

LG Orders Major Admin Reshuffle

24 Officers Including 4 DCs Transferred

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday ordered a reshuffle in his administration, shifting four deputy commissioners and heads of various departments.

Deputy commissioners of Srinagar, Budgam, Ramban, and Kishtwar were among 24 officers who were transferred by the LG. Among them, 20 were IAS officers and four were Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services (JKAS) officers.

Srinagar Deputy Commissioner Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat was transferred and posted as deputy commissioner Budgam, replacing Akshay Labroo who has been sent to Srinagar.

Baseer Ul Haq Chaudhary, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, was transferred and posted as Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K, while Mohammad Alyas Khan, a JKAS officer who was additional secretary in the LG's Secretariat, was transferred and posted as deputy commissioner, Ramban.

JKAS officer Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Vice-Chairman, Jammu Development Authority, was transferred and posted as deputy commissioner, Kishtwar.

Anil Kumar Singh has been posted as principal secretary, Social Welfare Department. He will also hold the charge of administrative secretary, Mining Department, in addition to his own duties relieving Vikramjit Singh of the additional charge.

Saurabh Bhagat, commissioner/secretary, Science and Technology Department, holding additional charge of the post of administrative secretary, Information Technology Department, was transferred and posted as commissioner/secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs.

Bhagat replaced Zubair Ahmad who has been transferred and

New Deputy Commissioners



Srinagar
Akshay Labroo



Budgam
Bilal Mohiud-Din Bhat



Ramban
Mohammad Alyas Khan



Kishtwar
Pankaj Kumar Sharma

posted as commissioner/secretary, Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens.

Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as secretary, Science and Technology Department. He shall also hold the charge of administrative secretary, Civil Aviation Department.

Niraj Kumar, administrative secretary, Transport Department, was transferred and posted as administrative secretary, Public Grievances Department, while Piyush Singla was posted as secretary, Information Technology Department.

Naveen S L was posted as secretary, Transport Department, while Nazim Zai Khan, Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K, was transferred and posted as | [More on P6](#)

Amarnath Yatra

Foolproof Security In Place, Come Without Fear: LG To Devotees

» Conducts On-site Inspection Of Baltal Yatri Niwas » Reviews Medical, Healthcare Facilities At Base camp

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said foolproof security and improved facilities are in place for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, which begins on July 3 and concludes on August 9 (Raksha Bandhan).

Sinha performed the traditional 'Pratham Puja' at the holy cave, marking the ceremonial start of the annual pilgrimage.

"I request devotees to come in large numbers," Sinha said after the ceremony. "There's no need to worry. The Police, Army, CRPF, and other forces have ensured tight security. Come, and take Baba Barfani's blessings."

Taking to X (formerly Twitter), the LG wrote: "Har Har Mahadev! Paid my obeisance to Baba Barfani... May Baba Amarnathji keep showering his divine blessings on all of us."

He said the Shrine Board, administration, and all security agencies — including the BRO and CAPFs — are working | [More on P6](#)



LG Treks To Holy Cave Via Baltal

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha became the first Chairman of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board to reach the Holy cave in recent times through Baltal track. The Lieutenant Governor inspected the maintenance, upgradation and

widening of Yatra track enroute and took first-hand appraisal of the measures taken by the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board and Border Road Organisation (BRO) to ensure the safe and hassle-free pilgrimage of the devotees. He lauded the | [More on P6](#)



PEOPLE OF J&K, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND SERVICE providers have made exceptional contributions over the years. I am confident the improved facilities will make this year's Yatra even more memorable"

After Harvard, Abuse Allegations Rock Another Kashmiri School

A little school girl's hospitalisation sparks abuse allegations against Srinagar's Presentation Convent. The school denies it. A government probe is underway.

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Anam Altaf (name changed) is only 9. But on a hot Tuesday afternoon, she came home from school - sick, dizzy, and unable to open her eyes. Her father, Mohammad Altaf, says she told him something no parent wants to hear. "She said they beat her for not bringing a notebook," he said.

Anam studies in Class 3 at Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School, one of the most reputed girls' schools in Srinagar.

On June 10, according to her father, she returned from school in a condition that scared the whole family.

"She was vomiting, barely conscious," Altaf told Kashmir Observer. "Her eyes weren't opening. She looked like she had been through hell."

Altaf says the school didn't inform him right away. When they finally called, it was



already late afternoon. "What hurts me the most," he said, "isn't just that she may have been beaten. It's that they didn't treat her or even rush her to a hospital."

The distraught father rushed his daughter to Srinagar's Children's Hospital, then to JVC, and finally to SMHS Hospital, where doctors discharged her around 3 a.m. Her condition has since

improved. But the questions keep piling up.

Why did the school wait to call him? Why didn't they, he asks, take her to a doctor? And why, he wonders, is the school refusing to release CCTV footage of the day?

Presentation Convent, meanwhile, has pushed back.

In a detailed statement, the school said Anam was not assaulted but | [More on P6](#)

Dr Farooq Seeks Peace At Vaishno Devi Shrine

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday returned to Srinagar by the recently launched Vande Bharat Express after an overnight stay at the Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra.

"Had a great darshan and I am hopeful that all our prayers for peace, progress and brotherhood at the shrine will be answered so that we can move forward and our country also marches ahead and we become part of its development trajectory," the former chief minister told reporters on his return.

The 87-year-old Abdullah took his maiden ride in the Vande Bharat Express, which connects Kashmir to the rest of the country, to reach Katra on Tuesday. He stayed at the sanctum sanctorum overnight and took part in special prayers at the shrine.

He was accompanied by his grandsons Zamir and Zahid, Jammu and Kashmir minister



THIS TRAIN IS A BLESSING. It will increase tourism and trade."

Satish Sharma, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and several NC legislators, including chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq.

Asked about his overnight stay at the shrine, Abdullah said, "I felt very happy."

"I came here by train and this service is a new beginning for us. | [More on P6](#)

Guru Hargobind Ji's Birth Anniversary

Sikh Community Seeks Gazetted Holiday

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Members of the Sikh community in Jammu and Kashmir have appealed to the government to declare a gazetted holiday on the birth anniversary of Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, which falls on Thursday, June 12, 2025.

In a formal representation addressed to both Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, community leaders

have highlighted the spiritual and historical significance of the occasion. The District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Srinagar, has also submitted an official request to the administration.

Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, the sixth Sikh Guru, is revered for his values of bravery, justice, and spiritual strength. Community members say that a public holiday would allow them to commemorate the day with | [More on P6](#)

Vijay Mallya's Comeback Story Skips A Key Kashmir Chapter

A viral podcast brought the beer baron back into headlines. But in Kashmir, it also brought back memories of hops farms, silent deals, and a vanished promise to local growers.

Fiza Masoodi

Srinagar: On a warm June morning, Farooq Ahmad walked into his family farm, feeling a bit nostalgic. The field looked calm, with maize plants and apple trees all around.

But a few decades ago, something very different grew here. A strong-smelling crop, surrounded by silence.

"They told us it was a medicinal flower," he said, his voice low, his eyes tracing the horizon. "Later, we learned it was for beer."

That crop was hops, the small, green cones that give beer its flavour and staying power.

Farooq is among the last farmers here who remember the men from mainland, bringing seedlings, tools, and promises of steady pay.

Those men worked for United Breweries, a company led first by Vittal Mallya and later by his



WE WEREN'T JUST SUPPLIERS. We were part of something that worked, at least for a while."

son, Vijay Mallya, the flamboyant businessman whose name once echoed across India.

Now, "the King of Good Times" is talking again.

In a four-hour podcast with influencer Raj Shamani,

recorded in early June 2025, the former 'liquor lord' spoke of his exile in London, his legal battles, and his hope to return to India.

"I want a fair trial, decent conditions," Mallya told Shamani,

his tone firm yet measured. "I've been painted as the villain, but there's more to the story."

In Kashmir, people like Farooq, a post-graduate grower who remembers the old hops fields, listened closely. What lingered wasn't Mallya's words, but the silence around what he didn't say.

There was no mention of the valley's forgotten fields his company nurtured in the 1970s. There was no word of the Kashmiri farmers who trusted his father's vision.

"He talks like we were never part of the story," Farooq said, shaking his head. "But we were the ones who grew the flowers."

The story began decades ago, under Vittal Mallya's watch.

It was the eventful era marked by political accords and Emergency rule, when United Breweries leased land in Zainakote, just outside Srinagar, to establish a | [More on P6](#)

Bureaucracy Ignores Me Now: CM Omar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that the bureaucracy is no longer taking his directions seriously. He stated that during his tenure as the chief minister of a full-fledged state, bureaucrats would act on his instructions promptly and resolve matters on priority.

Speaking to former Union Law Minister Kapil Sibal on the latter's YouTube channel "Dil Se Kapil Sibal", Omar said that the recent terror attack in Baisaran, Pahalgam was aimed at stoking communal tensions in the country.

"It's not possible to deploy forces at every location. The attack on Baisaran and Pakistan's



retaliatory operation — both were attempts to incite religious conflict here," Omar said during the conversation.

He also took a jibe at former U.S. President Donald Trump over his reported rift with tech entrepreneur Elon Musk. "Mr.

Trump, who cannot remain loyal even to his own friends — how can we expect him to stay loyal to us?" he remarked.

Speaking the shift in governance post the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, Omar said that bureaucrats no longer act with the same sense of urgency. "Jab main riyasat ka mukhya mantri tha, jab main kisi afsar se kehta tha ke yeh karna hai — woh mujhe 10 tareeqe batata tha ke kis tarah ho sakta hai. Aaj jab main kisi afsar ko kehta hoon ke yeh karna hai, woh mujhe 10 wajahen batata hai ke yeh kyun ho nahi sakta. [When I was the Chief Minister of the state, if I told an officer to do something, he would tell me ten ways how it could be done. | [More on P6](#)

'Cabinet Will Review Reservation Panel Report Soon'

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the report prepared by the Cabinet Sub-Committee (CSC) on reservation will be tabled before the cabinet in the coming days.

Speaking to reporters in Aligarh, the Chief Minister said that while the cabinet meets twice a month, the next meeting, scheduled shortly, will take up the CSC's recommendations for discussion. | [More on P6](#)



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Srinagar | Thursday | 12-06-2025

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Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Anabiya Sajad D/o Sajad Ahmad Bhat R/o Hamray pattan with verified date of birth 08/08/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD
FKO Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my name and parantage in my Aadher Card bearing Aadhar No:- 6557 7413 9253 has been wrongly mentioned as Ab Majeed Ganaie .S/O. Ab Gani Ganaie instead of Ab Majid Ganai .S/O. Ab Gani Ganai .Now I am applying for its Correction as per School record . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.



FKO
Ab Majid Ganai S/O. Ab Gani Ganai
R/O :- Langate .Tehsil :- Langate Distt : Kupwara .
Pin Cod.193302

From Office of the Advocate M.A Sofi

In the case of
1.Syed Altaf Hussain
2.Syed Mushtaq Hussain
Sons of syed Baha Ud Din
Both Residents of Tilgam Pattan
3.Syed Ashiq Hussain
S/9 Syed Baha ud Din
Resident of Mustafa Abad Zainkot Srinagar at present Tilgam
4.Syed Masrat W/o Syed Mushtaq Ahmad Resident of Debug kunzar
5. Shahzada Begum W/o late syed Mohmad yaseen
Resident of Tilgam

(Caveator)

V/s
Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 14B-A

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

FKO Sd/advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my Daughter has inadvertently recorded as Fati- ma Bano in adhaar card bearing number:- 4694-8364-9185 which is incorrect and the correct and her actual name is Bazila Showkat. Now I have applied for the correction of the same. If anybody has any objection In this regard he/she may file them same in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Syed Showkat Hussain Shah F/o Bazila Showkat
R/o Delina, Tehsil Baramulla, District Baramulla FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, JC-313247Y Sub Divvala Chandrasekharara Unit-17 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO R/o VPO-Borubhadra, Teh-Nandigam, Dist-Sri- kakulam, Andra Pradesh-532218, declare tirat I have changed my name from Divvala Chandrasekharara to Divvala Chan- drasekhararao for all future purposes vide Public Notary Delhi affidavit No IN-DL26810132892249X dt 29-01-2025.

jm

PUBLIC NOTICE

It's hereby notified that my name has been wrongly mentioned as Rather Hardware instead of Manzoor Ahmad Rather in the records of the Metsuraksha policy policy number (25902179) issued in my favour. Now I want to correct my name to Manzoor Ahmad Rather in the records. If any person has any objection to this correction, they may contact concerned office within 7 days.

Manzoor Ahmad Rather bmg
Mobile: 9906483469

PUBLIC NOTICE

We the following personnes propose to register a non- profitable society under the name and style Jammu and Kashmir Ski and Mountaineering Association, with the registrar of Societies, Kashmir under the Society Registration Act 1860.

