, was killed in 2018.

“Instead of upholding his oath to protect the nation, he acted as a collaborator and exploited his uniform to assist terrorists,” a security official said.

Ajaz Ahmed, a teacher since 2011, was arrested in November 2023 after security forces recovered arms, ammunition, and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen posters from his vehicle during a routine check in Poonch. According to investigators, he was allegedly working under the direction of Abid Ramzan Sheikh, an HM operative based in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Ahmed facilitated multiple arms consignments intended for militants in Kashmir over the years, the official said.

Since assuming office in August 2020, LG Sinha has led a focused effort to dismantle the terror ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. Over 75 government employees with terror links have been dismissed so far, they said.

Officials said the administration has tightened the vetting of government recruits, making police verification mandatory. “This has reduced internal sabotage risks and instilled fear among potential sympathizers,” said a senior official.

“The LG’s multi-pronged strategy -- targeting terrorists, disruptors, and their enablers in government -- has significantly weakened terror networks in the Union territory,” the official added.

India’s Active

There were 257 active patients in the country on May 22. The figure rose to 3,395 by May 31 and subsequently to 4,026 cases.

Presently, Kerala has 1,446 active cases, the highest in the country followed by Maharashtra with 494, Gujarat with 397 and Delhi with 393 cases, PTI reported.

Five deaths ---one each in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal and two deaths in Maharashtra -- have been reported in the last 24 hours, according to the data.

Official sources on May 31 stated that the COVID-19 situation in India is being closely monitored while stressing that the severity of infections is low, with most of the patients being under home care and that there was no cause for worry.

Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Dr Rajiv Behl on Monday stated that genome sequencing of samples in West and South have shown that the variants leading to the current rise in cases are not severe and are sub variants of Omicron only.

The four variants that we have found are sub variants of Omicron --- LF.7, XFG, JN.1 and NB. 1.8.1. The first three have been found in more cases, he said.

“We have been closely monitoring the situation. At this moment overall, we should monitor, be vigilant but there is no cause to worry,” Dr Behl had said.

Anantnag Police

terror attack that left 26 people dead.

Police officials reported that some VPN networks were still in use.

“This activity can lead to legal action against the users as VPNs are used to transmit encrypted data, mask IP addresses and bypass website blocks and firewalls. The use of VPNs makes sensitive information vulnerable to cyber attacks,” an official said.

They stated that VPNs have the potential to be misused for unlawful and anti-national activities, including inciting unrest and disseminating inflammatory content.

“To safeguard data and prevent any cyber attacks, the use of VPNs must be avoided,” the official said.

Growers Seek

rupees is grossly insufficient.

Bashir Ahmad, a fruit grower from Zainapora, said, “This compensation of three to four thousand rupees is like rubbing salt on our wounds. We have lost produce worth lakhs; this relief doesn’t even cover the cost of a single fungicide or pesticide.”

Ghulam Nabi Lone, another grower from Shopian, demanded a proper crop insurance scheme, saying, “Unless we have a comprehensive insurance scheme in place, our survival will remain uncertain every season. Climate shocks are a regular occurrence, but we get no real support.”

Associations representing growers across the region have united in demanding the immediate implementation of a comprehensive crop insurance scheme, which they see as the only sustainable solution to protect their livelihoods from natural calamities.

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Showkat Hussain Ganaie assured that he would raise the issue with the Chief Minister. “I understand the pain and losses faced by our growers,” Ganaie said. “I will personally raise this demand with the CM. Implementing a crop insurance scheme is no longer optional; it’s essential.”

According to reports, the recent hailstorm that struck villages in Imam Sahab, Nagbal, Handew, Wadipora, Alsshipora and Dasu caused extensive damage to apple orchards, which form the backbone of the local economy. The storm, which lasted over 15-20 minutes, battered hundreds of apple farms, leaving behind irreparable losses.

Similar damage was reported earlier in Handwara, Rafiabab, Baramulla, Bandipora and Ganderbal districts, where gusty winds and hailstorms destroyed large swathes of fruit crops.

President of the Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers and Dealers Union, Bashir Ahmad Basheer, said the hailstorms wreaked havoc. “The fruit industry, a vital pillar of Kashmir’s economy, has suffered a severe blow. These weather-related calamities are beyond our control, but the absence of a crop insurance scheme has worsened our plight. The sudden storms have dashed all hopes of recovery for orchard owners and industry stakeholders alike,” he said.

The union has consistently appealed to the Centre and J&K governments to include the region’s horticulture sector in a crop insurance scheme, which could provide vital relief during natural disasters. Despite announcements, the scheme has yet to be implemented, leaving many growers vulnerable.

Basheer said that the majority of growers --- about 90 per cent --- are marginal farmers whose livelihoods depend solely on their orchards. “When their orchards are destroyed by natural calamities, these small-scale farmers face severe hardships without any safety net,” he said.

He urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to prioritise the implementation of a crop insurance scheme and to facilitate subsidised netting for orchard protection, along with adequate storage facilities to mitigate future losses. (KNO)

RCB & Virat Kohli Break 18-Year Jinx With Maiden IPL Title



Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Virat Kohli washed away 18 years of hurt and disappointment on a dream Tuesday night, conquering Punjab Kings by six runs to lift their maiden Indian Premier League title here on Tuesday.

