

Srinagar Hotter Than Jammu

Records 4th Hottest June Night In 134 Years



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The 21-day intense summer period locally known as 'Wahrat' began in Kashmir on Saturday, with the Valley witnessing extreme temperatures — in some cases surpassing those recorded in Jammu division.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a day temperature of 34.8°C, slightly lower than

Friday's scorching 35.5°C. Yet, it remained hotter than Jammu, where the temperature settled at 33.0°C — an unusual occurrence during peak summer.

As per data shared by weather experts, Kokernag recorded its second-highest ever June temperature at 34.2°C. Independent weather forecaster Aadil Maqbool noted that this surpassed the previous **| More on P10**

Kashmir Schools To Shut From Monday

Preponed Vacation To Last For 15 Days

In response to the ongoing heatwave, authorities in Kashmir on Saturday announced a 15-day summer vacation for all government and recognized private schools across the Valley, beginning June 23. According to an official order issued by the Director of School Education, Kashmir, the schools up to the higher secondary level will remain closed from **| More on P10**

Qazigund registered 35.0°C, marking its third highest June temperature since 1988.

DM Reviews J&K Security, Yatra Preparations



Observer News Service

Jammu: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday reviewed the prevailing security situation in Jammu and Kashmir with top Army commanders at the Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur, with a sharp focus on border management, counter-terror

operations, and preparations for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra.

The high-level briefing was led by Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Northern Command, Lt Gen Pratik Sharma. Commanding officers of all frontline units also participated in the **| More on P10**

'Op Sindoor Reflects India's Restraint'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday issued a stern warning to Pakistan, asserting that any future terror attack on Indian soil would invite serious consequences. He said Operation Sindoor, launched in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack, is not over yet — and India remains prepared to take any action necessary to eliminate the terror threat. Singh led a mass Yoga demonstration at the Udhampur-based Northern Command headquarters. **| More on P10**

U.S. Moves B-2s, Trump Rushes To White House

Trans Asia News

New Delhi: President Donald Trump returned to the White House Saturday evening for an urgent meeting with his national security team, as tensions with Iran continue to escalate and speculation grows over possible U.S. military action.

The move follows reports from The New York Times that the United States is deploying B-2 stealth bombers to the Pacific island of Guam. These strategic aircraft, capable of carrying 30,000-pound "bunker-buster" bombs, are designed to strike deeply fortified underground targets, such as Iran's Fordow uranium enrichment



facility — a site whose exact depth remains classified.

Two U.S. officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, confirmed the bombers' movement but emphasized that no final orders have been given to advance them beyond Guam. The number of aircraft involved has not



been disclosed.

Further intensifying speculation of imminent military engagement, the U.S. began assisted departure flights from Israel on Saturday to evacuate American citizens. Cruise ships are also being used in the operation, a rare move

that underscores the seriousness of the unfolding situation.

The President had previously issued a two-week deadline to evaluate options for a potential strike against Iran, in response to growing regional hostilities and Iran's expanding nuclear activities. Saturday's developments suggest that military preparations are now moving into a more active phase.

Meanwhile Iran has reportedly warned its Persian Gulf neighbors against allowing their soil to be a launch pad for American aggression on the Islamic Republic in the wake of US President's latest war rhetoric. **| More on P10**

US-Iran Nuclear Talks A "Cover-Up" For Israel Attack: Iran

Istanbul — Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has accused the United States of using nuclear negotiations as a "cover-up" for what he described as coordinated Israeli aggression, warning that any direct U.S. military involvement would lead to "irreparable damage" and spark a wider regional war. Speaking to reporters in Istanbul on the sidelines of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) emergency meeting on Saturday, Araghchi said Tehran has "many indications" that the U.S. has been complicit in Israel's airstrikes on Iranian territory since "day one" of the conflict, which erupted on June 13.

"The so-called nuclear talks were nothing but a smokescreen while our country was under attack," he said. "The aggression must stop — we will not return to the table while our civilians and **| More on P10**

Yoga Is The Pause Button Humanity Needs: PM

Leads World's Largest Ever Yoga Gathering Of 3 Lakh Citizens

Observer News Service

Visakhapatnam: Leading world's largest ever Yoga gathering of 3 lakh citizens to celebrate the 11th International Yoga Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the whole world was going through some kind of tension with many regions facing unrest and instability, and that Yoga gives a direction of peace and brings oneness.

Modi said the day marks the beginning of the ancient practice



for humanity, where inner peace becomes a global policy.

"Unfortunately, today the whole world is going through

some kind of tension. In many regions, unrest and instability are increasing. In such a situation, Yoga gives us the direction of peace. Yoga is the pause button that humanity needs to breathe, to balance, to become whole again," he said.

"My request to the world—let this Yoga Day mark the beginning of Yoga for humanity 2.0 where inner peace becomes global policy," the PM said.

He remarked that the essence of yoga **| More on P10**

Int'l Day Of Yoga Celebrated Across J&K

LG Performs Asanas, Highlights Yoga's Role In Stress Relief



Observer News Service

The 11th International Day of Yoga was celebrated across Kashmir on Saturday with participants from all walks of life performing 'asanas' at various places, officials said. The main event in the Kashmir Valley **| More on P10**

CAUGHT AGAIN

Tehsildar Held For Bribery, Earlier Named In Land Scam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has arrested Ghulam Rasool Bhat, Tehsildar of Qaziabad Kralgund in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, after he was caught red-handed accepting a bribe of 50,000 at his private residence in Handwara.

The trap, laid on the basis of a formal complaint, also led to the arrest of his associate, Rafi Ahmad Lone, a resident of Pothora Kralgund.

According to the ACB, the complainant — a resident of Handwara — alleged that the Tehsildar demanded 1

lakh as a bribe in exchange for granting permission to cut walnut trees. Despite expressing financial hardship, the complainant was coerced into paying 50,000 upfront. When he approached the official again for the required permissions, he was asked to pay the remaining 50,000, prompting him to approach the ACB.

After verifying the complaint, the ACB registered FIR No. 04/2025 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018), at Police Station ACB Baramulla. A trap was subsequently laid, and both the **| More on P10**



People take part in a yoga session on the occasion of International Day of Yoga, at SKICC. KO Photo By Faisal Khan

Kashmir Sees 12,833 Animal Bites, Highest In Decade

On Average Over 35 Animal Bites Reported Daily

Agencies

Srinagar: The Kashmir Valley is grappling with an unprecedented surge in animal bite cases, reporting the highest annual figures to date between June 2024 and May 2025.

According to data from the Anti-Rabies Clinic (ARC) at Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital, Srinagar, a staggering 12,833 animal bite incidents were recorded during this period, including 6,258 dog bites and 6,095 cat bites, with the remainder attributed to other animals.



Prof. Shahzada Mohammad Salim Khan, Professor & Head of the Community Medicine

Total cases reported: **12,833**

Dog bites **6,258** Cat bites **6,095**

Other animals: Remaining cases

Fatalities: **4-5 rabies-related deaths annually**

Department at Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar said **| More on P10**

For The First Time, A Kashmiri Novel Crosses Borders, Wins Global Spotlight

It's A Breakthrough Moment For A Language Long Left Out Of The Global Literary Conversation.

Iqbal Bhat

Srinagar: It's not often a novel written in Kashmiri reaches the global stage. But on June 16, that changed.

In a groundbreaking announcement at Himal Southasian's annual Fiction Fest, To Each Their Own Hell, a 1975 novel by Akhtar Mohiuddin, translated into English by Mehdi Khawaja, was named the winner of the 2025 Armory Square Prize for South Asian Literature in Translation.

The prize, only in its third year, honours translations that



bring lesser-heard voices from South Asia to English-speaking readers.

This is the first time it has gone to a work written in Kashmiri, and, likely, the first time a Kashmiri novel will be

published in English in the United States.

For a language as rich in literature as Kashmiri, and as historically ignored by global publishing, the moment is seismic.

"This book just doesn't let you go," said Daisy Rockwell, a juror. "It's utterly unique. You feel the pulse of the narrator from the very first line."

Rockwell, an International Booker-winning translator, compared Mohiuddin's novel to Sartre's No Exit and Flaubert's Madame Bovary, with the pacing of a dark thriller.

Written nearly fifty years ago,

Akhtar Mohiuddin's To Each Their Own Hell is a deep and unsettling story about emptiness and longing. The characters—X, Sheen, Daisy, Nancy—move through a strange, blurry world where nothing feels real. Not much happens in the plot, but the feeling it leaves stays with you.

Khawaja's translation brings that strange, heavy mood to life with simple, powerful writing.

He's a freelance journalist and editor, and he's also taught Kashmiri literature at Ashoka University. He knows how to move between different voices, and he knows **| More on P10**



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2

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: NIIT University Scholarship-cum-Admission Seat Programme 2025

Description: Applications are invited from Class 12 passed students for NIIT University's Scholarship-cum-Admission Seat Programme for the academic year 2025-26. Eligibility: Indian students willing to pursue B.Tech, BBA, or Dual Degree Integrated MBA at NU Must have secured: At least 55% aggregate in Classes 10 & 12 (for B.Tech) At least 50% aggregate in Classes 10 & 12 (for BBA / Dual Degree Integrated MBA) Must have a valid rank in JEE-Main, BIT-SAT, SAT, CUET, IPMAT, or any State Engineering Entrance Examination Prizes & Rewards: Up to 100% tuition fee waiver for the entire course duration Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2025 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/NUSAS1 QR Code: <https://d2w71p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/niit-university-scholarship-cum-admission-seat-programme-20251750077092.png>

Scholarship Name 2: IDFC FIRST Bank MBA Scholarship 2025-27

Description: IDFC FIRST Bank MBA Scholarship is a need-based scholarship program run by IDFC FIRST Bank to financially support students with a family income of less than INR 6 lakh per annum. The purpose of this scholarship is to make post-graduate studies in business management accessible to meritorious students who are unable to pursue higher studies due to financial constraints. Eligibility: Indian students enrolled in

the first year of a 2-year full-time MBA program for the class of 2027 at selected educational institutions may apply for this scholarship. Applicants' gross annual family income should be less than or equal to INR 6 lakh. Applicants must have a valid mobile number linked to their Aadhaar



number. Prizes & Rewards: INR 2 lakh for 2 years of MBA studies (INR 1 lakh/year)

Last Date to Apply: 30-06-2025 Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/IFBMS6 QR Code: <https://d2w71p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/idfc-first-bank-mba-scholarship-2025-271749467457.png>

Scholarship Name 3: Satya Scholarship Program 2025

Description: The Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust invites applications from Class 12 graduates who have scored at least 60% and are pursuing undergraduate (UG) or integrated master's programs at selected colleges/universities (Institutes) located in Ludhiana district. With full tuition coverage, this scholarship is dedicated to em-

powering bright, deserving students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, helping them turn aspirations into achievements and build a future without financial barriers.

Eligibility: Open to students pursuing 3-5-year UG/integrated master's courses in eligible courses of Commerce (BBA, BCom), Engineering (BTech, B.E., B.Sc. (Engineering), BCA, B.Arch.), and Medical (MBBS, BDS, BPT, B.Sc. (Nursing), B.Sc. (Paramedics)) from select colleges/universities (Institutes) located in Ludhiana district. Must have passed Class 12 board exams from Ludhiana district with a minimum of 60% marks. Annual parents' income must not exceed INR 5 Lakh from all sources. In case of orphan students, the guardian's income should be less than INR 5 Lakh. Preference given to girls, athletes (state/national/international level), persons with disabilities, orphans, and children of single parents. Should not be a recipient of any other educational scholarship. Prizes & Rewards: 100% tuition fee coverage for the entire course duration. Hostel and mess charges may be considered on a case-by-case basis if campus residence is mandatory. Reimbursement of partial or full tuition fees paid in the first year, transferred directly to the student's or parent's account. Last Date to Apply: 31-08-2025

Application mode: Online applications only Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SAT1 QR Code: <https://d2w71p59qkl0r.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/satya-scholarship-program-20251747719355.png>

Email: caogbl123@gmail.com

DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMER'S WELFARE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AGRICULTURE GANDBAL (Mini-Secretariat Duderhama)

Subject: Engagement of Krishi Udyami (KU)/Agricultural Entrepreneur in District Gandbal.
Ref: Final Merit List issued by Deputy Commissioner Gandbal's Office vide No. DCG/Estt/F-573/2025/223 Dt: 14-06-2025

ORDER

DATED: 20-06-2025

CAOG/ESTT/ 31 OF 2025

Pursuant to the Final Merit List of the prospective candidates for selection of Krishi Udyami (Agriculture Entrepreneurs 3rd Phase/Re-advertisement of vacant KKGs) issued by the Chairman, District Level Selection Committee (Addl. Deputy Commissioner) Gandbal through Public Notice issued vide No. DCG/Estt/F- 573/2025/223 Dt: 14-06-2025, the following candidates are hereby engaged as Krishi Udyami for the KKGs shown against each.

S. No	Name of KKG	Name of the Candidate Selected
1.	Gogligund	Mushtaq Ahmad Dar
2.	Lar B	Seerat Bashir
3.	Chuntwaliwar	Mohammad Rafiq Bhat
4.	Manigam B	Seerat Bashir
5.	Anderwan A	Aadil Shamas Rather
6.	Anderwan B	Aadil Shamas Rather
7.	Bonizal	Rabiya Akhter
8.	Burnbug	Shahid Afridi Khan
9.	Kachnambal B	Danish Rashid
10.	Hayan	Amir Ahmad Mir
11.	Wussan A	Tanveer Hamid Raina
12.	Mammer B	Shahid Afridi Khan
13.	Hariganwan B	Idrees Ahmad
14.	Surfraw A	Gh. Mustafa Bijard
15.	Gund B	Shahid Afridi Khan
16.	Rangil	Wahid Amin Bhat
17.	Darend	Sajad Ahmad Hajam
18.	Arch	Shahid Afridi Khan
19.	Serch	Momin Rashid Wani
20.	Guzhama	Mohd Irfan Ganie
21.	Shallabugh B	Shahid Afridi Khan

The Selected candidates shall report to the office of the undersigned within a period of 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of issuance of this order and shall be allowed to join after production of self-attested copies of the following documents /certificates.

- Date of Birth Certificate (Matriculation certificate).
- Marks Certificate of all qualifying examinations.
- Domicile Certificate/ Panch Ward Certificate.
- Character Certificate issued by competent authority.

B. The Engagement shall further be subjected to the following conditions:

- The engagement shall be initially for a period of 02 (Two) years.
- The selected KUs shall give an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit to the effect that, in case the verification or genuineness of the Qualification / DoB Certificates / Other requisite documents from the concerned issuing authority is found incorrect / fake / forged, the engagement shall be treated to have been cancelled ab initio.
- Original documents shall have to be presented for the verification process.
- The selected KU shall enter into an agreement with the APD and shall have to deposit a refundable security amount of Rs. 10,000 (Rupees ten thousand only) in the form of a Fixed Deposit Receipt from any scheduled commercial bank.
- The selected KUs must make available space comprising two rooms totaling approximately 750-800 square feet.
- Nature of Engagement: The selected KU will work on a franchise-franchisee basis. The operation of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) at the panchayat level will be carried out by KUs under the support and framework provided by the Agriculture Production Department with the aim of fostering entrepreneurship, local empowerment, and the effective delivery of agricultural services in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
- No Right to Regular Appointment: KUs are not entitled to claim any regular appointment.
- Asset Ownership and Maintenance: Assets provided by the department for KKGs shall remain the exclusive property of the department. KUs will function as custodians of the infrastructure and facilities, being responsible for their maintenance.
- Management under Supervision: KKGs shall be managed by KUs under the supervision of a Designated APD Officer from the respective locality, ensuring alignment with departmental goals and guidelines.
- Training and Fee Entitlement: KUs shall be provided with requisite training to enhance their skills. They will be entitled to a payment of fees out of contingency for participating in such training sessions and programs.
- Input License Provision: The Directorate of Agriculture shall provide / facilitate Entrepreneurs with the requisite input license, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards.
- Nodal Agency for Establishment and Administration: The Mission Director HADP shall act as the nodal agency responsible for the establishment and administration of KKGs, overseeing their effective functioning.
- Technological Support: Development Departments and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) shall provide regular technology support to KUs, ensuring they stay abreast of the latest advancements in agricultural technology. SKUAIST cyber extension hub shall be integrated with the KKG software ecosystem for continuous and sustainable technology backup.
- Facilitation of Linkages: The Agriculture Production Department / Mission Directorate HADP shall facilitate the linkage of KKGs with input companies and financial institutions by entering into Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with these institutions, fostering collaborative efforts.
- Extension of Functions: Village / Panchayat level workers of Agriculture and allied departments shall extend their functions through KKGs, enhancing the reach and impact of agricultural services.
- Service Charges and Compliance: KUs shall charge nominal service charges and adhere to all requisite norms for extending services. A rate card for service charges shall be issued by the Mission Director HADP from time to time. Weekly reporting to Panchayat, Block, and Line departments is mandatory.
- Succession Plan on Disengagement: In the event of a KU leaving the assignment or being disengaged, the functioning of the KKG will directly come under the control of the designated APD Officer for the said KKG, till the process of engaging a new KU is completed.

XVIII. Agreement Termination Conditions:

- The agreement may be terminated by both parties (KU & APD) with a 3-month prior notice. KUs, however, must provide an undertaking to stay in the agreement for a minimum of two years. In the case of exit before two years by the KU, the security amount of INR 10,000 (Rupees ten thousand) will be forfeited. This is in addition to the 3-month prior notice.
- For all purposes, the designated APD Officer will be the overall custodian of the entire KKG setup, including monitoring of services rendered and assets.
- Flexibility in Terms & Conditions: All the conditions mentioned in the advertisement notice shall constitute the terms and conditions of the agreement. However, APD reserves the right to change or add any other condition at the time of signing the agreement.
- Other Terms & Conditions as mentioned in the Advertisement Notification are also applicable.

