

College Dreams On Hold As PMSSS Portal Fails J&K Applicants

Portal glitches and mismatched rules under the PMSSS are blocking J&K students from applying to top universities, leaving hundreds stranded as the deadline approaches.

Fiza Masoodi

Srinagar: When Mareeha Syed, a scholarship applicant from Kashmir, sat down last week to complete her college choice submission for the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS), she quickly

realized the system wasn't working as it should.

The portal kept asking her to upload a document that didn't exist yet.

To apply for Delhi University (DU) colleges, students under PMSSS must now submit proof of CSAS (Central Seat



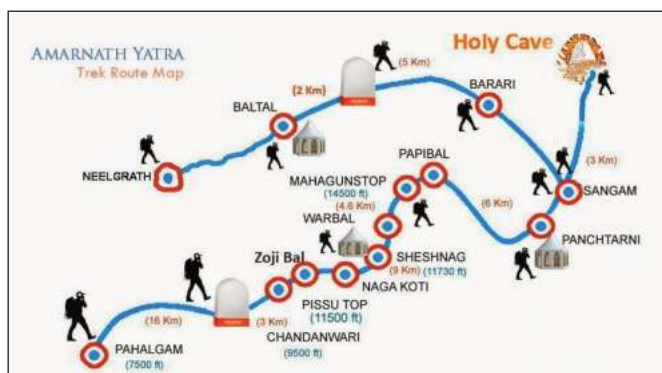
Allocation System) registration. But DU's CSAS Phase 2, which allows students to actually register their preferences,

hasn't even started.

"It's a requirement we cannot meet because the university hasn't opened the window yet," Mareeha said. "How can we upload a document that doesn't exist? The portal simply won't let us move ahead without it."

The PMSSS, designed to provide financial aid to students from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh to study outside the region, has been a crucial opportunity for many families who cannot afford higher education elsewhere. Thousands of students | [More on P10](#)

All Set For Amarnath Yatra From July 3



- LG to Flag Off Convoy from Jammu on July 2
- J&K Admin To House 50K Pilgrims In Lodgement Centres

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With final preparations in place, Jammu and Kashmir is all set to welcome

thousands of devotees for the annual Amarnath Yatra, starting July 3. From lodging arrangements for over 50,000 pilgrims to tight security along the twin routes of Pahalgam and Baltal, officials say every detail has been accounted for to ensure a safe and seamless pilgrimage to the revered cave shrine.

The first batch of pilgrims will leave for Kashmir from the Jammu-based Bhagwati Nagar base camp a day before the start of the Yatra.

"Arrangements have been made to | [More on P10](#)

Travel In Convoys For Safety: IGP To Pilgrims

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V K Birdi on Friday said that elaborate security arrangements have been put in place to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of the annual Amarnath Yatra, which is set to begin on July 3. Speaking to reporters, Birdi advised pilgrims to travel in | [More on P10](#)

6 **THOSE WHO WANT TO TRAVEL** by private vehicles will also proceed to Kashmir under security cover."

Kishanganga, Rattle Row

India Dismisses Arbitration Court Ruling

Agencies

Srinagar: Rejecting the ruling by a Court of Arbitration that issued a "supplemental award" regarding the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir, India on Friday said that the tribunal has no legal authority to intervene.

Both the hydel projects are situated on tributaries of the Indus river system and have been a longstanding point of contention between India and Pakistan.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that the tribunal has no legal authority | [More on P10](#)

J&K Must Regain Its Top Tourism Spot: CM

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday urged all stakeholders to join hands in restoring Jammu and Kashmir's position as India's premier tourist destination, saying it was a shared responsibility that must be met with urgency and vision.

"It is the collective duty of the government and tourism stakeholders to restore Jammu and Kashmir's position as the country's pre-eminent tourist destination and ensure it remains so," Omar said while addressing the J&K Tourism Revival Dialogue organised jointly by



the Department of Tourism and FICCI at SKICC in Srinagar.

Emphasising the need for consistent efforts, Omar said, "It is binding on us to do everything in our power to ensure that Jammu | [More on P10](#)

'A Revered Guest Treated So Shockingly' Court Rejects Bail Of Accused In Tourist Rape Case

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A Court in Anantnag on Friday turned down bail plea of a youth accused of raping an elderly tourist from Maharashtra during her stay in a hotel in Pahalgam area of south Kashmir earlier this year.

"I do not find any of the ground pleaded in the application and arguments advanced by the counsel for the accused to influence the judicial conscious of this court to describe the incarceration of the accused as legally unsustainable and unwarranted at this stage of the investigation, | [More on P10](#)

Malware, Sextortion & Cyber Slavery

J&K Cyber Police Detail Evolving Scams In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In the wake of a concerning spike in cybercrimes across Jammu and Kashmir, Senior Superintendent of Police (Cyber) Mohd Yaseen Kichloo has warned the public about increasingly sophisticated digital scams that are defrauding and exploiting people across the Union Territory.

Speaking to reporters, Kichloo, who also heads the Cybercrime Investigation Centre for Excellence (CICE), said 95 percent of the cybercrime cases reported in J&K

are related to financial fraud, while 12 percent involve child exploitation and sextortion.

Steganography Scams and Financial Frauds

One of the newer techniques highlighted by the SSP involves malware hidden inside innocent-looking photos and PDFs, often depicting elderly people or missing persons. "This method, called steganography, enables hackers to infect your phone or computer as soon as you download the file. They can then access your photos, apps, or even banking information," Kichloo said.

He urged | [More on P10](#)

NCC Cadets Rose To Occasion During Operation Sindoor: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday lauded the role of National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets during Operation Sindoor, calling their contributions a shining example of selfless service and commitment to the nation.

Speaking at the Special National Integration Camp at Chinari Auditorium, Badami Bagh Cantonment in Srinagar, the LG said the cadets "rose to the occasion during difficult times," referring to their active participation in relief efforts during Operation Sindoor.

"Beyond their selfless service in relief camps across border districts, they also proactively organized blood donation drives," the LG said. "Through these commendable deeds, they have unequivocally elevated the prestige of the NCC."

The special camp, organized by the NCC Directorate J&K and Ladakh in collaboration



with Headquarters 15 Corps and 31 Sub Area, brought together 340 NCC cadets and officers from across India. The event served as a platform to promote national integration and expose youth to the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Commenting the NCC's role in shaping responsible citizens, LG Sinha said, "Youth are our hope for a brighter future. The cadets here are not just participants in a camp—they are custodians of India's ancient civilization and ambassadors of unity in diversity."

PAHALGAM
TERROR ATTACK

NIA Gets 10-Day Remand Of 2 Accused

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Friday granted a 10-day remand of two men arrested for allegedly sheltering Pakistani terrorists involved in the deadly Pahalgam terror attack in April, officials said.

The two accused — Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar of Batkote and Bashir Ahmad Jothar of Hill Park, Pahalgam — were earlier sent to five-day custody on Monday. With that remand ending on Friday, the NIA sought and secured a further 10-day remand from the special court.

The duo was arrested by the NIA on Sunday in the first major breakthrough in the April 22 terror attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead and 16 others injured.

According to the agency, both accused knowingly provided shelter, food, and logistical support to three | [More on P10](#)

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2

Newborn Screening, Early Treatment Can Cut Sickle Cell Anaemia Mortality: ICMR Study

Press Trust Of India

Post-birth diagnosis resulting in early treatment can substantially improve the quality of life and reduce mortality in patients with sickle cell disease to less than five per cent from the reported 20-30 per cent, according to an ICMR study.

As many as 63,536 newborns were tested over a five-year period from 2019-2024 as part of the study on Newborn Screening for Sickle Cell Disease conducted by the National Institute of Immunohaematology in Mumbai under the India Council of Medical Research (ICMR) across seven centres in high prevalence areas of India.

The study is yet to be published.

The newborn screening programme helps find out if a baby is born with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), a serious inherited blood disorder, soon after birth, explained Dr Manisha Madkaikar, director of ICMR-Centre for Research Management and Control of Haemoglobinopathies (CRHCM) in Nagpur.

"If not detected early, this disease can cause life-threatening problems like severe infections, anaemia (low blood levels), and even strokes in infants," she said.

"Finding the disease early can save lives by allowing doctors to start treatment before problems begin," Dr Prabhakar Kedar, Scientist F, ICMR-NIIH, who is the principal investigator of the study, said.

Babies diagnosed early can be given preventive antibiotics (like penicillin) to avoid infections and get regular checkups and care from specialists, Dr Madkaikar said.

Early detection also helps in getting important vaccines to protect against serious illnesses while parents can also be taught the signs of danger so they can act quickly.

It also helps families and doctors plan long-term treatment, provides genetic counselling to the family, and increases awareness, reducing the number of future cases, Dr Madkaikar explained.



This screening is especially important in tribal and high-risk areas of India, where many cases go undiagnosed, leading to early childhood deaths, Dr Kedar highlighted.

"With screening, many of these deaths can be prevented," he said.

During the study, 7,275 babies (11.4 per cent) were found to be carriers of the sickle cell gene. This means they don't have the disease but can pass it on to their children, Dr Kedar said, adding, 569 babies (0.9 per cent) were found to have SCD.

These babies were followed up for the confirmation of diagnosis, parents were counselled about SCD, preventive measures to be taken for or to avoid complications, and informed about prenatal diagnosis to avoid any further births of affected children in the family.

"The babies were given comprehensive care, including penicillin prophylaxis, folic acid supplementation, appropriate vacci-

nations and hydroxyurea therapy, as indicated. This resulted in reduction in mortality in these children to less than 5 per cent from the earlier reported mortality of 20-30 per cent," Dr Kedar said.

This study shows that newborn screening works and can save lives, especially in places with a high number of cases like tribal areas, Dr Kedar said. This study was coordinated by Dr Harpreet Kaur, senior scientists at ICMR, Delhi.

"By detecting Sickle Cell Disease early, babies can get timely care, live healthier lives, and families can be better prepared," Dr Kedar said.

The seven centres which participated in the study are National Institute For Implementation Research on Non-Communicable Diseases in Jodhpur, Society for Education, Welfare and Action-Rural (SEWA -Rural) in Gujarat, the Nilgiris Adivasi Welfare Association (NAWA), Tamil Nadu, ICMR- Nation-



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al Institute for Research in Reproductive Health in Mumbai, ICMR-National Institute of Research in Tribal Health (NIRTH) in Jabalpur, ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar and ICMR- Centre for Research Management and Control of Haemoglobinopathies (CRHCM) in Chandrapur. Of the total 63,536 newborns tested, 57 per cent belonged to tribal parents and rest from others, Dr Kedar informed.

The aim of the study was also to understand the regional variability and role of genetic modifiers in sickle cell disease as well as to identify barriers for newborn screening implementation, he explained.

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Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Sabiqa Binti Ahad D/o Abdul Ahad Dar R/o chuker Tehsil kunzer with verified date of birth 25/04/2020 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

fko

SD Naib Tehsildar Pattan

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 1170201087 Session: A/R 2025 Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned Board School/parent against my Caste as Bhat Instead Of Mir Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Qamar Ali Mir
F/N: Mohamad Akber Mir
M/N: Naseema Bano
DOB : 2-09-2010
Residence: Kaller
mobile: 6006769194



mcb

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 121011034 Session: 2023-24 Year 2023-24 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned Board School/parent against my mother's name as Shaheena Akhtar Instead of Nighat Bano

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Ittiba Riyaz
F/N: Riyaz Ahmad War
M/N Shaheena Akhtar
DOB 15-09-2009
Residence: Peth Kanihama



bmj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of 8th pass Discharge Certificate . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the Govt Boys Middle School Bun Sheran within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Kulsooma Bano
D/o Ali Mohammad Bhat
R/o Bun Sharan Teh: Kawhrama

bmj_r

PUBLIC NOTICE

My particulars have been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Radiya Lateef D/o Lateef Ahmad Rangraiz DOB: 25-08-2005 while my correct name is Raida Latief D/o Latief Ahmad Rangrez DOB 16-05-2007. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Raida Latief
D/o Latief Ahmad Rangrez
DOB 16-05-2007

bmj

ARMED RANGE POLICE OFFICE KASHMIR SRINAGAR.