The final turned out to be a battle of nerves and RCB certainly channelled their years of disappointment and pain to come back roaring in the contest and seal a commanding victory.

A partisan crowd did not give up on RCB even as they struggled to find the flourish with the bat and ended up posting a total of 190/9 with superstar Kohli making a laborious 35-ball 43.

At the break, RCB's total did not look enough but a persistent effort from their bowlers made the scoreboard pressure ultimately work in their favour.

With 29 needed off the final over, RCB's win was sealed when Josh Hazlewood bowled the second dot ball on the trot. Shashank Singh struck a valiant 61 not out off 30 balls (3x4s, 6x6s), but his effort came far too late as Punjab Kings ended at 184 for seven.

Josh Hazlewood provided the first breakthrough, Krunal Pandya bowled a dream spell of 4-0-17-2 in a summit clash but it was Romario Shepherd's dismissal of PBKS' gun captain Shreyas Iyer that finally indicated which way the game was headed.

All it took was an innocuous delivery outside off to see the back of the most dangerous batter in the final as Iyer, coming off a terrific knock in Qualifier 2, edged it behind off Shepherd and walked back with his head dropped.

Josh Inglis (39 off 23 balls, 1x4s, 4x6s) made every opportunity count when it came to hitting towards midwicket but Pandya had him caught at long-on in the 13th over.

Thereafter, every dot ball drew appreciation from fans and they were at their loudest when RCB legend AB de Villiers appeared on the big screen on the ground, and also when PBKS were mathematically knocked out.

Earlier, RCB huffed and puffed to 190

for nine after their batters failed to press matters on what remained a conducive wicket.

While RCB were not only a tad conservative in the big final, luck also did not favour the fourth-time finalists chasing their maiden trophy a great deal, as each of their batters perished after getting a start.

And there were no fireworks on the night of the big final as Kohli, looking to anchor the innings the way he has done in the past, perished after his laborious effort in the middle.

Kohli struck a mere three fours — two after the ninth over — as he got his 43 runs off 35 balls at 122.85.

National Fervour Runs High During IPL 2025's Closing Ceremony

Il Sabse aage honge Hindustani" and "Dushman ke chhakke chhudaa de, hum India wale" were among the songs performed as national fervour was the central theme of the closing ceremony ahead of the Indian Premier League final between RCB and Punjab Kings here on Tuesday.

"Honouring the Indian armed forces", "Salute to the armed forces" and "Thank you armed forces" were the message displayed across the digital boards used for advertising and sharing match-related information near the boundary as well as on the first tier of the world's largest stadium here.

The songs from war-themed movie Lakshya titled "Kandhon se milte hai kandhe" and "Lakshya", "Ae watan mere aabad rahe tu", "Vande Mataram" (AR Rahman composed) were among the songs performed with "sabse aage honge Hindustani" being the final one.

The ceremony took place before the summit clash of the 18th edition of world's biggest T20 tournament between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Punjab Kings. The players trained in the background with RCB being the first team to take the field for their warm-ups followed by their rivals PBKS soon after.

Australia Likely To Tour Pakistan For White-Ball Series Next Year

Cricket Australia has agreed to send its team to Pakistan early next year for a white ball series, its CEO Todd Greenburg has said.

Speaking during an online media interaction, Greenburg said that Cricket Australia was keen to visit Pakistan for more tours and discussions were ongoing between the two boards.

"We are trying to schedule a red-ball and white ball series in our program with Pakistan where the window is available. I think the tour early next year will be a success for both boards," he said.

Greenburg said based on their experience of visiting Pakistan in 2022 and then for Champions Trophy, they wanted more exchanges where possible.

He said that even in the Big Bash, it would be a boost if leading Pakistani players could be available when it is held this year.

"Teams in the Big Bash want more quality overseas players in the competition and if some leading Pakistani players are available I am sure they will be sought after." In 2022, Australia toured Pakistan for a Test and white ball series after nearly 23 years.

England's Players Cycle To The Oval For 3rd West Indies ODI



England's players rode hire bikes to get to the ground for the third One-Day International against West Indies as their opponents got snarled up in London traffic to force a 30-minute delay to the start at The Oval on Tuesday.

With the West Indies team stuck on their bus, England's players were seen riding electrically-assisted Lime Bikes well ahead of the scheduled 1300 start time to the amusement of fans waiting to get in.

They were warming up on the outfield when the delay was announced to the crowd on a murky day in the capital. Play eventually began at 1330 with England looking to wrap up a 3-0 series win after victories at Edgbaston and Cardiff.

Traffic light failures and road closures near Vauxhall Bridge had caused the chaos, with England captain Harry Brook saying they had decided to take matters into their own hands.

The West Indies team were staying at nearby Chelsea Harbour, around three miles away.

"We probably should have walked," captain Shai Hope said.