Sd/-

(Asifa Nabi)

Chief Agriculture Officer,
Gandbal.

No: CAOG/KKG/KU/2025-26/966-73

DIPK-2787/25

Dated: -21-06-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Rafiq Ahmad Falay , father of Feeha Batool R/o Ganowpora, Shopian, want to change my ward's name, namely Feeha Batool, in Aadhaar and other school records from (Old Name) Batoola Rafiq to (New Name) Feeha Batool. If anybody has any objection, they can contact the concerned Aadhaar Centre Jammu/Srinagar or concerned School Authorities within 7 days.

FKO

Subject: Change in location/title of the Excursion agency/ Travel Agency under the name and style "Al Kinza Tour & Travel" Situated at Wani Complex Budshah Nagar Natipora, Srinagar.

Public Notice

Whereas, I Shah Waseem S/o Mohamed Latief Shah Proprietor Excursion Agency/Travel Agency have applied in Tourism Department for change in Proprietor of the location of my Excursion Agency/Travel Agency under the name and style "Al Kinza Tour & Travel from Al khudam mir complex 90 feet pandach To Wani Complex Budshah Nagar Natipora, Srinagar as per Section 39 of the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/2011; Whereas, the said excursion agency/ travel agency is registered with the Department of Tourism, Kashmir under the name and style " Al Kinza Tour & Travel in the name of Mr Shah Waseem S/o Mohamed Latief Shah R/o Ellahi Bagh Housing Colony bearing registration No. JKEA0003469 dated 30/04 /2024 and the same is renewed upto 31/12/2024

Whereas, I have submitted Bank noc, Rent deed, Affidavit supporting Change of location affidavit, and Photocopy of Registration Certificate; Before considering my request for change in location/title of my Excursion Agency/Travel Agency " Al Kinza Tour & Travel Al khudam mir complex 90 feet pandach To Wani Complex Budshah Nagar Natipora, Srinagar is considered, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection, the same should reach the office of Deputy Director Tourism, Registration within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections beyond a period of 07 days will be entertained and my request for the same will be considered under rules, after submission of requisite documents.

Media Line Ads

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application Aejaz Ahmad Hajam S/O Wali Mohammad Hajam R/O Reshipora, Tehsil Kreeri for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward Classes) in his/her/their favor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in this office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC. In this connection a report of Patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village Reshipora of Tehsil Kreeri and belongs to the Hajam Community having annual income of Rs. 80000/- (Eighty Thousand only). The details of the family of the applicant are as follows:

S No	Name of the Family Member	Relationship with the Applicant	Age	Occupation	Annual Income
01	Aejaz Hajam	Self	33	Labourer	80000/-
02	Samina Begum	Wife	30	H/Let	
03	Arsalan Aejaz	Son	10	Student	
04	Ayman Aejaz	Daughter	9	Student	

Therefore, through this Public Notice objections are being sought from the public, if any person has any objection, he/ she can submit their objections in the office of the undersigned within 07 days (Seven days) positively from the date of notice has been published. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

By Naib Tehsildar
Kreeri

fko_r

Dated: 18/06/25

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION No.II. SRINAGAR.

Phone/ Fax No. 0194-3101864 | email : exdrainage@gmail.com

GIST OF

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-TENDER NOTICE No:- 01 OF 2025-26

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE RATE CONTRACT (AMC) for 2025-26

For and on behalf of the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e- tenders are invited on Percentage basis from the Registered PWD Civil Contractors for Annual Maintenance Rate Contract for Maintenance of drainage network in different Zones of S&D 2nd SMC Srinagar for the year 2025-26 upto 31.3.2026 whose Registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules, strictly as per the terms and conditions given hereunder:-

S. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work in- clud. Deptt'l. Materials (Amt.in lakhs).	Earnest Money	Class Of Contractor	Period of Con- tract	Cost of Tender Document In the shape of e-challan	Head of Ac- count
1.	Maintenance of drainage net work in different Zones of S&D 2nd SMC Srinagar for the year 2025-26	150.00	Rs. 300000/=	AAY	Financial year 2025-26	5000=00	Grant in Aid

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities(B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given hereunder:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	20-06-2025
02.	Period of down loading of bidding documents	21-06-2025 from 11.00 A.M. to 30-06-2025 upto 4.00 PM
03.	Bid Submission Start Date	21-06-2025 from 11.30A.M
04.	Bid Submission end Date	30-06-2025 upto 4.00 PM
05.	Date & time of opening of Bids on line	01-07-2025 at 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer, Sewerage & Drainage Division No.II.SMC. Daresk Kadal Srinagar OR any subsequent date convenient to tender opening authority.
06.	List of soft copies to be uploaded	Scanned copy of Treasury challan (cost of tender document) with SL.No.of NIT/ work Scanned copy of CDR/ FDR (Earnest Money) Scanned copy of GST Registration with latest clearance and PAN Card Scanned copy of Enlistment card with its validity, verification Cell No. and e-mail address Bid Document duly signed by bidder BQQ

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS

- Individual work to be taken up shall not be more than 1.50 lacs.
- Bill deposit 05% shall be retained for each bill and shall be released after the completion of the contract.
- The successful bidder shall be readily available for all types of maintenance job on drainage network at shortest possible time. In case of failure of agency, same shall be got executed through an other agency at the risk and cost of original contractor (LI).
- The successful bidder shall have to furnish the hard copies of e-challan, performance security, CDR (Earnest Money)/ FDR, verification of Regd. Card etc. after opening of financial bid on line in original within 03 days.
- Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned on all working day upto 4.00 PM.
- The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept, reject or cancel the bid/ NIT without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged as laid down in the detailed e-NIT/ Bid Document issued for the work which can be down loaded from www.jktenders.gov.in.
- If any documents in the list mentioned at (S.No. 06) above to be uploaded are missing, the bid shall be outrightly rejected

Note

In case the bids are found unbalanced, the Successful bidder has to produce/ deposit additional performance security in shape of FDR/CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Sewerage & Drainage Division 2nd. SMC Srinagar within three days after opening the bids, as per below break-ups. The additional performance security shall be released after the successful completion of the contract i.e, in April 2026 (Ref. J&K PWD engineering manual 2020 clause 26.40-page No. 169 & 170).

S. No	Percentage of unbalanced bid Viz, Advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional performance security to be deposited of the Contract cost
01	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
02	Greater than 15% & upto 20% below	5.00%
03	Greater than 20% & upto 25% below	10.00%
04	Greater than 25% & upto 30% below	15.00%
05	Greater than 30% below	20.00%

02. In addition to above the successful bidder has to produce/ deposit Performance security i.e, 05% (Five Percent) of the value of contract (Advertised cost) in shape of FDR/CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Sewerage & Drainage Division 2nd. SMC Srinagar within three days after opening the bids. The performance security shall be released after the successful completion of the contract

03. In case of tie bids the department shall identify the tied bidder and shall select the LI based on the draw lots, in presence of tied bidders, if they chose to be present

04. The Successful Bidder has to produce Hard Copies within three days after opening of Bids.

05. Bidders are advised to read the Bid Document (NIT) carefully before participate in the Bidding process.

06. Treasury Challan (Tender Document Fee) should be a fresh i.e, between the date of issue of tender notice & bid submission end date.

No: 635
DIPK-2813/25
Dated:- 21.06.2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Sewerage & Drainage Division SMC sgr.

NIT Celebrates Yoga Day With Enthusiasm

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Saturday celebrated the 11th International Day of Yoga with great zeal and enthusiasm, bringing together students, faculty, and staff in a vibrant display of health, harmony, and holistic wellness.

The event was graced by the presence of Hon'ble Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kanojia; In-charge Registrar Prof. Atikur Rahman; Dr. Yashwant Mehta, Dean Planning & Development and Head of Yoga Centre; Lt. Dr. Nitika Kundan, ANO NCC Unit; Dr. Jitendra Gujjar, NSS Officer; Dr. Ashok Kumar, In-charge EBSB Cell; and Dr. Manoj Kumar, In-charge Sports Club, along with several faculty members and staff.

Addressing the gathering,

Director Prof. Binod Kanojia described yoga as a transformative practice that enhances physical well-being, mental clarity, and emotional resilience.

"Yoga is not just an exercise; it is a way of life. Embracing it as a lifelong habit can help us achieve a balanced and healthy lifestyle," he said, urging everyone to incorporate yoga into their daily routines.

The main celebration was held at the Common Hall from 6:30 AM to 8:30 AM, where over 300 participants—including faculty, staff, students, NCC and NSS cadets, and PhD scholars—performed various yoga asanas with enthusiasm and focus. The session opened with an introduction to the significance of International Yoga Day, emphasizing the benefits of yoga for the body, mind, and atma.

Yoga Day Celebrations Held At Pari Mahal



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: International Day of Yoga was on Saturday celebrated at the iconic heritage site Group of Arched Terraces/Structural Complex, Pari Mahal, Srinagar by the Archaeological Survey of India, Srinagar Circle.

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Lal Chowk, Ahsan Pardesi presided over the celebrations as the chief guest.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation under the global theme for this year, 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health,' emphasizing harmony between humanity and nature, and promoting wellness at both individual and planetary levels.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Lal Chowk highlighted

the relevance of yoga in today's world. He said, "Yoga is an invaluable gift of our ancient tradition. It enhances not just individual health, but connects us with the larger goal of environmental balance and collective well-being."

"Celebrating Yoga Day at a historic site like Pari Mahal is a beautiful reminder of our roots and responsibilities," he added.

The event also witnessed the presence of Padma Shri awardee, Faisal Ali Dar, a celebrated sports personality from Jammu and Kashmir, and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, as guests of honour. Both dignitaries appreciated the initiative and underscored the benefits of incorporating yoga in daily life.

Muharram Arrangements Reviewed In Zadibal, Hassanabad

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the directions of Commissioner SMC, Faz Lul Haseeb, Joint Commissioner (Adm) Nuzhat K Qurashi, along with senior SMC officials, conducted an extensive review of Muharram preparedness in the key Shia localities of Zadibal and Hassanabad.

The inspection aimed to ensure that all civic arrangements are in place for the peaceful and dignified observance of Muharram processions. During the visit, the team interacted with community members, listening to their concerns and feedback for better coordination and response.

Nuzhat issued clear direc-

tives for maintaining round-the-clock sanitation and waste management services throughout the observance period. The Municipal Veterinary Officer was tasked with deploying stray dog-control teams to ensure public safety. Uninterrupted water and electricity supply, especially during peak hours of religious gatherings, was identified as a top priority. She directed immediate coordination with relevant departments to prevent any disruption in these essential services.

Street lighting, crucial for evening processions, was also reviewed, with instructions issued for prompt repair and upkeep of lights to enhance safety and visibility.

High Court Celebrates International Yoga Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Thursday celebrated the International Yoga Day at High Court Complex, Srinagar, with high fervor and enthusiasm.

The event was inaugurated by Chief Justice High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Arun Palli.

The Chief Justice stressed upon all the participants to include Yoga in their daily life to remain physically and mentally fit. He emphasized that embracing Yoga as a way of life can significantly enhance judicial functions, boosting efficiency and effectiveness for Judicial Officers and all stakeholders.

Following the inauguration, all the participants col-

lectively took part in Yoga sessions and Asanas (breathing techniques) under the guidance of trained instructors. The theme of this year's Yoga Day was "Yoga for One Earth, One Health", which highlights Yoga's role in fostering harmony among the individuals, communities and the environment.

The event was also graced by the presence of Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Mohammad Yousof Wani, Justice Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General (Officiating) and Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, Registrar Vigilance, Member/Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority, Registrar Judicial Srinagar, Joint Registrar Judicial/Incharge Protocol Srinagar besides other officers and staff of the Srinagar Wing.

Sakeena Itoo Leads Yoga Day Celebrations At SKICC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo led the massive 11th International Yoga Day celebrations at SKICC here.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; various Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments, senior officers of health department, locals and a large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Sakeena emphasized on the significance of yoga as a tool for physical, mental and emotional well-being. "I believe that if every day a person performs yoga for even half an hour, nothing is more than this for health", the Minister said. She added that Yoga has become far more important because of rising lifestyle-related problems.

While reflecting on this year's theme of International Yoga Day: 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health', Minister Sakeena said that Yoga is not merely a form of exercise but it is a bridge to inner peace and collective harmony.

She further said that the menace of drug abuse can also be tackled through Yoga. "Even if today you see our youth are involved in drugs and if we have to bring them back, we need to get them used to yoga and their health will get better", Minister Sakeena stated.



I BELIEVE THAT IF EVERY DAY A PERSON PERFORMS YOGA for even half an hour, nothing is more beneficial than yoga for health"

On the occasion, the Minister also lauded the health, education and Ayush departments for organising

various programmes across Jammu and Kashmir to mark International Yoga Day celebrations.

‘START SMALL, BUT START NOW’: One Workshop, Many Beginnings In Kashmir

At a Srinagar mentorship program, entrepreneurship felt less like a buzzword, and more like an option.

KO WEB DESK

SRINAGAR: What does it take to turn an idea into a startup?

That's the question dozens of young Kashmiris showed up to answer at Mission Yuva: Launch Your Entrepreneurship Journey workshop.

Held in both online and offline formats, the event was part of Startup Kashmir's growing Saturday Mentorship Program, which aims to shift youth focus from job hunting to job creation.

Leading the session was Dr. Murtaza Rashid (JKAS), Deputy Secretary to Government, who brought

in real-life lessons, personal stories, and actionable steps.

"Start small, but start now," Dr. Rashid told participants. "Don't wait for the perfect setup or big investments. What matters is that you solve a real problem."

The audience made up of college students, first-time founders, experts, and curious dreamers listened closely as the speaker walked them through the early challenges of launching a venture, staying focused, and dealing with self-doubt.

Many came in looking for direction. They left with notebooks full of ideas and the push they needed.

"I've been stuck between preparing for government exams and wanting to open a clothing brand," said Jasir from Srinagar. "Today's session helped me choose clarity over confusion."

Others joined virtually from far-

off districts, using the open Q&A to ask about funding, team-building, and even how to pitch an idea.

Amir Ahmad, a final-year student from Kulgam, said, "This felt different from usual webinars. It was practical, honest, and encouraging. We need more of this."

The workshop was majorly about showing up, listening in, and walking away with something useful.

Organizers at Startup Kashmir said this was just the beginning. "We're building a space where young people can imagine something new, and then act on it," said a program coordinator.

By the end of the session, both the room and the Zoom call felt changed. Laptops closed, but the conversations kept going.

For many, Mission Yuva didn't feel like just another workshop, it felt like the beginning of something real.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation Celebrates ‘International Yoga Day’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) commemorated International Yoga Day with great zeal and enthusiasm at SK Park today, emphasizing the importance of health, mental well-being, and holistic living.

The event was led by Commissioner, SMC, Faz Lul Haseeb whose inspiring leadership added vigor to the celebration.

Recognized globally each year on June 21st, International Yoga Day highlights the transformative benefits of yoga in enhancing physical vitality, mental tranquility, and spiritual harmony.

The occasion featured captivating demonstrations of various yoga postures, breathing exercises, and meditation techniques, aimed at encouraging citizens to incorporate these practices into their daily routines for a healthier and more balanced life.

A key highlight of the event was the address delivered by Haseeb, who eloquently underscored the



crucial role of mindfulness and yoga in fostering overall health, mental clarity, and emotional resilience. His words inspired many participants to adopt yoga as a vital component of their wellness journey.

Joint Commissioner, Nuzhat Khursheed was also present on the occasion.

SMC remains committed to promoting wellness initiatives that empower citizens to achieve harmony of body, mind, and spirit. The event was attended by senior officials of the Corporation and a diverse group of participants, reflecting the community's enthusiasm for a healthier and more mindful lifestyle.

NIFT Srinagar Marks International Yoga Day With Great Zeal

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Srinagar celebrated the International Day of Yoga on the college campus at Ompora, Budgam.

In the wee hours, enthusiastic staff and students along with faculty and staff performed yoga asanas. Yoga trainers used the occasion to impart different techniques of breathing exercises and meditation to students and the staff.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr.

Monika Gupta, Director, NIFT, emphasized the importance of yoga in today's hectic and restless lifestyle and called upon staff and students to adopt yoga as a means of holistic development.

"Yoga is not merely a set of exercises, as its impact goes beyond the body and replenishes the soul. It's a way of life that harmonizes the body, mind, and spirit," Dr. Gupta said.

This ancient practice aims to promote physical well-being, inner peace. "The celebration on the campus aligns with the institute's

ongoing commitment to integrate wellness and creativity in the student experience." Prof. Gupta stressed.

Prof. Gupta also praised the students, faculty, and staff for showing great enthusiasm on the occasion. She said incorporating yoga as part of lifestyle will go a long way to address modern-day work stress.

"The practice of yoga will for sure enhance the quality of life," she underlined.