Police Control Room, Srinagar-190009

Tel:-0194-2483891 Email:- digarmed.kmr@jkpolice.gov.in

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A. Application on plain paper are invited from suitable qualified male/female candidates for the post of Principal Police Public School, Bemina. The candidates should meet the following criteria:-

- Master's Degree of an Indian University by the U.P.S.C or Honors Degree of such Indian University as may be recognized equivalent to the Master's Degree by the U.P.S.C.
- A teaching Degree or a Diploma in Education or its equivalent.
- Experience as required under anyone of the following clauses:
 - At least 3 years experience of administrative charge of a recognized College having Intermediate or higher classes.
 - At least 5 years experience of administrative charge of a recognized High School.
 - At least 5 years experience of teaching in a recognized college or Higher Secondary School or an equivalent teaching experience in a Teachers Training Institute.
 - At least 8 years teaching experience in a recognized High School.
 - At least 5 years experience including 3 years educational administrative experience and 2 years teaching experience in a recognized High or Higher Secondary School or a Teachers Training Institute.

OR

B. Bachelor of Engineering with 5 years teaching experience in a recognized College or Higher Secondary School (Given effect from 1.1.1977).

OR

C. Trained Graduate Heads of recognized High Schools who have attained the age of 45 years and possess at least 15 years teaching experience of Secondary classes in a recognized High/Higher Secondary School (including at least 5 years administrative experience as Head of a recognized High School).

OR

D. Persons possessing Master's Degree with at least 15 years teaching experience in a recognized Higher Secondary School and/or a recognized college having attained the age of 45 years.

OR

E. Persons possessing Master's Degree in Education and having the requisite experience as provided for in anyone of the forgoing clause A to D.

Preferable

Candidate who has headed Senior Secondary School affiliated with CBSE Board shall be preferred.

Desirable

Knowledge of Computer applications and proficiency in the English Language is required. Proficiency in Hindi is desirable.

Age limit

Minimum 40 to 50 years.

How to Apply

A detailed and comprehensive resume, passport size photograph (02), copies of testimonials/certificates alongwith application to be submitted in the office of Principal Public School, Bemina, Srinagar by or before **10.07.2025**.

Note:- Candidates who have already applied for the post are requested to apply a fresh in response to new advertisement.

Shahid Mehraj-IPS,
Dy, Inspector General of Police,
Armed Range Kashmir,
Srinagar.
(Administrative Officer
JKPPS Bemina)

No: GB/PPS/07/2025/8501-02
DIPK-3037/25
DATED: 27-06-2025

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION QAZIGUND

CORRIGENDUM

Subject:- Construction of Additional Room for NTPHC, Sadoora (SL. No.03)

Please read RM Instead of SQM mentioned in BOQ for item.No.11 advertised vide this office NITNo.11 OFR&B/QAZIGUND/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/ 1348-62 DATED: 26-06-2025. All other terms and conditions will remain same as per the NIT.

No1382-84
DIPK-3047/25
Dated: 27-06-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PWD R&B Division
Qazigund.

0194-2310283 exenrajbaghsgr@gmail.com

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION RA- JBAGH SRINAGAR.

Lal Mandi, Near L.D Hospital Srinagar-190008.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No.14/R&B/RAJ of 2025-26 issued under Endorsement No: 2976-86 Dated: 26.06.2025. For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rupees in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc.	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Major Head	Class of Contractor/ Agency
1.	Improvement/ Renovation of Laundry Section at Govt. LallaDed Hospital.	20.29	800/-	40,580/-	30 Days	(UT Capex 2025-26) 4210-Medical	BEE/CEE
2.	Repair & Renovation of various items in Blood Bank unit of Old Bone & Joint Hospital, Barzulla, Srinagar.	10.03	600/-	20,060/-	20 Days		BEE/CEE/DEE

Position of AAA: Accredited Vide Order No. 16-MCS of 2025 Dated: 18.06.2025.

Position of TS :- Accredited

Position of Funds: Committed/ Demanded.

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, 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 schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26.06.2025.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27.06.2025 from 12:30 PM
3	Bid submission Start Date	28.06.2025 from 10:00AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	03.07.2025 Up to 04:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	04.07.2025 at 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan number M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challans should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).

3. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/Bid Security equal to 2% of the Advertisised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% of allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG at the time of contract award. The Earnest Money/Bid Security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released under rules after successful completion of the DLP. However incase of unbalanced bid, Additional Performance Security is required as detailed below which shall be released after successful completion of work:

4. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form).

No.2976-86
DIPK-3058/25

Dated: 27.06.2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Rajbagh Division Srinagar.



House Committee On Salary Enhancement Of Legislators Holds Meeting

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The House Committee, constituted to examine the demand for enhancement of salaries and allowances of legislators, convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar. The meeting was presided over by Committee Chairman, Surjeet Singh Slathia, which was attended by members including Ali Mohammad Sagar, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Sajad Gani Lone, Hasnain Masoodi, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, Arjun Singh Raju and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan.

During the meeting, the Chairman acknowledged the demand for a hike in salaries and allowances of legislators, ex-legislators and assistants, assuring that the matter will be considered positively. He emphasized the need to adopt best practices from other States and Union Territories to address the issue effectively and at the earliest. The Committee held a detailed discussion on the sal-

ary structures of legislators in other states. The members also raised concerns regarding pension-related benefits for ex-legislators and strongly advocated for addressing these issues.

Additionally, the demand for an increase in the allowances of assistants was deliberated upon, with members unanimously supporting the proposal for a revision.

The Chairman urged all members to submit their suggestions in writing to contribute constructively to the report. He informed that a comprehensive report will be submitted to the Assembly ahead of the next session for appropriate consideration and action.

The meeting also discussed the need for the revisions of house loan and car loans benefits to the legislators.

Issues related to fuel cap for daily use, hike in allowances including stationary, medical, house, sanctuary, Constituency and other allowances were also discussed during the meeting.

House Panel Reviews Jal Jeevan Mission Progress

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The House Committee, constituted to look into the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in J&K convened a meeting at the Legislative Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Hasnain Masoodi and attended by Members Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Ali Mohammad Dar, Altaf Ahmad Wani, Aijaz Ahmad Jan, Rajiv Jasrotia, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Tanveer Sadiq, Javaid Riyaz (Bedar), Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Arjun Singh Raju and Iftikar Ahmad.

The Chairman emphasized that the Jal Jeevan Mission, launched by the Prime Minister on 15th August 2019, is a flagship initiative aimed at providing piped water supply (Har Ghar Nal Se Jal) to every rural household in the country.

He highlighted that at the time of launch, only 16.71% of rural households had access to tap water. The mission was launched in Jammu and Kashmir the same year and initially targeted completion by 2025, later revised to 2028.

During the meeting, the Committee held in-depth deliberations on the implementation status of JJM works across J&K. It had a comprehensive discussion on the detailed reports submitted by the department.

The Members also highlighted various alleged discrepancies in the work

execution of Water Supply Schemes in different areas. They emphasized the need for timely submission of detailed reports addressing the issues raised during the meeting.

The Chairman underscored the importance of strong coordination between legislators and concerned departments to ensure timely and transparent execution of works for the larger benefit of the people.

A comprehensive PowerPoint Presentation was delivered by Shaleen Kabra, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Jal Shakti Department, outlining the physical and financial achievements under JJM in the UT.

The Additional Chief Secretary informed the Committee that as of May 31, 2025, a total of 3,596 works and 1,484 schemes have been completed under JJM. Out of 6,887 allotted works, 6,791 have been started upto May 31, 2025.

He reiterated that the mission is committed to provide Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) to every rural household, ensuring a daily water supply of 55 litres per capita as per the standards set by BIS 10500.

The meeting was also attended by Mission Director JJM, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti (Kashmir and Jammu), Director Finance, Director Planning and other senior officers from the concerned departments.

SKIMS MC Bemina Launches Corneal Transplant Service

Two Patients Regain Vision In Milestone Achievement



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant milestone for ophthalmic care in the region, the Post-Graduate Department of Ophthalmology at SKIMS Medical College & Hospital, Bemina has successfully conducted its first two corneal transplant surgeries, restoring eyesight to two blind individuals.

Dr Sheikh Sajad Ahmad, Head of the Department of Ophthalmology, led the team of experts in performing the complex procedures, a statement issued to *Kashmir Observer* reads.

He expressed gratitude to the Principal of SKIMS MC, Dr Fazal Qadir Parray, for his unwavering support in enabling the department to achieve this feat. "This achievement marks a new era in eye care at our institution and brings hope to patients suffering from corneal blindness," Prof. Sajad said.

Congratulating the team, Principal SKIMS MC Dr Fazal Q. Parray

called it a "remarkable accomplishment" that will greatly benefit underprivileged patients in need of advanced eye care.

Corneal Transplantation Services

MC, for their role in making this service a reality.

"These surgeries provide new hope to those rendered blind due to corneal diseases. For many, it is the first op-

THIS ACHIEVEMENT MARKS A NEW ERA IN EYE CARE at our institution and brings hope to patients suffering from corneal blindness,"

officially commenced on June 26, 2025, under the leadership of Dr Sheikh Sajad Ahmad, with active contributions from Dr Imtiaz Ahmad, Dr. Nusrat Shaheen, and Dr. Wasim Rashid. The launch follows the department's recent acquisition of the THOTA License, which authorizes it to conduct corneal transplant surgeries regularly.

Prof. Sajad further acknowledged the support and vision of Dr M. Ashraf Ganie, Director SKIMS, and Dr Fazal Q. Parray, Principal SKIMS

portunity to see the world again with their own eyes," Prof. Sajad noted.

The department remains committed to offering comprehensive eye care services, including Phaco cataract surgeries, glaucoma treatment, retinal diagnostics and surgeries, and oculooplasty procedures. Additionally, SKIMS MC is the only government hospital in the region providing free collagen cross-linking treatment for keratoconus, aimed at preventing disease progression.

Traffic Diversion Plan Announced For Muharram Processions

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In view of the upcoming Muharram processions, the Srinagar Traffic Police has issued a detailed advisory outlining traffic diversions across several areas of the city. The advisory, which will remain in effect from June 30 to July 21, is aimed at ensuring smooth vehicular movement while accommodating religious gatherings during the holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram, which began on June 27.

According to the traffic department, key areas including Rainawari-Hazratbal road, Zadibal, Hawal, and Lalbazar will witness diversions on specific dates and during designated hours. The diversions are scheduled as follows: On June 30 (4th Muharram), Rainawari-Hazratbal road and Zadibal area will remain diverted from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. On July 1 (5th Muharram), the same areas will have diversions from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM. July 2 (6th Muharram) will see restrictions in Zadibal from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM, and on July 3 (7th Muharram), Rainawari-Hazratbal road will be affected from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM.



Further, on July 4 (8th Muharram), the Zadibal area will be under diversion from 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM. On July 5 (9th Muharram), Rainawari-Hazratbal and Zadibal will again be impacted from 2:30 PM to 7:00 PM. The most extensive restrictions will be in place on July 6 (10th Muharram – Ashura), with diversions in the Zadibal area lasting from 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM. On July 7 (11th Muharram), the Rainawari-Hazratbal and Zadibal routes will face diversions between 2:30 PM and 7:00 PM. The Bagwanpora Lalbazar area will have restricted movement on July 8 (12th Muharram) from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM, while the final diversion is scheduled for July 21 (25th Muharram) in the Zadibal area from

6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.

To facilitate movement, the traffic police has also announced alternate routes. Vehicles traveling from Lal Chowk towards Hazratbal will be diverted via Khanyar-Dastgeer Sahib-Nowhatta-Hawal-Lalbazar, while traffic from Hazratbal to the city centre will be routed through Saderbal-Lalbazar. In addition, traffic from Gojwara will be directed via Hawal and Ali Masjid along Dr. Ali Jan Road.

Authorities have urged commuters to adhere to the advisory and cooperate with traffic personnel on duty. They have also advised the public to plan their travel in advance and keep track of updates from the Srinagar Traffic Police, especially in case of any additional diversions.

DC Inspects Different Offices In DC Office Complex

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to take stock of functioning & infrastructure of various sections of DC office complex, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Friday inspected various sections and sub-offices of DC office, Srinagar.

The visit focused on taking stock of available facilities, existing infrastructure and the existing need to enhance administrative efficiency by upgrading infrastructure, streamlining record rooms, IT infrastructure, as well as ensuring adequate amenities and accessibility to the public.