S. No	Name of the mem- bers with address	Occupation	Status in the society	Contact
1	Firdous Ahmad Khan Rawathpora	Shop keeper	President	
2	Omar ul Moham- mad Hajam Hajibal	Adventure Tour Opera- tor.	General Secretary	9906779333
3	Mudasir Ahmad Baba Qamarabad	Travel Agent	Treasurer	
4	NAZIR AHMAD RESHI ALPATHRI HAJIBAL	TOURIST GUIDE	EXECUTIVE COMMIT- TEE	9622681321
5	Afroz Ahmad Ganie Gonipora	SELF EM- PLOYED	EXECUTIVE COMMIT- TEE	7006610533
6	Umar Ahad CHO- PAN WARAPORA	SKI INSTRUC- TOR	EXECUTIVE MEMBER	7006692411
7	TAHIR FIRDIOUS KHAN RAWATH- PORA	SELF EM- PLOYED	EXECUTIVE MEMBER	6005107260

Note:
Any objection in this regard may be reported to the office of Registrar of Societies, Kashmir within the period of 7 days.

ird

BEFORE THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE, SRINAGAR

Caveat No.:___/2025

In the case of:
1. Sameena,
D/o Abdul Ahad Guroo,
R/o Kohnikhan, Napora, Srinagar.
2. Hafizullah,
S/o Abdul Ahad Guroo,
R/o Kohnikhan, Napora, Srinagar
3. Mehnaz Akhter,
S/o Abdul Ahad Guroo,
R/o Kohan Khan, Dalgate, Srinagar

Versus
Public at Large

...Caveators

...Non-Caveators

In the matter of: CAVEAT PETITION

May It Please Your Lordships,

The Caveator most respectfully submits as under:

- That the Caveators are permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir and citizen of the Republic of India. That the caveator has approached this Hon'ble Court seeking protection of his legal and fundamental rights.
- That the Caveator has genuine reasons to believe that the Non-Caveators may initiate legal proceedings (suit, writ petition, appeal, or any other motion) before this Hon'ble Court in relation to immovable property situated in District Srinagar.
- That there is a likelihood that the Non-Caveators might secure ex-parte orders by misrepresenting or concealing material facts. Such orders, if passed, would cause the Caveators irreparable harm, which may not be compensable later.
- That it is in the interest of justice that the Caveatos are given an opportunity of being heard before any ex-parte orders are passed in such proceedings.
- That the Caveators apprehend the possibility of the non-caveators filing such proceed- ings. Accordingly, they have been put to notice through post and postal receipts are attached as Annexure I.

PRAYER:
In view of the foregoing, the Caveator prays that if any suit, petition, appeal, or other proceeding is filed by the Non-Caveators or any person on their behalf against the Caveator, this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to hear the Caveator and/or her counsel before passing any orders in the said mat- ter, in the interest of justice.

11.06.2025

Caveator through Counsel

Malik Fahdul Haq,
Advocate,
Lic No. 642/2018,
Chamber No. 93, Lawyers Chambers,
High Court, Srinagar.
7006378933.
malikfahdulhaq@gmail.com

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UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

NOTICE INVITING FRESH E-TENDER (3rd Call)

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Per- centage (%age) Basis from approved and eligible Electric Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/U.T/ Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Supplying, Fixing, Testing and Commis- sioning of split AC for Academics Section located on the 2nd floor of the Adminis- trative block at Main Campus	2.38 Lacs	Rs.200/-	4760/-	13-06- 2025 to 23-06-2025 (6.00 PM)	24-06- 2025 (12:00 Noon)	"AAY"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net/ / www.jktenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer

NIT No: F(Fresh) (E.Tend) (UCD)/KU/18/25
DIPK-NB-754/25
DATED: 11-06-2025

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Session 2025-26

S.NO	NAME	QUAL	SUB	DESIG	CONTACT NO
1	MASHOOD AHMAD	M.SC. B.ED	PHYSICS	UNEMPLOYED	8494069047
2	AASIF HAMEED PARRAY	M.SC. B.ED	CHEMISTRY	UNEMPLOYED	7006798587
3	NASIR AHMAD MASOODI	M.SC. NET	CHEMISTRY	UNEMPLOYED	9682363905
4	SHAKIR AHMAD RATHER	M.SC. B.ED	ZOOLOGY	UNEMPLOYED	7780861294
5	PIR IRSHAD	M.SC. B.ED	BOTANY	UNEMPLOYED	70068087396
6	IRFAN AHMAD GANIE	M.SC. B.ED	MATH	UNEMPLOYED	8713867249

Note Fee structure for 11th and 12th (Med/N.Med) per subject Rs. 7000/-
NOTE: 10% Reservation for poor and orphan students.

bmg



UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

NOTICE INVITING FRESH E-TENDER (2nd Call)

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage (%age) basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/U.T/ Central Governments for the following works

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Earnest Money in Rs.	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Installation of Submersible Pump, Main distribution line and fabrication of Pump Shed at Kupwara Campus	11.09	Rs. 600/-	22,180/-	13-06- 2025 to 23-06-2025 (6.00 PM)	24-06- 2025 (12:00 & DEE"	"BEE, CEE

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net/ / www.jktenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer

NIT No: F(Fresh) (E.Tend) (UCD)/KU/17/25
DIPK-NB-753/25
DATED: 11-06-2025

When Fiction Feels Like Fact

How Stories Shape Beliefs

A few weeks ago, I shared research from the Univer- sity of South Florida suggesting that smartphone use might not be the mon- ster under the bed when it comes to teen well-being (Martin et al., 2025). The study findings showed that smartphone ownership had a positive correlation with kids' mental health. Many other factors were part of the story, but I thought it was an interesting "top- line" finding given the many social media and mental health conversations that are currently dominated by doom.

Comments to the post poured in. Talk about kill- ing the messenger! Some were accusatory, others out- right dismissive. But one response stood out: "You just need to watch Adolescence. That show tells you every- thing you need to know." I was surprised, but probably shouldn't have been. Since its release, Adolescence has been shared, discussed, and referenced by parent groups and policymakers alike. It's a fictional show. But its im- pact? Deeply real. The brain doesn't easily separate dra- matized experiences from real-life emotions because the feelings in both are genuine. We can recognize that a show is fiction, yet it can still shift our perspec- tive. When something feels true, it becomes an integral part of how we understand the world, whether it is real or not.

We shouldn't scoff at the use of popular media as evidence. The truth is, we're wired for story. However, as the media becomes more sophisticated, persuasive, and less transparent, we need to recognize our innate vulnerabilities to storytell- ing and start asking better questions because there is a

cost to letting unquestioned stories dictate our decisions.

How a Story Becomes a Bel- ief

Adolescence is a gripping Netflix limited series that follows 13-year-old Jamie Miller, arrested for murder- ing a classmate. The series is visually compelling. Its realism is enhanced by the excellent acting and single- camera, continuous-shot production techniques that make it feel like a real-time crime drama as it explores the impact on Jamie and his family, as well as masculin- ity, online radicalization, and the challenges of parenting. However, it is not a docu- mentary. It was inspired by two disparate but frighten- ing phenomena: an increase in juvenile knife crimes in the U.K. and the rising in- fluence of "manosphere" personalities. Yet parents across the globe share it as if it were a series of real events.

Cognitive psychologist Je- rome Bruner (1986) argued that humans think in two modes: paradigmatic (logi- cal/scientific) and narra- tive. Logic helps us analyze, but narrative makes us feel. Narrative also provides a chronological structure for understanding intentions and emotions, as well as organizing cause-and-effect relationships in daily life. Fictional stories that reflect real concerns—like parent- ing in the digital age—by- pass rational skepticism. We don't just watch them; we experience them.

Narrative transportation is the sensation of being fully immersed in a story (Green & Brock, 2000). This sense of immersion diminishes our critical thinking through our "willing suspension of disbelief," reducing the like- lihood of counter-arguing or resisting persuasive mes-

sages. The more emotion- ally engaging the story, the more we are transported, the more susceptible we are to the story's message, and the more it feels true. When Adolescence shows a teen unraveling from social media pressure, parents see their fears visualized. From Screen to Policy

The implications can be very real. Parents react by restricting their children's tech use based on anecdotal experiences and media nar- ratives highlighting online risks. Advocacy groups use media narratives to lobby for stricter social media reg- ulations. Online platforms amplify sensational stories, unrealistic portrayals, and misinformation. Critical thinking is in short supply when fear diverts resources from our prefrontal cortex to our amygdala (Clark, 1995). When we wit- ness intense scenes, such as a teenager spiraling out of control online, our fear is ac- tivated, tagging the moment with emotional weight and creating "somatic markers" that guide future decisions. The more vivid and believ- able an example, the more we think it represents real- ity. Repetitive coverage, sen- sational events, and our ten- dency to seek information that reinforces our beliefs all contribute to our ten- dency to assume a problem is widespread.

The extremes presented in Adolescence aren't the norm. A review of existing studies found that severe negative outcomes were rare (Odgers & Jensen, 2020), with many adolescents reporting neu- tral or positive experiences online. And while these find- ings suggest a nuanced relationship between technology use and mental health, fear doesn't lend itself to nuan- ce.

Psychology Today

Subject: Grant of Registration of Paying Guest House/ Homestay under the name and style "SUM- MERSHADE HOMESTAY" situated at Saida Kadal Srinagar, Kashmir.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Where, I, Mr Adnan Hasan Khan, S/o Mr Abrar Hassan Khan, R/o Khwajayarbal, Saida Kadal, Rainawari, Srinagar, Kashmir, intend to apply in the office of Prescribed Authority of Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir for registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name and style, "SUMMERSHADE HOMESTAY" situated at Khwajayarbal, Saida Kadal, Srinagar, Kashmir under the Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011.

Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificates from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed issued by the concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable, NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Homestay). Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self-declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any , in print media, list of family members; Name, Age and photograph self-attested by owner. Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bedrooms and bathrooms), Inspection Report by the Committee. The recommendation of the Inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view the type of accommodation and amenity, Aadhaar card.

Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/organisations for objections, if any, and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. Objections received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules as per merit.

IKO

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PCD (PHQ) J&K JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

INVITING E-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/22/205-26

Dated: - 10-06-2025

Expression of interest (EOI) for
Consultancy service (Through e-procurement mode)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

For and on behalf of the President of India, Executive Engineer, Police Construction Division J&K Jammu/ Srinagar invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of consultant for Architectural and allied Engineering Consultancy Services from Registered firms/Consultants/Agencies under Indian Partnership Act/Societies Registration Act or Registered Companies under Companies Act for the following work

S.NO	Particular	Tender value/ AA Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender documents	Class of contract
1.	Design, Consultancy and preparation of detailed estimates, BOQ for Conceptual Architectural Designs for all the components, Soil Investigation Structural Designs for the Development of buildings and other related facilities including vetting of drawings from IIT/NIT/DIQC for the Construction of building of PCP Dinga Amb Kathua, PCP Duggan Kathua and SOG Camp at Phulpur & Koulpur Samba, THE ABOVE DRAWINGS SHALL HAVE TO BE PROVIDED AS Five (05) SETS OF HARD COPIES (03 Sets in A0 Size and 02 Sets in A3 Sizes) & ONE SET OF SOFT COPY OR MORE IF REQUIRED.	274.79	20000/-	Rs. 1,000/-	Regd. Consultancy Firm

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of Quantities set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule given below:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	11/06/2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11/06/2025 16.30 P.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	12/06/2025 From 09.00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	18/06/2025 upto 4.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online).	19/06/2025 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Ex. Engineer Police Construction Division Jammu/Srinagar.
6.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online).	To be notified after technical bid evaluation

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, Conditions and other details.

No: PCD/PHQ/2025-26/5450-58

DIPK-2397/25
dated: 11-06-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PCD PHQ J&K Jmu/Sgr.



Sakeena Itoo Conducts Surprise Inspection Of GGHS Drugjan

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Wednesday conducted the surprise inspection of Government Girls High School (GGHS) Drugjan Dalgate and took on-spot assessment of functioning of the school.

Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; CEO Srinagar, ZEO Nishat and other officers also accompanied the Minister.

During the visit, Minister Sakeena took a detailed tour of the school premises, inspected classrooms, computer

lab and other infrastructure. She also interacted with the students and took feedback from them about the quality of education being imparted at the institute. She also encouraged students to remain focused on their studies and urged the school authorities to identify and address any gaps in academic performance and infrastructure.

Later, the Minister held a brief interaction with the staff of the school and assessed the overall functioning of the institution, including teaching methodologies, infrastructure, attendance records and availability of essential resources.