Senior faculty also joined students on the occasion.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

FAJR	3:35
ZUHR	12: 33
ASR	5:33
Magrib	7:49
ISHA	9:30

This Day In History

- 217 BC - Battle of Raphia: Ptolemy IV of Egypt defeats Antiochus III the Great of the Seleucid kingdom.
- 168 BC - Battle of Pydna: Romans under Lucius Aemilius Paullus defeat and capture Macedonian King Perseus, ending the Third Macedonian War.
- 1377 - Richard II succeeds Edward III as king of England
- 1476 - Battle at Morat/Murten: Charles the Stout invades Switzerland1533 - Ferdinand of Austria and Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent sign peace treaty
- 1593 - Battle of Sisak: Allied Christian troops defeat the Turks.
- 1596 - Cornelis de Houtmans fleet reaches Banten Java
- 1611 - Henry Hudson set adrift in Hudson Bay by mutineers on his ship Discovery & never seen again
- 1633 - Galileo Galilei forced to recant his Copernican views that the Earth orbits the Sun by the Pope (Oct 31 1992 Vatican admits it was wrong)
- 1980 - Pope John Paul II beatifies Kateri Tekakwitha, making him the 1st Native American to be beatified
- 1981 - Iran president Bani Sadr deposed
- 1983 - 1st time a satellite is retrieved from orbit by Space Shuttle
- 1987 - The International Labour Organisation, meeting for its annual conference in Geneva, calls for international sanctions against South African minerals
- 1987 - A bomb blast in a Johannesburg video-game arcade kills an unborn baby and injures ten people
- 1990 - Nelson Mandela addresses the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid in New York, saying that nothing has occurred in South Africa to reverse the ANC's position
- 1991 - Underwater volcano, Mount Didicas, erupts in Philippines
- 1992 - Two skeletons excavated in Yekaterinburg, Russia identified as Tsar Nicholas II and Tsarina Alexandra
- 1994 - FIFA World Cup: USA beats Colombia 2-1 in 1994 world cup match (1st win since 1950)
- 2002 - An earthquake in western Iran measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale kills more than 261 people.
- 2009 - Two Metro subway trains collide in Washington, D.C., killing 9 and injuring over 80
- 2012 - Two Baghdad market bombings kill 14 people and injure 106

From KO Archives

People Launch Forum For Mughal Road

SRINAGAR- To counter elements inimical to the construction of the Mughal Road, residents of Shopyan have launched a Forum campaign in favour of resuming work on the crucial project.

The road, which takes off from Shopyan and leads to the Poonch district links the Kashmir valley to the Jammu province and is an alternative to the existing, but unreliable, Srinagar-Jammu Highway.

Ever since the central government cleared the project, it has been facing roadblock of various sorts, including environmental concerns voiced by certain quarters, but last month the Supreme Court had ruled that attempts to halt work on the road were illegal.

Locals in the Shopyan however say that some vested interests and regressive elements are opposed to constructing the alternative to the Srinagar-Jammu highway. They have united under a non-political banner, the Front Against Anti-Mughal Road Elements, which will kick off its campaign to mobilize public opinion in favour of the road by a seminar in the Shopyan town hall on the coming Monday. The Mughal Road is a long standing demand of the people in the valley, particularly in Shopyan and experts consider it a viable substitute for the Srinagar-Jammu highway.

The valley's sole surface link with the rest of the country, is prone to massive landslides in bad weather and remains closed for weeks on end. Travelers often get stranded for days together, and a dependent Kashmir is deprived of essential supplies.

Experts believe that constructing the Mughal Road would bring such problems down to zero.

But Shopyan residents say that the project is prey to petty politics as some vested interests are bent upon sacrificing the collective interests of Kashmiris. A public delegation from Shopyan said that for now they have deemed it appropriate to adopt a democratic approach, but if their voice goes unheard; they will take to the streets, and entire responsibility for the consequences will lay on the government

(Kashmir Observer, 22 June, 2007)

Trump's Nobel Dreams Find Ally in Pakistan

Trans Asia News

New Delhi: In a twist worthy of global stage drama, Pakistan has taken to social media platform X to publicly nominate U.S. President Donald Trump for the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize, crediting his “decisive diplomatic intervention” in the recent India-Pakistan crisis. But while Islamabad is showering praise, New Delhi is politely—and pointedly—debunking the claim, suggesting that Trump may be chasing peace points where none were earned.

The Pakistani government hailed Trump's role as that of a “genuine peace-maker,” citing his behind-the-scenes engagement that allegedly helped avert a full-blown conflict between the nuclear neighbors during the spring flare-up referred to as Operation Sindoor. In a strongly worded statement, Pakistan asserted that Trump “demonstrated great strategic foresight,” and even reiterated his past offers to mediate on Kashmir—a position India has long rejected outright.

The announcement comes on the heels of Trump's own social media musings, where he lamented that despite his globe-trotting peace-making—from Africa to the Middle East—he will “never get a Nobel Peace Prize.” On his platform, Truth Social, Trump said, “I should have gotten it four or five times,” adding that the honour is unfairly reserved for “liberals.”

In classic Trump fashion,

he listed a buffet of conflicts he claims to have helped resolve: Congo-Rwanda, Serbia-Kosovo, Egypt-Ethiopia, Israel-Iran, and of course, India-Pakistan. “No, I won't get a Nobel Peace Prize no matter what I do... but the people know,” he wrote.

However, Indian officials have taken a starkly different view. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri categorically denied any U.S. role in the ceasefire. “There was no mediation, no trade incentives, no trilateral diplomacy,” Misri clarified in a video statement from the G7 summit in Kananaskis, Canada. “The ceasefire was the result of direct military-to-military communication at Pakistan's request. India does not and will never accept foreign mediation on bilateral matters.”

While Trump touted a “long night” of talks leading to peace, Indian officials maintain that the peace process involved no such midnight oil from Washington. Adding to the diplomatic murk, Trump hosted Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir at the White House just days ago, calling it a “thank-you lunch” for “not going into the war.”

another sharp turn from peacemaker to power player, Trump also hinted at joining Israel premier Benjamin Netanyahu's military campaign against Iran if it came to that. With Middle East teetering on the edge, Trump said Israel had sought U.S. help to in its war on Iran—and that he hadn't ruled out the option.

Sonia: Silence on Gaza, Iran Surrender of Values

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI : Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Saturday strongly criticised India's silence on Israel's devastation in Gaza and Iran as “not just a loss of its voice, but also a surrender of values”.

In an article – “It is still not too late for India's voice to be heard”, she accused the Narendra Modi government of abandoning India's long-standing and principled commitment to a peaceful two-nation solution envisioning an independent Palestine along with Israel.

Gandhi, in the article, was also critical of US President Donald Trump for following a “destructive path” in West Asia, after having spoken against America's endless wars.

“New Delhi's silence on the devastation in Gaza and now on the unprovoked escalation against Iran reflects a disturbing departure from our moral and diplomatic traditions. This represents not just a loss of voice but also a surrender of values,” the Congress leader said in her article in “The Hindu”.

“It is still not too late. India must speak clearly, act responsibly, and use every diplomatic channel available to



defuse tensions and promote a return to dialogue in West Asia,” Gandhi asserted. She also said that in the face of this humanitarian catastrophe, “the Narendra Modi government has all but abandoned India's long-standing and principled commitment to a peaceful two-state solution, one that envisions a sovereign, independent Palestine living side-by-side with Israel in mutual security and dignity.”

Sonia Gandhi noted that on June 13, 2025, the world has, once again, “witnessed the dangerous consequences of unilateral militarism when Israel launched a deeply troubling and unlawful strike against Iran and its sovereignty”. She said the Indian National Congress has condemned these bombings and targeted assassinations on Iranian soil, which represents a dangerous escalation with grave regional and global consequences.



Palestinian children react as they receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, in Gaza City | [Mahmoud Issa/Reuters]

26 Gaza Aid Seekers Killed in Fresh Israeli Attack

Al Jazeera

Gaza City: At least 26 people, including more aid seekers, have been killed in the latest Israeli attacks on Gaza.

The attacks come as desperate Palestinians under Israeli blockade continue to wait at food distribution points amid an ongoing hunger crisis.

Among those killed during Israeli attacks on the besieged enclave on Saturday, 11 were aid recipients at distribution centres run by the United States-and-Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), which the United Nations has condemned for its “weaponisation” of aid.

Meanwhile, Wafa news agency reported that at least three people were killed and several others wounded by an Israeli drone strike that targeted displaced Palestinians in al-Mawasi, southern Gaza.

The report said that the attack targeted a tent sheltering displaced members of the Shurrah family. The tent was located in an area the Israeli

military had previously designated as a “safe zone”.

In the last 48 hours, at least 202 people have been killed, including four recovered bodies after Israeli attacks, and 1,037 wounded by Israeli attacks across Gaza, the Health Ministry reported.

Since Israel launched its war on Gaza in October 2023, at least 55,908 people have been killed, and 131,138 have been wounded in Israeli attacks.

In recent days, Israeli attacks on aid distribution sites in Gaza have ramped up as thousands of Palestinians gather daily in the hope of receiving food rations following a two-month Israeli blockade of aid deliveries.

On Saturday, three people were killed at a GHF site in Khan Younis after Israeli forces opened fire. Several people were also wounded and taken to medical facilities.

Omar al-Hobi, a displaced Palestinian in Khan Younis, told Al Jazeera from a hospital that walking to those sites means you “enter the point of death”.

“I call it the point of death. The tank is in front of us, the

machinegun is in front of us, and the quadcopter is above us, and there are soldiers on the ground with snipers. Anyone who moves before the time is shot, and the moment the tank retreats, we start running,” al-Hobi said.

Israel claims its attacks at the aid sites have been to control crowds, but witnesses and humanitarian groups have said that many of the shootings took place unprovoked, resulting in hundreds of casualties.

The Red Cross said on Thursday, the “vast majority” of patients who arrived at its field hospital in the enclave since the GHF aid system began at the end of last month had reported that they were wounded while trying to access aid or around distribution points.

Meanwhile, Wafa, citing the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority in the Gaza Strip, reports that there has been a disruption in internet and landline services affecting the governorates of Gaza, which include Gaza City, and north Gaza.

Billions Of Login Credentials Leaked Online, Cybernews Researchers Say

AP

New York- Researchers at cybersecurity outlet Cybernews say that billions of login credentials have been leaked and compiled into datasets online, giving criminals “unprecedented access” to accounts consumers use each day.

According to a report published this week, Cybernews researchers have recently discovered 30 exposed datasets that each contain a vast amount of login information — amounting to a total of 16 billion compromised credentials. That includes user passwords for a range of popular platforms including Google, Facebook and Apple.

Sixteen billion is roughly double the amount of people on Earth today, signaling that impacted consumers may have had credentials

for more than one account leaked. Cybernews notes that there are most certainly duplicates in the data and so “it's impossible to tell how many people or accounts were actually exposed”.

It's also important to note that the leaked login information doesn't span from a single source, such as one breach targeting a company. Instead, it appears that the data was stolen through multiple events over time, and then compiled and briefly exposed publicly, which is when Cybernews reports that its researchers discovered it.

Various info stealers are most likely the culprit, Cybernews noted. Info stealers are a form of malicious software that breaches a victim's device or systems to take sensitive information.

Many questions remain

about these leaked credentials, including whose hands the login credentials are in now. But, as data breaches become more and more common in today's world, experts continue to stress the importance of maintaining key “cyber hygiene”.

If you're worried about your account data potentially being exposed in a recent breach, the first thing you can do is change your password — and avoid using the same or similar login credentials on multiple sites.

If you find it too hard to memorise all your different passwords, consider a password manager or passkey. And also add multifactor authentication, which can serve as a second layer of verification through your phone, email or USB authenticator key.

9 Days On, Air India Crash Victims Yet to Be Identified

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Nine days after the Ahmedabad plane crash, the process to identify several victims is still underway as the authorities have asked eight families to submit the DNA sample of another relative as the previous ones failed to match.

Ahmedabad-based filmmaker Mahesh Jirawala, who was reported missing following the June 12 air crash, the matching of DNA samples confirmed that he died in the catastrophe, following which his mortal remains were handed over to his family.

In Maharashtra, relatives and friends gave an emotional farewell to Deepak Pathak and Irfan Shaikh — two crew members of the ill-fated flight — at Badlapur in Thane district and in Pimpri-Chinchwad near Pune city respectively.

The London-bound Air India flight AI-171 carrying 242 passengers and crew members crashed in Ahmedabad moments after it off from the city airport last Thursday, killing all but one on board, and 29 on the ground as the aircraft smashed into a medical complex in the Meghani-nagar area.

Since many of the bodies were burnt beyond recognition or damaged otherwise, authorities are carrying out DNA tests to establish the identity of victims of the horrific tragedy.

Until Friday, DNA samples of 231 deceased have been matched and 210 bodies handed over to families.

However, families of eight victims have been asked to

give a sample of another relative for DNA tests after the first one did not match, an official said.

“Unless there is a match, bodies cannot be handed over to the kin,” Ahmedabad Civil Hospital's medical superintendent Rakesh Joshi said.

“When there is no match for a longer period of time, then you can ask another sample from another relative. If one sibling has given the sample, then a sample of another sibling is sought for matching the DNA with that of the victim,” he said.

“We generally prefer a sample of father or son/daughter. If not, then we take a sample of another available member,” Joshi added.

He, however, clarified that samples of siblings have matched in the process.

There are at least eight such families whose first sample has not matched, so another sample was sought.

On Friday, Joshi had said since the DNA matching process is highly sensitive and involves legal protocols, it is being conducted with utmost seriousness and speed.

To ensure that families receive the bodies of their loved ones quickly, Forensic Science University, along with associated institutions, local administrative authorities, the state government's health and other departments, and various agencies are working tirelessly.

Meanwhile, police said through the matching of DNA samples it has been confirmed that filmmaker Jirawala has died in the plane crash.

Fuel Ban in Delhi for Old Vehicles from July 1

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: All end-of-life (EOL) vehicles — diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years — irrespective of the states they are registered in, will not be given fuel in Delhi starting July 1, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has said.

The CAQM issued directions to fuel stations in April, saying no EOL vehicle should be given fuel from July 1.

A total of 500 out of 520 fuel stations in Delhi have installed Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras and the rest will be covered by June 30.

These cameras will detect vehicles older than 10 years (diesel) or 15 years (petrol) and an alert will be sounded to the command centre and enforcement teams comprising traffic and transport department officials which will impound the vehicles.

This mechanism will be rolled out in five high-vehicle-density districts adjoining Delhi, including Gurugram,

Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Budh Nagar and Sonapat, from November 1 this year, with the installation of ANPR cameras to be completed by October 31.

The remaining NCR districts have been given time till March 31, 2026, to install the cameras, with fuel denial for EOL vehicles starting April 1, 2026.

“Our directions do not say that only EOL vehicles registered in Delhi will be detected and denied fuel. Vehicles registered outside Delhi-NCR also ply on Delhi roads and contribute to pollution. If (Delhi) people register their vehicles outside... that has to be deterred. We know that this is happening,” Virinder Sharma, Member (Technical), CAQM, said on Friday.

EOL buses registered anywhere in India will be detected through this mechanism. However, separate directions will be issued to curb their movement in Delhi-NCR, he said.

Sharma said 100 enforcement teams comprising officials from traffic and transport departments have been set up.

N E W S M A K E R S

PM Modi Reveals Why He Turned Down Trump's US Visit Invite

Press Trst Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said he had declined an invitation from US President Donald Trump to visit Washington, and instead chosen to come to Odisha, the sacred land of Lord Jagannath.

Addressing a rally in Bhubaneswar, Modi said, “I was in Canada for the G7 Summit when US President Trump had called me and invited me to Washington for a discussion and lunch. I thanked him for the invitation, saying I have to visit Odisha, the land of Lord Jagannath. I humbly rejected his invitation.”

Modi participated in the first anniversary function of the BJP's maiden government in the state and launched development projects worth over Rs 18,600 crore.



“I was in Canada for the G7 Summit when US President Trump had called me and invited me to Washington for a discussion and lunch

‘Asli film shuru hona baaki hai’: Gadkari on his role in 2029 General Election

Press Trust Of India

Nagpur: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday replied to a query on his role in 2029 (General Election) by claiming what was seen in the past 11 years was just a “news reel” and the “real film” was yet to come.

The senior BJP leader, however, asserted that the party decides on the responsibilities for its functionaries, adding that he would work in whatever capacity it decides for him.

“Abhi tak jo hua hai woh to news reel thi. Asli film shuru hona aur baaki hai (what you have seen so far is just a news reel, the real film is yet to begin),” he said in interview with Uday

Nirgudkar here on 11 years of the Narendra Modi government.

“The party decides the responsibilities of the worker and what work he will do. I will carry out whatever responsibility is given to me,” Gadkari said while emphasising he has never published his political biodata and nor has he ever asked supporters to organise grand welcome events for him at airports.

Gadkari said his personal wish was to work towards stopping farmer suicides in Vidarbha.

“Nowadays, I work more on agriculture and other social initiatives rather than road works,” the Union minister for road transport and highways pointed out.

Asked why India's per capita

income was not among the top 10 in the world, the Union minister said the country's population was to blame.

Extending support to the population control Bill, he said, “This is not a religious or linguistic issue. This is an economic issue. Despite so much development having taken place, the fruits are not to be seen. The reason is increasing population,” he asserted.

He brushed aside a query on Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sudhakar Badgujar joining the BJP by stating that he did not know him and had never met him.

During the interview, Gadkari highlighted various achievements of the Modi government, which has been in power since 2014.

Haj-2026 Preparations Begin, Guidelines Issued

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Haj Committee has issued a notification, outlining essential pre-announcement guidelines for pilgrims intending to perform Haj in 2026 (1447 H) through the Haj Committee.

According to a notification, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the official announcement regarding Haj 2026 is expected to be made public this month.

The Haj Committee has advised all aspiring pilgrims to keep their passports ready and ensure they meet specific criteria, with guidelines stating that the passports must be machine-readable, valid at least up to 31st December 2026, bear the endorsement of the seal and signature of the issuing authority or RPO and must not be damaged (i.e., no torn pages, detached covers, or other physical damage).

Furthermore, as per the notification, applicants applying for fresh passports have been advised to ensure that the Surname/Last Name field is filled and not left blank.

Notably, according to the Jammu & Kashmir Haj Committee, over 3,600 pilgrims from J&K performed Hajj this year

under the government quota.

Witnessing a rapid decline from 35,000 in 2017 to as low as over 4,100 applications this year, the number of Haj pilgrims continues to be dwindling in Jammu and Kashmir.