DC inspected the offices of Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Nazool, SDM East, Tehsil Office South, besides other subordinate Offices.

During the visit, DC interacted with the officers and other officials and emphasized the paramount importance of transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public service delivery. He stressed the need for adopting best work ethics and urged the staff to work with a pro-



active approach while addressing public issues and grievances.

Labroo stressed the significance of maintaining cleanliness, organized office spaces and adhering to established protocols.




While inspecting the Revenue Record room, DC emphasized proper maintenance of the records in an organized manner and its simultaneous digitisation. He also stressed on ensuring better facilities for the people visiting the DC office Complex and laid stress on creating a comfortable and welcoming space


for visitors to access services and address their grievances.

DC also stressed the importance of creating a user-friendly environment within the office, particularly for those seeking assistance or redressal of issues.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioners, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz and Aadil Fareed; Chief Planning Office, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar; Tehsildar South and other concerned

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

 <div> <div>HIJRI</div> <div>CALENDAR</div> <div>02 Muharram</div> <div>1447</div> </div>	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	3:37
	ZUHR	12: 33
	ASR	5:34
	Magrib	7:50
	ISHA	9:31

This Day In History

- 767 - St Paul I ends his reign as Catholic Pope
- 1098 - Fighters of the First Crusade defeat Kerbogha of Mosul.
- 1119 - Battle of Sarmada - Emir Ilghazi defeats French Crusaders
- 1389- Ottomans defeat Serbian army in the bloody Battle of Kosovo, opening the way for the Ottoman conquest of Southeastern Europe (see Vidovdan).
- 1635 - French colony of Guadeloupe established in Caribbean
- 1651 - Battle of Beresteczko between Poles and Ukrainians starts.
- 1675 - Battle at Fehrbellin: Brandenburg army beats Sweden
- 1762-Russian tsarina Catherine II seizes power, declaring herself Catherine II, the sovereign ruler of Russia
- 1778 - Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey (General Washington beats Clinton)
- 1778 - Mary Ludwig Hayes "Molly Pitcher" aids American patriots
- 1807 - British troops land at Ensenada, Argentina
- 1820 - Tomato is proven to be non-poisonous by Colonel Robert Gibbon eating a tomato on steps of courthouse in Salem, New Jersey
- 1895 - French painter Paul Gauguin leaves France for Tahiti for the second time
- 1902- US buys concession to build Panama canal from French for \$40 million
- 1902- Germany, Italy, and the Austro-Hungarian Empire renew their Triple Alliance for six more years
- 1904-International Anti-Military Cooperation (IAMV) forms in Amsterdam
- 1919- Treaty of Versailles, ending WWI and establishing the League of Nations, is signed in France
- 1936- The Japanese puppet state of Mengjiang is formed in northern China.
- 1941- German & Romanian soldiers kill 11,000 Jews in Kishinev
- 1941- German troops occupy Galicia, Poland
- 1950- North Korean forces capture Seoul, South Korea in opening phase of the Korean War
- 1956-1st atomic reactor built for private research operates Chicago III
- 1964- Organization for Afro-American Unity formed in New York by Malcolm X

From KO Archives

Free Trade Area On Both Sides Of LoC Soon

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Prime Minister's working group for strengthening relations across the Line of Control (LoC) has suggested creation of a free trade area between Jammu and Kashmir Pakistan controlled Kashmir.

The ultimate aim (of recommendations) would be to encourage, in stages, the creation of a free trade area comprising Jammu and Kashmir and PoK, modalities of the same being worked out between the two sides, said the group headed by M Rasgotra, which submitted its report to the third roundtable conference on Kashmir in April.

The report said representatives of trade and commerce including the chambers of commerce, have al-ready visited the LoC and reported that there was lot of enthusiasm for opening up of trade and commerce between the two sides.

The group recommended setting up of a joint consultative machinery of officials and representatives of commerce from both the sides to resolve any difficulties in flow of trade. The list of items for export and import should include, handicrafts, fruits, cement, iron, medicines, sugar, basmati, rice, machinery and equipment, sports goods including raw material like willow, plastic pipes and other items that are manufactured or assembled by small scale industry in Jammu and Kashmir, the report said.

To facilitate the travel of traders across the LoC, the working group recommended that the traders should be given multiple entry and exit permits, which should be valid for a minimum period of one year. The issue of state taxes on the goods traded across the LoC may be determined by the state government after due consideration of all relevant aspects, it added.

(Kashmir Observer, 28 June, 2007)

Sad Demise

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of my beloved aunt (Zamrooda, wife of Farooq Ahmad Natoo, R/o Acha Bagh, Malla Bagh, Srinagar on June 27 2025 (1st Muharram 1447).

Her Congregation Fateha will be held on 29 June 2025 (Sunday) at their ancestral graveyard situated opposite RP Girls School, Malla Bagh at 10:30 am.

BEREAVED FAMILY



JAWAHARLALNEHRUUNIVERSITYNEW DELHI - 110067

MBAADMISSIONNOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from the CAT 2024 appeared candidates to register for admission process in the MBA programme at Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management and Entrepreneurship, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The last date to apply is 15th July, 2025. For more details, visit <http://www.jnu.ac.in/abvsmc>. For any query email at jnumba@jnu.ac.in

Trump's Anti-Harvard Rhetoric Boosts UK University Interest

Bloomberg

Washington: For the past 15 years, Don McMillan, a college-admissions consultant, has worked just down the road from Harvard University, one of the most prestigious schools targeted by his clients from the US and around the globe.



This month, he expanded his business 3,000 miles (4,800 kilometers) and an ocean away to tap into what's becoming a rapidly growing line of work: Advising the students who are souring on America and looking to go to college in the UK instead.

"There's more of an interest now for US students to study in the UK," said McMillan. "In the past our American students might only apply to Oxbridge and St. Andrews. Now they will look at a broader range."

The shift is an early indication that President Donald Trump's unprecedented effort to reshape higher education around his America-first politics may turn into a boon for UK universities, whose prestige and English-language curricula make them a natural alternative to those in the US.

The main deadline for UK

undergraduate admission was at the end of January, too early for the impact of Trump's recent policies to have had an effect. But interest has since surged as his administration started slashing funding, revoking the visas of foreign students and trying to block Harvard's overseas students from entering the US, escalating a clash with the university that's

been playing out in court.

Studyportals, a platform widely used to research colleges, said that foreign students' searches of British universities rose 10 per cent in the year through May, with the number of those looking at American schools falling by a similar amount. Among Americans, the focus on UK schools was up 12 per cent.

An influx would be a welcome shift for UK universities whose finances have been squeezed in recent years as domestic tuition failed to keep pace with rising costs and international enrollment fell short of expectations. Over 40 per cent had deficits in 2024, according to a report last month by the Office for Students, which warned that the pressure could continue if fees from foreign students don't rise as much as expected in the years ahead.

14 Indian Job Seekers Missing in Russia: Cong Seeks Action

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday claimed that 14 Indians who went to Russia in search of work are "missing" and urged the government to take up the matter with Moscow and make serious efforts for their repatriation.

Punjab Congress chief Amarinder Singh Raja Warring addressed a press conference here along with two persons from the state, who have been waiting for the return of their brothers missing in Russia for the last one-and-a-half years.

"On December 2023, 126 people went abroad in search of work. They wanted to go to Singapore and Malaysia and Italy, but they were taken to Moscow. My friend Jagdeep ji told me that his brother, who had gone to Russia with 4 others paid Rs 31,40,000 to agents but they did not get work...



We have 14 people missing today, I have their names, numbers and everything

these people were recruited in the army by the Russian government there," he claimed.

Out of these 126 people, around 100 people have returned, he said.

"We have 14 people missing today, I have their names, numbers and everything," Warring said and showed the list of those 14 people.

"Out of these missing people, 9 are from Uttar Pradesh, three from Punjab, one from Maharashtra and one from Jammu and Kashmir...This is the story of Modi Ji's Amrit Kaal," the Congress MP from Punjab said.



US Food Aid Scheme in Gaza a Trap: MSF

Trans Asia News

Paris: The Israeli-US food distribution scheme in Gaza is "slaughter masquerading as humanitarian aid" and must be dismantled immediately, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has said, denouncing the one-month-old mechanism as a deliberately dehumanising operation forcing civilians to risk death for food.

"With over 500 people killed and nearly 4,000 wounded while seeking food, this scheme is slaughter masquerading as humanitarian aid and must be immediately dismantled," MSF said in a statement on Friday.

The organisation blamed the scheme, coordinated by the so-called Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), for turning basic food aid into a deadly ordeal.

"The way supplies are distributed forces thousands of Palestinians, who have been starved by an over 100-day-long Israeli siege, to walk long distances to reach the four distribution sites and fight for scraps of food supplies," MSF said.

Aitor Zabalgoeazkoa, MSF emergency coordinator in Gaza, described the system as a trap. "The four distribution sites, all located in areas under the full control of Israeli forces after people had been forcibly displaced from there, are the size of football fields surrounded by watch points, mounds of earth, and barbed wire," he said.

"The fenced entrance gives only one access point in or out. GHF workers drop the pallets and the boxes of food and open the fences, allowing thousands in all at once to fight down to the last grain of rice."

He added: "If people arrive early and approach the checkpoints, they get shot. If they arrive on time, but there is an overflow and they jump over the mounds and the wires, they get shot. If they arrive late, they shouldn't be there because it is an 'evacuated zone,' they get shot."

MSF called on Israeli authorities and allies to "lift the siege on food, fuel, medical, and humanitarian supplies" and restore the UN-coordinated humanitarian system that existed before the war.

Iran: No US Talks, Retaliation if Provoked, UN Oversight Suspended

Trans Asia News

Tehran: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi announced Friday that Tehran has no plans to meet with U.S. officials in the coming days, directly contradicting U.S. President Donald Trump's earlier claim that talks were scheduled for next week. The statement, aired on Iranian state television underscores deepening tensions between Iran, the United States, and Israel following a 11-day war.

Araghchi stated that Iran is still assessing whether renewed negotiations with Washington are in the country's best interests. He pointed to five previous rounds of talks that were disrupted by what he described as coordinated attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities by Israel and the United States.

"This is not just a military matter — it is now a diplomatic one," said Araghchi. "The issue of reparations has entered our diplomatic agenda."

In a significant move, Iranian lawmakers passed

a binding bill suspending cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Araghchi confirmed the bill's passage and approval by Iran's top vetting body, signaling a fundamental shift in Iran's engagement with the global nuclear oversight regime.

"From now on, our relationship and cooperation with the agency will take a new form," he stated, without elaborating on what that new framework would entail.

Araghchi also used the televised interview to address the recent conflict with Israel, which began on June 13. He asserted that it was Israel — not Iran — that initiated the cessation of hostilities, reaching out to halt Iranian retaliatory strikes in exchange for an end to the fighting.

"The Zionist regime was forced to end its aggression out of desperation and without any preconditions," Araghchi claimed. He emphasized that Iran did not negotiate a ceasefire and does not recognize the current pause in hostilities as one.

"We do not accept a ceasefire, because it implies mutual agreement. Iran's response only paused after the enemy halted its aggression."

He further warned that any future Israeli breach would be met with a swift and decisive response. "Iran is not Gaza. We are not Lebanon. Any violation of our sovereignty will be answered accordingly."

Iranian military leaders, including Major General Abolrahman Mousavi and IIRG commander-in-chief Major General Mohammad Pakpour, have echoed this stance, warning of a forceful response to any renewed Israeli aggression.

The diplomatic impasse, combined with suspended UN nuclear cooperation and the volatile aftermath of military exchanges with Israel, has cast further uncertainty over the future of nuclear diplomacy in the region. European efforts to mediate appear stalled, with Araghchi hinting at frustration with what he called "European complicity" in American and Israeli aggression.

Chinese DM Meets Rajnath At SCO Summit

Press Trust of India

Qingdao: China's Defence Minister Dong Jun Thursday held separate bilateral meetings with his counterparts from member nations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), including India, Chinese media reported.

The defence ministers of the SCO member states were in this port city of China to attend a two-day conclave.