Over 10,000 People Avail Smart City Bus Service During Eid

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Over 10,000 people travelled through the Srinagar Smart City bus service during three-day Eid-ul-Adha festival culminating on Monday, officials said on Wednesday, crediting the city transport network for easing movement in key areas despite the heavy use of private vehicles.

According to KNO, a senior official from the Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) said the buses remained functional all three days of Eid, ensuring that people could commute to and from markets, hospitals and residential neighbourhoods with ease.

“Although a majority of people in Srinagar prefer using their private vehicles during Eid celebrations, the

Smart City buses still filled a crucial gap, especially for those who don't have their own transport or were traveling within congested areas,” the official said.

He said the department had ensured proper deployment of buses ahead of the festival. “We had anticipated movement before and after prayers, especially around marketplaces, religious spots and hospitals. The deployment of Smart City buses was done accordingly, and the foothall exceeded 10,000 passengers in just three days,” he said.

The official said buses operated from various major pickup points, including Batamaloo, Lal Chowk, Dalgate, Hazratbal and other locations to cater to the needs of people.



Dy CM Inaugurates Hathkargha Mela A Kashmir Haat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Wednesday inaugurated the Hathkargha mela at Kashmir Haat.

The event is being organized by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir and sponsored by the Development Commissioner Handlooms, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

The Dy CM, while addressing on the occasion, called upon launching a major marketing and branding campaign for promotion of the Handicrafts & Handloom products of Kashmir, having readymade niche markets available at global level. He also emphasized on the need for making an action plan for promotion of these world famous products.

The Dy CM, during his inspection of the stalls, interacted with the weavers and artisans

and was mesmerized by the Kani shawls and Sozni work done on the pashmina shawls. He stated that artisans and weavers are the vital pillars of the society and the present government will take every necessary step to make their future secure.

The Deputy CM directed the Handicrafts and Handloom Department to contemplate the possibility of procurement of some notified crafts such as crewel by the government. He emphasized the importance of creating sustainable market linkages for handloom Weavers and commended the Directorate for its ongoing efforts in promoting the sector at both national and international platforms.

Choudhary appealed to the citizens, tourists, art connoisseurs and media members to visit the expo and experience firsthand the vibrancy and artistry of Kashmir handlooms which will remain open to the public till June 18, 2025.

The expo featured over 60 master weavers and skilled artisans, who are showcasing an exquisite collection of handloom products, each telling a unique story of tradition, skill, and identity.

The special handloom fair is a significant initiative aimed at celebrating, preserving and promoting India's unparalleled handloom legacy, while offering an empowering platform for the artisan and weaver communities of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam, Deputy Director, H&H, Kashmir, Mirza Shahid Ali Beigh, Deputy Director, Administration Hakim Riyaz UL Haq Assistant Director, Weavers Service Centre, Ministry of Textiles and Assistant Director, Handicrafts, Development Commissioner, Handicrafts (GoI) and other senior officers of the Department were present on the occasion.

DC Sgr Reviews Preparation For ‘International Yoga Day’

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review preparations for ‘International Day of Yoga’ being observed on June 21, a meeting of senior Officers was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here. At the outset, DC called for inter-departmental coordination, besides ensuring mass participation for the success of the divisional and district level events.

He passed directions to the line

departments for making all necessary arrangements well in advance at the sites where mega yoga sessions will be held to commemorate the day.

The meeting was informed that the main divisional level event for celebrations of ‘International Day of Yoga’ will be organized at the lawns of SKICC where a large number of people are expected to participate in the event.

DC directed the stakeholder departments to work in a coordinated manner to ensure all the necessary arrangements well in time for suc-

cessful conduct of the divisional level event.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; Chief Planning Officer, SP Security, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Deputy SP Traffic, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, SDM East, Tehsildar South, Tehsildar Khanyar, Chief Sanitation Officer, District YSS Officer, Deputy CEO, other senior Officers, besides Officers from AY-USH, Tourism, Fire & Emergency departments and Army.

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-03-25-26		Closing Date/Time:	
Date:- 10.06.2025		02.07.2025, 12:30	
Sr. DST/E/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-03-25-26 Closing Date/Time 02.07.2025, 12:30 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.			
NIT HEADER			
Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work	Provision of Metal Crash barrier Fencing 128.925 Km & 17.00 km RCC Boundary wall along the track to prevent CRO over Vande Bharat Route SNL-JRC-PTKC section of Firozpur division.		
Tender Closing Date/Time	02.07.2025 12:30	Date/Time of Uploading Tender	10.06.2025, 11:10
Advertised Value (Rs.)	3,28,48,658.59	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	18.06.2025
Earnest Money (Rs.)	3,14,300.00	Period of Completion	6 Months
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			
			1731/2025

QURESHI FAMILY BEREAVED

It is to inform with deep sorrow that Shafiq Qureshi, wife of late N.D. Qureshi, resident of 9-B Jawahar Nagar, passed away after a brief illness.

Fateh Khawani will be held on Sunday, 15th June 2025 at 10:00 AM at the graveyard near Polytechnic College, Gogji Bagh, In-shaAllah.

Please remember the departed soul in your prayers.

BEREAVED

Dr Yaqoob Qureshi (SON)
Er Zaffar Qureshi (SON)
Dr. Aijaz Masood Purra (Son in law)
Bashir ud din Qureshi (Brother)
Khurshid jan Qureshi (Brother)
Cell No.: 9419001907

inf

رسم چہارم



یہ خبر دکھ اور فوس کے ساتھ مشہر کی جاری ہے کہ آغا

سید محمد علی الموسوی ساکنہ نواب باغ لاہور اسرینگر مختصر

علاقت کے بعد مورخہ ۱۱ جون ۲۰۲۵ کو اس جہاں

فانی سے رحلت کر گئے مرحوم بنک سیرت و صوم الصلتاں

کے پابند اور محب اہلبیت تھے اللہ تعالیٰ کو جو رحمت میں جگہ عطا کرے

اس سلسلہ مرحوم کی فاتحہ خوانی ۱۳ جون ۲۰۲۵ صبح ۳۰:۳۰ بجے ان کے آبائی مقبرہ

وفای محلہ اکر دل میں انجام دیا جائے گا اس کے بعد تقربیتی مجلس ان کے گھر درو ق

نواب باغ میں دن بھر جاری رہے گی

سوغواران

آغا سید نصیر حسین، آغا سید طاہر حسین (فرزند)، آغا سید آرف حسین (فرزند

نسبتی) (آغا سید مظفر موسوی، آغا سید مصطفیٰ موسوی (برادر ارمان)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

e-NIT No: 11/1782-91/2025-26/RnB/BlaDated 09.06.2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on percentage age basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works. The Contractors should mandatorily be registered on JKPWDOMS for making online payment to the agency as per Govt. Order No.: 186-PW(R&B) of 2023 dated 08-05-2023:

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) incl. cost of Tar & all taxes	Earnest Money	Cost of T/ Doc.	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Upgradation/ Macadamization of Inner Links of Uptown Roads Baramulla (Khow-Jabagh, Kanthbagh, Rangwar & Khanpora) incld Kanlibagh Noorbagh link road from Nallah and Masjid Baitul Abideen Kanlibagh to NH via Baramulla Public School (MES link).	75.00	Rs 150000/-	Rs 1600/-	14Days	MH-5054-C&T	AAY
2.	Upgradation/ Macadamization inner Links of Seer, Pethseer, Gur Seer & Manseer.	69.03	Rs 138060/-	Rs 1600/-	14Days	MH-5054-C&T	AAY
3.	Upgradation/ Macadamization of Inner Links of Lalad, Amarghar & Sangrama	36.63	Rs 73260/-	Rs 1100/-	14Days	MH-5054-C&T	A&B
4.	Upgradation / Macadamization of Inner Links of Humlina & Krankshiyan	36.63	Rs 73260/-	Rs 1100/-	14Days	MH-5054-C&T	A&B
5.	Upgd/ Macadamization of Choorā Chand-kote Bulgam Bangdara Puthkhah & Narjee links	69.50	Rs 139000/-	Rs 1600/-	14Days	MH-5054-C&T	AAY

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of funds Available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09.06.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10.06.2025 to 18.06.2025 (4:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	10.06.2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	18.06.2025 (4:00PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	19.06.2025 (11:00AM)

Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the advertised cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

No: 1782-91

DIPK-2393/25

Dated: 11.06.2025

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Baramulla

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

AIRPORTS	
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311	
RAILWAYS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259ANANTNAG: 01932-228243BARAMULLA: 0194-102029BIJBHERA: 01932-228243PAMPORE: 01933-294132PATTAN: 01954-293507QAZIGUND: 01951-296153
HIGHWAY STATUS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)Mughal Road - (Open)Srinagar-Leh- (Open)

 HIJRI CALENDAR 15 Zil-Hajj 1446	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	3: 34
	ZUHR	12:30
	ASR	5: 30
	Magrib	7:45
	ISHA	9: 27

This Day In History

- 1547 - King Ferdinand of Austria subjects himself on Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent
- 1707 - Hungary declares itself independent under Ferenc Rákóczi II (aka Francis II Rákóczi)
- 1721 - England signs Treaty of Madrid
- 1727 - Spain underwrites Preliminary of Paris
- 1753 - Austria, Great Britain & Modena sign secret military treaty.
- 1951 - UN arm forces reach Pyongyang Korea
- 1963 - Vostok 6 launched, pilot is 1st woman cosmonaut
- 1980 - UN Security Council calls for South Africa to free Nelson Mandela
- 1982 - Fahd becomes King of Saudi Arabia after King Khalid dies at 69
- 1983 - NASA's Pioneer 10 becomes the 1st man-made object to leave the solar system
- 1990 - Boeing 767 sets non-stop commercial flight, Seattle to Nairobi Kenya.
- 1993 - Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani re-elected President of Iran.
- 2000 - President Kim Dae Jung of South Korea meets Kim Jong-il, leader of North Korea, for the beginning of the first ever inter-Korea summit, in the northern capital of Pyongyang.
- 2002 - The United States of America withdraws from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty
- 2006 - The US Senate issues a formal resolution apologizing for failure to create anti-lynching legislation
- 2007 - The Al Askari Mosque in Samarra is bombed reportedly by Iraqi Baathists, destroying the mosque's two ten-story minarets
- 2012 - A series of bombings across Iraq kill 93 and wound 300 people
- 2015 - Philae, 1st spacecraft to land on a comet in European Space Agency's Rosetta mission re-awakes after 7 months
- 2017 - Otto Warmbier returns to the US in an unresponsive state after being held in North Korean jail for 17 months,

From KO Archives

‘Shocked’ Tourist Joins Efforts To Clean Dal

S RINAGAR- A German tourist, who was "shocked" by the levels of "pollution" in the famous Dal Lake here, on Sunday joined NGOs cleaning up the water body. "I am shocked to see the pollution in the lake ... Last time when I visited Srinagar and stayed in a house boat, the condition of the lake was not so bad," said Marc Stollreiter, 30, who hired 60 labourers to clean the Nehru Park part of the lake. This part was once a favourite place for youngsters to swim. Once, even former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah had jumped into the lake here during his regime in 1996-2002.

Stollreiter said the plan to clean the lake was chalked out by him and his friend Birgit Lenger in collaboration with House Boat Owners Association, Valley Citizen's Council and Dal Zamindar Union.

By noon, volunteers took out tonnes of garbage, including polythene carry bags and plastic bottles, from the lake into boats for proper disposal.

A concerned Stollreiter said, "This lake is dying-- It needs proper maintenance and urgent measures to ensure that coming generations are not deprived of the beautiful water body." A visitor to the city since his childhood, the tourist said that on every trip he observed an "increase" in the level of pollution in the lake.

His efforts were lauded by the General Secretary of the Valley Citizen's Council, Imdad Saqi.

"We are very concerned over the deteriorating health of the lake and failure of authorities to save it," he said and alleged the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority set up to maintain the lake was doing nothing.

(Kashmir Observer, 12 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

End Reservation
Imbalance

In a move that will be welcomed by the thousands of educated unemployed in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday that the much-anticipated report on the region’s reservation policy will be presented before the Cabinet in the coming days. The Member Parliament Aga Ruhullah, the People’s Conference chairman Sajad Lone and the PDP’s Waheed Parra have time and again drawn the government’s attention towards addressing this issue. The point here is not to grudge the jobs for the marginalized communities but to demand balance and fairness in their distribution across all sections of society. The issue is this: when policies designed to uplift the marginalised begin to harm other deserving sections, it becomes a moral and political failure. This isn’t about being against reservations but ensuring they serve the right purpose, uplifting the truly disadvantaged, while not discriminating against a majority of youth. It is clear that the current policy appears to disproportionately favor one region over the other. This has rightly triggered a political chorus in the Valley for an urgent review and rationalization of the reservation system to ensure fairness and justice for all.