The numbers as per the officials further reduced when over 700 pilgrims who applied for the pilgrimage opted to remain 'out' of Hajj 2025.

As per the official details available with KNO, a total of 4,100 people from Jammu and Kashmir applied for Haj 2025, out of which 3,601 were confirmed in the first list, with 21 more added under the Mahram quota, taking the total number of pilgrims proceeding for Haj to 3,622.

Despite multiple extensions for submitting Hajj 2025 forms, the Jammu and Kashmir Haj Committee just received 4,100 applications, a decrease of more than 48% from the previous year.

According to the official data, 2024 received 8,147 Hajj application forms against the allocated quota of 8,200.

However, as per the officials, 2023 has also recorded the highest ever pilgrimage, with over 12,000 pilgrims embarking on the holy journey from Jammu and Kashmir.

DLSA Shopian Celebrates 11th International Yoga Day



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian today celebrated the 11th International Yoga Day at the District Court Complex, Shopian, under the theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health".

The event was held under the guidance and supervision of the Chairman, DLSA Shopian, Mr. Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary.

The celebration witnessed enthusiastic participation from

Judicial Officers, Advocates, Legal Aid Defense Counsels, Court Staff, DLSA officials, and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs).

Yoga instructors led the participants through a series of yoga asanas and breathing exercises, including Tadasana, Vrikshasana, Padahastana, Ardha Chakrasana, and various forms of Pranayama.

The event aimed to promote the importance of physical fitness, mental well-being, and holistic health through the ancient discipline of yoga.

Daily Wager Dies After Falling From Electric Pole

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: A 32-year-old daily wager working with the Power Development Department (PDD) died after falling from an electric pole while repairing a power line in the Imoh Achabal area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

The deceased has been identified as Imtiyaz Ahmad Lone, son of Nazir Ahmad Lone, a resident of Hiller Kokernag.

Officials said the incident occurred on Saturday when Lone was engaged in repair work on an electric line. He fell from the pole and sustained critical injuries. He was rushed to GMC Anantnag, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Following the tragic incident, the Assistant Executive Engi-

neer (AEE) of KPDCL Anantnag ordered the attachment of four employees of the department pending a detailed inquiry into the matter.

"The field staff of the Imoh sector is hereby attached with this sub-division with immediate effect," reads the official order. It further stated that Sector Incharge Bulbul Nowgam would now oversee the Imoh sector along with his existing responsibilities to ensure uninterrupted operations.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case and launched an investigation.

The incident has once again underscored the hazardous working conditions faced by daily wagers, particularly those operating in the field without proper safety gear or protective protocols.

Tarigami Urges Authorities To Tackle Irrigation Scarcity

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: CPI(M) leader and MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami, has raised serious concern over the growing scarcity of irrigation facilities in Kashmir during the peak paddy transplantation season.

Citing the impact of climate change and the drying up of water sources, Tarigami said the Irrigation Department must take responsibility for managing and distributing the available water resources efficiently at this critical time.

He expressed concern that the scarcity may lead to disputes over water distribution in various areas and said authorities should address it promptly.

To counter the diminishing irrigation options, Tarigami urged the government to explore alternative solutions such as the optimal extraction of groundwater. He also

advocated for expanding the use of solar water pumps, calling them a sustainable and practical option—especially in remote or off-grid areas—for both agricultural and domestic use.



BATHED IN MORNING LIGHT, a man captures a selfie amid the serene spirit of International Yoga Day celebrations in Srinagar.

KO PHOTO, SAMEER HUSSAIN

CS Plans Strategy To Ease Traffic In Srinagar, Jammu

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A pivotal meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee on Traffic Management Systems for Jammu & Srinagar was convened Saturday under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo.

The committee undertook a comprehensive review of the existing traffic challenges and proposed advanced strategies to enhance urban mobility, streamline logistics and improve road safety in both cities.

The members of the Committee who attended the meeting included Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; DIG Traffic, Jammu/Kashmir; SSP Traffic (City), Srinagar/Jammu; Commissioner, JMC/SMC along with other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary directed for a proper implementation plan with a defined role for every stakeholder involved. He highlighted the importance of such a plan for making the travel experience less cumbersome for both travellers and commuters.

The Chief Secretary asked the Divisional Commissioners to work out such modalities in their respective areas, and subsequently, these are going to be consolidated to frame a well-thought-out strategy for both Jammu and Srinagar. He also advised for looking into creating a web portal defining the actionable points pertaining to different departments so that the role played and prog-



ress could be easily tracked in subsequent meetings.

The key discussions held in the meeting revolved around the need for development of detailed traffic management plans for Srinagar and Jammu by the Traffic Department. The focus was laid on utilizing the scientific studies and data analysis to identify alternate routes after incorporating feedback from local authorities, citizens and stakeholders.

A commitment was made to operationalize an efficient traffic management system, including the installation, management and maintenance of traffic signals at key junctions, rotaries and T-points.

Strategies for de-congestion will be implemented in high-footfall and vehicular traffic areas, especially in tourist and pilgrimage zones together by the Traffic and Tourism Departments. Actions to regulate the commercial activities impacting traffic flow will be identified, with the Transport Commissioner, JMC/SMC and potentially LCMA, being involved in this process.

Moreover, the key locations requiring road expansion or upgrading to accommodate

the growing traffic volumes will be identified, focusing on increasing the carrying capacity of critical roads. The committee also underscored the need for speedy completion of ongoing developmental projects to alleviate traffic congestion at key locations.

In addition, the strategies for addressing encroachments, particularly by street hawkers and their relocation and rehabilitation without disrupting the traffic flow will be recommended by the Tourism and municipal bodies in consultation with each other.

Besides, development of infrastructure like bus lay-byes, designation of more spaces for on-street and off-street parking avenues in both the cities were unanimously stressed upon for the ever increasing vehicles plying on roads here.

The Committee also discussed the requirement of multi-modal solutions like Mass Rapid Transit system, city bus system, Inland Water Transport (IWT), Ring Roads, enhanced parking and creation of Unified Transport Authority as other reliable solutions to ease traffic woes in our cities here.

Yoga Day Celebrated Across Kashmir With Zeal

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 11th International Day of Yoga was celebrated with great enthusiasm across all districts of Kashmir, marked by mass yoga demonstrations and the live telecast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address from Visakhapatnam.

This year's theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," emphasized the interconnection between personal well-being and planetary health.

Thousands of people, including students, officers, and the general public, took part in yoga sessions across the region.

In Baramulla, over 1300 participants gathered at Showkat Ali Stadium, where DIG North Kashmir and Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa joined the celebrations.

Anantnag hosted its main event at Shaheed Himayun

Muzzamil Degree College, led by DC Dr. Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid and DIG South Kashmir. Various departments, including AYUSH and NCC, participated.

In Budgam, a large turnout was seen at the Sports Stadium with DC Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat emphasizing yoga's role in holistic development.

Ganderbal's main event at Government College of Physical Education saw participation from DC Jatinder Kishore and SSP Khalil Poswal, with similar sessions held in Sonamarg and Manasbal.

In Pulwama, a mega yoga session was held at Hockey Turf, Chatapora, led by DC Dr. Basharat Qayoom. A separate event was held at Avantiswami Temple in Awantipora.

Kulgam celebrated the day at the Mini-Secretariat with Chairperson DDC and DC Athar Aamir Khan. Yoga was per-

formed at various institutions across the district.

In Shopian, a mass yoga session at the Mini-Secretariat was attended by DC Shishir Gupta and other officials, with events held across tehsils and educational institutions.

Kupwara held its main function at GDC Kupwara with DC Ayushi Sudan, SSP Jeelani and other officers. Similar sessions took place at Handwara and other venues.

Bandipora hosted its main celebrations at SK Stadium and Wullar Vantage Park, with DC Manzoor Qadri and SSP Harmeet Singh joining locals in performing yoga. Events also took place in colleges and sports stadiums throughout the district.

Across the Valley, the day served to reinforce the importance of incorporating yoga into daily life to enhance physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

Farooq Hopes For Early Restoration Of Statehood

Observer News Service

PAHALGAM: National Conference president and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, on Saturday reiterated the party's long standing demand for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, warning that any further delay may leave them with no alternative but to move the Supreme Court.

Speaking to reporters in Pahalgam, Dr. Abdullah emphasized that eight months have passed since the government was formed in Jammu and Kashmir. "I am hopeful that when statehood is restored, we will also get the administrative powers necessary for genuine governance," he said.

He maintained that the National Conference's stance on the issue remains consistent.

"We are waiting patiently for the restoration of statehood. But if there are unnecessary delays, we will have no option but to go to the Supreme Court," he asserted.

Dr. Abdullah further stated that while the party is committed to a democratic and peaceful struggle, it will not remain silent if the basic political rights of the people continue to be denied.

On the ongoing tensions in the Middle East, he urged all parties to exercise restraint. "I pray that God gives wisdom to both Iran and Israel. This conflict can only be resolved through peace," he said, appealing to global leaders to promote dialogue.

He also made a fervent appeal to former US President Donald Trump, urging him to advocate for peace between the two nations.



ACB Arrests Tehsildar For Demanding Bribe

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday said to have trapped and arrested Tehsildar, Qaziabad, Kupwara for demanding a bribe of Rs 1 lakh.

"A complaint was received by Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau from a person, resident of Handwara alleging therein that Tehsildar, Qaziabad Kralgund, Handwara namely Ghulam Rasool Bhat is demanding bribe from him for providing him permissions for cutting of walnut trees etc," a statement issued to Kashmir Observer reads.

On receipt of complaint, ACB spokesman said that the matter was verified discreetly which revealed that suspect Ghulam Rasool Bhat, Tehsildar, Qaziabad Kralgund had demanded a bribe of Rs 1 lakh from the complainant in lieu of two permissions for cutting of walnut trees, and the complainant had requested him that he can't afford the said amount as he is very poor, but Tehsildar insisted with his demand & asked complainant that unless he pay bribe of Rs 50,000 in advance he will not issue permissions, under compulsions complainant paid him Rs 50,000 in advance as demanded.

"But after payment of the initial bribe amount of Rs 50,000 the complainant again approached Tehsildar for permissions, he demanded the remaining bribe amount of Rs 50,000 before giving him permissions & asked him to pay the rest of the balance amount before he issued permissions,"

the spokesman said.

"After verification of facts which disclose commission of a cognizable offence punishable U/s 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (As amended in 2018) against Ghulam Rasool Bhat, Tehsildar Qaziabad Kralgund, Handwara District Kupwara, Case FIR No.04/2025 under section 7 of the PC Act 1988 (as amended in 2018) was registered at PS ACB Baramulla and investigation was set into motion."

After registration of case, a trap team of ACB caught the accused Tehsildar and his tout Rafi Ahmad Lone S/o Abdul Khaliq Lone R/o Pathora Kralgund Kupwara red handed at private residence of accused in Handwara while demanding and accepting bribe from complainant after which both were taken into custody.

During search in addition to bribe money of Rs 50,000, cash of Rs 79,000 was also recovered and the same was also seized by ACB, the statement added.

"The searches are being conducted at residential and official premises of the accused Tehsildar, the accused persons were presented before Hon'ble Additional Special Judge Anti Corruption Court, Baramulla which remanded them to police custody for 7 days."

It is pertinent to mention here that in the year 2021, ACB registered a case against the said Tehsildar for illegal land mutations. Besides this, some more verifications are going on against him in ACB, the statement reads, adding that further investigations are going on and the role of other officers and officials is being ascertained.

Trap Case: Absconding HC Of PS Kathua Arrested

Observer News Service

KATHUA: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday said to have arrested an absconding Head Constable Roshan Din of Police Station Kathua in a trap case.

ACB spokesman in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer said that a case under FIR number 12/2025 under section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered in Police Station ACB Jammu against public servant namely HC Roshan Din, No. 432/K of Police Station Kathua regarding demand/acceptance of illegal gratification from the complainant on account of deleting or removing his name from the list of accused persons in a case under FIR number 193/2025 registered at P/S Kathua, even

though the complainant provided CCTV footage/attendance of the factory to the accused public servant on the date of occurrence in order to prove his innocence.

"But the accused public servant after accepting a bribe amount of Rs 15000 from the complainant, sensing the presence of ACB on spot, fled away from the spot and threw the tainted bribe money in the bushes on the NHW near Palli. The tainted bribe money was recovered from the bushes by independent witnesses and seized in the instant case," the spokesman said.

"Now Anti-Corruption Bureau Jammu finally arrested the said absconding public servant on 20-06-2025 in the case at hand and further investigation of the case is in progress," the spokesman added.

IGP Traffic J&K Reviews Amarnath Yatra Traffic Arrangements

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: M. Suleman Choudhary, IPS, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Traffic, Jammu and Kashmir, visited the Baltal base camp to review traffic arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025.

During his visit, the IGP inspected road conditions, traffic

regulation points, and parking facilities along the Yatra route. He conducted on-ground assessments at key junctions to ensure smooth and uninterrupted movement of vehicles during the pilgrimage.

Choudhary directed that traffic personnel be deployed at all critical points to manage vehicle flow effectively. He



emphasized the deployment of cranes to remove broken-down or improperly parked vehicles, and instructed that parking areas be clearly marked and efficiently managed to prevent congestion. The use of proper signage and barricades to guide pilgrims was also stressed.

He further called for close co-

ordination between traffic authorities, civil administration, and district police to ensure quick response in case of any issues.

The IGP was accompanied by Parvaiz Ahmad, SP and Nodal Officer Yatra, Gulzar Ahmad, DySP Traffic Ganderbal, DTI Ganderbal, and other officials of the Traffic Police.

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KO VIEW

Sizzling Kashmir

For two days in a row, Srinagar has smashed temperature records that should concern every policymaker and citizen alike. On Friday, the mercury soared to 35.5°C, the highest June temperature the city has seen since June 2005, and among the highest in nearly four decades. For a place celebrated for its moderate weather, this heatwave is yet another stark reminder that the impact of climate change on Kashmir is here to stay.

The soaring temperatures have consequences for crops. It could lead to their premature ripening, disrupting their development cycle and adversely affecting both their quality and quantity. Apple growers are particularly concerned, as the excessive heat can hinder color and size development of the fruit, impacting the market value of their produce.

But all of this is under threat. Meteorological data indicates that average temperatures have been creeping upward over the past decade, with unseasonal hot spells becoming more frequent. What is truly worrying is how ill-prepared we remain to deal with extreme heat in a region where homes, workplaces, and public infrastructure were designed for cold, not for sweltering summer afternoons.

Most critically, Kashmir needs a climate resilience strategy that goes beyond seasonal firefighting. Our glaciers are shrinking, forests are thinning, and urban sprawl is gobbling up the green cover that once buffered the heat. Unless these larger issues are addressed through better urban planning, aggressive afforestation, and cleaner energy policies, record-breaking temperatures may become the norm rather than the exception.

When Srinagar feels like Delhi in June, it is time to stop calling this an anomaly. It is the new reality, and ignoring it will cost us far more than a few uncomfortable afternoons.

This is not just weather; it is a warning. Let us act before Kashmir's famed cool breeze becomes a story we tell our grandchildren.

However, such disturbing changes aren't specific to Kashmir only. This is becoming a worldwide phenomenon. There is thus an urgent need for the world to come together and take remedial measures to pre-empt the catastrophe. But it may take decades before the world is able to sufficiently reign in the factors which are contributing to the disruption in the climate. And the places like Kashmir which have little hand in climate change are bearing the brunt of it. As continuing heatwaves show, the world needs to quickly get its act together before it is too late.

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

“If we start today, by fixing what we can, by pushing for fair rules, by refusing to take or offer backdoor help, we can move toward a future where Kashmir runs on talent, not ties. We owe that to the next generation.”

Kashmir Needs a Merit Blueprint

A growing movement in Kashmir is calling for a system that rewards ability, not connections. But after years of nepotism, conflict, and broken institutions, can that dream come true?

Some dreams start with a question. In Kashmir, one such dream is fast spreading among students, professionals, and young officials: What if merit alone decided who got promoted?

What if getting ahead didn't depend on who you knew, but on how well you performed?

In a region where turmoil has frayed trust in institutions, the idea of a “sufarish-free” Kashmir—a system without backdoor deals, political influence, or family pressure—feels radical.

But it also feels necessary. If we want a just, functional, and prosperous society, we need to make merit the rule, not the exception.

The idea sounds simple. But the road to get there isn't.

Kashmir isn't alone in struggling with favouritism. Across the world, only about 4.36% of promotions go to the lowest-performing employees, but when that happens, the damage is deep.

When someone gets ahead because of connections rather than competence, it hurts morale. The entire team suffers. Good workers start wondering why they should try at all. And the institution becomes slower, weaker, less trusted.

We see this everywhere. In a school, an underqualified head can harm students for years. In a hospital, it can mean life-or-death mistakes. In government, it leads to bad service, growing anger, and deep public distrust.

Nowhere is this more dangerous than in a place like Kashmir, where faith in public systems is already fragile. If young people stop believing that hard work leads anywhere, they look for shortcuts, or they give up. That's a crisis waiting to happen.

But there's another side to this. When people know their work will be fairly judged, they show up differently. They put in the extra hours. They innovate.

They speak up. A merit-based system does more than reward good performance, it creates it. Of course, everyone says they want the best person for the job. But who decides what “best” means?

In many places, gut instinct still drives decisions. A boss promotes someone who seems sharp or loyal or shares a hometown. That's where bias creeps in.

We need to shift to data. Real performance metrics, not

vague impressions. That means tracking who delivered results, met deadlines, led teams, and solved problems.

Countries and companies that lead in fairness use tools like Human Resource Information Systems (HRIS) to log this information across departments.

They also use diverse hiring and promotion panels to reduce bias. They explain their decisions in writing. They review them. They audit them. This kind of transparency builds accountability and trust.

In Kashmir, such systems don't yet exist in any consistent way. But they can.