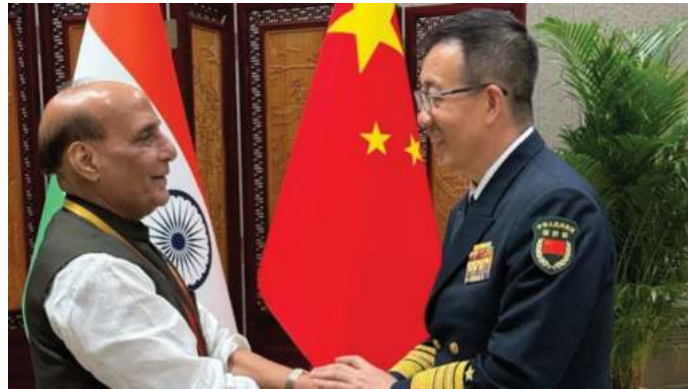
India was represented by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

There is no official word from the Indian side on Singh's reported meeting with Dong.

in eastern Ladakh began in May 2020 and a deadly clash at the Galwan Valley in June that year resulted in a severe downturn in ties between the two neighbours.

The face-off effectively ended following the completion of the disengagement process from the last two friction points of Demchok and Depsang under an agreement finalised on October 21.

In December last, NSA Ajit Doval visited Beijing and held talks with Wang Yi under the framework of Special Representatives (SR) dialogue on the boundary dispute.



A Chinese readout of the meeting said India does not seek confrontation with China and it is for enhancing communication and mutual trust.

Following the eastern Ladakh border standoff, India has been consistently maintaining that peace and stability along the border is a prerequisite for normalisation of overall ties.

The military standoff

The decision to revive the SR mechanism and other such dialogue formats was taken at a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan on October 23.

The PM Modi-President Xi meeting came two days after India and China firm up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok.

Over 4,400 Indians Evacuated From Iran, Israel In 19 Special Flights: MEA

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi-India has evacuated more than 4,400 Indian nationals from Iran and Israel so far in 19 special flights under Operation Sindhu launched on June 18 to bring home its citizens amid the ongoing conflict between the two countries, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

A fresh batch of 173 Indians evacuated from Iran reached Delhi late Thursday night in a flight from Armenian capital Yerevan, the MEA said in a post on X.

At his weekly media briefing a day before, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, in response to queries on Operation Sindhu, said New Delhi was assessing the situation on the ground and a decision on the future course of action would be taken based on it. Over 3,400 Indian nationals have been evacuated so far in 14 flights from Iran since the start of Operation Sindhu, according to data shared by him during the briefing.

Jaiswal later shared updated evacuee figures in the post on X after the arrival of the flight from Yerevan.

"A special evacuation flight from Yerevan, Armenia landed in New Delhi at 22:30 hrs on 26th June, bringing home 173 Indian nationals from Iran," he wrote.

"As part of #OperationSindhu, a total of 4415 Indian nationals (3597 from Iran and 818 from Israel) have been evacuated so far using 19 special evacuation flights including 3 IAF aircraft, 14 OCI card-holders, 9 Nepali nationals, 4 Sri Lankan nationals and 1 Iranian spouse of an Indian national were also evacuated from Iran," he added.

On June 24, India said while it remained "deeply concerned about the prospects for overall and sustained regional security and stability", it welcomed reports of a ceasefire between Iran and Israel.

Hours after US President Donald Trump's claims of an Iran-Israel ceasefire, the MEA in a statement had said "India stands ready to play its part" to resolve the situation and insisted on "dialogue and diplomacy" as the way forward.

Jaiswal on Thursday was asked if India would continue Operation Sindhu after the Iran-Israel ceasefire, and about the total number of Indian nationals evacuated from the two countries so far.

NEWS MAKERS

How Zohran's 'Joyous' Ground Game Helped Him Win Over New York Voters

Associated Press

NEW YORK: On Tuesday night, shortly before polls closed in New York's Democratic mayoral primary, and less than an hour until the first signs of his seismic upset over Andrew Cuomo, Zohran Mamdani was in a Brooklyn park, searching for a ride.

"He said he'd met some kids in the park who still hadn't voted, so he sent his personal driver to get them to a poll site before it closed," recalled Charlie Dulik, a campaign volunteer and tenant organizer, who said he approached Mamdani in the park to say hello.

Instead, Mamdani climbed into Dulik's 2007 Toyota Highlander, drawing cheers from passing pedestrians and cyclists as he made his last-minute pitch to voters while hanging from the car's sunroof, according to the volunteer. "He just

kept saying, 'It's razor thin,'" Dulik added.

While the results are not yet finalized, Mamdani's likely primary victory has jolted the Democratic establishment, leaving many astonished that a 33-year-old democratic socialist outmaneuvered the better-funded and more experienced Cuomo.

Those close to the Mamdani campaign are less surprised. They credit a seemingly omnipresent candidate devoted to speaking directly to New Yorkers, along with a sprawling field operation that helped amplify his affordability-centered platform to new voters.

As Mamdani prepares for the November general election, they say they intend to return to that playbook once again.

"From the very beginning, he was very clear that our ground game was going to be the backbone of this entire campaign," said Jason Halal, a lead field canvasser for Mamdani. "There was never any lack of urgency, and we got that from the top down."



A 'Rose Garden' front-runner

Mamdani's approach offered a stark contrast to Cuomo's campaign. The former governor, who resigned four years ago over a barrage of sexual harassment allegations, rarely put out a public schedule, chafed at questions from reporters and skipped most candidate forums.

He received fewer individual donations than Mamdani, but more than \$25 million in super PAC funds, which were poured into ads that framed the city as beset by chaos. "He was running a Rose Garden strategy that might've suited him as governor, but voters expect an intimacy from the mayor of New York City," said Basil Smikle, a Democratic political strat-

egist and professor at Columbia University. "They want to see you at the subway stop, the local pizza shop, at church."

Even Cuomo's backers — including several prominent labor unions — "didn't seem that enthusiastic about him," Smikle said, noting that with Mamdani's campaign, "you saw both that anger toward the current party and hopefulness in the street."

A Cuomo spokesperson did not respond to inquiries about the campaign's field operations, including how many volunteers had signed up.

But some voters took notice of the candidate's absence.

As she went to vote Tuesday, Michelle Hemmings Harrington, 70, a one-time supporter of the former governor, said she felt as though Cuomo was "taking our votes for granted."

She carried a pile of Mamdani pamphlets and a water bottle, both handed to her by the group of nearly a dozen of his campaign volunteers stationed around her Brooklyn polling site.

After Reopening Of Parks, Tourist Rush Returns To Pahalgam



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: After around two months of eerie calm following a recent terrorist attack, the famed tourist resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir is gradually reclaiming its vibrancy.

With the reopening of major tourist parks, including the iconic Betaab Valley, the town has once again started witnessing a steady flow of tourists — primarily from within the Union Territory — rekindling hope among local businesses and residents.

The attack earlier this year had sent shockwaves through the region, leading to a temporary closure of major recreational spots and a sharp decline in tourist footfall. However, with the security situation stabilizing and extensive safety measures in place, the administration reopened popular parks two weeks before following which the flow has been steadily increasing.

"After the incident, everything went silent — hotels were empty, shops shut early, and the air was heavy with fear. Now, hearing the laughter of children and watching families enjoy pony rides again feels like a blessing," said Zahoor Ahmad, a hotelier.

The effect of the reopening is immediately visible — bustling markets, reactivated pony trails, and reopened cafés have restored the rhythm of life in this mountain town. Although most current visitors are locals and domestic tourists, stakeholders see this as a crucial sign of revival.

"Betaab Valley had turned into a ghost spot overnight. But now the echo of tourists returning is bringing back our livelihood and our spirit," said Riyaz Lone, a shopkeeper.

While tourist numbers have not yet returned to the pre-attack level, the renewed activity has infused a sense of resilience and optimism among those dependent on tourism for survival.

"For us, it's never just about money. Our entire identity is tied to the visitors who come here. We want the world to know that Pahalgam remains a peaceful and welcoming place," said Shabnam Ali, who runs a family-owned guesthouse in the main town.

"Our pony rides had stopped for almost two months. There were days we would earn nothing. Now, even a few customers a day feel like a revival," shared Ghulam Nabi, a ponywalla near the park entrance.

PIB Jammu Organises Media Workshop In Kishtwar



Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: Press Information Bureau, Jammu under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting organised a Rural Media Workshop "Vartalap" in District Kishtwar on Friday on the theme of 11 years of governance. The workshop highlighted the achievements of the government during the period.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma; Director Press Information Bureau Jammu, Neha Jalali, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Pawan Kotwal; and other senior officers of the district administration were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of co-ordination with the media for highlighting the initiatives and other public welfare programs of the government. He added that the media is an important pillar of democracy which brings to the notice of the administration any shortcomings in the implementation of the government schemes and assessment of work done at the ground level.

Director Press Information Bureau Jammu touched upon misinformation, disinformation and propaganda and urged the media to counter these malpractices. She said that fake news is the main concern in today's world and the media has an important role to provide the public with truthful and credible information. The director spoke in detail about the fact checking mechanism run by PIB, and requested the media persons to use the service to bust fake news.

Additional Deputy Commissioner in his address highlighted the role of PIB in disseminating information to the print and electronic media on government policies, programs and achievements. Additionally, he underscored the significance of media in generating awareness about various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) including public debates, discussions and ushering accountability in bureaucracy. He added that the government has introduced an electronic file system (e-office) for greater transparency, and

steps are being taken to take it to the block level.

Other senior officers of the district administration also spoke on the occasion. Chief Education Officer Kishtwar, Masood Hussain Qazi presented the salient features of the National Education Policy 2020. He said the department is focussed on inculcation of moral values in children and imparting vocational training to the youth in line with the roadmap laid down in the policy.

Chief Agriculture Officer Kishtwar, Koushal Chandel highlighted the initiatives taken for enhancing food security, water harvesting, organic farming and empowering marginal farmers. He said that drone technology is being harnessed and real time monitoring and geotagging of agricultural land is also undertaken for better management and monitoring of agriculture initiatives.

Horticulture Development Officer Kishtwar, Raja Aadil Sheikh; Field Officer, Khadi and Village Industries Board, Shah Mohammad; District Information Officer, Kuldeep Kumar also addressed the gathering. Media and Communication Officer PIB Jammu Muzafar Wani spoke on the role of media in responsible journalism with evolving technology. The proceedings of the program were conducted by Media and Communication Officer, PIB Jammu, Zakir Nazeer.

Over 50 district media persons participated in the workshop. Vartalap is a medium to set up bridges between government and media in order to reach out to the people at grassroots. The media fraternity appreciated and thanked PIB for organising the workshop in the remote area of Jammu division. On the demand by media persons for the Press Club in Kishtwar, the Deputy Commissioner assured that the matter will be taken in the best possible way.

During the media interaction the journalists brought to the notice of the district administration difficulties being faced by them. The district administration offered suggestions for better coordination between media and the government for sharing information in a seamless manner.

"A Revered Guest Treated So Shockingly"

Court Rejects Bail Of Accused In Tourist Rape Case

M Ahmad

SRINAGAR: A Court in Anantnag on Friday turned down bail plea of a youth accused of raping an elderly tourist from Maharashtra during her stay in a hotel in Pahalgam area of south Kashmir earlier this year.

"I do not find any of the ground pleaded in the application and arguments advanced by the counsel for the accused to influence the judicial consciousness of this court to describe the incarceration of the accused as legally unsustainable and unwarranted at this stage of the investigation, which is even yet to culminate into a charge sheet," Principal Sessions Judge Anantnag, Tahir Khurshid Raina, said while rejecting the bail plea filed by the accused, Zubair Ahmad of Pahalgam.

The accused had contended that he had been falsely implicated in the case and alleged that investigation was not being conducted in a "fair and just manner".

"Before parting, this court wishes to put on record its remarks on this unfortunate incident, as the society speaks through the judge. The alleged incident is highly unfortunate, condemnable by all possible words, and ought to have jolted the conscious of this society

which claims its moorings to be based on rich ethical values and culture but now stands shaken to the hilt," the court said, adding, "A revered guest, who was a senior lady was on her visit this land of saints and seers, was treated so shabbily and shockingly that for all times to come, she will have remorse over the choice of place she made to spend a period of her old age days with her children."

It is not an isolated act to be ignored, but a reflection of a highest degree of depravity and sick mentality prevailing in the society which must bow its head down in shame and invites a serious introspection as to what it stood for, and how that has now collapsed, the court noted.