The figures tabled during the last Assembly session showed all Scheduled Caste (SC) beneficiaries from Jammu, and not a single recipient from Kashmir. Similarly, 85.3% of those benefiting under the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category are from Jammu, and only 14.7% from the Valley. Ditto for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category: 92.3% of the beneficiaries are from Jammu and a mere 7.7% are from Kashmir. Jammu-based candidates also dominate across other categories, such as the Actual Line of Control (ALC) and International Border (IB). J&K has now just 30 percent reservation quota for the open merit category, while reservations in the rest of the country have been capped at 50 percent. This is neither just nor in line with the fundamental ideals of reservation.

Groups like the Open Merit Students’ Association (OMSA) have been vocal. They met with leaders, including MP Ruhullah, asking for their concerns to be heard. These students aren’t asking for privilege, they’re asking for a level playing field. Now that the cabinet sub-committee’s report is ready, they will hope that elected government follows it up with a concrete action, something promised time and again by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. We can now hope that the government lives up to their expectations.

FINANCIAL FIX

Valley’s Unregulated
Neighborhood Economy

In Kashmir, Mohalla Committees shape local wealth and power, often without transparency or checks.

Irshad Mushtaq

In Kashmir’s towns and villages, Mohalla Committees influence how money and resources move.

These local groups, often led by retired officials or influential figures, are not elected by the public. Instead, a few insiders choose who holds power.

And once in place, these leaders oversee local decisions that have direct economic impact.

They help settle land disputes, approve construction, and control access to shared services. Need to build a shop? You may need the committee’s nod. Want to rent community space or access water? They’ll likely have a say. But there are no clear rules, no audits, and no accountability.

This has created a parallel economy, one where influence decides outcomes. Some committee members ask for informal payments to issue documents or offer approvals. These fees aren’t recorded. There’s no public budget. Money flows, but no one tracks where it goes.

Residents with strong local ties benefit most. Those living away, especially landowners working outside the Valley, struggle. They often rely on committees to manage property issues, but without oversight, their interests can be overlooked, or exploited.

This uneven power structure makes it harder for ordinary people to access what should be community services. It discourages fair business and raises barriers for people without influence.

There’s a simple fix: regulation. Open voting. Financial transparency. Term limits. Basic checks can prevent misuse and make local governance fair. These changes don’t have to replace tradition, they can support it.

What’s at stake isn’t just leadership, it’s trust, property, and livelihoods. Right now, a few make the rules. That needs to change.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

The Silent Breakdown
of Kashmiri Men

Beneath the surface of masculinity in Kashmir is a silent epidemic of loneliness, shame, and suffering. I lived it.



Musaib Bilal

He seemed fine.” That’s what they said when a boy from our neighbourhood died by suicide last winter. He used to play cricket with us. He’d crack jokes on the bus to college. I saw him a week before he died, buying chips from the shop near the shrine. He looked normal. Just another young Kashmiri trying to make it through the day.

But he wasn’t fine. None of us are, really.

In Kashmir, men don’t cry. We’re not supposed to. We’re taught to keep our heads down, work hard, provide, protect, never complain.

From a young age, boys here are conditioned to stay tough, like we’re preparing for some invisible battle. Crying is for girls. Talking about feelings is shameful. So we push it down and hope it stays buried.

But it doesn’t. It turns into anger, into silence, into sleepless nights. Sometimes it turns into violence, sometimes into drinking or drug use. And sometimes it turns into suicide.

Men are three times more likely to die by suicide globally, and in India, the numbers are even starker.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau, over 1,18,000 men died by suicide in 2022, more than double the number of women.

In Jammu and Kashmir, most mental health reporting focuses on conflict and PTSD, but barely anyone talks about men quietly breaking down behind closed doors.

When I was younger, I didn’t even know I was struggling. I had trouble sleeping. I overthought everything. I isolated myself but blamed others. I thought I was just weak. Or strange. I didn’t have the words for it: depression, anxiety, trauma. I only had feelings I wasn’t

allowed to show.

Things got worse when I started college in Srinagar. I felt like I was walking through life with a mask on. I performed well academically, smiled when I had to, but inside I was sinking. I tried opening up once to a friend. I told him I didn’t feel like myself anymore. He just stared at me and said, “You’ll be fine. Everyone feels low sometimes.”

It wasn’t his fault. Men here don’t know how to listen, because we were never taught how.

In Kashmir, male friendships revolve around gossip, politics, cricket, tea. But rarely do we talk about what’s happening inside us. We tease each other, but we don’t tell each other the truth.

So many men I know are carrying pain they’ve never named. Fathers, brothers, classmates. Some lost loved ones to violence. Some carry the pressure of joblessness and responsibility. Some feel the suffocation of not being able to dream freely.

I started going to therapy two years ago. I had to travel far to find someone who wouldn’t dismiss me. Even now, there’s stigma. Most Kashmiri men I know would never admit they’re in therapy. It’s seen as an embarrassment, as if getting help is proof that you’ve failed at being a man.

But therapy saved me. Not because it gave me magical answers, but because it gave me permission to speak. I began to understand that I wasn’t broken. I was just human caught in captive conditions.

There’s no shame in being tired. Or overwhelmed. Or scared. But I had to unlearn years of silence to accept that.

I began testing it in my friendships. I told a classmate that I liked how he handled pressure during exams. I asked another how he was coping with his father’s illness. I shared my own struggles, slowly,

In Kashmir, male friendships revolve around gossip, politics, cricket, tea. But rarely do we talk about what’s happening inside us. We tease each other, but we don’t tell each other the truth.

without expecting anything back. And something shifted.

Men who’d never said a serious thing in their lives began opening up. Slowly. Carefully. But they did.

I realised the hunger for honesty is there. It just needs a safe place to breathe.

Loneliness is growing among men in Kashmir. A survey conducted by IMHANS Srinagar in 2021 found that nearly 70% of men under 30 reported feeling “emotionally isolated” despite living in joint families or having friend circles. On the outside, we’re surrounded. But on the inside, many of us feel deeply alone.

This loneliness doesn’t just affect individuals, it spills into relationships, parenting, even politics.

Emotionally distant men raise sons who carry the same silence. Marriages collapse not from a lack

of love, but from a lack of communication. And we end up with communities that don’t know how to grieve together, how to celebrate without armour.

We need change. And we need it now.

That change won’t come from governments alone. It has to come from within our homes, our schools, our colleges. We need to teach boys that softness is not shameful. That you can be strong and still need a hug. That there’s courage in admitting you’re hurting.

We need more spaces where men can talk without being mocked. Where a father can tell his son that it’s okay to cry. Where a brother can say he feels lost without being laughed at. Where a man can walk into a therapist’s office without fearing the whispers of his mohalla.

Some of this change is already happening. I see more young men sharing mental health posts on social media. I see poetry about grief written by boys who were once too shy to say hello. There are small mental health circles forming in Srinagar and Anantnag. There are therapists offering free sessions. But we’re only scratching the surface.

For every man who speaks, there are ten who stay silent.

And if you’re one of them, I want to tell you this: you don’t need to carry it alone. You’re not less of a man because you feel. You’re not weak because you need help. You are worthy of being heard, of being held, of being healed.

In Kashmir, we are taught to survive. But surviving isn’t enough. We deserve to live, too, with joy, with softness, with tears that don’t have to be hidden.

- Musaib Bilal is a student at Amar Singh College and a mental health advocate. He can be reached at musaibbilal.216061@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

As the Yatra Nears, a Kashmiri Village Prepares to Host

In the next few days, thousands of pilgrims will begin their journey to the cave of Amarnath. They’ll climb through high mountains, cross green meadows, and walk paths that have been taken for generations.

The yatra is sacred to many. But for people like me, who live in the villages along the route, it also brings something else: work.

I grew up in Gund, a small village in Sonamarg. Every year, when the yatra season came, everything changed. You’d hear the clip-clop of horses on the roads. Tents would go up overnight. Men and women from nearby areas came to sell tea,

snacks, raincoats, medicines, and plastic shoes. Shops that usually saw a few people a day would suddenly be packed.

Some families earned in one month what they couldn’t in the rest of the year. I remember neighbours who paid off loans or repaired their houses from yatra earnings.

That kind of work is rare now. Tourism in Kashmir has dropped in recent years. Young people who once worked as guides or pony handlers often stay home, waiting for a call that never comes. Many are unemployed. Some leave for cities. Some don’t know what to do next.

And yet, here is an event that

could help, if only more locals were included.

The government has been working hard to prepare for the yatra: fixing roads, setting up camps, checking weather systems. That’s good. Safety and comfort for pilgrims must come first.

But while doing all that, why not also think about who gets hired?

In places like Sub-Division Kangana, especially Tehsil Gund, people are ready to help. They know the terrain. They’ve done this work for decades. They just need a chance. Instead of only relying on large contractors from elsewhere, why not bring in more local workers?

Let them run the tents, cook the food, clean the tracks, guide the groups. Let them earn.

The Amarnath Yatra isn’t just a spiritual journey. It’s also a lifeline. With the right support, it can bring back income to homes where it’s badly needed. It can give young people a reason to stay.

As the pilgrims walk toward the cave, those who live along the trail are hoping for something too. Not blessings, but opportunity.

Sincerely,

Zain ul Abidin Raina
Gund, Sonamarg

The Forgotten Simplicity of a Kashmiri Nikah

Between social media trends and extravagant customs, the meaning of a Kashmiri marriage is being lost. One scholar calls for a return to roots.

Dr. Rameez Ahmad

People don't talk about it openly, but you can feel the strain. You see it in the subtle hesitations of fathers. You hear it in the nervous laughter of young men unsure how to afford marriage. You catch it in the eyes of daughters waiting for years. Not for love, but for someone who can afford their wedding.

Weddings in Kashmir weren't always like this. They used to be small, spiritual, and shared. Families gathered for a simple nikah, a home-cooked meal, maybe a song or two. Now, the ceremonies stretch for days. The expectations stretch for miles. And the budgets? They break people.

In the past decade, we've seen a cultural shift. Or maybe, a cultural crisis. Today's Kashmiri wedding often comes with multiple pre-wedding events: sue saal, phir saal, ring ceremonies, mehndi raat, manzim yoor, and more. None of these are essential. Most aren't Islamic. Some aren't even originally Kashmiri.

"They've turned into a race," a father from Pulwama told me. "If one family gives gold bangles, the next gives bracelets, a necklace, and a watch. If someone serves 20 dishes, others feel ashamed to serve 15. We're not feeding guests anymore. We're feeding comparison."

The heart of it lies in wazwan — the multi-course Kashmiri feast. Once a treat, it's now a measure of status. Imported drinks, dry fruits, layered cakes, floral tunnels, candle parades, and flashy decor are seen not as indulgences, but necessities. This obsession with grandeur isn't just about food or fashion, it's reshaping how people live and when, or even if, they marry.

In Downtown Srinagar, a 2016 study estimated there were nearly 50,000 unmarried women in the city alone, many of them past what society labels the "marriageable" age. That was nine years ago. The problem has only grown. Based on fieldwork and conversations across districts, it's realistic now to estimate that two to five lakh women across Kashmir are waiting. Not for love, but for a wedding they or their families cannot afford.

We often hear this problem blamed on unemployment or inflation. Both are real. But there's another factor we don't discuss enough: cultural pressure.

A wedding here can cost anywhere from ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh, sometimes even more. For a government school teacher, that's several years' salary. Yet many feel they have no choice.

"Mehr", the mandatory dower paid to the bride, has climbed sharply too. What used to be a modest sum has now become ₹5 to ₹10 lakh in cash, sometimes along with gold, a car, or furniture. But Islam never asked for this.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) encouraged simple weddings, small gatherings, no burdens. We have turned this into something else entirely.

And it's not just about money. It's about delay, heartbreak, and damage. When marriages are postponed for years because of rising costs, it affects mental health, family dynamics, and even faith. Some young people turn to informal relationships. Others fall into depression. Many parents suffer in silence.

Social media doesn't help. Weddings are now edited into cinematic videos, uploaded with hashtags, and circulated like movie trailers. These visuals fuel the illusion that grand equals good, and simple equals shame. One mother told me, "We did a small wedding for our daughter. But after seeing her cousin's video on Instagram, she cried for two days."

This is where the problem deepens. What began as celebration has become spectacle. We're no longer asking what is right. We're asking what will people say.

So what do we do?

First, we need to speak about it — clearly, honestly, and without shame. Religious leaders, community elders, NGOs, and educators must come together to revive the ethics of Islamic marriage. Simplicity, modesty, and mercy should be our ideals, not Swarovski centerpieces.

Religious bodies can help by producing a clear and accessible list of non-Islamic practices currently common in weddings. This could be as simple as a downloadable PDF, something a father or mother can refer to when planning a wedding.