Let's not pretend this is easy. Patronage has become part of the fabric in many parts of Kashmiri administration.

“Kashmir isn't alone in struggling with favouritism. Across the world, only about 4.36% of promotions go to the lowest-performing employees, but when that happens, the damage is deep.”

Years of instability have taught people to survive through networks, not rules. Interference in transfers and postings is common. Rules get bent. People learn not to complain.

But change has to start somewhere. The first step is leadership that genuinely believes in merit, and shows it. That means saying no to pressure, protecting whistleblowers, and publicly celebrating honest success stories. The second step is investing in tools that can track and compare performance objectively.

We also need legal reforms: laws that clearly spell out how promotions must be made, what “merit” means in each role, and how decisions can be challenged. Some global systems, like the U.S. Office of Personnel Management or the Singapore Public Service Commission, offer examples of how to do this. We don't have to invent everything from scratch.

Let's imagine a timeline. In the next three years, we could roll out digital HR systems in departments like education and revenue. We could train man-

agers to use data to make decisions, not favours. We could pass strong anti-corruption laws targeting sufarish and reward those who speak up.

In five to seven years, we could have oversight bodies with real power. We could create a culture where fair promotions are expected, not rare. We could start to see better service in hospitals, schools, and public offices. Not because the people changed, but because the system did.

In ten to fifteen years, if we stay the course, we could have a fully merit-based government workforce. Sufarish could become socially unacceptable. Our institutions could earn public trust. Investors and professionals might

look at Kashmir as a place of fairness, not frustration.

The biggest obstacle to building a meritocracy isn't money. It isn't even politics. It's cynicism.

Too many people believe change isn't possible. They've seen too many bad decisions, too many rigged processes. But if we keep thinking that way, nothing will change.

The truth is, the roadmap is already there. The question is whether we have the will to follow it.

If we start today, by fixing what we can, by pushing for fair rules, by refusing to take or offer backdoor help, we can move toward a future where Kashmir runs on talent, not ties. We owe that to the next generation.

Meritocracy isn't just a dream. It's a plan we can build, step by step, role by role, and system by system. The only thing missing is the choice to begin.

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili is a member of the GCC, a Group of Concerned Citizens in Kashmir.

Can Tech Fix Kashmir Tourism?

Real-time apps, virtual tours, and influencer campaigns are part of a digital strategy to revive Kashmir's fragile tourism economy.

Khalid Mustafa

“Local youth, too, could benefit. With basic training in cybersecurity, digital marketing, and web design, they can help tour operators build online profiles, manage booking systems, and engage with customers. This isn't just about tourism revival. It's about job creation in a place with few options.”

drone footage of snow-covered Sonamarg, narrated by a local who grew up there. Think AI-powered chatbots that answer questions in multiple languages: Is it safe to travel now? Are roads open? Where can I find a certified homestay?

These tools aren't gimmicks. They are bridges. Kashmir doesn't just need more visitors, it needs more understanding. And digital storytelling may help close the trust gap.

Local youth, too, could benefit. With basic training in cybersecurity, digital marketing, and web design, they can help tour operators build online profiles, manage booking systems, and engage with customers. This isn't just about tourism revival. It's about job creation in a place with few options.

Perception, they say, is reality. And in Kashmir, that's painfully true. A single viral video of violence can undo months of peace. But the reverse is also possible.

After the Pahalgam attack, locals rushed to help the injured. Some sheltered stranded tourists. These stories rarely make it to the front page. But they could trend, if amplified the right way.

Travel influencers, vloggers, even adventure YouTubers with millions of follow-

Pahalgam was supposed to be peaceful with its lush meadows, wooden cottages, river sounds. But after a recent attack on a group of tourists, the mood changed fast. Fear returned, so did silence. And one question lingered in the air: Will the tourists come back?

In Jammu and Kashmir, tourism is a lifeline. Boatmen on Dal Lake, guesthouse owners in Pahalgam, pashmina weavers in downtown Srinagar depend on travellers.

According to pre-pandemic data, tourism made up about 7 to 8 percent of the region's economy. In good years, over 10 million tourists visited. In bad years, even the locals stayed indoors.

Every violent episode chips away at that number. And every dip in tourist flow pulls more families toward financial ruin.

But what if recovery didn't depend only on roadblocks, soldiers, and PR slogans? What if healing came from Wi-Fi signals, satellite apps, and Instagram reels?

Imagine a traveller in Mumbai who wants to visit Gulmarg. He opens his phone and searches for “Is Kashmir safe right now?” The top results: outdated news articles, opinion pieces, and panic posts.

What if, instead, he finds a live dashboard: verified weather alerts, road conditions, security updates, real-time crowd maps of tourist spots?

The idea isn't futuristic. It's possible. It just hasn't been done yet.

The region could invest in a centralized “Safe Travel Kashmir” app, a place where tourists can book hotels, check safety zones, chat with local guides, even access emergency contacts.

It's not just about convenience. It's about giving people control, in a place where unpredictability is the norm.

Then there's virtual tourism. Think

it's not just a photo. It's a signal. Come, it's safe here.

A coordinated campaign—#SafeInKashmir or #RediscoverKashmir—could push user-generated content across platforms. Think of it as grassroots diplomacy, done with reels and retweets.

Here's the catch. The more digital Kashmir becomes, the more vulnerable it is to disinformation and cyber threats.

After the Pahalgam attack, fake images, edited videos, and conspiracy theories flooded WhatsApp and Twitter (now X). Panic spread faster than facts. The IT sector needs to work with cybersecurity agencies to stop this.

Flagging fake news. Training journalists in fact-checking. Building AI tools that verify video origins. These aren't merely virtual solutions, they're frontline defenses.

Then there's data privacy. If tourists are booking online, sharing ID details, making payments, their data must be safe. Kashmir can't afford a single leak, especially when trying to rebuild trust.

And what if a tourist is in trouble? The region needs a robust SOS system. A satellite-based emergency app built with help from defense tech partners that works

even when internet is down. It should send real-time location, an alert, and call for immediate action.

Access should be secure, login-based, and monitored by trained personnel. In areas like Gurez or Bungus, that could mean the difference between life and death.

No single app or campaign can fix a place that has suffered for decades. But a co-ordinated effort between government agencies, tech firms, cybersecurity experts, and local communities can move the needle.

Governments can fund smart city infrastructure, build digital portals, offer training subsidies. Hospitality giants can launch tour packages with insurance, safety briefings, and 24/7 helplines. Communities can be taught to tell their own stories. Honest, local, and full of humanity.

And beneath all of this, something else needs attention. Healing.

Not just for the tourists, but for the people who stayed behind after each incident. Trauma lingers long after the cameras are gone.

IT tools can help here too: teletherapy platforms, online peace forums, cross-border dialogues.

At the end of the day, reviving Kashmir's tourism is not just about numbers. It's about dignity. About showing the world that this place, despite everything, can still welcome with open arms.

Kashmir isn't just a destination. It's a feeling. And feelings, when broken, take time to restore.

The question now is: Who will take the first step?

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Trapped in Their Own Land

As barbed wires rise around apple orchards, Kashmir’s paddy cultivators find themselves locked out of fields they legally own. This isn’t just a land crisis, it’s the collapse of a culture rooted in water, trust, and soil.

Mohammad Amin Mir

In Kashmir, rice grew on more than rain. It followed unmarked paths, shared water, and the unspoken trust of neighbours—where memory guided what maps never showed.

For centuries, kouls—the thin arteries of glacial water—ran freely between fields, over rocks, under trees, threading through a land that never needed to be told where to go. Rice farmers walked across neighbours’ lands like guests, not trespassers. No fence stood in their way. No gate was locked. The land was broken into plots, but the people, somehow, weren’t.

That was before the barbed wire. In the past twenty years, the rise of apple orchards in Kashmir has come not just with profit and promise, but with enclosure. Fields once open to the sky are now cut with metal spines, rolled tight and sharp, fencing in apples and fencing out everything else.

Paddy farmers, once free to tend their land as the seasons demanded, now must ask, beg, or sneak through the very soil they own. Their fields still lie there, but unreachable. Possession, it turns out, is not the same as access.

What used to be shared is now sealed. A farmer who once strolled

to his land with a sickle now climbs over wire with a stick. Locked gates, missing maps, angry neighbours, and blocked water have become his daily harvest.

His koul—the stream that once fed his rice—may still exist, but it disappears inside an orchard and never comes out. It hasn’t dried. It’s just been walled away. And no one will let him in to clear the silt or lift the fallen leaves.

A water source, like a memory, grows useless when shut behind someone else’s door.

The law, on paper, sides with the rice farmer. The Indian Easements Act of 1882 says he has a right of way. It recognizes something called ‘access by necessity.’ But necessity, here, is not enough. Because no one ever wrote those paths into official records. They lived in footsteps and habit, not in revenue documents.

And the government, when asked to help, shrugs. “Nothing recorded,” they say. “Go to court.” As if courtrooms were made for the poor, as if time and justice belonged to the same people.

The farmer watches his crop die. Not from drought, but from bureaucracy.

Even the kouls are vanishing. Once

cleaned by hand and guided with care, they now disappear under newly planted orchards. Some are filled in altogether. Others are narrowed so tightly that even light can’t find its way through. Their course changes, their rhythm breaks.

In the eyes of the new orchard owner, water is risk, not life. So it is diverted or blocked, and rice fields downstream sit cracked and dry. This, too, happens in silence.

The local patwaris and girdawars, the officials meant to settle disputes and mark the truth on paper, often stay away. They do not wish to anger those with influence. They know the orchardist has power, and the paddy grower does not. So they file no reports. They draw no maps. They say nothing. The Tehsildar, when approached, calls it a private matter. “This is civil,” he says. As if civil means invisible.

But what is happening here is not just a legal gap, it is a cultural collapse.

What broke first was not the irrigation, but the ethic. In village life, unwritten rules used to matter. You did not block a path your neighbour needed. You did not trap water that fed another’s grain. That understanding is gone.

In its place: fences, locks, suspicion. In some villages, fights have broken out. Stones have flown. Police have been called. A gate is more than a gate when it seals off survival.

Kashmir’s transformation into an apple economy has been swift and shining. Orchards bloom, profits rise, and market trucks crowd the roads at harvest. But not all growth is good. Not all prosperity is peace.

If one man’s orchard blocks ten men’s fields, what have we grown, except inequality? What we are watching is not modernization. It is the slow fencing off of dignity.

If the state does not act now, it will lose more than a crop. It will lose the trust of those who held this land long before fences, who still believe that water should flow, and that rights should not depend on your net worth.

The paddy fields of Kashmir are more than agriculture. They are memory, stitched into land. And every time we wrap another in wire, we don’t just cut off a farmer. We cut through history.

The author is a legal researcher and columnist focusing on land governance, rural policy, and administrative reforms in Jammu & Kashmir.

When Nothing Feels Enough

Kashmiri youth are scrolling through curated lives and sinking into self-comparison, chasing a happiness that feels out of reach

Zuha Ashai

No matter where you are, what you do, or who you’re with - sometimes, nothing feels enough. You wait for something to happen. Something big. Or at least something that makes sense of it all.

And while you wait, the storm rolls in: anger, frustration, depression, anxiety. A weight pressing down. Shadows trailing behind a mind that’s tired of pretending everything’s fine.

No one tells us this, but it’s true: just looking at someone else’s life—scrolling past it, hearing about it, standing next to it—can quietly make you feel like you’re falling behind. Because comparison doesn’t knock. It just walks in. It makes itself comfortable.

And in that uneasy space, the questions begin to echo: “Am I doing what I truly want? Or just what I think I should do?”

That small difference means everything. Recognising it is wisdom. But wisdom doesn’t arrive with age, it arrives when we meet ourselves.

We want a certain lifestyle. A name. Comfort. Peace. And when we see others living what looks like the dream, we forget it’s not life, it’s just part of it. Because real life, the one that truly belongs to you, lives inside you. Not in the applause. Not in the things you collect. But in the voice you carry.

Suffering starts to loosen its grip the moment you start listening to that voice. And when you begin to know who you are, the only thing that matters is following it. The world tells us material things will make us happy. And yes, they do. But only for a while. That joy fades. And what remains is the emptiness we thought we’d outrun.

There are three kinds of people: those who learn, those who lose hope, and those who give up. But the ones who give up, they’re not weak. They’re just lost. They haven’t met themselves yet.

And when you don’t know who you are, fear grows. Fear

of failure. Fear of being behind. Fear of not being enough.

That fear will either break you, or make you.

Let’s talk about the breaking part. We see people who look like they have it all. Glamorous. Effortless. And we believe it. We forget that no one walks around wearing a sign that says, “I’m struggling too.”

People pretend. All of us do. Behind every smile, someone is carrying something. But what we see is the polished version. We feel inspired, for a moment.

And then the inspiration fades. Because we want change without effort. Growth without showing up for it. We keep waiting for the right time, while the right time is waiting for us to start.

Eventually, life shakes us awake. It’s built that way. And it never arrives too late, it comes right when we’re meant to grow. But instead of rising, we often slip into a victim mindset. We begin to feel sorry for ourselves. And that’s a hard place to leave once you’ve settled into it.

But you can leave. Sometimes, the only way forward is to stop blaming the world and start taking responsibility. Not as punishment. But as power. Because the moment you say, “It’s me. I’m here because of me,” - you get to say, “And I can change it too.”

This isn’t about self-hate. It’s about self-honesty. It’s about being gentle with yourself and holding yourself accountable. You can either let yourself sink, or teach yourself how to swim.

I didn’t write this because I’ve figured it all out. I haven’t. I’ve just lived parts of it. Tomorrow, I might forget again. I might fall into the same loops I’m warning you about now.

But I’ll come back to this. I’ll remind myself. And if this finds you in a moment where nothing feels enough, I hope it reminds you too.

Zuha Ashai is a Srinagar-based college student. She can be reached at zuhaashai99@gmail.com

PE Goes Digital in Kashmir

Smartwatches, virtual courts, and fitness apps are reshaping how students in Kashmir experience physical activity. It’s not just about sports anymore, it’s about data, goals, and digital play.

Qasim Ali Mir

In Kashmir, physical education is no longer limited to dusty playgrounds or warm-up drills on frosty mornings. The subject that once meant stretching, team games, and laps around the school field is slowly being shaped by something unexpected: technology.

Our students today don’t just run or jump. They track. They compete with themselves. They wear smartwatches that count steps and check their heart rate. They use apps that guide their workouts and cheer them on when they cross a milestone. It’s a different kind of PE, one that speaks their language.

Fitness in schools used to be about the group: how fast the whole class could run, or how well teams worked together. That still matters.

But with gadgets in hand, it’s becoming personal too. Students set their own fitness goals. One wants

to improve sleep. Another is tracking how her pulse changes with each sprint. A third is simply trying to beat his last push-up count.

Take wearables. These devices help students monitor their body in real time—how far they walked, how many calories they burned, even how much rest they got the night before.

For many, it’s the first time they’re really paying attention to their health. And that awareness makes a difference.

Fitness apps do more than give reminders. They make physical activity fun. Some turn daily exercise into a challenge. Others reward consistency with points or tokens.

When students can compare progress with friends, it becomes social, not just solo. Suddenly, even the ones who disliked PE are joining in. Not for marks, but because it feels like a game they can win.

And now we’re stepping into even newer territory. Virtual and augment-

ed reality are starting to enter our gym spaces. Students can practice sports like basketball in a virtual court or run through a forest simulation, all from the school hall.

With AR, teachers can build obstacle courses using nothing but a phone and a projector, keeping the real movement but adding a layer of imagination that keeps students curious and excited.

Still, there are real hurdles to face. Not every child in Kashmir can afford a smartwatch or smartphone. And most schools don’t yet have access to VR equipment. We need ways to include everyone so that technology doesn’t become another line dividing students.

Another concern is privacy. When students wear devices that collect health data, schools must be transparent. Families should know what’s being tracked and why. Managing this data carefully is not just a rule, it’s a responsibility.

Sunlight, Slates, and the Story of Aban

A surprise visit to a government school in Kashmir revealed something extraordinary: children learning with joy, teachers leading with heart, and a little boy named Aban who reminded me why early education matters.

Muntashir Kifayat Hussain

It was just another school monitoring visit. Or so I thought. At 11 in the morning, our team reached a hamlet called Shpora in the Narbal zone of Budgam district. We were there to check on a government primary school nestled under the calm shade of old walnut trees.

The school looked like any other, until we stepped inside.

One classroom, in particular, caught my eye. It was the pre-primary room. Sunlight poured through the windows. Kids under the age of five were scattered across the room, lost in their own magical world. They didn’t seem to notice us at all. Some were tossing rubber balls at each other. Others were busy with activities. There was joy in the air.

I walked in and gently asked one of them to stand up.

“What’s your name?” I asked.

“Aban,” he said, with a cheeky smile.

“Spell it for me,” I said.

He proudly shouted, “A... B... L... N!”

Laughter erupted in the room. His spelling was off, but his confidence was sky high. The kids were clearly at home here. No fear.

No hesitation. Just happiness. I couldn’t stop smiling.

I asked Aban which class he was in.

“Fourth!” he said.

“No, no,” I replied.

“KG!” he beamed. That drew more smiles all around.

There was something so pure about the whole moment. These kids didn’t have a playground. But their teachers had turned a large hall into a magical learning space. The walls were full of colourful art. Each corner of the room buzzed with activity.

One child, not older than four, was working with math tools. He had small Rubik’s cubes. I asked him to break them up and make a rod of seven. He did it without blinking. Then he made a tens rod too. I watched in awe.

In another corner, I saw a girl playing with dice. I rolled one.

“How many dots?” I asked her.

“Foul!” she said.

I gently corrected her, “Four.” She nodded and smiled.