"This court, which every day witnesses the reflection of the probity level of this society, express its concern that it is hopelessly getting eroded on various fronts," the court said, adding, "No sooner the sheet-anchors, conscious keepers, watch dogs, and philanthropists of this society will rise to the occasion to check what is going wrong on the moral front of the society, the better will be for saving the Kashmir as the paradise on earth in its true sense."

Mere meadows, mountains, lush green fields, forests,

springs, rivers, rivulets and gardens will not come to the rescue of Kashmir as a desired tourist destination, the court added.

The court started the bail rejection order with a beautiful Urdu couplet that captures the rich hospitality of Kashmir goes like this: "Rastey mein Sanghrazno ne diya Pani Mujay. Zarra Zarra hai meray Kashmir Ka Mehman Nawaz (Enroute, pebbles offered me water. Every particle of my Kashmir is a cradle of hospitality.)"

"Notwithstanding the picturesque, serene and eye catching beauty of the valley of Kashmir, it's rich cultural values combined with a blend of hospitality par excellence, has attracted tourists from across the world to visit, experience and enjoy the enchanting beauty of Kashmir—often described as "heaven on earth," the court said, adding, "These tourists have, in turn enriched the culture and value system of the Kashmir to a level that matches the global standard of civilization." However, hospitality of the people of Kashmir has in-fact, outweighed all other lofty values for which Kashmir has been known across the world, the court said.

SHE WILL HAVE REMORSE over the choice of place she made to spend a period of her old age with her children."

'High Uric Acid Can Lead To Chronic Kidney Disease, Cardiovascular Risk'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Persistently high levels of uric acid in the blood, a condition medically known as hyperuricemia, are raising serious health concerns, with doctors warning of its potential to cause chronic kidney disease (CKD), increase cardiovascular risk, and trigger painful attacks of gout.

Uric acid is a waste product formed when the body breaks down purines—substances found in many foods such as red meat, organ meats, seafood, and alcoholic beverages. While it is normally eliminated through urine, excessive production or reduced excretion can lead to accumulation in the blood.

Speaking to KNO, Dr Muneer Ahmad, a nephrologist, said that unchecked uric acid levels not only cause gout but can also silently damage kidneys over time, leading to chronic kidney disease. "There is also growing evidence linking hyperuricemia to hypertension, heart disease, and metabolic disorders," he said.

Gout, the most well-



known manifestation of high uric acid, is a form of arthritis marked by sudden, severe attacks of pain, swelling, and redness, often in the joints of the feet.

"Many patients are unaware that high uric acid can be a silent contributor to kidney and heart diseases," said Dr Yasir Bhat, another doctor at DHK. "It's important to test and monitor uric acid levels, especially in those with a family history or related symptoms."

He advised routine checkups and dietary discipline as the most effective strategies for preventing the long-term damage caused by hyperuricemia.

Doctors said that consuming red meat, organ meats (like liver), seafood (such as anchovies and sardines), and alcoholic beverages—especially beer—can elevate uric acid.

The beverages high in

fructose, including soft drinks and fruit juices, are also known as culprits, they said, adding that overweight individuals are more prone to hyperuricemia due to poor metabolism. Hypertension, kidney disorders, diabetes, and thyroid issues can interfere with the body's ability to eliminate uric acid.

According to doctors, a family history of gout or uric acid-related problems may increase the risk.

To manage and prevent elevated uric acid levels, health experts recommend several lifestyle modifications: drinking plenty of water to help kidneys flush out uric acid efficiently; reducing intake of red meat, shellfish, high-fat dairy products, and especially beer and sugary drinks; maintaining a healthy weight through regular exercise; and consuming low-fat dairy, complex carbohydrates, fresh fruits, and vegetables.

They also warned that rapid weight loss can temporarily increase uric acid levels, underscoring the importance of gradual weight management.

DLIC Approves 29 Cases Under Mission YUVA In Ganderbal

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting under Mission YUVA was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, in the VC Room of the DC Office Ganderbal.

At the outset, a detailed discussion was held regarding the applications received under the scheme. The committee deliberated upon the cases submitted through the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU) and, after thorough scrutiny and evaluation, approved 29 cases unanimously for financial and institutional support under the Mission YUVA initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the significance of Mission YUVA in empowering the youth through skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, and self-employment opportunities. He stressed the need for robust post-approval support and follow-up to ensure the sustainable success of the approved units.

DC also directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of sanctioning, disbursing benefits, and extending all necessary handholding support to the beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

Jailed Baramulla MP To Go On 24-Hour Hunger Strike

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: Jailed Lok Sabha MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, will observe a 24-hour hunger strike inside Tihar Jail from 8 pm Saturday to 8 pm Sunday, in protest against what he calls the "continued denial of democratic rights" to the people of Kashmir.


In a statement issued on Friday, Rashid's party, the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), said the hunger strike comes amid the national political discourse around the 1975 Emergency and growing accusations of authoritarianism between the BJP and the Congress.

"While national parties are engaged in a war of words over the erosion of democracy, they


remain silent on the plight of hundreds of Kashmiris jailed under draconian laws like the UAPA merely for their political beliefs," the party said.

The jailed MP, according to his family, accused both the BJP and the Congress of hypocrisy. "Both parties accuse each other of throttling freedoms, yet both are complicit in the systematic suppression of Kashmiri voices," Rashid is reported to have said.

He criticised the BJP for highlighting the atrocities of the 1975 Emergency while ignoring what he called "11 years of repression in Kashmir". He also took a swipe at the Congress and opposition leaders for alleging an undeclared Emergency under the current regime while staying quiet about the prolonged detentions of Kashmiris.



GOVT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SRINAGAR TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICE
Tel/Fax, 01942455179,
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TRAFFIC ADVISORY

The Holy Month of Muharram-ul-Haram has commenced from 27th of June-2025 & religious Majalis & Taziyas processions are being taken out during the month. The traffic movement at certain places/locations gets effected on particular days at specific time also.

In order to have smooth movement of traffic and for convenience of general public/motorists, the following diversion plan is hereby devised:

- 30TH JUNE-2025 (14TH MUHARRAM): PROCESSION ON RAINAWARI-HAZRATBAL ROAD**
 - ✓ Vehicles coming from Lalchowk towards Hazratbal will be diverted at Khanyar via Dastgeer Sahab & Chatipadshahi via Nowhatta/Hawal-Lalbazar for onward journey to Hazratbal/Soura.
 - ✓ Similarly, vehicles coming from Hazratbal side towards Lalchowk will be diverted at Hazratbal towards Lalbazar via Saderbal.
 - ✓ This diversion will remain in force from 05:00 PM to 08:00 P.M.
- 30TH JUNE-2025 (14TH MUHARRAM): PROCESSION IN ZADIBAL AREA**
 - ✓ Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - ✓ Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab-Hawal
 - ✓ This diversion will remain in force from 05:00 PM to 08:00 P.M.
- 1ST JULY-2025 (15TH MUHARRAM): PROCESSION ON RAINAWARI-HAZRATBAL ROAD**
 - ✓ Vehicles coming from Lalchowk towards Hazratbal will be diverted at Khanyar via Dastgeer Sahab & Chatipadshahi via Nowhatta/Hawal-Lalbazar for onward journey to Hazratbal/Soura.
 - ✓ Similarly, vehicles coming from Hazratbal side towards Lalchowk will be diverted at Hazratbal towards Lalbazar via Saderbal.
 - ✓ This diversion will remain in force from 05:30 P.M to 08:00 P.M.
- 1ST JULY-2025 (15TH MUHARRAM): PROCESSION IN ZADIBAL AREA**
 - ✓ Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - ✓ Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab-Hawal
 - ✓ This diversion will remain in force from 02:00 PM to 08:00 P.M.
- 2ND JULY-2025 (16TH MUHARRAM): PROCESSION IN ZADIBAL AREA**
 - ✓ Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - ✓ Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab-Hawal
 - ✓ This diversion will remain in force from 02:30 P.M to 08:00 P.M.
- 3RD JULY-2025 (17TH MUHARRAM): PROCESSION ON RAINAWARI-HAZRATBAL ROAD**
 - ✓ Vehicles coming from Lalchowk towards Hazratbal will be diverted at Khanyar via Dastgeer Sahab & Zindshah Masjid via Nowhatta/Hawal-Lalbazar for onward journey to Hazratbal/Soura.
 - ✓ Similarly, vehicles coming from Hazratbal side towards Lalchowk will be diverted at Hazratbal towards Lalbazar via Saderbal.
 - ✓ This diversion will remain in force from 01:30 P.M to 05:00 P.M.
- 4TH JULY-2025 (18TH MUHARRAM): PROCESSION IN ZADIBAL AREA**
 - ✓ Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - ✓ Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab-Hawal.
 - ✓ This diversion will remain in force from 02:30 P.M to 04:00 P.M.
- 5TH JULY-2025 (19TH MUHARRAM): PROCESSION IN ZADIBAL AREA**
 - ✓ Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - ✓ Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab-Hawal.
 - ✓ This diversion will remain in force from 02:30 P.M to 06:00 P.M.
- 5TH JULY-2025 (19TH MUHARRAM): PROCESSION ON RAINAWARI-HAZRATBAL ROAD**
 - ✓ Vehicles coming from Lalchowk towards Hazratbal will be diverted at Khanyar via Dastgeer Sahab & Chatipadshahi via Nowhatta/Hawal-Lalbazar for onward journey to Hazratbal/Soura.
 - ✓ Similarly, vehicles coming from Hazratbal side towards Lalchowk will be diverted at Hazratbal towards Lalbazar via Saderbal.
 - ✓ This diversion will remain in force from 04:30 PM to 07:00 P.M.
- 6TH JULY-2025 (10TH MUHARRAM): PROCESSION IN ZADIBAL AREA**
 - ✓ Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - ✓ Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab-Hawal.
 - ✓ This diversion will remain in force from 04:00A.M to 06:00 P.M.
- 7TH JULY-2025 (11TH MUHARRAM): PROCESSION ON RAINAWARI-HAZRATBAL ROAD**
 - ✓ Vehicles coming from Lalchowk towards Hazratbal will be diverted at Khanyar via Dastgeer Sahab & Chatipadshahi via Nowhatta/Hawal-Lalbazar for onward journey to Hazratbal/Soura.
 - ✓ Similarly, vehicles coming from Hazratbal side towards Lalchowk will be diverted at Hazratbal towards Lalbazar via Saderbal
 - ✓ This diversion will remain in force from 02:30 PM to 07:00 P.M.
- 7TH JULY-2025 (11TH MUHARRAM): PROCESSION IN ZADIBAL AREA**
 - ✓ Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - ✓ Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab-Hawal.
 - ✓ This diversion will remain in force from 04:30 P.M to 07:00 P.M.
- 8TH JULY-2025 (12TH MUHARRAM): PROCESSION IN BAGWANPORA LALBAZAR AREA**
 - ✓ Vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted towards P/S Lalbazar via Botakadal
 - ✓ This diversion will remain in force from 04:30 P.M to 07:00 P.M.
- 21ST OF JULY-2025 (25TH MUHARRAM): PROCESSION IN ZADIBAL AREA**
 - ✓ Vehicles coming from Gojwara will be diverted at Hawal towards Soura via Ali Masjid (Dr. Ali Jan Road)
 - ✓ Accordingly, vehicles coming from Dargah/Lalbazar will be diverted at Botakadal towards Lalchowk via Madeen Sahab-Mirza Kamil Sahab-Hawal.
 - ✓ This diversion will remain in force from 06:30 P.M to 08:00 P.M.

Any other diversion required, shall be notified separately.

Sd/- (Ajaz Ahmad Bhat) IPS
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Traffic City Srinagar

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's
Silent Epidemic

More than 1.3 million people in Jammu and Kashmir, nearly 10% of its total population, are doing drugs. Even more alarming is the fact that 95,000 of them are children, aged between 10 and 17, addicted to opioids. Another addiction that has caught on is the growing use of synthetic heroin in recent years. Incidentally, 90 percent of all users are young men, with a mean age of about 28 years. This isn't now just a health issue anymore. It is a full-blown social crisis. And if ignored, it threatens to hollow out an entire generation from the inside.

The data, released by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, should serve as a deafening alarm bell for the J&K administration. Children as young as 12 are now undergoing counselling for hard drug addiction. Inhalants, opioids, sedatives, and even stimulants like cocaine and amphetamines are used by youth, reportedly at schools and even in playgrounds.