For instance, items like the maang tika — a decorative headpiece worn by many brides — have roots in rituals that conflict with Islamic belief. It may seem small, but avoiding such items can both uphold faith and reduce costs. In this case, between ₹50,000 to ₹1,00,000.

Second, we must set limits. Community-led initiatives can recommend a maximum of four to five dishes in wazwan. Stop the bag culture — guests taking home kilos of meat in plastic bags as trophies. Normalize shorter guest lists, cozier gatherings, and ceremonies that don't last a week.

Third, let's use social media for good. Start celebrating simple weddings online. Share stories of couples who married with dignity, not decor. Praise those who chose a one-day nikah with a home meal. Set new trends. Break the old ones.

Finally, let's stop defending customs just because they've become common. Not every tradition deserves to be preserved, especially when it causes pain. Practices borrowed from Western luxury or upper-caste rituals have no place in a faith-centered community. Faith should lift people, not crush them with expectation.

We also need marriage bureaus rooted in values, not vanity. Let scholars and social workers connect families based on character, kindness, and compatibility. Not car models and kitchen appliances.

When I asked a young man in Baramulla what kind of wedding he wanted, he said, "I just want to marry. I don't need ten dishes. I don't need a drone camera. But my family says what will people say if we don't do all that?"

That question — what will people say — is killing our joy, our marriages, and sometimes even our futures. It's time we replaced it with another question: what would the Prophet (peace be upon him) do?

Let's not wait for someone else to fix this. The next wedding in your family could be the start of change. Keep it simple. Keep it sacred.

In prayer, we stand shoulder to shoulder. Rich, poor, young, old, all equal. Let our weddings reflect that same spirit. Let them be about faith, not filters. About union, not illusion. The time to act is now. Not tomorrow. Not next year. Let's return to weddings that heal instead of hurt. Let's marry for love, not likes.

Dr. Rameez Ahmad is a Senior Research Fellow and is currently teaching Sociology in one of the government colleges in Kashmir.

Tech Alone Can't Fix Kashmir's Land System

A digital land record system built for Haryana is being rolled out in Jammu & Kashmir. But the region's legal traditions, historical claims, and broken files pose a deeper challenge than bandwidth or software ever could.

Mohammad Amin Mir

Somewhere in the dusty office of a patwari in South Kashmir, an old register sits half-open, pages curled and ink fading. It contains family names, borders marked in red, and footnotes scribbled in Urdu.

For decades, it's been the only proof of land ownership for entire villages. Now, that register is supposed to live on a computer screen.

The government wants to digitize land records in Jammu and Kashmir. The software is called WebHALRIS. It was originally built for Haryana, a state with flat terrain and a more settled record of who owns what.

But Kashmir is not Haryana. Land here is not just land. It's memory, inheritance, even dispute.

And putting that into a digital system without checking the facts first is like scanning a torn letter and calling it complete.

The push for digitization comes from the top. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has long advocated for a governance model that is sleek, digital, and fast.

In Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has echoed that vision. Offices have gone paperless. Services have gone online. Revenue records are next. On paper, this sounds like progress. In practice, it's not that simple.

Take the Jamabandi, a key revenue document that records ownership, cultivation, and transfers.

In many parts of Kashmir, Jamabandis were uploaded into the system without any ground checks. Land that belonged to three brothers on paper might actually be in the hands of four—after a family settlement that never got recorded properly.

A corner plot may show a single name in English, while everyone in the village remembers it as jointly held, its past written in Urdu and spoken around fires.

The law isn't silent on this. Article 300A of the Constitution says that no one can be deprived of property except by authority of law.

But when the law is being translated, hurriedly, into a digital form

full of errors, people are effectively being cut off from their rights.

The biggest danger is not the software itself. It's the fact that land records in Kashmir are messy, shaped by decades of oral arrangements, family compromises, and overlapping rights.

Before 1947, the system was handwritten, often undocumented. After that, partition, migration, and political unrest only added more layers. Land was given, taken, settled, lost, and not always on paper.

The Shajra Nasab is a key part of this puzzle. It's a family tree that shows who inherited what. In Kashmir, where succession is deeply tied to land, this record can be more important than a will.

WebHALRIS, as it stands, doesn't accommodate it. Without it, there's no way to trace ownership through generations. That opens the door to fraud, confusion, and court cases that could drag on for years.

Then there's the language problem. Urdu is the official language of revenue work in Jammu & Kashmir. It's the language in which judgments have been written, disputes heard, and property transferred.

If WebHALRIS only works in Hindi and English, entire communities will be left out. They won't understand the notices they receive. They won't know how to appeal. This isn't just about comfort, it's about fairness.

Years ago, the late Justice Bahauddin Farooqi warned that when the legal system drifts away from the culture it's supposed to serve, justice suffers. That warning rings loud now.

If the digital system doesn't speak the people's language, it won't speak for them either.

Meanwhile, the patwaris, the lowest rung in the revenue hierarchy, are expected to keep this entire machine running. Many of them have no computers. Some don't have electricity. Internet is patchy.

And yet they're expected to scan, upload, verify, and update records with military speed. Some manage. Many struggle. When errors are found, the blame goes downward.

And here lies another gap: training. One workshop cannot prepare an officer to navigate a system as layered as WebHALRIS.

There are no handbooks, no field guides in local languages, no video tutorials for the ground staff. Without a clear training system, revenue work becomes trial and error, except the stakes here are people's homes and histories.

What is missing, too, is a proper Revenue Manual. In its absence, officers across districts are interpreting rules differently. One tehsildar may allow a mutation based on oral testimony; another might not. One may enter a family settlement in the record; another may ask for a court order. This kind of uncertainty breaks the spine of any administrative reform.

A new Revenue Manual must be written, not by tech consultants, but by those who've worked the land and the law—retired officers, legal scholars, field staff. It should lay out procedures clearly, in language that's practical, and account for the special conditions of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor's office has recognized some of these concerns. Budget allocations have improved. There's talk of better infrastructure. But without regular field monitoring and deeper consultation with local officers, software alone won't fix the system.

The truth is, land is not just property here. It's inheritance. It's memory. It's often the only form of wealth families have.

And so, the job of digitizing land records is not just about files or forms. It's about building trust. That takes time. And patience. And an ear to the ground.

In all this, what is needed most is clarity—clarity in law, clarity in process, and clarity in language. Because in Kashmir, when the record is clear, the land is at peace. And when it's not, disputes fester for generations.

Digitization is a step forward, yes. But only if the ground is steady before the leap.

- Mohammad Amin Mir is a legal researcher and writer. He focuses on land governance and legal process in Jammu & Kashmir.

Steeling through the Mountains: Kashmir's Rail Revolution

40 tunnels. 900 bridges. One record-shattering Chenab crossing. The story behind India's most ambitious rail project.

Jaya Varma Sinha

On a clear June day, draped in marigold flowers and national pride, the Vande Bharat Express began its maiden journey from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Srinagar. Flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the moment marked more than the launch of a high-speed train. It was the culmination of a century-old dream—one forged in steel, vision, and unyielding resolve.

The rail unification of Kashmir with the rest of India is that resolve. It is evident on the happy faces of the people travelling on the train.

Train to Kashmir with an ultra modern travel experience runs on the solid foundation of our engineers. Cutting short the travel time, high speed Vande Bharat trains are running twice a day, six times a week from both sides. They are not only bringing much needed push for the local economic development in the valley but are also proving out to be a boon for the tourists from across the country.

The picturesque journey with ultra modern comforts in such a short time of three hours vis a vis road journey of six to seven hours has truly unified hilly Kashmir with the rest of India in all weathers for us.

For decades, Kashmir's story has been told through the lens of conflict and remoteness. It's heartening to see it being rewritten in the language of infrastructure — bridges, tunnels, and rail lines threading their way through the mountains.

Coming on the eve of 11 years of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's governance at the centre, the special trains and the connecting link are all set to change the destiny of locals in Kashmir.

In its 172-year history of service to the nation, Indian Railways has

proudly crossed many important milestones. Generations of dedicated railway men and women have toiled to make connectivity and carriage a daily reality. But to paraphrase a line from an iconic Indian advertisement: Indian Railways doesn't just build tracks—it also knits the fabric of national unity!

From Isolation to Integration

Historically, Kashmir's isolation was more than metaphorical—it was geographic and punishingly real.

Tucked high in the Himalayas and routinely cut off by snow for days, the region remained distant not just in reach but even experience. Roads were often treacherous, air travel limited, and full rail connectivity a mirage long promised.

A British-era proposal for a Kashmir rail link remained on the drawing board for decades, hindered by complex geopolitical challenges.

After countless rounds of deliberations, feasibility studies, technical evaluations, and consultations with both domestic and international experts, the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) was officially sanctioned in 1994. While the northern and southern sections progressed steadily and were effectively completed within a decade, the central stretch—from Katra to Banihal—posed an engineering and security challenge of Himalayan proportions.

For years, the rail line lingered as two disconnected segments—like outstretched hands reaching across a chasm of mountains. But that chasm symbolized more than just physical terrain.

The final push to complete the USBRL project came when the government declared it a national priority. With firm resolve and cutting-edge technology working in tandem, the project finally saw light at the end of the tunnel—quite literally.



As Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw aptly remarked, this was far more than a transportation initiative; it was a nation-building effort.

Where Steel Defies the Sky

The USBRL project may well be the most ambitious rail initiative since Independence. The 272-km stretch between Udhampur and Baramulla snakes through 40 tunnels and over 900 bridges. And at the center of it all is the record-breaking Chenab Bridge — the tallest railway bridge in the world, standing 359 meters above the riverbed.

This marvel of engineering is capable of withstanding wind speeds upto 260 kmph and tremors of seismic zone-V. Beside it stands the Anji Khad Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, stretching asymmetrically across a valley, anchored by a single pylon and supported by 96 cables.

Tunnels, including the 11-kilometer-long T-80 (Banihal - Qazigund) tunnel through the Pir Panjal range, have been carved through fragile rock with a mix of dynamite and human grit.

Physical Surveys were done on

horseback, while drones and satellite imaging provided aerial support. Workers labored through harsh winters, sudden landslides, and the looming threat of Pak-sponsored terrorist attacks.

Today, more than 190 km of tunnels and thousands of tons of steel later, the line stands complete — a feat that combines precision engineering with a certain audacity of vision, linking the Valley to the rest of the nation in a way that is profoundly symbolic.

A Train Called Hope

In many ways, the Vande Bharat Ex-

press is not just a train—it is a metaphor. It glides quietly through meadows and valleys, bridging distances both physical and psychological, proclaiming that Kashmir is no longer distant!

It has reduced travel time between Srinagar and Katra to just over three hours, down from nearly six. What was once a treacherous road journey through landslide-prone hairpin bends and unpredictable weather, is now a smooth ride through tunnels and bridges that defy belief.

It connects not only cities, but lives. Children in far-off villages are now talking about universities in Jammu and Delhi. Local artisans, apple growers, and carpet weavers now see their goods reaching markets beyond the valley — fresher, faster, further.

"Where there were once checkpoints and delays," said a young shopkeeper in Srinagar, "there is now the sound of a train. It feels like we're no longer waiting for the rest of the country to arrive—we are moving with it."

A New Journey, Still Unfolding

This is not to suggest that one train will solve Kashmir's complex problems. Infrastructure cannot erase history or immediately heal wounds — security concerns will need addressing yet. But it can open doors—both literal and symbolic.

And it can lay the groundwork for integration that is economic, social, and, ultimately, emotional.

What began as a dream on drawing boards in colonial offices has become a reality on steel rails blending with Himalayan rock.

The rail line to Kashmir is the story of a country that refused to be daunted by terrain, terror, or time.

From mountain shadows to sunlit stations, a new journey has begun!

The author is an Ex-CEO & Chairman Railway Board.

ENVIRON: Himalayas Face Higher Landslide, Flood Risk: Report

Agenceis

New Delhi: There is a high risk of flash floods, landslides and glacial lake outburst floods in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region this monsoon season due to forecasts of above-average rainfall, experts from an inter-governmental organisation said on Wednesday.

The International Centre

for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) also said temperatures across the HKH region are expected to be up to two degrees Celsius higher than normal during the monsoon.

"Above-normal precipitation between June and September, as predicted by the various meteorological agencies, is fraught with the high risks of disastrous flash floods and landslides along

the mountainous terrains," ICIMOD said in a report.

It added that rising temperatures in the HKH can speed up the melting of glaciers and snow, leading to short-term increases in river flows and a higher risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). Warmer temperatures also reduce snow build-up, which threatens the long-term water supply for millions of

people living downstream.

The HKH region is very sensitive to the monsoon, especially the systems linked to the Indian Ocean and southern Asia.

Rainfall between June and September is the main source of water for the region. It has a major effect on river systems that support nearly two billion people.