Suddenly, a loud “Yeshhhhhhhh!” echoed from across the room. It was Rounaq Zehra, age five, celebrating her win in a colour-matching game. She had just placed a green

glass over a green ball. Simple, but for her, it was victory.

Everywhere I looked, learning was happening. And it was all aligned with NEP 2020, the new education policy that focuses on learning through play and discovery in early childhood.

Aban, now my little hero, had moved on from toys to musical instruments. I followed him. He struck the drum with excitement. Music, after all, isn’t just about rhythm, it builds memory, coordination, and joy.

Later, I watched him pick up a sketch pen and start drawing on a slate. No one told him to do it. He just felt like it. That’s the beauty of early childhood education. Art and craft activities help children express what they can’t say in words. They build fine motor skills, creativity, and emotional understanding.

Aban and I ended up playing with colourful rings. I asked for blue, he threw the right one. Then red. Then yellow. He got them all.

As an academic monitoring team, we were left speechless. This tiny government school, with just four teachers, had transformed one classroom into a space of wonder. A space where the NEP lived and breathed.

One of my colleagues asked quietly, “If

this school can do it, why can’t others?”

It’s a question I’m still thinking about.

How much does it really cost - rubber balls, coloured rings, dice, math kits, sketch pens? Not much. So what’s stopping other schools?

We didn’t hear a single complaint from these teachers. Not one word about workload or staff shortage. They weren’t waiting for a directive or a donor. They were simply doing what needed to be done with heart.

Why aren’t all our schools like this? Why are the walls of most classrooms bare when a little paint and effort can turn them into dreamscapes?

What I saw that day reminded me: early childhood education doesn’t need fancy budgets or big policies. It needs care. It needs people who believe.

If we bring toys into the classroom, we bring in joy. If we bring art, we bring expression. If we bring music, we bring confidence. These are not extras. These are essentials.

Too often, government policies bloom in private schools and wither in government ones. Not because of lack of money. But because of lack of will.

We left the school, still smiling. And there



Everywhere I looked, learning was happening. And it was all aligned with NEP 2020, the new education policy that focuses on learning through play and discovery in early childhood.

was Aban, standing at the door, waving goodbye like an old friend.

He had no idea what he had taught us. But I won’t forget it.

The author is an academic monitor and government school educator based in Narbal, Budgam.

Receive SMS and Register Anywhere Online with Virtual Phone Numbers

KO Tech Desk

The era of digital allows access to platforms, applications, and services around the world, unlike ever before, with a side of access—your phone number. You need to receive SMS to verify yourself on a new social media platform, a crypto exchange, and more often than not, you need to try out a web application through a spin. This may not appear to be dangerous, but communication with your actual number may lead to privacy infringement, spam, and unwanted monitoring. It is here that virtual phone numbers are used. Such potent services will allow you to receive SMS and sign up for practically any Internet service without even disclosing your true identity.

Why You Shouldn't Use Your Real Number Online

Going through your actual number every time you want to use a service is convenient—until your inbox gets flooded with spam, or better still, the data on your end ends up in an online data breach. These are only a few dangers of using your real phone number:

- Data Harvesting:** Third-party adversaries are other users and platforms to whom your number is stored and shared.
- Spam & Robocalls:** As soon as your number gets revealed, it gets put into the list of unwanted marketing calls or scam calls.
- Privacy Leaks:** 2FA (two-factor authentication) through SMS is usually attacked by hackers and otherwise malicious parties.
- Account Linkage:** You may link your activity across different platforms by using your number to cross-reference and match your activity.

How Virtual Phone Numbers Work for SMS & Online Registration

Cloud-based systems rely on virtual phone numbers. When a site transmits an SMS verification captcha to a number of your choice, it comes directly to your dashboard or



cell phone interface.

This is normally the way the process takes place:

- Select a Provider:** You can select a service that provides virtual numbers (e.g., international or country-specific).
- Select a Number:** Select a number that is aligned in the region or compatible with the platform.
- Enter Number During Signup:** Enter it on the web or on the application where you make a registration.
- Receive SMS:** The confirmation SMS can be found in the dashboard of your provider.
- Enter Code:** Get on code to register.

Use Cases: Where Virtual Phone Numbers Shine

Social Media Account Creation

Feel like signing up for a second Telegram or Facebook account? Traditional numbers have the issue of one number per account, which is circumvented by the use of virtual numbers.

Registering on International Websites

There are a lot of services that need a local number. Do you require a UK number as a promo or an Indian

number as a streaming service? It is easy through virtual options.

App Testing for Developers

With SMS workflows, a QA team and a developer would be able to test workflows in different countries without having to own physical SIMs by the dozens.

Crypto and Trading Platforms

Virtual numbers assist the user in creating a parallel account or accessing the platforms without jeopardizing their identity.

Why Use SMS-MAN for Virtual Numbers?

SMS-MAN is one of the reliable providers that could provide access to phone numbers in more than 100 countries. Under SMS-MAN, the users can:

- Receive SMS immediately on dozens of platforms such as Google, WhatsApp, and Binance
- Get access to both disposable and long-term rent numbers
- Keep data safe through the use of secure and encrypted systems
- Use verification without downtime using high-availability

numbers

Key Benefits of Using Virtual Phone Numbers

- Anonymity:** The actual you remains safe.
- Accessibility:** Sign up for services that are not offered in your country.
- Comfort:** No swapping or mixing of SIM cards or phones.
- Security:** Don't fall into phishing and social engineering based on your actual number.
- Scalability:** It is perfect among firms having numerous accounts or user testing

FAQs

1. Can I use virtual numbers for long-term accounts?

Yes, but instead of disposable ones, choose the ones you can rent. They make sure to receive SMS codes is maintained as time goes by.

2. Will virtual numbers work for all apps and sites?

They are supported in most of the mainstream services, and some secure facilities (e.g., banks) may block known virtual numbers. Each service has convenient information about SMS-MAN.

3. Is it legal to use virtual phone numbers?

Absolutely. They are normally adopted by programmers, companies, and normal people in the name of valid purposes such as testing, privacy, and geographical access.

Conclusion

Since online registration is more intrusive than ever, it is more important than ever to protect your personal information. A virtual phone number provides an intelligent, easy, and safe solution to receive SMS and sign in anywhere online without leaving a data trace.

Applications such as SMS-MAN help people to restore their right of privacy on the Internet, but not lose the ability to use the World Wide Web to its full extent. A virtual number is not only a luxury anymore, regardless of whether it is used to explore new platforms, protect your identity, or develop your business.

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از نیابت ہونی

عنوان :- درخواست منجانب محمد شفیع بخاری ولد علی بخاری ساکنہ سگی پورہ بمبراد عطا لنگی OBC
تحت 174 SRO بحق پسر مکتلی عاشق

اشتهار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمرہ
تمام پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے
جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی بخاریزات سے تعلق رکھتی ہے اور سائل سگی پورہ میں
رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل کا کتبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

محمد شفیع بخاری ولد علی بخاری	ترکھان	60	10000
شکیلہ بیگم زوجہ محمد شفیع بخاری	گھر یلو کام	55	
محمد عرفان بخاری پسر محمد شفیع	مزدوری	32	
مرتضیٰ عاشق پسر	زیر تعلیم	12	
شائستہ بیگم زوجہ محمد عرفان	گھر یلو کام	28	
ادیب جان دختر محمد عرفان	شیر خوار	02	

سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹیفکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواہ ہے اور کنبہ کی مہوار آمدنی

10,000 روپے تک ہے ۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیار یا
عتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشتمل اخبار سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا عتراض عدالت ہذا کو فوری اوقات
کے دوران پیش کریں ۔ بعد گزرے میعاد کو اپنی عذر یا عتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا ۔

نائب تحصیلدار

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Net Direct Tax Drops 1.39%
To Rs 4.59 Lakh Cr On Lower
Advance Tax, Higher Refunds



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Net direct tax collection so far this fiscal year dropped 1.39 per cent to Rs 4.59 lakh crore, on slowdown in advance tax mop-up and higher refunds, government data released on Saturday showed.

Advance tax, which is an indicator of corporate profitability and income of individuals, grew a meagre 3.87 per cent to Rs 1.56 lakh crore between April 1 and June 19, 2025. In the comparable period in 2024, advance tax collections had recorded an annual growth of 27 per cent.

Advance tax paid by corporates saw a growth of 5.86 per cent to Rs 1.22 lakh crore, while those by non-corporates, including individuals, HUFs and firms, dropped 2.68 per cent to Rs 33,928 crore.

Advance tax is paid in four instalments -- in June, September, December, and March.

Experts said attributed the slowdown in direct tax mop-up in the first quarter to the personal I-T rate revisions, which took effect from April 1. Higher capex by corporate also lowered tax profit, they said.

Between April 1 and June 19, 2025, refund issuances increased 58 per cent to Rs 86,385 crore. Gross direct tax collection stood at Rs 5.45 lakh crore so far this fiscal year, logging a growth of 4.86 per cent in the year-ago period.

Overall, the net direct tax collection kitty stood about Rs 4.59 lakh crore in the fiscal year till June 19, 2025, registering a 1.39 per cent dip from Rs 4.65 lakh crore collected in the corresponding period a year ago.

During April 1-June 19, 2025, net corporate tax collection witnessed a slowdown at Rs 1.73 lakh crore, a decline of over 5 per cent year-on-year.

Non-corporate tax collections, which include mainly personal income tax, however, recorded a slight increase of 0.7 per cent to Rs 2.73 lakh crore.

Securities Transaction Tax (STT)

grew 12 per cent to Rs 13,013 crore during the period.

In the current fiscal year (2025-26), the government has projected its direct tax collections at Rs 25.20 lakh crore, up 12.7 per cent year-on-year. The government has collected 18.21 per cent of its direct tax target till June 19. The government aims to collect Rs 78,000 crore from STT in FY26.

EY India Tax Partner Samir Kanabar said the marginal dip in net tax collections during the first quarter appears to be the result of a few expected and transitional factors.

"The revised tax slabs and reduced personal tax rates that came into effect from April 1, 2025, have provided relief to salaried individuals, and this is naturally reflected in lower TDS collections," he said.

On the corporate front, as companies invest in expansion and infrastructure, they benefit from higher depreciation claims, which temporarily lower taxable profits. This is a healthy sign of forward-looking investment behaviour, Kanabar said.

"Overall, these trends indicate a period of adjustment in line with policy changes and business cycles, and we expect a more balanced picture to emerge in the coming quarters," he added.

Deloitte India Partner Sumit Singhania said tax collections for the recent quarter, while subdued, puts spotlight on the emerging macro trends posing challenges to earning growth for corporates and non-corporate taxpayers for the financial year.

"Also, as several elements of current geo-political scenario plays out over next few months, impact of those developments would come to bear on the forecast for rest of the year too. That said, for a number of reasons, India finds itself in the position of strength amidst the ongoing global supply chain reset and therefore, a turnaround in tax collections in next quarters could be quite likely," Singhania added.

Air India Gets DGCA Notice
on Crew Duty Breach

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Aviation safety watchdog DGCA has slapped a show-cause notice on Tata Group-owned Air India for violating flight duty time limitations (FDTL) norms for the crew, sources said on Saturday.

These violations were found during the spot checks of the airline's Bengaluru-London flights of May 16 and 17, where in the FDTL had exceeded 10-hour limit, as per the notice.

"...during a spot check, it has been observed that the Accountable Manager of Air India operated two flights from Bangalore to London (AI133) on 16 May 2025 and 17 May 2025, both of which exceeded the stipulated flight time limit of 10 hours," the DGCA said in the notice, citing violation of Civil



Aviation Requirement (CAR Section 7, Series J Part III).

Comments from Air India on the notice were awaited.

"It is further noted that the Accountable Manager of Air India Ltd has failed to ensure adherence to the provisions and compliance requirements..." the regulator said in the notice.

The DGCA has asked Air India to explain within seven days why "action should not be taken for these violations, as per the notice."

16th JK UTLBC Meet

Banks Must Back Key
Sectors For J&K's
Growth: CS Atal Dulloo



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Saturday said that Banking sector needs to provide appropriate credit support to appropriate sectors at appropriate rate of interest for the economic wellbeing of J&K.

"We need to extend optimum credit support to people associated with agriculture, handicrafts, MSMEs, tourism etc. and we need to improve the CD Ratio of J&K. The credit-linkage of self-help groups also needs a big push from all the Banks", Dulloo made these remarks while chairing the 16th meeting of the UT-Level Bankers' Committee (UTLBC) to review the performance of banks for the financial year 2024-25.

The meeting was attended by J&K Bank MD & Convenor J&K UTLBC Amitava Chatterjee, Principal Secretary (Finance Department) Santosh D Vaidya, Commissioner Secretary (Industries & Commerce) Vikramjit Singh, Regional Di-

rector (RBI) Chandra Shekhar Azad, GM (NABARD) Vikas Mittal, Executive Director J&K Bank Sudhir Gupta besides Secretaries to the Government, Heads of Departments, senior officials from the UT Government, RBI, NABARD, banking institutions, insurance companies, BSNL, and Lead District Managers.

As a special agenda item in the meeting, UTLBC (J&K) unanimously requested J&K Government to consider issuing a notification declaring incidents of Pahalgam Terror attack and Indo-Pak conflict thereon as Disturbances across UT of Jammu and Kashmir for invoking the Rehabilitation Plan for revival of affected businesses.

Referring to the DFS, Gol's Three-month campaign for Saturation of Financial Inclusion schemes, Chief Secretary urged all stake holders to participate in the campaign wholeheartedly so that the benefits of the schemes (PM-JDY, PMSBY, PMJJBY and APY)

reach the uncovered population especially the poor sections of the society. He further directed banks to quantify outreach efforts and ensure meaningful evaluation of outcomes of the campaign.

Taking note of slow growth in Priority Sector Lending (PSL) with concern, he urged all banks operating in the UT to take concerted measures to meet the prescribed targets. Public Sector Banks were particularly advised to ensure tangible progress in priority sector lending, which he said is crucial for the socio-economic upliftment of the region.

Also, speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary, Finance Santosh D Vaidya said "Comparing with the earlier set of figures, there is an overall improvement on several fronts, but on CD Ratio, there is a slip-up of around 2 per cent. And pulling back by 2 percent is going to be a challenge, which needs to be vigorously followed."



WE NEED TO EXTEND OPTIMUM CREDIT SUPPORT TO PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH AGRICULTURE, handicrafts, MSMEs, tourism etc. and we need to improve the CD Ratio of J&K. The credit-linkage of self-help groups also needs a big push from all the Banks"

Russia Eyes Long-Term Economic
Ties With India, Others: Putin

Press Trust Of India

MOSCOW- Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday said Moscow's action plan for long-term cooperation till 2030 with India should be finalised shortly.

Speaking at the St Petersburg International Economic Forum's plenary session, Putin announced that Moscow is advancing long-term economic cooperation plans with its key partners, including India.

"Let me remind you that we agreed to prepare long-term cooperation plans with key partners," Putin said while emphasising that "action plans, including those with countries like India, should be completed shortly."

"We have already set a goal to boost oil and gas exports. To achieve this, we will develop relations with partners, remove trade barriers, explore new market niches, build infrastructure, and deepen investment cooperation," he said.

The St Petersburg Inter-



national Economic Forum (SPIEF) 2025 often dubbed as 'Russian Davos' this year has the theme "Shared Values: The Foundation of Growth in a Multipolar World."

Putin denied that China and Russia are forming a new multipolar world order.

"A new world order is emerging naturally, like the rising sun. There's no way to halt it, our role is to formalise this process and facilitate it, ensuring it develops in a more balanced way that aligns with the interests of the vast majority of nations," Putin said.

India at the SPIEF was represented by the Union Minister for Railways, Information and

Broadcasting, and Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Vaishnaw, who is also the minister for Information and Broadcasting, delivered keynote addresses at two significant sessions.

Speaking at a session 'The Future of Artificial Intelligence', he highlighted India's advancements in AI and its vision for ethical and inclusive technological growth.

While addressing the India-Russia Business Forum, he emphasised the deepening economic ties between the two countries and exploring new avenues for collaboration.

Vaishnaw had several meetings with Russian Federal Ministers, leading industrialists, technology leaders, and investors.

These discussions focused on enhancing India-Russia cooperation in critical sectors including Logistics & Transportation, Infrastructure Development, Railway Modernisation, Information Technology & Artificial Intelligence.



Air India Begins Rs 25 Lakh
Interim Payouts to Crash
Victims' Kin, Survivors

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Air India on Saturday said it has started releasing the interim compensation of Rs 25 lakh each to the families of the deceased and survivors of the June 12 plane crash.

The airline said a team of trained psychologists and doctors has been deployed in Ahmedabad to provide trauma counselling and psychological support to the affected families or individuals.

The team of medical personnel, including nurses and a pharmacist has been deployed to address ongoing or emerging health needs, Air India said in a statement.

"The interim compensation began being released from 20 June, with three families having received payments so far, and the remaining claims being processed," Air India said.

The airline had on June 14 announced that it will provide an interim compensation of Rs 25 lakh or approximately GBP 21,500 to the families of each of the deceased and survivor of the airline's Boeing 787-8 plane crash in Ahmedabad to help address immediate financial needs.

This is in addition to the

compensation of Rs 1 crore announced by the parent company, Tata Sons.

Air India said a centralised helpdesk, active since June 15, has been assisting families in processing claims for the interim compensation.

This single-window system ensures faster documentation and helps initiate compensation procedures promptly, it stated.

Air India said it has also been reaching out to those who were injured and the families of those who lost their lives on the ground to initiate the compensation process for them.

The families are also being assisted, including during DNA identification, the airline said, adding that when the mortal remains are released by the hospital, at least one caregiver accompanies each family to facilitate the transportation as well as funerals, while ensuring the dignity and utmost respect for the deceased and their loved ones.