Inzaghi Leaves Inter Milan After Champions League Final Thrashing

Simone Inzaghi has left his position as manager of Inter Milan, the Serie A club said on Tuesday, after a humiliating 5-0 loss in the Champions League final against Paris St Germain capped a trophyless season.

Inter suffered a dismal end to their campaign with Saturday's thrashing in Munich coming after they finished second in Serie A, one point behind champions Napoli, and were knocked out in the Coppa Italia semi-finals 4-1 on aggregate by city rivals AC Milan.

Inter face a race against time to appoint a new manager before the Club World Cup, with their campaign getting underway against Mexican side Monterrey on June 18. Inzaghi won six trophies at Inter: one Serie A title, two Coppa Italia triumphs and three Italian Super Cups.

Italian media reported that Inzaghi will join Saudi Pro League club Al-Hilal and will lead them in the Club World Cup in the United States.

Inter confirmed that the decision for Inzaghi to leave the club was taken by mutual agreement earlier in the day.

WED Celebrations Continue With Pledge Run Held Across Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The ongoing World Environment Day celebrations under the global theme "Ending Plastic Pollution" entered their sixth day on Tuesday across District Budgam with a series of spirited activities organized under the directions of District Youth Services & Sports Officer Budgam Gh. Hassan Lone.

In a display of environmental awareness and commitment, all 12 zones of the district actively participated in the special event: a "Pledge Run" aimed at spreading awareness about reducing plastic usage and promoting sustainable living practices.

Hundreds of enthusiastic students and

youth gathered in their respective zones and took part in the plog run, holding banners and raising slogans in support of a plastic-free future. The event emphasized the urgent need to eliminate single-use plastics and inspired young minds to act as responsible guardians of the environment.

DYSSO Budgam, Gh. Hassan Lone praised the energy and discipline shown by the participants and highlighted the role of youth in driving meaningful environmental change. He reaffirmed the department's commitment to promoting eco-friendly practices through sports and community activities. The week-long celebrations will continue with more interactive and awareness-driven events.



Massive Plog Runs Organised In Multiple YSS Zones Of Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: In celebration of World Environment Day 2025, the Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag organised Plog Run events across multiple zones under the global campaign "Ending Plastic Pollution." The initiative aimed to promote cleanliness, environmental awareness, and youth engagement in creating a plastic-free society.

The Plog Runs were conducted in prominent locations such as market areas, town streets, school vicinities, and Zonal Headquarters. Students, youth, and staff actively participated, collecting plastic and other waste materials while jogging. These events not only enhanced awareness about environmental

responsibility but also reinforced the role of youth in combating pollution and preserving natural surroundings.

At the conclusion of each event, participants were sensitized about the harmful effects of plastic on the environment and were urged to take ownership in keeping their surroundings clean and green. The message of building a plastic-free and drug-free society was prominently highlighted throughout the campaign.

DYSS Anantnag said in a statement that it appreciates the overwhelming participation and enthusiasm shown by students, teachers, and officials.

"The combined efforts underline the district's commitment to sustainable practices, health, and youth empowerment," it added.

MLA Sopore Flags-Off Mini Marathon For A Drug-Free Society

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The Department of Youth Services and Sports in Zones Dangerpora and Sopore, on Tuesday organised a Marathon under the "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan".

The marathon was flagged-off by Member Legislative Assembly Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar at MRF Chowk, Model Town Sopore which concluded at War Automobiles, Saidpora (Bypass).

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 600 students to raise awareness against drug abuse and promote a healthy & addiction-free lifestyle.

Applauding the initiative, MLA said, "Our youth are the torch bearers of a healthy and progressive society. Campaigns like the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan gain true strength when students lead from the front. Today's run is not just a race but a powerful message of resistance against addiction."

YSS Ganderbal Holds Mini Marathon To Promote Drug-Free Living

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: In an effort to raise awareness against drug abuse, the Department of Youth Services & Sports Ganderbal, in collaboration with the District Administration and the District Social Welfare Office Ganderbal, organised a Mini Marathon for men across all age groups under the banner of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan Drug-Free India Campaign on Tuesday.

The marathon witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 150 students and staff members representing various colleges and



universities of the district.

The race was flagged off from the picturesque lawns of the Mini Secretariat Ganderbal by Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, alongside District Youth Services & Sports Officer

Ganderbal, Sheikh Shafqat Iqbal, and other officials of the department. The marathon route traversed the Fatepora-Gadoora stretch and concluded at the gates of the Government College of Physical Education, Gadoora.

Participants displayed ex-

ceptional energy and determination, promoting the message of a healthy and drug-free lifestyle. In recognition of their commendable performance, the top 10 finishers were felicitated by the ADDC Ganderbal, who lauded their efforts and commitment to the cause.



Protect your Health from Everything that comes its way



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

Bajaj Allianz Extra Care Plus's Features:



Long Term Discount



Option to Opt for
Air Ambulance



Free health check-up

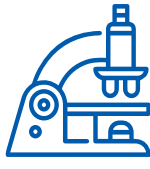
Benefits of Health Prime Rider:



Rider for both Individual & Family
Floater Basis**



24*7 Unlimited
Tele-Consultation



Investigations Cover

**Based on the variant opted in health plan

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

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

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