While the monsoon is crucial

for refilling these rivers, the danger from water-related disasters, such as floods, landslides, storms, heatwaves, wildfires, droughts and GLOFs, is increasing due to the worsening impacts of climate change.

For example, more than 72.5 per cent of flood events in the region between 1980 and 2024 happened during the monsoon season.

"The forecasts we have studied are unanimous in predicting a hotter monsoon across the entire HKH, with a trend towards higher-than-normal rainfall in major parts of HKH," said Arun Bhakta Shrestha, senior advisor at ICIMOD.

He said that higher temperatures and more extreme rainfall increase the risk of water-related disasters such as floods,

landslides and debris flows and can have long-term effects on glaciers, snow and frozen ground.

"Lower rainfall, meanwhile, particularly in water-stressed countries such as Afghanistan, may pose risks to food and water security in a country with already extraordinarily high levels of malnutrition," Shrestha said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG Orders Major

Mission Director, ICPS, J&K, replacing Majid Khalil Ahmad Drabu, who was transferred and posted as commissioner of enquires, J&K.

Owais Ahmed, commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, holding additional charge of the post of CEO, Special Purpose Vehicle for Srinagar City for implementation of the Smart City Project, was transferred and posted as director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, replacing Abdul Rashid War who shall report to the General Administration Department for further posting.

Gurpal Singh, has been posted as director, Social Welfare, Jammu, while Faz Lul Haseeb, Managing Director, J&K Tourism Development Corporation, was transferred and posted as Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

Haseeb shall also hold the charge of the post of CEO, Special Purpose Vehicle for Srinagar City for Implementation of the Smart City Project, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Rupesh Kumar, Director, Social Welfare, Jammu, was transferred and posted as Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority, while Shahzad Alam, Director, Employment, J&K, holding additional charge of the posts of Chief Executive Officer, Mission Youth and Mission Director, Mission YUVA, shall also hold the charge of Director, Skill Development, J&K in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Shreya Singhal, was posted as Managing Director, J&K Tourism Development Corporation, and shall also hold the charge of CEO, JKERA, in addition to her own duties, while Ananth Dwivedi was posted as CEO, State Health Agency, J&K. He shall also hold the charge of Mission Director, Ayush Bharat Digital Health Mission, J&K.

Mahima Madan was posted as CEO, Jammu and Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA). She shall also hold the charge of Additional Secretary, Resident Commission, New Delhi.

Roshan Lal, Additional District Development Commissioner, Ramban was transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajouri, while Vivek Phonsa, was posted as Additional Secretary, Home Department.

Sikh Community

full religious devotion, free from work or academic obligations.

However, sources said that the matter has become contentious, as two Sikh groups disagree over the Guru's actual date of birth — with one asserting it falls on January 6, and the other insisting on June 12.

Notably, a file has been sent to the Lieutenant Governor, who is likely to take a final decision.

Foolproof Security

in full coordination to ensure a smooth, safe, and spiritually fulfilling Yatra for all pilgrims.

"People of J&K, civil society, and service providers have made exceptional contributions over the years. I am confident the improved facilities will make this year's Yatra even more memorable," he said.

Earlier, Sinha inspected the ongoing preparations at the Baltal axis in Ganderbal district, including the Disaster Management and Yatri Niwas Complex.

He directed officials to complete all infrastructure works on time to enhance facilities for pilgrims.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the arrangements in place for medical and healthcare at the Baltal Base Camp Hospital.

He interacted with the officials and directed them to ensure the availability of adequate numbers of doctors, paramedical staff and healthcare professionals, medical equipment, medicines, oxygen cylinders and round the clock healthcare service for the well-being of the pilgrims.

The 38-day Yatra will be held simultaneously from the Baltal route and Pahalgam in Anantnag district.

LG Treks To Holy

unprecedented works done by the BRO and SASB.

The Lieutenant Governor said after the culmination of the Yatra in 2024, special focus has been laid on developing safe Yatra tracks on both the routes.

"The alternate route from Chandanwari to Pissutop will be made

available with safety hand railing and surfacing for Yatra 2025 for facilitating the on-foot yatris and better managing the Yatra along the Chandanwari axis," the Lieutenant Governor further added.

The safety hand railing in vulnerable stretches has been developed on Pahalgam route.

The unstable formations along both the routes are addressed with gabion/breast walls, ILC fence and installation of wire mesh to overcome the danger possessed by the shooting stones on Railpathri-Brarimarg, Kalimata- Lower Cave, Panjtarni – Sangam- Holy Cave, Chandanwari – Pissutop – Zozibal stretch.

Further, Granular sub base material applied on all slippery stretches along both routes.

ILCB tiles have been laid on slippery stretches of both routes i.e. Domail – Railpathri – Brari stretch on Baltal route and Chandanwari – Pissutop – Zozibal- MG Top stretch on Pahalgam route.

J&K Amends Judicial

12, the written (main) examination shall include compulsory and optional papers and every candidate shall take all the compulsory papers and three out of the optional papers.

The Compulsory Papers include Paper I English Essay, b) Translation from English into Urdu or Hindi and vice versa, c) Precis.

Paper II : a) General Knowledge, b) Indian Constitutional Law; Paper III: a) The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, b) The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, c) The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Paper IV: a) General Financial Rules, 2017; b) The Jammu and Kashmir Service Regulation, 1956 (Chapters III to XIII and XXII and XXIII) ; c) Rules and Orders for the Guidance of Subordinate Courts (Civil and Criminal) and Circular Orders issued by the High Court.

Dr Farooq Seeks

This will not only benefit the pilgrims coming to visit Mata but also prove beneficial for the pilgrims intending to visit the Amarnath cave shrine and they will also come in large numbers. This will benefit tourism in J&K," he added.

Abdullah said this train is a blessing for Jammu and Kashmir which will boost trade and tourism.

"The journey was very good. You can see that tourists are also coming. This train is a blessing. It will increase tourism and trade. Our fruits can go outside easily and our people can now travel to any part of India comfortably.

"This was a dream which I have seen become a reality in my life," the former chief minister told reporters at the Srinagar railway station.

Talking to PTI at the shrine late on Tuesday night, minister Sharma said Abdullah expressed his desire to visit the Vaishno Devi shrine during his visit to Mela Kheer Bhawani in Ganderbal on June 3.

"We had darshan thrice after reaching this holy town (Katra), which is a great blessing for us... Abdullah walked two to three kilometres to reach the court and we prayed for J&K to get back its lost glory. J&K is India's crown and we want to reach that height again," he said.

The minister said they prayed for India's progress at the global level.

Sharma described the trip as "historic" and said they will remember it for eternity.

He said they also prayed for the victims of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and shelling by Pakistan.

"They (Pakistanis) will never succeed in their nefarious designs. Terrorism is an industry but our brave forces gave them a befitting reply. They will meet the same fate in future if they try to do any mischief," the minister said.

NC provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta said Abdullah's visit has sent a positive message across the country and "we are hopeful that the tourism industry, which has suffered a major setback in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, will be back on track soon".

"Abdullah's overnight stay at the shrine saw an immediate increase in the footfall of pilgrims. We are hopeful that this momentum will further increase in the coming days," he said.

Gupta said the team attended all the special prayers and all its members, except Abdullah, also visited Bhairoon Ghati to offer prayers

After Harvard

had complained of a headache. They said she had a history of migraines, and that her father was consulted before staff gave her medication.

"When the father arrived, he created a scene," the school's note said. "He disrupted efforts to take the child to the hospital and diverted to Press Colony instead, clearly indicating an intent to escalate the matter beyond medical concern."

The school claimed it followed proper protocol and even sent a staff vehicle to follow the father. It also warned against "misinformation" on social media.

But Altaf says no one from the school came to the hospital. "Not even one visit," he said. "Not a call to check on her. They washed their hands off it like nothing happened."

Anam, he added, has no past medical issues. "She's a healthy kid. She never had migraines. They're just saying that to cover up."

The incident has triggered public outcry across Kashmir, coming just weeks after another tragic case—the suicide of Numan, a student at Kashmir Harvard School.

That case raised difficult questions about student well-being and mental health in private schools. This one has reopened the same wounds.

"This is not just about my child," Altaf said. "If it happened to my daughter today, it could be someone else's tomorrow. We need to know our children are safe in school."

The Education Department has taken note. On Wednesday, Education Minister Sakina Itoo told Kashmir Observer that the government is launching an investigation.

"We have asked the Director of School Education to probe the matter thoroughly," she said. "Once the report comes in, we'll take strict action if necessary."

But for the little girl and her family, the damage is already done. Her father says she's scared to return to school.

For now, she stays home, recovering, while her parents try to make sense of what happened, and what to do next.

"I trusted that school," Altaf said. "Now I don't know if I ever can again."

Vijay Mallya's Comeback

hops nursery. The company distributed seedlings to local farmers and trained them in cultivating the crop.

Mohammad Shafi, an agricultural officer of that time, still recalls the excitement. "It was big," he said, sitting on a wooden bench inside his Srinagar residence. "We had never seen anything like it. Farmers got training, tools, and a guaranteed buyer. Everyone wanted in."

Soon, hops vines climbed string trellises across North Kashmir, from Shilwath to Sumbal, Sopore to Bandipora.

The valley's cool, moist climate was perfect. Farmers plucked the pale, delicate cones by hand, dried them in sheds, and loaded them for transport south.

By the mid-1980s, Kashmir's hops fuelled Kingfisher Beer, the brand that would make Vijay Mallya a household name. But the link stayed silent.

"The word 'beer' was never used," Shafi said. "Many growers didn't even know what they were growing. That was intentional."

Few newspapers covered the effort. Mallya's name rarely surfaced. Still, records from Jammu and Kashmir's now-dissolved Horticulture Planning and Marketing Board show the state lent a hand. United Breweries got freight waivers, storage sheds, and tax breaks.

"It was an industrial deal," a retired official shared, speaking privately due to pension rules. "We kept it low-key to avoid trouble."

For a time, it worked. Farmers harvested, the company collected, and beer flowed. Then the ground

shifted.

By the early 1990s, armed conflict tore through the valley. Roads grew dangerous, blocking transport. State laws changed, and tax breaks vanished. Cheaper hops from Europe and Himachal Pradesh flooded in.

"The company stopped calling," Farooq said, his hands clasped tight. "The plants dried up."

Dr. Showkat Mir, an agriculture expert, explained the bigger picture.

"This was one of Kashmir's first stabs at contract farming," he said, leaning forward in his Srinagar office. "It showed promise. But it rested on informal deals: handshakes between farmers, local officers, and a company that stayed out of the spotlight. That's why it couldn't last."

Did it fail? Not exactly. "It was quietly abandoned," Mir said.

Vijay Mallya took the reins of United Breweries in the 1980s, steering it to new heights. He built a global empire, with Kingfisher cans and bottles lining shelves worldwide. Kashmir, though, never made it into his victory tale.

In 2009, Mallya spoke of reviving India's hops trade, touting new markets and better supply lines. The Valley didn't get a nod.

Fast forward to 2025. Just days after Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), the team Mallya once owned, finally wins its first IPL title, he's back in the spotlight.

But even now, Kashmir as his early-career chronicle didn't find a place in the podcast probing his rise as an Indian industry mogul.

"It's strategic," believes Sunil Mishra, a Delhi-based business journalist who's tracked Mallya's saga for years.

"He's reshaping his image. Kashmir doesn't fit. It raises messy questions."

And those questions are plenty: What became of the tax breaks and the Zainakote lease? Who tracked the funds? Was there ever an audit? The sleuths stayed silent when asked. United Breweries, now owned by Heineken, offered little clarity.

"We're not aware of any legacy agricultural projects in Kashmir," an office-bearer said from Bengaluru.

Memories, though, don't fade easily. Abdul Hamid Dar, 72, once sorted hops in a Srinagar warehouse. He can still smell the drying cones, see the dusty burlap sacks piled high.

"The place buzzed in summer," he said, standing near the site, now a store. "It's all gone."

For farmers, the sting isn't just about lost income. It's about being forgotten.

"We weren't just suppliers," Farooq said, his voice rising. "We were part of something that worked, at least for a while."

He turned to watch a boy lead goats across a dry patch of land. The trel-lises are long gone, and so is the strong smell that used to linger on him for days.

The septuagenarian looked back, his eyes steady. "When they talk about Mallya, it's the planes, the parties, the headlines. No one remembers the people who helped build his brand from the ground up."