Families are also being provided other comprehensive financial assistance during this difficult time, covering travel, accommodation, medical and funeral expenses, with additional needs addressed promptly, Air India added.

Plans To Make Mutual Fund
Rules More Investor And
Industry Friendly: SEBI Official

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is undertaking a comprehensive review of mutual fund regulations to make them more investor-centric and industry-friendly, a senior official said on Saturday.

"We are reviewing the entire mutual fund regulatory framework to enhance ease of doing business for all stakeholders, including the regulator," SEBI executive director Manoj Kumar said at the 17th Mutual Fund Summit organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) here.

Existing regulations governing the sector are among the lengthiest and require simplification to keep pace with evolving investor needs and industry innovations, stakeholders said.

"The process has started and soon we will come out with draft regulations for feedback and consultation process before it is finalised," Kumar said without giving any timeline for the rollout of the new rules.

Kumar outlined the regulator's strategic roadmap to strengthen India's securities market, with mutual funds positioned as a critical pillar in fostering inclusive financial growth and investor protection.

A consultation paper on regulations which governs advisory functions in mutual funds is also in the pipeline.



Addressing the event, Kumar said India has undergone major market transformations under SEBI's stewardship.

These include the shift to an electronic trading ecosystem in 1998, followed by achieving 100 per cent dematerialisation of shares, making India the only jurisdiction globally to do so.

"The third transformation is unfolding now through the mutual fund revolution," he said, calling it a cornerstone of SEBI's "optimum regulation" approach, one that seeks balance among the interests of the regulator, the industry, and investors.

While India's mutual fund industry has crossed Rs 72 lakh-crore in AUM and monthly SIP contributions have touched Rs 28,000 crore, the investor base remains limited to just five crore in a population of 140 crore, Kumar pointed out.

SEBI is also actively reviewing scheme categorisation norms to make them more intuitive for investors, while ensuring all offerings remain "true to label" to prevent mis-selling.

Blue-Collar Gig Hiring Rises
92% In 2024 Driven By Last-Mile
Logistics Platforms: Report

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- There has been a 92 per cent year-on-year uptick in gig job or freelance opportunities last year in the blue collar space, as per a report.

This reflects a rising dependence on flexible, on-demand labour, driven by the rapid expansion of e-commerce, food delivery, and ride-hailing platforms, said a report by blue and grey-collar recruitment platform WorkIndia.

"What we're seeing is the platformisation of ambition. The likes of quick commerce haven't just created demand, they've validated this sector as a reliable source of income. For many candidates, especially in smaller cities, delivery jobs are no longer stopgap roles, they're viable career choices," WorkIndia CEO and Co-Founder Nilesh Dugarwal told PTI.

The WorkIndia report is based on an analysis of 4.81 lakh job postings data on the platform in 2023 and 2024.

In geographical locations, the report found that cities such as Delhi, Ahmedabad, and Kolkata emerged as key hubs for last-mile logistics jobs, each registering over 100 per cent growth in delivery-related job postings.

Govt Says Pulses, Oilseeds Production Rising
As Mps Express Concern Over Imports

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The government has told a parliamentary committee that domestic production of pulses and edible oils has risen at a greater pace in the last 10 years than the decade before, amid concerns raised by MPs over India's dependence on imports to meet demand.

A presentation to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing said imports at 15.66 million metric tonnes (MMT) accounted for 56 per cent of the domestic demand for edible oils in 2023-24.

Sources said the agriculture ministry, however, in the meeting on June 20 em-

phasised the work being undertaken for self-sufficiency in the sector and noted that oilseeds production had risen by 55 per cent between 2014-15 and 2024-25, with third advance estimate pegging its production at 426.09 lakh tonnes in the last fiscal.

The corresponding increase was 13 per cent between 2004-05 and 2014-15.

With the country almost entirely dependent on imports to meet the palm oil demand, some MPs flagged health hazards associated with the relatively cheap edible oil, sources said.

The ministry said India's heavy dependence on edible oil imports is costing more Rs 80,000 crore annually.

Based on the 2023-24 fig-

ure shared by the ministry in its presentation, India's domestic production was sufficient to meet the requirement of mustard and groundnut oils but had to import 3.49 MMT of sunflower oil against the consumption of 3.55 MMT. It also imported more than 60 per cent of its soyabean oil consumption.

The presentation on pulses said their production rose by 47 per cent between 2014-15 and 2024-25, a period marked by the continuing BJP-led NDA government, against 31 per cent in 2004-14, when the Congress-led UPA was in power.

MPs in the meeting called for incentivising farmers growing paddy and wheat to shift to pulses and other crops.

The ministry spoke in detail about the government's roadmap to achieve 'aatmanirbharta' (self-reliance) in pulses and oilseeds production by 2030-31, programmes unveiled in this year's budget.

Among the challenges in boosting pulse production, the ministry noted that 75 per cent of these crops are rainfed and grown on marginal lands with low fertility by small and marginal farmers.

The sources said the presentation also touched on the nationwide campaign for "optimal utilization of edible oils and its health benefits" following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a 10 per cent cut in their intake for overall fitness.

'DGCA Seeks Details Of Air
India Inspections And Audits
Since 2024'

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Aviation safety regulator DGCA has asked flight operations inspectors to provide details of all inspections and audits conducted for Air India since 2024, sources said on Saturday.

The details on the findings of the inspections and audits will have to be submitted by Sunday, they said.

In an e-mailed communication, which came a day after the regulator issued a show-cause notice to the airline for flight duty time limitations (FDTL) violation, and also ordered removal of the airline's three senior officials from their respective roles for certain lapses, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has sought these details for 2024 and 2025 (to date), the sources said.

The data has been sought on planned and unplanned inspections, audit, cockpit/ enroute, station facility, ramp and cabin inspection among others, as per the communication. The Tata Group airline has been facing intense scrutiny since one of its Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crashed shortly after taking off from the Ahmedabad airport on June 12, killing over 270 people on board and on the ground.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Srinagar Hotter

second-highest mark of 33.8°C recorded on June 19, 2025, and June 29, 1999. The all-time record for June in Kokernag remains 34.9°C, registered on June 25, 2005.

At the same time, Qazigund, the gateway to Kashmir, sizzled at 35.0°C, making it the third-highest June temperature ever recorded there. Independent meteorologist Faizan Arif Keng pointed out that only in June 1988 did Qazigund witness higher readings — 35.3°C on June 27 and 35.7°C on June 26.

Pahalgam, Kupwara, and Gulmarg recorded 29.6°C, 34.5°C, and 25.7°C respectively.

Night temperatures have also spiked alarmingly. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 23.2°C, which is the fourth-highest night temperature in the last 134 years. According to Keng, this was the warmest night in the city since June 24, 1990, when 23.6°C was recorded. A similar minimum was noted on June 15, 2008. The highest-ever night temperature for June in Srinagar remains 24.6°C, recorded on June 29, 1978.

Meanwhile, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the Meteorological Department, said that generally cloudy skies with intermittent rain and thundershowers are expected across many parts of the region until Sunday.

He added that dry weather is likely to prevail on June 23 and 24, with only brief and isolated spells of rain. Between June 25 and 27, moderate rainfall is expected at many places, with the possibility of thunder and light storms.

An advisory issued by the MeT Department earlier had urged farmers to conclude field operations by June 20 in anticipation of changing weather patterns. The department warned of moderate to heavy rainfall in Jammu division on June 21 and 22, which may lead to flash floods, landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones in vulnerable areas.

Kashmir Schools

June 23 to July 7. “Consequent upon the approval conveyed by the competent authority, it is hereby ordered that all the Government and recognized Private Schools up to Higher Secondary level functioning in the Kashmir Division shall observe summer vacation with effect from 23-06-2025 to 07-07-2025,” the order stated.

The decision comes amid an intense heatwave that has pushed temperatures in the region to record-breaking levels.

Srinagar recorded its hottest June day in 20 years on Friday, with the maximum temperature touching 35.5°C—6.3 degrees above normal. The same night, the city witnessed a minimum temperature of 23.2°C, the highest June night temperature since 1990, when it stood at 23.6°C.

The all-time highest night temperature for June remains 24.6°C, recorded on June 29, 1978.

Other parts of the Valley also reported unusually high night temperatures. Pahalgam recorded 16.8°C—its third highest for June—while Kokernag logged 20.4°C, also the third highest for the month. Kupwara's minimum of 21.1°C marked its fifth highest night temperature ever recorded in June.

U.S. Moves B-2s,

Arab media reported on Wednesday that Iran has conveyed the message through Qatar to all Gulf Arab countries, hosting American military bases, warning that they could become legitimate targets in the event of an American attack against Iran from their soil.

US-Iran Nuclear Talks

scientists are being bombarded.” Regarding possible U.S. military action, Araghchi stated bluntly: “If the U.S. joins Israel in these attacks, we will do the same. When there is a war, both sides attack each other — that’s quite understandable.”

He added, “If the U.S. joins this aggression, it will be very unfortunate and very, very dangerous for everybody.”

Araghchi flatly rejected Washington’s demand for zero uranium enrichment. “This is an achievement of our own scientists,” he said. “It’s a question of national pride and dignity.” He said he had personally conveyed this stance to U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff.

On threats of targeted assassinations, Araghchi warned that harming Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei “would be the biggest crime they can commit — but they won’t be able to do that.”

Iran’s Supreme Leader echoed that tone in a televised speech, warning: “The Americans should know that any U.S. military intervention will undoubtedly be accompanied by irreparable damage.”

Istanbul Meeting

Meanwhile, diplomacy appears to have collapsed. A planned round of U.S.-Iran nuclear talks in Muscat, Oman, was abruptly canceled. Oman’s Foreign Minister said the ongoing conflict made dialogue impossible, following Iran’s declaration that negotiations were now “meaningless.”

In Istanbul, the OIC convened an emergency meeting to address the escalating crisis. Member states strongly condemned Israel’s aggression and warned against further Western military involvement.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdo an, hosting the summit, called for an immediate end to hostilities, declaring, “The Islamic world must not remain silent in the face of blatant violations of international law.” He urged countries with influence over Israel not to listen to its “poison” and to pursue a diplomatic solution before the conflict widens.

Erdo an also accused Western leaders of providing “unconditional support” to Israel and warned that Türkiye would not allow borders in the Middle East to be redrawn “in blood.”

The war began on June 13 with Israeli aerial strikes across Iran, targeting nuclear facilities, military sites, and senior officials. According to a Washington-based Iranian human rights group, at least 722 people — including 285 civilians — have been killed, and over 2,500 injured.

Trump’s Flip-Flop Despite mounting international pressure for de-escalation, U.S. President Donald Trump has kept his options open. Speaking aboard Air Force One after the G7 summit in Italy, Trump said: “We’re not looking for a cease-fire. We want a real end — giving up, entirely.”

Later, in the Oval Office, he said, “I like to make the final decision one second before it’s due, because things change — especially with war.”

When asked about a potential U.S. strike, he told reporters: “I may do it, I may not do it — nobody knows.” On his social platform Truth Social, Trump doubled down, posting: “UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER!”

Defense analysts cited by the Associated Press say Iran’s heavily fortified Fordo enrichment site is immune to most attacks — except potentially by U.S. “bunker-buster” bombs.

With diplomacy unraveling, nuclear tensions rising, and rhetoric intensifying, the path ahead grows increasingly perilous — not just for the Middle East, but for global stability.

Yemen To Trump:

media reported the statement from Ansarallah, which controls capital Sanaa, reaffirming the Houthis group’s firm stance against “Zionist aggression” directed at any Arab or Islamic country.

Since 2023, the Ansarallah forces have launched attacks on Israel and shipping in the Red Sea in what they say is support for Palestinians in Gaza.

In May, the US and Ansarallah agreed to a ceasefire in which neither side would target the other.

256 Students,

on Saturday, bringing much-needed relief to their anxious families.

The students, many of whom were stranded in Iran amid escalating tensions in the Middle East, appeared visibly exhausted but relieved after enduring days of fear and uncertainty in the conflict zone.

“Thanks to the Government of India for its efforts and timely co-ordination with Iranian authorities. We remain committed to ensuring the safe evacuation of all remaining students, especially those from vulnerable and remote regions,” the Jammu and Kashmir Students’ Association said in a statement.

The association also confirmed that another evacuation flight carrying Indian students is expected to arrive in the national capital around 11:30 pm.

This was the second flight bringing back Indians from Iran within 24 hours under Operation Sindhu. Another flight from Iran’s Mashhad, with 290 Indian students, mostly from Jammu and Kashmir,” landed in Delhi late on Friday night.

The Indian authorities, in coordination with their Iranian counterparts, facilitated the movement of stranded students from Tehran to Mashhad before boarding. Iran also opened its airspace in a special gesture to support the evacuation.

In all, nearly 1,000 Indian nationals are being brought home through a series of special flights. Two additional flights, including one from Turkmenistan’s capital Ashgabat (expected arrival around 3 am on Sunday), are also scheduled.

“Heartfelt thanks to the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs, and all concerned authorities for their

timely intervention and support,” the Jammu and Kashmir Students’ Association reiterated, underlining the emotional relief experienced by families across the Union Territory.

The evacuations are part of Operation Sindhu, launched by the Ministry of External Affairs last week in response to the worsening conflict between Israel and Iran, which has severely disrupted regional air travel and left many Indian nationals stranded. On Thursday, 110 students were flown out via Armenia and Doha.

Yoga Is The

is “to unite”, and it is heartening to see how yoga has united the world.

Asserting that Yoga is for everyone, beyond boundaries, background, age, or ability, PM Modi said the theme of this year’s International Yoga Day - “Yoga for One Earth, One Health” - reflects a deep truth, that the health of every entity on earth is interconnected.

Expressing pride in seeing how differently-abled individuals are reading yogic texts in braille, Modi noted that scientists are also practicing yoga in space.

Human well-being depends on the health of the soil that grows food, on the rivers that give water, and the health of animals that share the ecosystem and the plants that nourish, he further said.

Yoga awakens us to this interconnectedness. Yoga leads on a journey towards oneness with the world and teaches that people are not isolated individuals but part of nature, Modi added.

“Yoga is a great personal discipline. At the same time, it is a system that takes us from Me to We. Let this Yoga Day mark the beginning of Yoga for humanity, where inner peace becomes global policy,” he said.

When India proposed in the United Nations that June 21 be celebrated as International Yoga Day, in a short time, 175 countries accepted it, he said.

After 11 years, Yoga has now become part of the lives of crores of people around the world, he further said.

“Whether the Sydney Opera House or the Everest mountain, or the span of the ocean, the message is that Yoga is for everyone,” said Modi.

Referring to Indian culture, the PM said it teaches us the value of ‘Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah’—the welfare of all is one’s sacred duty - and this journey from ‘Me’ to ‘We’ forms the foundation of service, dedication, and coexistence. The Prime Minister stated that it is this very thinking that fosters social harmony.

Emphasising that yoga should not remain merely a personal practice, Modi said it should evolve into a medium for global partnerships.

He called upon every nation and society to integrate yoga into their lifestyle and public policy and envision a collective effort to advance a peaceful, balanced, and sustainable world.

“Yoga should guide the world from conflict to cooperation, and from stress to solutions,” he said.

Further, Modi noted that through the National Ayush Mission, the message of yoga and wellness is being actively advanced across the country.

Healing in India is becoming popular. India is the best destination for healing, and yoga plays a key part in this, he said adding that growing obesity is a global challenge. I have discussed it in Mann Ki Baat. I have launched a challenge to cut oil intake by 10 per cent. I reiterate it today. Awareness is needed in this matter, he said.

He remarked that digital technology has played a significant role in this effort, with over one million events being registered nationwide through the Yoga Portal and YogAndhra Portal.

According to the PM, the scale of events taking place in every corner of India reflects yoga’s growing influence.

Modi expressed satisfaction that a Common Yoga Protocol has been developed to standardise it.

CM Defends NC

satisfied,” he added.

Meanwhile, on the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, the Chief Minister said the security of pilgrims is the responsibility of the Lieutenant Governor and Raj Bhawan. “We’ve ensured the infrastructure and medical side is in place. It’s for the LG administration to guarantee safety,” he said.

Commenting on the Iran-Israel conflict, Omar said, “There may be politics behind it, but such conflicts must stop. The only way forward is dialogue.”

Int’l Day Of Yoga

was held at the lawns of the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) overlooking the

famous Dal lake in which hundreds of people, including Jammu and Kashmir Health and Education Minister Sakina Itoo and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, participated.

They said the participants performed several ‘asanas’ and breathing exercises under the guidance of trained instructors.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha participated in 11th International Yoga Day Celebration with Yoga enthusiasts and performed Asanas as per the laid down Common Yoga Protocol. The Lieutenant Governor said that in today’s fast-paced world, the importance of Yoga is immeasurable.

“Yoga reduces stress and enhances quality of life. This year’s International Yoga Day theme, ‘Yoga for One Earth, One Health,’ highlights holistic approach to health for humanity. This ancient Indian tradition ensures mental and spiritual harmony in the society and harmonises the body, mind and spirit”.

The Lieutenant Governor appealed to the people to incorporate Yoga into daily routines and motivate others to practice Yoga for a happy living.

BJP’s J-K unit celebrated the Yoga Day at the historic ‘Ghanta Ghar’ (clock tower) in the Lal Chowk city centre here.

Speaking to reporters, J&K BJP spokesperson Altaf Thakur said the party wanted to send a message from the iconic clock tower that Kashmir was safe and peaceful.

“We not only want to send the message that yoga has health benefits, but by performing yoga at the Ghanta Ghar in Lal Chowk, we want to send the message that Kashmir is peaceful and tourists should come here,” Thakur said.

The Yoga Day was also celebrated across the Valley at district headquarters, educational institutions and tourist spots as per the theme of “Yoga for One Earth, One Health”, the officials said.