Yet, we are nowhere near mounting the kind of urgent, large-scale response this crisis demands. Although the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) exists, the implementation in J&K remains half-hearted and patchy. De-addiction centres are understaffed and ill-equipped. Similarly, rehabilitation facilities are few and often inaccessible, with school-based intervention almost non-existent. This leaves the families of the affected suffer in silence.

A range of factors contributing to the prevalence of drug abuse in the Valley: Poverty and unemployment, which leave many young people feeling hopeless and marginalized, is one of its key drivers. Besides, the ongoing conflict in the region has created a climate of fear and instability, which has further exacerbated the problem.

The scale of the drug addiction in Kashmir is troubling. This is an alarming number and must otherwise prompt an immediate government response with a proper roadmap to address the situation. But that hasn't happened.

What Kashmir needs is a dedicated, well-funded Drug De-addiction and Youth Rehabilitation Policy, anchored in compassion, community involvement, and scientific evidence.

This policy must start with the basics: scaling up rehabilitation infrastructure, hiring trained addiction specialists, integrating drug education into school curriculums, and launching mass awareness campaigns to remove the stigma around addiction. Equally vital is the strict monitoring and regulation of pharmaceutical sales, which remain a key source of drug misuse.

Importantly, this cannot be a government-alone project. Religious leaders, teachers, community elders, civil society organisations, and recovering addicts themselves must all be part of a comprehensive, people-driven response.

Lost Lessons
in the Hills

In the remote mountains of Jammu and Kashmir, mobile schools are racing against geography, poverty, and tradition to keep nomadic children from being left behind.

Abhishek Kaiyat

In much of the world, children travel to school. In the mountains of Jammu and Kashmir, sometimes it's the school that must travel to the child.

For thousands of tribal children—Gujjars, Bakarwals, Gaddis, Sippis—education has never been as simple as stepping into a classroom. These children live on the move, crossing valleys and climbing high-altitude pastures as part of centuries-old migration patterns.

For them, the school bell does not ring in a building with walls and a blackboard. If they are lucky, it arrives in a tent or a van, somewhere on the slopes of the Pir Panjal.

Jammu and Kashmir's tribal population makes up nearly 12 percent of the region, according to the 2011 Census. The Gujjars and Bakarwals, the largest among them, are pastoral communities who depend on seasonal migration to graze their livestock. Their life is defined by movement, from lowland villages in winter to alpine meadows in summer.

But this rhythm of life, so closely tied to the land, has long placed them beyond the reach of conventional education.

Even today, many tribal settlements remain disconnected from basic infrastructure. Roads are often missing. Schools, if they exist, are too far. Teachers rarely come. For tribal children, especially girls, walking hours to a distant school is not just impractical, it's unsafe.

This is where mobile schools come in. Designed to follow the migratory routes of nomadic communities, these schools move with the families, setting up temporary classrooms wherever they stop. In theory, this solves a critical problem: how to provide uninterrupted education to children whose lives do not stand still.

In practice, though, the system is struggling to keep pace.

Each year, nearly 600,000 people in Jammu and Kashmir migrate across the region's steep and often unforgiving landscape. Their constant movement makes regular school attendance almost impossible. Seasonal migration disrupts the academic calendar and fractures learning. Many children simply drop out.

Mobile schools were introduced to bridge this gap. These classrooms, sometimes made of tents, sometimes packed into vans, were meant to accompany the families and provide

basic education on the move.

The Jammu and Kashmir government, along with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and several local organizations, invested in this model as a way to bring learning to children who would otherwise be left behind.

The promise is powerful. Mobile schools offer flexible, location-specific learning, often in local languages like Gojri and Pahari, which makes lessons more relatable. They have the potential to lower dropout rates and introduce education to some of the most isolated parts of the region.

But on the ground, the system faces serious cracks.

One of the biggest hurdles is the lack of qualified teachers. Roughly 20 percent of teachers in Jammu and Kashmir do not meet the minimum qualifications set by the Right to Education Act. In remote and tribal schools, this shortage is even more acute. Many mobile schools operate with untrained or temporary teachers, and it's common to find classrooms without specialists in science, math, or English.

Even when teachers are available, the schools don't always move as they should. In places like Doodhpathri, students are often left studying under the open sky because their mobile classrooms fail to accompany them to seasonal camps. The very idea of the mobile school is to move, but that movement is not always guaranteed.

Money is another barrier. Many tribal families depend on every working hand. During peak grazing or agricultural seasons, children are pulled out of class to help at home. Girls face additional pressures. Many are married off young or kept at home due to cultural fears about their safety.

Mobile schools can only go so far if families can't afford to send their children there.

The problem runs deeper than logistics. Language remains a quiet but powerful barrier. Tribal children often speak Gojri or Pahari at home, but most schools teach in Urdu or English. The mismatch leaves many struggling to follow lessons, increasing the chances they'll drop out. Education that doesn't speak your language quickly starts to feel like it's meant for someone else.

The digital divide adds another layer of exclusion. Only about 30 percent of schools in Jammu and Kashmir have internet access. For mobile schools, connectivity is almost non-existent. While the rest

of the world leans increasingly on digital classrooms and online materials, these children are often learning without books, let alone technology.

Mobile schools, despite their noble aim, remain grossly under-equipped to meet modern educational standards.

But when they work, they make a difference. Mobile schools don't just teach reading and writing. They carry something intangible: a sense of belonging.

For generations, these tribal communities have been written out of the mainstream. Mobile schools, by showing up, by moving with them, send a different message: your life matters, your education matters.

They also help break the cycle of invisibility. Studies show that education in tribal communities improves not just literacy, but health outcomes, livelihood options, and political participation. Children who can read and write can also access government schemes, demand services, and make informed choices. The impact extends beyond the classroom.

But for that to happen, the system must be fixed.

The government needs to invest in training more teachers, especially from within tribal communities.

When teachers understand the culture and language of their students, learning becomes more meaningful. Mobile schools must also improve their reliability. If they are supposed to move with the families, they must actually do so.

Financial incentives, such as small stipends or free meals, could encourage parents to keep their children in school instead of sending them to work.

And the digital divide cannot be ignored. Even low-cost solutions like offline educational apps and solar-powered learning kits could help bring these mobile classrooms closer to the modern world.

Mobile schools should not be treated as a stop-gap solution. They are not a side project. They are the frontline of educational justice for some of Jammu and Kashmir's most marginalized children.

For too long, these children have been asked to choose: their way of life or their right to learn. It's a choice they should never have to make.

The author is a research scholar at the Central University of Punjab.

Land and tells complicated stories in Kashmir. It carries generations of names, often written neatly in old revenue records. But when the government comes calling to acquire land for highways or big infrastructure, the story sometimes takes a turn no one expects. The person who holds the land is often not the person who owns it.

Here is where the problem begins.

Take a common situation. The official land records, what we call the Jamabandi, show that Person A owns a piece of land. But the land has been in the hands of Person B for years. Maybe Person B has fenced it, maybe he has been growing crops there, maybe no one paid attention.

When the government starts acquisition proceedings, Person B steps forward with a simple affidavit. He says, "I am in possession."

And often, that is all it takes. The compensation is paid to him in full.

Person A, the one whose name is officially in the records, is not informed. No notice is sent. No inquiry is made. There is no question in court. The compensation is gone, the government takes over the land, and the revenue officers prepare the mutation—the change in ownership records—without a second thought.

This is not how the law is supposed to work.

Under both the old Land Acquisition Act of 1894 and the newer law passed in 2013, the land is taken by the government in two steps. First, the ownership is acquired. Second, the compensation is paid to the rightful claimant.

And the rightful claimant is the one who holds the legal title, not just someone in possession.

But that's not what often happens on the ground. For convenience, many collectors rely on whoever is present, whoever files an affidavit, whoever claims to hold

Kashmir's Land
Ownership Trap

When compensation goes to the possessor but the legal owner is left unpaid, Kashmir's land records tell a troubling story of missed justice.

Mohammad Amin Mir

the land. There is no formal checking. The process moves quickly.

And when the time comes to change the revenue records, the officers enter the government's name and quietly strike off the name of Person A, the rightful owner who was never paid.

It's more than just a technical error. It can leave a person stripped of both their land and their compensation. It's also against the law.

The Constitution protects the right to property under Article 300A. The courts have said many times that ownership cannot be taken away without due process and proper payment.

The Supreme Court has been clear. In old cases like Nelson Motis v. Union of India and more recent ones like Rajiv Sarin v. State of Uttarakhand, the courts have said that compensation must go to the legal owner or the dispute should be sent to court. Simply relying on possession is not enough.

And just because someone files an affidavit does not make them the owner. Courts have said that again and again.

In Kashmir, the confusion is made worse because revenue entries are not al-

“Under both the old Land Acquisition Act of 1894 and the newer law passed in 2013, the land is taken by the government in two steps. First, the ownership is acquired. Second, the compensation is paid to the rightful claimant.

ways proof of ownership.

But when land is acquired, these entries are supposed to guide the process.

If the collector pays someone who is not the legal owner, the mutation becomes shaky. The revenue officers—Patwaris, Girdawars, Tehsildars—are then stuck. They have to prepare the mutation.

But if they write that the government acquired the land from Person A without paying Person A, they risk creating an illegal record.

Some revenue officers try to find work-

arounds. They recommend holding off the mutation until things are sorted. Some suggest a dual entry, one for the land that has been compensated, and another that flags unpaid ownership.

Others send the issue back to the collector or even refer it to civil court. Some just silently write detailed notes in their registers, explaining the problem, in case the issue is questioned later.

What can the rightful owner do?

They can go to the collector and ask for their case to be reopened. They can challenge the mutation in court. They can even go to the High Court to argue that their constitutional right has been violated.

But these are slow and difficult paths. Many owners don't even know their land has been acquired until it's too late.

This issue is growing. With major road, railway, and industrial projects in Kashmir, the gap between the person who holds the land and the person who owns it is showing up more often. It is no longer just an odd mistake. It is becoming a pattern.

Some solutions are clear. Collectors should always check the title carefully before paying compensation. They should notify the recorded owner even if someone else is in possession. If there is any confusion, they must send the case to court. Affidavits alone should never decide ownership. And perhaps the land records system can be improved to flag these disputes early.

At the heart of this problem is a simple idea: possession is not ownership. The government should not take land from someone without paying them.

And the system must protect the person whose name the land has carried for all these years.

Justice does not mean just paying someone, it means paying the right one.

The author is a legal researcher based in South Kashmir.

The Vanishing
Voice of Valley

As the Kashmiri language fades from homes, classrooms, and public life, the region risks losing more than just words.

Younus Yousuf Ganie

When people think about Kashmir, they mostly think about politics. But what's slipping away silently, with barely any attention, is the Kashmiri language itself.

The language is thinning out from homes, schools, and streets. It is not just the loss of a way to speak. It is the loss of a way to remember, to think, to exist.

The Kashmiri language once carried the songs of the fields, the rhythms of villages, the sharp wit of grandmothers, the poetry of Habba Khatoon. It was the language of long fireside talks, of folk tales that travelled across mountains.

Now, it's mostly reduced to a murmur in rural homes and brief exchanges between older people. It rarely enters classrooms. It is absent from the daily life of cities. It is missing from the spaces where young people shape their futures.

The breakdown didn't happen overnight. The migration of Kashmiri Pandits in the 1990s tore a deep wound into the culture. They were among the strongest keepers of the language, and their forced departure left entire strands of Kashmiri speech without a home.

Then the decades of conflict pushed cultural life to the side. Survival took priority, and language slipped further into silence.

In the schools of Kashmir today, Kashmiri hardly shows up. A 2017 survey by the Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education found that fewer than 5% of schools used it as a teaching language. Even though millions still claim it as their mother tongue, most students drop it after learning only the basics. English and Urdu fill the classrooms, the textbooks, the ambition. Parents, chasing a better future for their children, often raise them in languages they themselves don't fully command.

And so the break deepens. Children grow up thinking in borrowed languages. When they try to speak Kashmiri, they often translate their thoughts directly from English or Urdu. The words survive, but the heartbeat of the language doesn't. What disappears is the music, the softness, the tiny turns of phrase that only Kashmiri can hold.

Lev Vygotsky, the Russian psychologist, believed that children reach their highest thinking abilities through their mother tongue. That's the language in which they first make sense of the world. It's how they build their deepest thoughts.