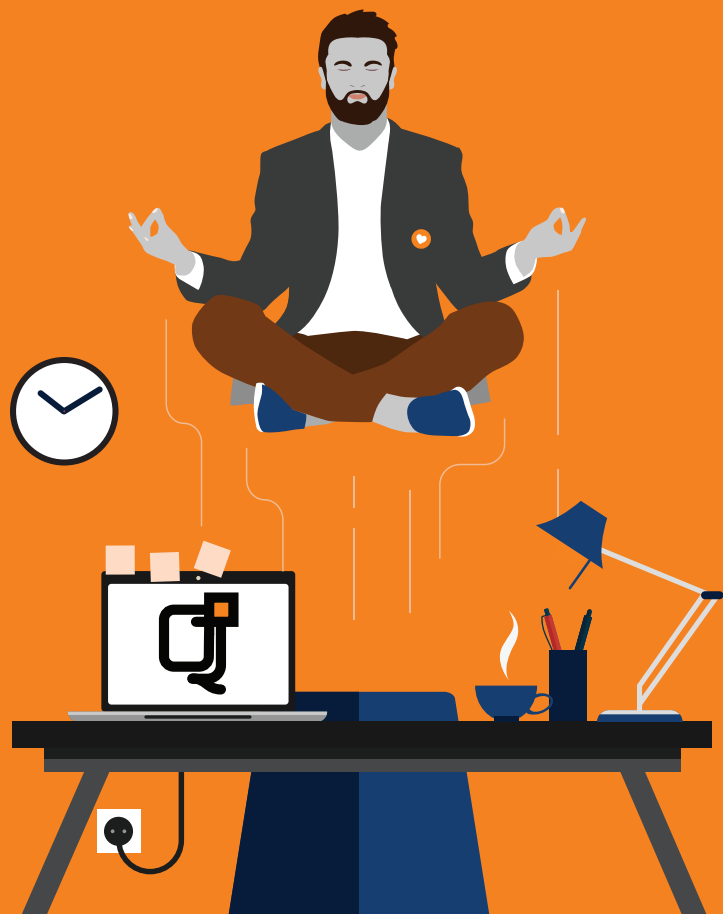
The wind moved through the field. He looked away and said, "When they take from your land and never return, they don't just leave a void. They leave a question no one wants to answer."

Bureaucracy Ignores

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HEATWAVE SCORCHES J&K

Jammu Among World's Hottest Spots At 44.4°C, Qazigund Sets New June High

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As Jammu and Kashmir grapples with a persistent heatwave, Jammu on Wednesday emerged among the hottest places globally, recording a scorching 44.4°C — the highest of the season so far.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng said Jammu ranked 68th on the global list of hottest spots, as temperatures remained significantly above normal across the region for the third consecutive day.

The intense heat also pushed Qazigund — the gateway town to the Kashmir Valley — to new extremes. With the mercury hitting 34.6°C, it equalled its third-highest recorded temperature for June since 1962, matching the mark last seen on June 23, 2023.

According to Keng, Qazigund's second-highest temperature for June stands at 35.3°C recorded on June 27, 1988, while the all-time high remains 35.7°C, recorded a day earlier on June 26 that year.

Other areas also witnessed sweltering conditions. Srinagar sizzled at 33.9°C, Pahalgam at 28.8°C, and tourist destinations like Kokernag and Kupwara touched 32.8°C. Even Gulmarg, usually among the cooler locations, reported a high of 24.0°C.

In the Jammu division, Katra recorded 40.6°C, Banihal 34.1°C, Batote 33.3°C, and Bhaderwah 34.4°C.

Alert Issued Till June 13

The Meteorological Department has forecast severe heatwave conditions across Jammu and Kashmir over the next three days, with temperatures expected to stay unusually high and dry till June 13.

A Met official said that the weather will remain hot, and heatwave conditions will persist at scattered locations in the region.

From June 14 to 17, light rain and thundershowers are likely at isolated to scattered places, possibly accompanied by thunder and gusty winds. However, the weather is expected to turn hot and dry again from June 18 to 20.

The public has been advised to:

- Stay hydrated
- Avoid outdoor activity between 12 noon and 4 pm
- Take precautions to prevent heat-related health issues
- Meanwhile, farmers have been encouraged to continue their agricultural operations as usual.

Govt Mulls Early Summer Break

Health and education minister, Sakina Itoo Wednesday said that the government was monitoring prevailing weather conditions and will take the call of early summer break for schools in accordance with the situation.

Itoo said, "The School Education Department is monitoring the weather situation. If we find that there is a need for an early summer break, we will take the call accordingly."

"It has only been two days of the heat wave. If the heat wave continues, then we will take a call accordingly," she said.

About tourism, Itoo said, "Tourism in Kashmir is very famous and we want more and more tourists to come here and enjoy nature."

In the meantime, the minister said that the committee has completed the reservation report that will be submitted in cabinet wherein it will be discussed.

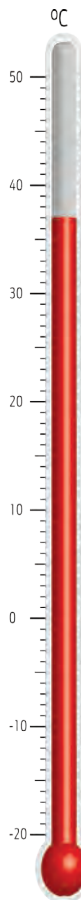
Earlier, the School Education

Department (SED) had issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for government and private schools to be followed during summer hours amidst prevailing heat wave and afternoon stormy winds.

Director of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in a circular had said, "In light of the prevailing heat wave conditions and the increasing frequency of afternoon stormy winds across Kashmir division, it has become imperative to implement effective safety protocols to safeguard the health and well-being of students and staff."

DSEK said that the well-being of students is paramount, and proactive measures are essential to mitigate the risks associated with extreme weather conditions.

Pertinently, the Meteorological department had forecasted severe heat wave conditions for next three days across Jammu and Kashmir.



J&K Tops Nation In Forest Fire Alerts

With over 1,700 square kilometres already designated as a 'High Risk' zone for forest fires, Jammu and Kashmir over the past two weeks has recorded 172 forest fire alerts — the highest in the country during this period.

This figure, as per the officials, surpasses all previous records, making the region the most affected by forest fire alert incidents across the country.

The official figures reveal that the total fire alert incidents include 159 SNPP and 13 MODIS incidents.

Soumi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (SNPP) forest fire refers to the use of the SNPP-VIIRS (Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite) satellite data to detect and monitor forest fires and Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) is a satellite instrument used by NASA for detecting forest fires.

The official figures reveal that the majority of the fire alert incidents have been reported from the Rajouri, Reasi and Kishtwar districts.

Pertinently, in Jammu and Kashmir at least 1,747 square kilometres of forest area have been categorized in 'High Risk' zone of forest fire while

62 square kilometres have been categorized in 'Very High Risk' zone.

The official document in this regard reveals that "62 square kilometres of forest area of Jammu and Kashmir is under High Risk' zone of forest fire and 8,972 square kilometres of forest area lie under moderate risk zone and 10,606 square kilometres of area with low risk of forest fire respectively."

The documents however state that 62 square kilometres of forest areas have been categorized in 'Very High Risk' zone in terms of catching forest fire while 33,237 square kilometres of forest areas of Jammu and Kashmir have been categorized as 'No Risk' zone.

It states that certain regions across India are more susceptible to forest fires due to factors like type of fuel load, local human activities, topographical features, forest type, and climatic conditions.

"In order to have a better and robust system for controlling and managing forest fires in a region, an effective fire risk zonation helps to delineate different risk areas for prioritizing management interventions in an effective manner," it reads.(KNO)

CS Assesses Efforts Made For Revival & Restoration Of Heritage



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Culture Department to assess the measures taken for the revival, restoration, preservation, and maintenance of J&K's heritage and unique architecture here.

The meeting besides Principal Secretary, Culture Department was attended by Secretary, PWD; Commissioner, SMC/JMC; ED, Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex; Director, Libraries; Secretary, Academy of Art, Culture & Languages; Director, Archaeology & Archives; Chief Engineers and other concerned officers.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary took a comprehensive review of the status of each work undertaken under the apex and heritage conservation scheme. He emphasized upon the Department to take keen interest in completing all the works going on for the last year.

Dulloo maintained that all the works for revival and restoration of heritage are significant for protecting our rich past for our future generations. He made out that every effort should be made to conserve this historical treasure trove in a highly professional manner in order to present the same to heritage lovers in an aesthetic fashion.

The Chief Secretary also enjoined upon them to accord the administrative approval to all the works that are to be taken up here. He stressed on the fact that these works should be

taken up without any delay for their completion on time.

On observing the current status of different architecture and heritage conservation projects the Department of Archaeology & Archives was instructed to intensify the restoration efforts, ensuring visible progress on the ground. They were further asked to strike a balance in choosing the projects in each district so that the heritage and architectural monuments widely spread here are protected for posterity.

As far as the cultural revitalization of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex (MMHC) is concerned the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, was directed to transform MMHC into a culturally vibrant space by organizing cultural evenings in collaboration with the Academy of Art, Culture & Languages.

The Chief Secretary also emphasised upon the adaptive reuse of restored structures at MMHC. The Department of Archaeology was tasked with developing a robust reuse plan for restored structures at MMHC. He also called for putting to use the newly constructed reading room cum cafeteria besides taking steps for creating enough parking space near this heritage complex at an earliest.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress made in conserving and modernization of old SPS Museum, Srinagar besides the revised DPR for completion of new Museum building here as per the past directives.

CM Omar Addresses Travel Agents Association Of India

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that his government is working to improve the experience of tourists coming to J&K, maintaining that tourists who come to Kashmir should want to return.

He stated this during his speech at the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) event 'Rally for the Valley'—Let's go to Jammu and Kashmir—a tourism revival initiative in J&K. The event was organised by TAAI's J&K chapter.

"Tourists have a journey or an experience. That they go home and tell others about it. I think there are lessons we've all learned over the past few months," the Chief Minister said in his speech at the event.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the J&K government is using this time to improve infrastructure and overall visitor experience.

"I have already given instructions to the cable car corporation to upgrade the gondola in Gulmarg, so that capacity is increased, ticketing is improved, and the overall experience is enhanced. The same applies elsewhere in J&K," he said.

He extended his gratitude to the TAAI delegation and its President Sunil Kumar for visiting Kashmir.

"At this moment, I would like to extend my thanks to the President of the TAAI delegation, Sunil Kumar, and all of you who have come from outside J&K for your trust and confidence in us. It is often said: you truly know who your friends are in difficult times. Everyone wants to be your friend in good times," the Chief Minister said, who is also the in-charge Tourism Minister.

He said that for the tourism



fraternity in Jammu and Kashmir, the TAAI delegation's visit under such circumstances is a true reminder of TAAI's commitment to J&K and the friendship and relationship shared with the region.

"Let me express deep gratitude, not just from my side or from the government's side, but on behalf of everyone connected with tourism in Kashmir—thank you for being here and for giving us this boost," he said.

Talking about the Baisaran terror attack on tourists, he emphasized the importance of learning from the past.

"It's hard to talk about the future without looking back to understand how we got here. The tragic incident on April 22 in Baisaran must never be forgotten—and it shouldn't be. It was a tragedy for the families of 26 people—25 of our guests and one of our local. A tragedy for their children and families. That tragedy touched everyone in J&K. For the first time in my memory, people across Jammu and especially in Kashmir spontaneously

came out to denounce the attack, to speak out and stand in solidarity."

"What happened after April 22 was not orchestrated by any political party or organization—it was spontaneous, heartfelt. The people of Kashmir wanted to show the rest of the country and the world that the attack was not in their name. It didn't represent them, wasn't in line with their values, and they didn't want to remain silent and let anyone believe that they were complicit."

The Chief Minister added "There is no doubt that we are in a winter of catastrophic proportions. But winter is just a season. It can't last forever. The snow must melt."

Doctors Urge Vigilance, Hydration As Heatwave Sweeps J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As Jammu and Kashmir grapples with an intense and prolonged heatwave, medical professionals are issuing strong advisories urging the public to take immediate and sustained precautions to avoid heat-related health complications.

With temperatures reaching unusually high levels in many parts of the region, health experts are particularly concerned about rising cases of dehydration, heat exhaustion, and even heatstroke, especially among children, the elderly, and outdoor workers.

Dr Mohammad Salim Khan, Head of the Department of Community Medicine at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, said maintaining proper

hydration levels is critical during this period of extreme weather.

"People must prioritise the intake of natural fluids—water, oral rehydration solutions (ORS), lassi, lemon water, and fresh homemade juices," he said, adding that such drinks not only quench thirst but also help replenish essential salts and minerals lost through sweating.

He warned against relying on aerated soft drinks, packaged juices, and caffeinated beverages such as tea and coffee, which can contribute to dehydration due to their diuretic effects. "Sugary or fizzy drinks might seem refreshing, but they add to dehydration and unnecessary calorie intake," Dr Khan cautioned.

Advising against venturing outdoors during peak

heat hours—generally between 11 am and 4 pm—Dr Khan suggested increasing fluid consumption by 1 to 3 litres daily, depending on the level of physical activity. He encouraged the use of traditional cooling beverages like buttermilk (chaach) and light soups to restore lost nutrients.

Clothing also plays a vital role. "Wear light-coloured, breathable, and loose-fitting garments. When stepping out, use umbrellas, caps, or scarves to shield yourself from direct sunlight and consider applying sunscreen to protect against UV rays," he said.