Deputy commissioners led the functions at the respective district headquarters which were also attended by a school and college students.

They said security forces, including the Army, BSF and CRPF, also celebrated the International Day of Yoga.

The Kashmir BSF celebrated Yoga Day at BSF Humhama campus, a spokesperson said.

BSF Kashmir was also organised yoga events at border out posts. The session witnessed a large turnout, including officers, jawans, women personnel, and trainees, who gathered early in the morning.

The collective participation highlighted the importance of incorporating yoga into daily routine for physical fitness, mental clarity, and emotional balance, the spokesperson said.

The celebration concluded with a pledge to continue practising yoga regularly and spreading its benefits across communities.

Railway Police wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police organised special yoga sessions at all railway stations across the Valley.

Self-discipline and self-care was promoted among Railway Protection Force (RPF), railway employees and even waiting passengers, they said.

DM Reviews J&K

detailed review.

Singh, who is on a two-day visit to J&K, arrived in Udhampur on Friday. On Saturday morning, he led a mass Yoga session with over 2,500 soldiers to mark the 11th International Day of Yoga. Following the event, the Defence Minister was given a comprehensive overview of the security dynamics in the Union Territory.

Officials said the briefing covered multiple aspects, including the situation along the Line of Control (LoC), emerging threats from across the border, infiltration attempts, and intensified anti-terror operations in forested and vulnerable zones in the hinterland.

The meeting also focused on the multi-layered security arrangements in place for the 38-day annual Amarnath Yatra, which is scheduled to begin on July 3. The Army has been tasked with sanitising areas along both the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the 14-km steeper Baltal route in Ganderbal, as well as securing the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway used by pilgrims.

The Defence Minister was briefed on area domination patrols, forest combing operations, surveillance along key routes, and coordination with other security and intelligence agencies.

The Army’s preparedness and deployment patterns aim to ensure the safety of pilgrims amid rising concerns over terror threats. Singh was also informed about recent successes in counter-terror operations and strategic responses under Operation Sindoor, launched

earlier this year following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Rajnath Singh appreciated the professionalism of the Armed Forces and reiterated the government’s full support to their operations in securing the Union Territory and ensuring peaceful conduct of the yatra.

‘Op Sindoor Reflects

performing various asanas and breathing exercises with 2,500 soldiers.

Speaking to troops, Singh said Operation Sindoor was a continuation of India’s decisive security strategy, following the 2016 surgical strike and the 2019 Balakot air strike.

“Operation Sindoor is not over yet... Through this operation, we have told Pakistan that terrorism against India will not be tolerated. Our response will go from bad to worse,” Singh said, flanked by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi.

The operation, which took place on the night of May 6–7, involved Indian Armed Forces targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. It came in response to the April 22 attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people, most of them tourists.

“Pakistan’s ‘thousand cuts’ policy has failed. Any future terror strike on Indian soil will prove disastrous for Pakistan. India is ready to act in any form to fight terrorism,” he warned.

Singh described Operation Sindoor as a “shining example” of restraint, balance, and precision—qualities he said are cultivated through the discipline of Yoga. The Defence Minister, who led a mass yoga demonstration with over 2,500 soldiers at the Northern Command headquarters, said Yoga prepares a soldier both mentally and physically for the battlefield.

“Yoga gives clarity in chaos. It’s not just a personal practice but a philosophy and way of life,” he said. “It makes us proactive, not reactive—and that is the strength our Armed Forces displayed in Operation Sindoor.”

Reiterating Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s message that “Yoga is India’s gift to the world,” Singh said Yoga transcends borders, religions, and cultures, and offers a universal solution to the modern world’s challenges—such as anxiety, stress, and depression.

This year’s Yoga Day theme, ‘One Earth, One Health,’ reflects India’s belief in global welfare, he noted. “Yoga is a practical expression of our vision that the world is one family. Every citizen should be proud that this ancient Indian tradition is now globally accepted.”

He called upon citizens to not treat Yoga as a passing trend but to integrate it into daily life and national culture. “Let us not perform Yoga only at the level of the body, but also at the level of society and thought. Yoga must become a way of life,” Singh concluded.

The International Yoga Day event at Udhampur also saw participation from senior military officials, including General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Northern Command Lt Gen Pratik Sharma.

Tehsildar Held

Tehsildar and his accomplice were arrested while accepting the remaining bribe amount.

In addition to the 50,000 bribe money, the ACB recovered another 79,000 in cash from the location. Both accused were produced before the Additional Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court, Baramulla, and have been remanded to seven days of police custody.

Searches are currently underway at the official and residential premises of the accused. Notably, the same Tehsildar was previously booked by the ACB in 2021 in connection with illegal land mutations. Several other complaints against him are also under investigation.

The ACB has stated that it is actively pursuing leads to determine if other officials were complicit in the case. The investigation is ongoing. (With inputs from KINS)

For The First

this work carries real weight. “There’s a strange silence in the novel,” he said. “It’s about absence as much as presence. That’s what made it so hard to translate. And that’s what made it necessary.”

Born in 1928, Akhtar Mohiuddin is a towering figure in Kashmiri letters. He wrote the first novel in the language—Dod Dag, or Disease and Pain—and in 1968 was awarded the Padma Shri, one of India’s highest civilian honors.

But in 1984, he returned the award in protest after the hanging of Kashmiri separatist leader Maqbool Bhat. He died in 2001. Many of his works remain unpublished, locked in drawers and family archives.

Khawaja’s translation might be

the first to break that lock.

Backed by Armory Square Ventures, a tech venture firm in upstate New York, the prize Khawaja got was created to address a glaring gap in the American publishing landscape.

Despite being spoken by more than a fifth of the world’s population, South Asian languages make up less than 1 percent of all translated literature published in the United States. Only 64 such books were published in the last ten years.

“The fact that this prize even exists is a small miracle,” said Pia Sawhney, cofounder of Armory Square Ventures. “But the bigger miracle is the talent it’s bringing forward. People like Mehdi Khawaja. Stories like this one.”

This year’s prize jury, chaired by Jason Grunebaum, included some of the most respected names in literary translation—Rockwell, Sugi Ganeshananthan, Padma Viswanathan, Arunava Sinha, and Deena Chhabli.

The five shortlisted works spanned Hindi, Tamil, Sinhala, and Kashmiri, and moved between bustling South Asian cities and the quieter corners of Europe. Themes ranged from political unrest to familial memory.

Saigon Puducherry, a Tamil novel translated by Subhashree Beeman, received a Special Jury Mention for its emotional depth. All five finalists will have excerpts published later this year by Words Without Borders, offering readers an early glimpse into their worlds.

But it’s Khawaja’s work that will go the furthest. Open Letter Books, a press based at the University of Rochester, will publish To Each Their Own Hell in 2027.

“This is, to the best of our knowledge, the first Kashmiri novel to be published in English in the U.S.,” said Chad W. Post, who runs Three Percent, a site that tracks literary translation. “It’s a powerful start.”

In Kashmir, the news landed with pride. “People don’t think of Kashmiri as a literary language beyond our region,” Khawaja said. “This award helps change that. It tells us our stories matter, and the world might finally be ready to listen.”

Whether the world is ready or not, Kashmiri literature is no longer waiting to be invited in. It’s arrived, with a voice that refuses to be silenced.

Kashmir Sees

that every year, on average, four to five deaths occur in Kashmir due to dog bites, and 98 percent of the cases that the hospital receives are due to stray dogs, with children often at the receiving end.

The persistent menace of stray dogs in the Kashmir Valley has evolved into a significant public health crisis. The ARC of SMHS Hospital has logged 6,258 dog bite cases in just one year, averaging more than 17 cases every day. These numbers are the highest ever reported in the Valley’s recorded history.

The annual data paints a concerning picture. From June 2024 to May 2025, the monthly reported dog bite cases in the Kashmir Valley were as follows: June saw 530 cases, July 598, August 521, September 515, October 540, November 423, December 439, January 480, February 463, March 524, April 625, and May 601. Looking at the annual figures for dog bite cases over the past decade, the numbers stood at 7,061 in 2015–16, 5,832 in 2016–17, 6,802 in 2017–18, 6,397 in 2018–19, 6,139 in 2019–20, 4,808 in 2020–21, 5,469 in 2021–22, 6,875 in 2022–23, approximately 8,800 in 2023–24, and 6,258 dog bites recorded for 2024–25. Over the last decade, the total number of dog and cat bites in the Valley has approached 70,000 cases.

“The data reveals a worrying trend: children are disproportionately affected by dog bites, with 98 percent of dog-bite cases involving stray dogs. This places a significant burden on families and the healthcare system, especially as rabies is nearly always fatal once symptoms appear,” Dr Khan said.

He added that the severity of the rabies disease and the importance of prompt action must be understood by the common masses “People should not ignore any bite or scratch incident and get vaccinated immediately. The number of cases coming to the ARC of SMHS has increased manifold in the last three years. There is a dire need for public awareness and vaccination.”

Furthermore, the Valley’s decade-long upward trajectory in animal bites is a cause for grave concern. From around 7,000 annual dog bite cases a decade ago, the figures have fluctuated but demonstrate a clear upward trend, peaking at around 8,800 in 2023–24 before the current year’s numbers. (KNO)

DAY 2
England 107/1 After Pant's 100 & Bumrah's Magic



Press Trust of India

LEEDS: Jasprit Bumrah produced a moment of pure magic after Rishabh Pant unfurled a remarkable hundred, but England showed spunk to reach 107 for one at tea against India on the second day of the first Test here on Saturday.

Ben Duckett (53) and Ollie Pope (48) were at crease at the break after adding 103 runs for the second wicket as the home side now trail India's first innings total of 471 by 364 runs.

England needed a strong start but Bumrah made it impossible with a zippy first spell under grey skies in which he consumed opener Zak Crawley (4).

It was a wonderful exhibition of fast bowling and Crawley never looked settled, producing edges in his first three balls, and the fourth one proved lethal. The delivery took the outside edge of the right-hander's bat, grazed on his thigh pad and eventually nestled in Karun Nair's hands at first slip.

Ben Duckett had immense fortune too as he was dropped by Ravindra Jadeja at backward point off Bumrah when the batter was on 15.

However, the pressure Bumrah created from one end could not be sustained by his new ball partner Mohammed Siraj, who gave away far too many freebies.

Third seamer Prasidh Krishna, a hard length bowler, too erred while trying to find that fuller Leeds length, giving ample space for batters to free their arms.

Duckett and Pope were too vigilant to miss those opportunities as England



scored close to five runs an over after rain held up their start for a while in the post-lunch session.

Earlier, Pant (134) made a brilliant hundred while skipper Shubman Gill (147) carved his highest Test score but spirited England bowlers managed to grab seven Indian wickets for 112 runs across two sessions to limit them to 471.

India resumed the day from 359 for three.

Pant, who started the day on 65, took over the mantle from Gill, who was happy to cede the majority of the strike to his partner.

The left-hander, who milked 209 runs for the fourth wicket with Gill, was at his en-

tertaining best, starting his cavalier ways with a stunning falling paddle off spinner Bashir behind stumper Jamie Smith, a la West Indian legend Rohan Kanhai.

Smith was in action a little later when he missed a simple stumping chance off Bashir, to get rid of Pant when the batter was at 124.

But by that time, Pant had stamped his authority on the game in his inimitable way and Bashir bore the full force of his innovative fury.

In doing so, he also overtook former captain MS Dhoni (6 centuries) in scoring the most number of hundreds by any Indian wicketkeeper in Tests.

JK Bank XI Lifts 2024-25 Srinagar Premier Division Title

JK Bank XI won the 2024-25 Srinagar Premier Division football league after an intense final round. The team narrowly edged out AG's Office XI on goal difference in the final standings.

Kashmir Avengers FC and Real Kashmir FC (Reserves) rounded out the top four teams.

FINAL STANDINGS:

1. JK Bank XI – 6 PTS (+2 GD)
2. AG's Office XI – 6 PTS (+1 GD)
3. Kashmir Avengers FC – 3 PTS
4. Real Kashmir FC (R) – 3 PTS

In their final game of the season on Friday, JK Bank XI defeated Kashmir Avengers 3-2 in a hotly-contested matchup.

The 2024-25 Srinagar Premier Division was organised by District Football Association Srinagar under the banner of J&K Sports Council's "My Youth My Pride" initiative.

YSS Budgam's District Level Badminton Tourney For Girls Ends



The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam successfully concluded the Inter-Zonal District Level Badminton Tournament for Girls Under-19 years at the Indoor Sports Stadium Budgam on Saturday. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from student-athletes representing all 12 zones of the district.

The tournament was officially inaugurated by the Activity Section of DYSSO Budgam under the directions of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam Ghulam Hassan Lone. The opening ceremony was marked by the presence of senior officers, field officials and physical education staff, reflecting the department's continued commitment to promoting sports and fitness among youth.

The event provided a vibrant platform for young girls to showcase their talent, team spirit and sporting excellence in a competitive yet encouraging atmosphere.

Week-Long Yoga Fest by YSS Culminates With Mega Events



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On International Yoga Day on Saturday, the Department of Youth Services & Sports organised a series of yoga programmes across J&K, engaging thousands of school children, youth and the general public in the ancient practice of yoga.

Yoga remains an integral part of the department's annual calendar, with dedicated training for students of different age groups to participate in yoga competitions.

Leading up to International Yoga Day, YSS organized pre-yoga day events in all sports zones of J&K, fostering awareness about the importance, relevance, and benefits of yoga.

Hundreds of officials and students from the Department also participated in the important functions held at SKICC, Srinagar and Gulshan Ground Jammu, joining the global celebration of yoga.

Meanwhile, at Khel Gaon Nagrota, Jammu, a mega yoga programme was organised by YSS, where Director General YSS Anuradha Gupta graced the occasion as the chief guest.

In addition to the UT-level events, YSS organised yoga programmes at various district and zonal headquarters, where field officers led sessions promoting yoga's holistic benefits among students and the public.

In Anantnag, YSS celebrated the International Day of Yoga

at the District Headquarters and all Zonal Headquarters. The main district-level event, held at Anantnag, witnessed Deputy Commissioner Anantnag as the Chief Guest, along with other senior officers from civil and police administration. Over 4,400 participants, including students, teachers, officials, and members of the local community took part in synchronized yoga demonstrations across various venues. All Zonal Headquarters namely Zone Verinag, Doru, Qazigund, Annatnag, Vailoo, Bidder, Achabal, Shangus, Ashmuqam, Mattan, Srigufwara and Bijbehara held parallel yoga sessions in the morning.

In Ganderbal, the main yoga event was organised at the Government College of Physical Education Gadoora, where more than 1500 participants, including officers, officials, students, and Yoga enthusiasts gathered to practice Yoga.

In Budgam, yoga events were organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, Health, Department of Ayush & Nehru Yuva Kendra in collaboration with Department of Education at Sports Stadium Budgam, where the Chief Guest was Deputy Commissioner Dr Bilal Mohiddin Bhat.

Similar programmes were organised at the Zonal and Block level. The yoga program at Budgam headquarters started at 6 am and continued for two hours.



Italy Cracks Down On Violence Against Referees

Agencies

ROME: Referees in Italy will now receive the same legal protection as police officers and other public officials, Sports Minister Andrea Abodi said, to help curb a rise in cases of assault in sports such as soccer.

A change to the penal code will mean much tougher penalties, include potentially jail, for acts of violence against match officials, including pushing, hitting, or threatening. The move follows months of discussions between the government and the Italian Soccer Referees Association.

The law, part of a decree approved by the Italian government late on Friday, extends protection to all officials responsible for ensuring sporting fixtures are conducted fairly.



Abuse towards match officials at all levels of Italian soccer has become a growing concern. In December, Serie A referees high-

lighted the issue by wearing black smudges on their cheeks during matches as a symbol of protest. In one notorious example

last season, 19-year-old referee Diego Alfonzetti was attacked when he took charge of a youth match in Sicily.

Alfonzetti was invited on to the pitch alongside the match officials before the Lazio-Rome Serie A derby in April as an act of solidarity.

"Sport is loyalty and sharing. Those who do not accept it are warned: from tomorrow violent behaviour and aggression against referees will be punished without delay, even with prison," said Senator Andrea Ostellari, a junior justice minister.

Inter's Acerbi Threatens PSG Fan Over Champions League Taunting

Inter Milan defender Francesco Acerbi lost his cool after a Club World Cup fan wearing a Paris St Germain shirt in Seattle taunted

him about last month's Champions League final, with the Italian threatening to beat him up if the teasing continued.

The fan brought up a humiliating moment from Inter's 5-0 defeat by the French champions in Munich, in which Acerbi was left sprawling after some dazzling footwork by Bradley Barcola.

On a video that went viral on social media, the visibly annoyed Italian international sought the help of a translator during a meet-and-greet with fans. The translator told the fan in English on Thursday: "You must be serious with him."

Seconds later, Acerbi stepped in to say in Italian: "I'm serious. Don't make fun of me – I don't like it. ... I'm crazy, I'll beat the crap out of you."

Acerbi then quickly moved on, posing for photos with other fans.

Mbappe Skips Training, To Miss Pachuca Game

Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe skipped Saturday's collective training session and was set to miss the 15-times European champions' Group H game against Pachuca at the Club World Cup as he recovered from illness, the club said.

Mbappe, who was admitted to a Miami area hospital earlier this week with acute gastroenteritis, had stayed at the team hotel and would not be travelling to Charlotte, North Carolina, for Sunday's match, a Real spokesperson said.

Mbappe was ruled out of Real's opening game against Al-Hilal, which ended in a 1-1 draw and left RB Salzburg top of the table with three points after they beat Mexican side Pachuca 2-1.

Mbappe had been isolated from his team mates since Tuesday before being taken to hospital on Wednesday, and was discharged on Thursday.

A club source said earlier this week that Mbappe was not expected to take part in any group game at the Club World Cup.

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