When a mother tongue is pushed to the side, a child loses something they can't easily replace. They lose the shape of their own mind.

Some may ask why this matters when there are bigger, more visible crises in Kashmir. But as Antonio Gramsci once wrote, when marginalized people lose their language, they lose control over their own story. They begin to see themselves through someone else's words. They begin to feel distant from their own world.

The digital age has only made the gap wider. Hindi, Tamil, Bengali languages have thriving spaces online. Kashmiri barely exists there.

It struggles with poor translation tools, clumsy digital keyboards, and a lack of content. Microsoft added Kashmiri to its translator, but it remains rough and rarely used. There's no Kashmiri option yet on Android phones. The language is shrinking not just in speech, but in screens.

Still, there are people fighting to keep it alive. Groups like Adbee Markaz Kamraz have been working for years to publish Kashmiri books, preserve oral histories, and push for digital inclusion.

In 2023, they began campaigning for Kashmiri to be properly supported on mobile platforms. Their efforts matter. But the question is whether society will care enough to catch up.

This isn't just about saving a language for the sake of nostalgia. It's about saving a way of seeing the world. The languages that are replacing Kashmiri—English, Urdu—can never hold the same emotional weight. They don't carry the old village songs, the local humour, the precise grief of loss in Kashmiri words.

When a language fades, so does its memory, its knowledge, its way of being alive.

Kashmiri is still here, but just barely. Without a serious push in schools, in homes, in digital life, in the stories we choose to tell, the risk is that it will soon become a language we visit like a museum: something to look at, but no longer something to live in.

The author is a research scholar at the Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He can be reached at younus2008761@st.jmi.ac.in.

Shifting Srinagar

The steady pull toward the summer capital is reshaping the heritage city and leaving silent spaces behind in Kashmiri villages.

Uzma Qadir Mir

Cities are living things. They grow, but they also groan. They carry not just buildings and roads, but the weight of people's hopes, the pace of their mornings, and the silent strain of everything a city is asked to hold.

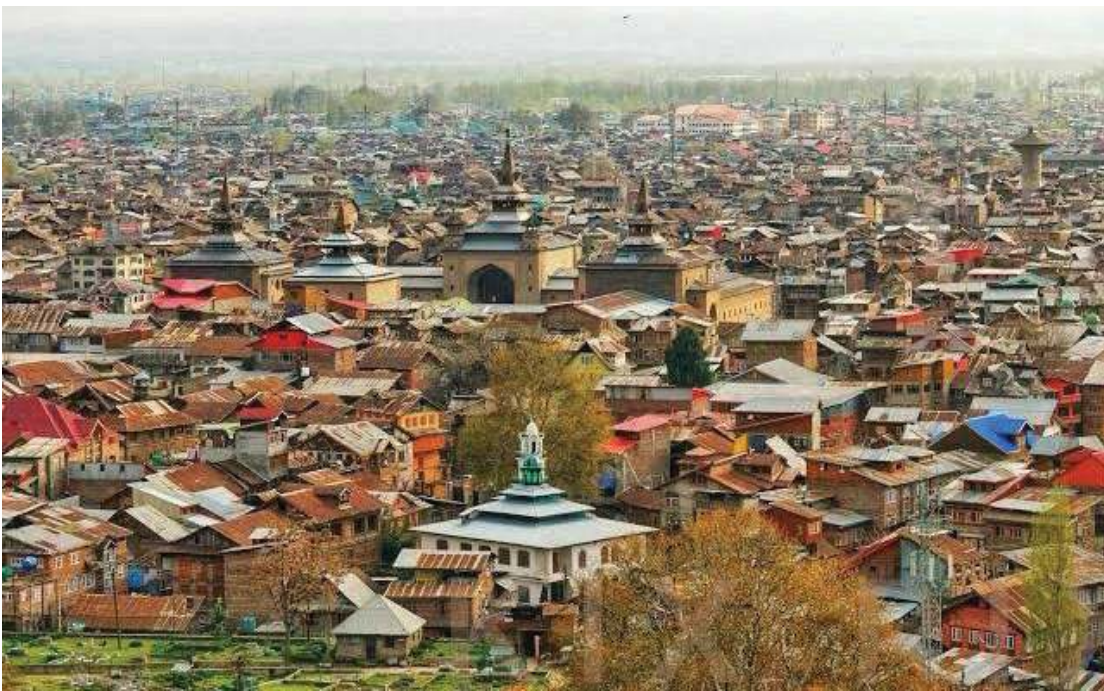
Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, is changing in ways that are easy to see but harder to fully feel.

New neighbourhoods rise. Old lanes grow tighter. Roads that once held morning cyclists now hold long rows of cars. There are more shops, more people, more houses, and yet, somehow, less space.

For years, Srinagar was a place people visited for a season or a purpose. It offered hospitals, schools, coaching centres, government offices, and a handful of jobs that villages and smaller towns could not easily provide. It was never a place most people thought of as their final home. It was a stop, not a destination.

But that story is slowly slipping away. Srinagar is no longer just the city where people pass through. It has quietly become the city where they stay. The pattern has shifted from temporary movement to permanent settlement, and with it, the city's rhythm has changed.

Some of this shift is understandable. Villages, though they have made progress, still struggle with gaps that push people out. Roads may exist but



crumble. Health centers stand but have no doctors. Electricity may arrive but rarely stays. Mobile networks flicker, and schools do not always hold the teachers they need.

For many, Srinagar seems safer, more certain, more complete.

But something more subtle is unfolding. Moving to Srinagar is not always about survival. It has, in many ways, become about status.

A house in Srinagar signals that a family has arrived. It tells a story of success, of stepping out of the village and into something newer, faster, more modern. Young people, especially those born in the city, often grow unsure of their rural ties. They speak less of their villages. Sometimes they feel a shame in being seen as villagers. For them, the city seems to carry sophistication, while the vil-

lage feels like something left behind.

In this shifting story, the older generation seems to carry something the younger ones sometimes forget. They are rooted. They take pride in their land, their stories, their dialects. For them, identity is not about where you settle, it is about where you come from.

But the pull toward the city continues. Srinagar is growing, but it is

not always growing well.

Traffic spills over. Clean water runs short. Wetlands shrink as new buildings rise. The pace of construction has outstripped the city's ability to breathe. Housing has become sharply expensive. Rents climb, while many public services struggle to keep up. Green spaces disappear. The city's shoulders are becoming heavier.

This steady flow of people is also pulling attention, money, and planning toward urban spaces.

When cities grow fast, rural areas risk being set aside. Resources follow the crowd. What begins as a simple move for a better life slowly turns into a cycle: the more people leave, the more the villages are ignored; the more they are ignored, the more people leave.

But cities do not simply grow in numbers. They grow in feel, in rhythm, in story.

Srinagar today is not the Srinagar of a decade ago. It is faster, fuller, noisier. The pressure of new arrivals sits in traffic jams, in queues outside water tankers, in homes packed tighter, in mornings that no longer move slowly.

The city's pace is changing its people, and the people are changing the pace.

Still, movement itself is not the problem. People have always moved. Cities have always grown. But the question remains: is Srinagar growing in ways that are careful, thoughtful, balanced? Are villages falling si-

lent because they have truly been left behind, or because we have forgotten their worth? Is Srinagar becoming a city that holds people with care, or simply a city that absorbs them without room to breathe?

The deeper story is not just about buildings and roads. It is about belonging. It is about how Srinagar, in becoming the home of more and more people, is also becoming the keeper of their distant roots.

The fields, the old homes, the stories passed down in village lanes do not vanish overnight. But they grow silent when everyone moves away. A house left locked, a school with fewer children, an orchard left uncared for are the prices of the city's weight.

No city can carry an entire valley. Srinagar is learning this slowly. It is becoming a city of settled dreams, but it is also becoming a city that is bending under those dreams.

A place thrives when its villages grow alongside its cities, when people carry their old stories into their new streets, when a better life does not mean leaving the land that shaped you.

The shape of Srinagar is still unfolding. How it holds its people, its past, and its future is a choice the city is making every day.

Uzma Qadir Mir is an Undergraduate Economics student at Amar Singh College, Cluster University Kashmir. She can be reached at muzmaqadir@gmail.com

Take Thy Shoes Off

Through pain, prayer, and peeling away the rust, a Kashmiri woman rediscovers her strength.

Aisha Hasnain

Last intervening Thursday-Friday night, I was trying to impress Allah in Arabic language at quarter to 3. I struggled to remember a few words that could lend verbal expression to my thoughts:

Ana da'eef/ I am weak! Rehem, ya Rabb/ Mercy, oh Lord!

I had skipped my medication and I could not sleep. 11:30 PM, 12:30 AM, 1:30 AM and eventually I decided to take a midnight shower.

At 2:30 AM, I grabbed my prayer-mat after a long time. In about an hour, it was going to be Fajr time and hence I waited. I offered Fajr prayer and went to sleep. I had a strange dream.

My dream was about how hard I have been working to bring an end to the crisis in my life: A fire that was only rising higher despite my efforts to put it out for about two hours. Thankfully, I succeeded for most part of it.

I was heartbroken when I woke up, feeling the exhaustion in my body from the labour in my dream. By now, I understand most of my dreams. Dreams are a form of communication between my subconscious, God and me. My dreams tell me about the progress I have made and which way I am going. A strange thing it is and strange secrets it has revealed about my life.

Baba called me when I was still contemplating my dream in my bed. He asked if I knew what happened with the peach tree he bought. For a moment, I thought of taking my disheartenment out on Baba. Our hearts and minds know exactly who want to hear us. 'If you remember someone when you are happy, it means you love them. If you remember someone when you are sad, that means they love you', long back I had read somewhere. Baba is so far one of the biggest blessings and the most important man in my life.

"I will call the gardener and see if he knows," I told him.

Friday was heavy. I was feeling weak and distressed, whimpering and sighing things like life is tough, dear Lord, Oh Lord, ah my heart feels heavy . . . I got up for Zuhr prayers. They say you should make ablution like a young person and pray like an old person. I



did both like an old and ailing person. I broke down in the second or third rakat. It felt like my body was falling. But I silently continued my prayers while tears rolled down my eyes. After my prayers, I was feeling better.

I had an agnostic approach to whether God exists. Later, I found Him in the way that was meant for me. When you ask a sincere question, you are most likely to receive an answer. It is good to have His presence than His absence.

It has been a decade of inexplicable suffering. "Pain is inevitable. Suffering is optional," I heard. It takes baby steps to ingrain new concepts though. And I feel grateful that I have made peace with a lot of things. I have put out that wild fire to a great extent.

26 years of life. As I look at my almost 5 feet 4 inch figure and my feet, ones that resemble with my fathers, I take a quick mental look at how these years unfolded.

There are time stamps on my body. There is a language it carries, speaking of the development of a soul through the years. There is a scar on one of my feet from an accident that I met with, tan on my limbs and neck because I happen to be in love with sunlight and gardening. There are tiny new moles emerging from time to time, hands that learnt to paint and cook, a mind that has wondered a lot into philosophy, psychology and mathematics, and a feminine face resembling that of an unruly kid. From a nine month old Aisha

who could stand on her legs without support to an adult who became famous among her people for more brilliance of mind than she had in actuality, it feels like I was forced into more maturity than my chronology deserved.

The weather is terrible. My ORS drink had become hot. June 21 was the longest day of the year and also the Yoga day. I forgot about both and I did not click a picture in any asana this Yoga Day. I was feeling better and I decided to clean my room. The old vacuum cleaner is dying. It works slowly and I was in no hurry too. I took my sweet time to clean my windows, ceiling, the curtain rods and the floor. I needed to be steady to ensure I do not deteriorate my health further. Have I learnt to work instead of stay sulking in my bed? Ah!

The following night was terribly hot for me. In my sleep, I dreamt of a crystal clear water body, stunningly beautiful, and a young woman of my age who was reciting poetry to me in Kashmiri. I only remember the last lines: "Kahil'toun mi laag/ koh maar, panun paan maar;" Do not stay idling/ Bring down the mountain, toil with your life.

In the morning, I performed yoga for 40 minutes. In the late afternoon, I happened to be at the Dal Lake in a Shikara Ride, able to see the Kashmir Observer office from the boat, the newspaper I have started my writing journey with. I was feeling agile again and I said a little 'thank you' to God.