The doctor further warned that those sleeping under fans might experience excessive evaporation from their bodies, increasing fluid loss. "In such cases, water and ORS should be consumed

frequently," he added.

He stressed avoiding consumption of stale food, especially from roadside vendors, and emphasised the importance of thoroughly washing raw fruits and vegetables to prevent diarrheal diseases that spike during the summer season.

Dr Showkat at GMC Anantnag underlined the importance of identifying early signs of heat-related illness. These include fatigue, weakness, nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, mental clouding, and in severe cases, disorientation.

"If someone experiences these symptoms, it's vital to seek medical attention immediately," said Dr Showkat. "Heatstroke is a medical emergency. It occurs when the body fails to regulate temperature due to excessive heat exposure."

He pointed out the growing health challenges posed by climate change, saying that rising global and regional temperatures will likely result in more frequent and severe heatwaves in the future.

Dr Showkat urged the public to look after high-risk groups, including young children, elderly individuals, pregnant women, and those with chronic illnesses. "These individuals are more susceptible to dehydration and heat exhaustion," he added.

Both doctors collectively stressed the importance of community awareness and support. "Stay indoors during the hottest parts of the day, keep your surroundings ventilated, and ensure that vulnerable people have access to cool drinking water," they advised—(KNO)

BJP Leaders Welcome Union Minister Khattar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: BJP Jammu and Kashmir President Sat Sharma, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, and party spokesperson Altaf Thakur welcomed Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at Srinagar Airport on Wednesday.

The Union Minister arrived in Srinagar as part of a key visit to review development projects and meet stakeholders across

the Union Territory.

According to KNS, Khattar is scheduled to address a press conference at 12 noon on Thursday in Srinagar, where he will outline the Centre's vision for governance, welfare, and ongoing progress under the 'Viksit Bharat' initiative.

The visit is seen as part of the government's broader outreach to strengthen development and public engagement in Jammu and Kashmir.

Handwara Police Attaches Property Of Drug Peddler

Observer News Service

HANDWARA: In a major action against drug trafficking, Handwara Police has attached property worth lakhs belonging to a notorious drug peddler under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Acting under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act, Police Station Handwara attached two commercial shops along with the land situated at Main Market Handwara, belonging to Javald Ahmad Sofi S/O Abdul Razaq Sofi R/O Khunbal Handwara. The attachment was executed in the presence of Executive Magistrate 1st Class Handwara in connection with Case

FIR No. 193/2024 U/S 8/21 NDPS Act of Police Station Handwara.

Preliminary investigation has revealed that the said property was acquired through proceeds generated from illegal narcotics trade. The accused is also involved in Case FIR No. 266/2022 U/S 8/21 NDPS Act registered at Police Station Handwara.

This action is part of Handwara Police's ongoing efforts to dismantle the financial infrastructure of drug traffickers by targeting and confiscating illegally acquired assets. The police remain committed to strict enforcement of the NDPS Act and ensuring that those involved in drug trafficking face the full weight of the law.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE				
Tender No:- 04-2025-26-DEN-HQ-FZR, 22-2025-26-ADEN-1-FZR, 24-2025-26-ADEN-1-FZR, 25-2025-26-ADEN-1-FZR, 26-2025-26-ADEN-1-FZR, 29-2025-26-ADEN-1-FZR, 30-2025-26-ADEN-1-FZR, 32-2025-26-ADEN-2-FZR & 33-2025-26-ADEN-2-FZR Dated:- 10.06.2025				
DEN-HQ/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 30.06.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.ireps.gov.in				
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System		
Open	Works	Single Packet System		
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time		
06.06.2025	16.06.2025	30.06.2025 /15:00 Hrs.		
SN/Tender Number		Details of Tender		
1	04-2025-26-DEN-HQ-FZR	Improvement and maintenance of protection force station & out post/assault post of protection force at Firozpur, Faridkot, Amritsar, Jalandhar & Ludhiana over Firozpur Division.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	1,54,36,152.89/-	2,27,200.00/-	60 Days	06 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work."				
2	22-2025-26-ADEN-1-FZR	Construction of new 08 nos. Type-II quarters in lieu of old dilapidated & abandoned staff quarters for engg. staff working under ADEN-1/FZR at FZR.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	1,62,53,744.98/-	2,31,300.00/-	60 Days	09 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Construction of buildings/quarters."				
3	24-2025-26-ADEN-1-FZR	Upgradation/Improvement of Barwala (BRW) Goods Shed under ADEN-1/FZR.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	3,68,70,283.59/-	3,34,400.00/-	60 Days	10 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work."				
4	25-2025-26-ADEN-1-FZR	Upgradation/Improvement of Gangraon (GJUT) Goods Shed under ADEN-1/FZR.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	9,18,24,491.76/-	6,09,100.00/-	60 Days	10 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work."				
5	26-2025-26-ADEN-1-FZR	Upgradation/Improvement of Jagraon (JGN) Goods shed under ADEN-1/FZR.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	5,59,78,936.96/-	4,29,900/-	60 Days	10 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work."				
6	29-2025-26-ADEN-1-FZR	Dewatering of LHS during heavy rainfall in the section of SSE/W/FZR under ADEN1/FZR.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	14,95,699.07/-	29,900.00/-	60 Days	05 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Nil."				
7	30-2025-26-ADEN-1-FZR	Dewatering of LHS during heavy rainfall in the section of SSE/W/KPK under ADEN1/FZR.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	29,76,444.24/-	59,500.00/-	60 Days	05 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Nil."				
8	32-2025-26-ADEN-2-FZR	Dewatering of LHS during heavy rainfall in the section of SSE/W/JBD under ADEN-2/FZR.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	29,41,758.79/-	58,800.00/-	60 Days	05 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Nil."				
9	33-2025-26-ADEN-2-FZR	Dewatering of LHS during heavy rainfall in the section of SSE/W/LNK under ADEN-2/FZR.		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
	34,95,853.92/-	69,900.00/-	60 Days	05 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Nil."				
Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.				
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WTC FINAL: 14 Wickets Fall On Day 1 At Lord's

Agencies

Australia's fearsome pace trio—Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins, and Josh Hazlewood—turned the tide late on Day 1 of the World Test Championship (WTC) final at Lord's, neutralising Kagiso Rabada's earlier heroics with the ball in a day dominated by fast bowling.

A total of 14 wickets fell on a dramatic opening day. After being bowled out for 212 despite fifties from Steve Smith and Beau Webster, Australia bounced back strongly with the ball.

Starc led the charge with two quick wickets, while Cummins and Hazlewood struck once each to leave South Africa reeling at 43/4 by Stumps—still trailing by 169 runs.

With the ball seaming and swinging under overcast skies, it was a bowlers' day out at Lord's, setting the stage for a thrilling Test match ahead.

South Africa bundled out Australia for just 212 on Day 1 of the World Test Championship (WTC) 2025 final at Lord's on Wednesday, with Kagiso Rabada steal-



ing the spotlight through a fiery five-wicket haul that rattled the defending champions.

Steve Smith led an Australia fightback to put the defending champions on 190-5 at tea on the opening day of the World Test

Championship final.

Smith scored 66 before being dismissed by part-time spinner Aiden Markram and featured in a 79-run fifth wicket partnership with Beau Webster as Australia steadied their innings after South

Africa had taken four wickets before lunch.

Webster, playing only a fourth Test, was 55 not out and looking to build another profitable partnership with Alex Carey, who was unbeaten on 22.

Smith was playing for the first time since March and showed no signs of being rusty in a busy innings, continuing his form at Lord's where he had previously scored a double century.

But he will be disappointed with the manner of his dismissal, attempting to slog Markram and getting a healthy edge to Marco Jansen at slip with the tall bowler juggling the ball twice before holding the catch.

It was the only wicket South Africa took in the session, although Webster might have been out when on four as he was trapped leg before wicket by Kagiso Rabada but a modest appeal was turned down and South Africa chose not to contest the umpire's decision.

Television pictures, however, showed Webster would have been out had captain Temba Bavuma reviewed.

Earlier, South Africa seamers Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen made early inroads into Australia's batting order as sharp catching had the defending champions reeling on 67-4 at lunch.

Greenend Heroes FC Joins Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025, powered by Athwas Hyundai, continues to build excitement with the official inclusion of Greenend Heroes FC, a promising new entrant set to elevate the competition and spotlight emerging football talent in the region.

Owned by Gazi Shakeel, Greenend Heroes FC brings with it a vision to empower young athletes and redefine grassroots football. The team is sponsored by M/S Greenend Smart Services Pvt. Ltd., a reputed name in sports infrastructure and advanced technology solutions.

Established in 2013, Greenend Smart Services Pvt. Ltd. has contrib-

uted to the growth of the sporting ecosystem in India. Under the leadership of the dynamic duo, Muneer Khan and Momin Khan, the company has delivered pioneering projects across the country, especially in sports development and technological innovation.

"We are thrilled to be a part of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025," said Gazi Shakeel, expressing his enthusiasm about the franchise's participation. "Our team is here to showcase talent, passion, and commitment. With the steadfast support of Greenend Smart Services Pvt. Ltd., we aim not just to compete, but to set new standards in the game and contribute meaningfully to the sports industry" Gazi added.

Sakeena Itoo Flags Off 6th Aryans Shikara Race In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Wednesday flagged off the 6th Aryans Shikara Race, organised by JK students of Aryans Group of Colleges Chandigarh, at Dal Lake here.

The race was organised with an aim to promote tourism of Jammu and Kashmir and bring tourists back to valley after Pahalgam incident.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo said that

this unique initiative will contribute towards the promotion of J&K's tourism potential on National and International arenas. "This race is not just an event, it is celebration of peace, unity and unmatched beauty of our J&K," she said.

The Minister also appreciated the students and management of Aryans Group of Colleges. She added that we have seen the positive role of Aryans Group after the Pahalgam incident as they played active role for facilitation of Kashmiri students

studying outside and also took a unique step to conduct special semester exams for JK students.

Chairman, Aryans Group, Dr. Anshu Kataria, extended his gratitude to the Minister for gracing the event.

Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Director Colleges, Sheikh Aijaz Bashir; Director General, Aryans Group, Dr. Parveen Kataria; Deputy Director, Dr. Garima Thakur, senior management of Aryans Group and large number of students were present on the occasion.

Lions Ganderbal Beat ICC Ichigam Budgam In Wular Premier League

In a thrilling encounter of the 8th Edition of Wular Premier League (WPL), being held under the banner of Sports Association Tarzoo, Lions Ganderbal registered a convincing 86-run victory over ICC Ichigam Budgam on Tuesday. The game was held at Sheikh UI Alam Sport Ground in Tarzoo.

Raja Rasheed was adjudged Man of the Match for his outstanding performance, while Umair Zahoor earned the Game Changer award for his impactful contribution.

A large crowd witnessed the exciting clash at Tarzoo, reflecting the growing popularity of WPL as North Kashmir's premier cricketing event.

YSS Budgam Begins Inter Zonal Girls Sports Competitions

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam kick-started its Inter-Zonal District Level Girls' Competitions in Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and Volleyball Under-14 age group at the Sports Stadium Budgam on Wednesday.

The event is being held under the guidance of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam Ghulam Hassan Lone. The competitions were officially inaugurated by Incharge Activity Shakeel ur Rehman Lone DYSSO Budgam.

The smooth conduct of the event is being ensured by the designated conveners. In line with DYSSO Budgam's commitment to participants' safety, healthcare facilities have been made available on-site to address any medical needs during the event.

DYSS Refresher Course In Various Games Gets Underway

The Refresher/ Orientation Course for the officials in various sports disciplines, being organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) got underway at Youth Hostel Nagrota, here on Wednesday.

The fortnight-long Course in which around 80 officials (PETS and PEMs, PELs) drawn from various districts of J&K are taking part, was formally inaugurated by the incoming Director General Youth Services and Sports Anuradha Gupta and outgoing Director General YSS Rajinder Singh Tara, who were accompanied by Deputy Director Youth Services and Sports (Central) Jitender Mishra and the officials from the Activity Section of the Directorate.

The sports disciplines in which the officials are being trained include Volleyball, Kho-Kho and Thang-ta.

The Department has named 10 trained and expert officials as the Resource Persons in the Course and has nominated Altaf Hussain, Departmental Vigilance Officer and Warden Youth Hostel Nagrota as Incharge of the camp.

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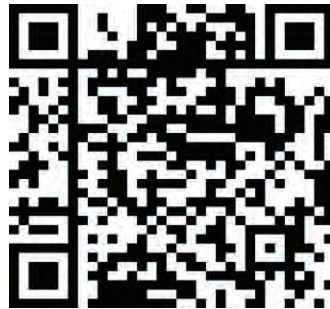
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