I slept like a drunkard. This time, my dream was about cleaning some dirt and rust in the bathroom. It didn't feel good but thankfully it was only that in real life too: dirt and I cleaning all day. I entered the washroom in the morning and found dirty footprints on the clean washroom tiles. I assumed it was one of my siblings for a quick grab of something because last night we were quite tired. I did some laundry too. Then in the kitchen, I couldn't take my eyes off the rusty brown stains on the bottom of the frying pan. I decided to labour with it. And I did. You can say that sometimes, the clean bottom of the frying pan can be a reminder of my potential.

The author writes under the pen name Aisha Hasnain and can be reached at aishahasnain02@gmail.com.

Lesson on True Professionalism

Respecting every profession, big or small, is the key to building a kinder and more honest society.

Sahil Manzoor

Kashmiris often grow up believing that some jobs deserve more respect than others.

We hear it in conversations at home, in schools, and in marketplaces. Doctors, engineers, professors are the people we're taught to admire.

But the truth is, no work is small. The dignity of work is not tied to its title, but to the honesty and care with which it is done.

In life, food is what keeps us alive, but food is not the purpose of life. It's just fuel. Every creature, from the smallest insect to the tallest animal, looks for food in its own way. Some eat plants, some eat other animals, and some feed on waste.

But this search for food has always connected us. We all depend on each other. And this is true not just for food. We rely on one another for love, for support, for safety, and for learning.

As Kashmiris, we need to think about what we are leaving for those who come after us. Will they inherit a society that respects hard work, honesty, and compassion? Or will they be trapped in a world that only chases big names and high-paying titles?

Real progress is not about how quickly we adopt new machines or how many degrees we collect. It's about how we grow as people.

People may forget your job title, but they will remember how you treated them. They will remember your patience, your kindness, and your honesty. Degrees do not make a person valuable, behavior does. We all start life without

certificates in our hands. It's our actions that build our worth.

When we talk about professionals, we often limit the word to doctors, engineers, teachers. But professionalism is much bigger. A professional is someone who gives their best to their work, whatever that work may be. Whether you are cleaning a street, driving a bus, selling vegetables, or fixing shoes, if you work with honesty and care, you are a true professional.

In Kashmir, as elsewhere, we sometimes look down on jobs like that of a cleaner, a cobbler, or a bus conductor. But just imagine a single day without them. How would our lives function? Who would fill those essential gaps? We would be lost.

Every job matters. Every person's effort counts. What makes work valuable is not how glamorous it is, but how sincerely it is done. A doctor should work with the aim of healing, not just earning. A teacher should work with the purpose of guiding, not just instructing. A shoemaker should see his work as essential, because it is.

If we all start treating our work as a form of service, no matter what that work is, success will find its way to us. Fame and recognition are not goals to chase. Let them arrive when they will. What matters is that you show up every day, give your best, and let your work speak for you.

Kashmir can be stronger, kinder, and more united if we begin to respect all workers equally. Our future depends on it.

The writer can be reached at sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com.

AI Tools Helping Teachers With Grading, Lessons. They Say It Makes Them Better Educators

Associated Press

For her 6th grade honours class, math teacher Ana Sepulveda wanted to make geometry fun. She figured her students “who live and breathe soccer” would be interested to learn how mathematical concepts apply to the sport. She asked ChatGPT for help.

Within seconds, the chatbot delivered a five-page lesson plan, even offering a theme: “Geometry is everywhere in soccer — on the field, in the ball, and even in the design of stadiums!”

It explained the place of shapes and angles on a soccer field. It suggested classroom conversation starters: Why are those shapes important to the game? It proposed a project for students to design their own soccer field or stadium using rulers and protractors.

“Using AI has been a game changer for me,” said Sepulveda, who teaches at a dual language school in Dallas and has ChatGPT translate everything into Spanish. “It’s helping me with lesson planning, communicating with parents and increasing student engagement.”

Across the country, artificial intelligence tools are changing the teaching profession as educators use them to help write quizzes and worksheets, design lessons, assist with grading and reduce paperwork. By freeing up their time, many say the technology has made them better at their jobs.

A poll released Wednesday by Gallup and the Walton Family Foundation found 6 in 10 US teachers working in K-12 public schools used AI tools for their work over the past school year, with heavier use among high school educators and early-career teachers. It surveyed more than 2,000 teachers nationwide in April.

Respondents who use AI tools weekly estimate they save them about six hours a week, suggesting the technology could help alleviate teacher burnout, said Gallup research consultant Andrea Malek Ash, who authored the report.

States are issuing guidelines



for using AI tools in classrooms

As schools navigate concerns over student abuse of the technology, some are also introducing guidelines and training for educators so teachers are aware of avoiding shortcuts that short-change students.

About two dozen states have state-level AI guidance for schools, but the extent to which it is applied by schools and teachers is uneven, says Maya Israel, an associate professor of educational technology and computer science education at the University of Florida.

“We want to make sure that AI isn’t replacing the judgment of a teacher,” Israel said.

If teachers are using chatbots for grading they should be aware the tools are good for “low-level” grading like multiple choice tests but less effective when nuance is required.

There should be a way for students to alert teachers if the grading is too harsh or inconsistent, and the final grading decision needs to remain with the educator, she said.

About 8 in 10 teachers who use AI tools say it saves them time on work tasks like making worksheets, assessments, quizzes or on administrative work. And about 6 in 10 teachers who use AI tools said they are improving the quality of their work when it comes to modifying student materials, or giving student feedback.

“AI has transformed how I teach. It’s also transformed my weekends and given me a better work-life balance,” said Mary McCarthy, a high school social stud-

ies teacher in the Houston area who has used AI tools for help with lesson plans and other tasks.

McCarthy said training she received from her school district on AI tools has helped her model proper use for her students.

“If I’m on the soapbox of, AI is bad and kids are going to get dumb,’ well yeah if we don’t teach them how to use the tool,” said McCarthy. “It feels like my responsibility as the adult in the room to help them figure out how to navigate this future.”

Teachers say the technology is best used sparingly

Views on the role of artificial intelligence in education have shifted dramatically since ChatGPT launched in late 2022. Schools around the country initially banned it, but since then many have sought ways to incorporate it into classrooms.

Concerns about student over-use and misuse are still prevalent: About half of teachers worry that student use of AI will decrease teens’ ability to think critically and independently or to have persistence when problem solving, according to the study.

One benefit teachers see in becoming more familiar with artificial intelligence is the ability to spot when students are overusing it.

Clues that assignments are written by AI tools include an absence of grammatical errors and complex phrases in writing, said Colorado high school English teacher Darren Barkett. He said he relies on ChatGPT himself to create lesson plans and grade multiple choice tests and essays.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

Email: xenrnbkhanabal@gmail.com Phone and Fax: 01932-222221

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: Construction of 1 x 20 Mtr 2 lane truss girder bridge over Nallah Vinjey at wagahama near Jamia Masjid Alidades.

Ref: NIT No. 23 of R&B/Anantnag/ 2025-26/E-TENDERING/2264-73 DATED: 02/06/2025.

Kindly find below the updated Critical Dates for subject cited work.

Please Read	Instead of
Bid Submission End Date: 30.06.2025 (04:00PM)	Bid Submission End Date: 26.06.2025 (04:00PM)
Date and time of Opening of bid (online): 01.07.2025 Time 11:00 AM	Date and time of Opening of bid (online): 27.06.2025 Time 11:00 AM

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

No. 3132-38
DIPK-3052/25 Dated: 27-06-2025

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, JAL SHAKTI (PHE)
MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH AWANTIPORA

Tele/fax: 01933/295537; Email Id: xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com

RETENDER NOTICE

Subject: **Fixing of rate contract for repairs/ replacement to HT Distribution Transformers installed at different WSSs of PHE Mechanical Sub-Division BIJBEHARA, PAMPORE, QAZIGUND, SHOPIAN (District Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian) for the financial year 2025-26..**

References: **This Office ENIT No.: 05 of 2025-26 of 28/04/2025 issued vide No.: MDSA/562-68 Dated: 28/04/2025.**

During the course of inspection of workshops for both the firms participated in the tendering process of the above subjected work advertised vide this office eNIT under reference, it was found that both the firms don’t possesses their own workshops, hence fresh tenders are hereby invited for and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K (UT) from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/SSI Unit Holders of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/ Railways or any other state Government for the said work as per dates given below:

I	Publish Date on Tender Portal	27-06-2025 (12:00 PM)
II	Document Download/sale start Date	27-06-2025 (12:00 PM)
III	Bid submission start Date	27-06-2025 (12:00 PM)
IV	Document Download/sale end Date	03-07-2025 (06:00 PM)
V	Bid submission end Date	03-07-2025 (06:00 PM)
VI	Date and time of Bid opening	04-07-2025 (12:00 PM)

The terms and conditions of the ENIT shall remain same as advertised vide eNIT 05 of 2025-26.

No.:- MDSA/1654-56
Dated: 27/06/2025

DIPK-3061/25 Dated: 27-06-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division
South Awantipora

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

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India's Rice Bins Are Stuffed And Another Record Crop Coming

Pratik Parija, Bloomberg

NEW DELHI- India's stash of rice is running at the highest for this time in at least two decades, raising the risk it will run out of room to store it all as another record crop looms.

Overflowing reserves - equal to more than one-tenth of the annual global production - are becoming a headache for the world's second-biggest grower as authorities struggle to create extra storage. Forecasts of above-average rains have raised expectations that the nation will reap another bumper crop this year, increasing the risk of the grain rotting in open storage facilities.

"Our outlook for Indian production is favorable, pointing to another record Indian crop being harvested in 2025-26," said Shirley Mustafa, an economist at the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. The arrival of the new crop in September and October raises the prospect of increased supply pressure on public granaries, she said.

India is the world's top shipper, and its move to ease export restrictions has helped push Thai prices - an Asian benchmark - down almost 40% from a 15-year high in January 2024. Still, the country's swelling surplus shows its struggle to find enough demand to meet rising supply. Global stockpiles are expected to reach a five-year high in the coming season, which could keep prices under pressure.

Rice acreage in the South Asian nation jumped 58% from a year earlier as of June 20, helped by the early onset of monsoon, according to the farm ministry. Planting will be completed in most parts of



the country by the middle of August.

India heavily influences the global rice market, Mustafa said. "But we also have to see how crops fare in competing suppliers and in important rice buyers."

Inventories totaled almost 38 million tons this month, according to the state-owned Food Corporation of India. It's also holding more than 32 million tons of the unprocessed grain, equivalent to about 22 million tons of rice, data showed. The country maintains wheat and rice reserves for various welfare programs, including 5 kilograms of free grains per person every month to needy people.

The government last month allowed the use of 2.8 million tons of rice from state reserves for ethanol manufacturing, in addition to 2.4 million tons approved earlier, according to the Hindu Businessline newspaper. It was a highly unusual move for the important food staple, and a bigger crop could spark further steps.

Still, more than 140 million people remain excluded from the food distribution program, due to the continued use of decade-old population data to calculate beneficiaries. India plans to spend about 2 trillion rupees (\$23 billion) in the fiscal year ending on March 31 to run the world's biggest food program.

Trump Hints at 'Very Big' India Deal After China Agreement

Agencies

WASHINGTON- While addressing the 'Big Beautiful Event' at the White House on Thursday, US President Donald Trump hinted that a "very big" deal with India was in the offing.

He said, "We are having some great deals. We have one coming up, maybe with India. Very big one, where we are going to open up India."

His remarks came as an Indian team headed by chief negotiator Rajesh Agarwal, special secretary in the Department of Commerce, on Thursday arrived in Washington for the next round of trade talks with the US.

India and the US are trying to finalise a trade pact before July 9.

"Everybody wants to make a deal and have a part of it," he said. "Remember a few months ago, the press was saying, 'You really have anybody of any interest? Well, we just signed with China yesterday, right,' he added.

Trump made it clear that deals would not be made with every other nation. "We're not going to make deals with everybody. Some we are just going to send them a letter, say thank you very much. You are to pay 25, 35, 45 per cent," he said.

Meanwhile, the United States has already reached an agreement with China on how to expedite rare earth shipments to the US, a White House official said on Thursday.



day, amid efforts to end a trade war between the world's biggest economies.

President Donald Trump earlier said the United States had signed a deal with China on Wednesday, without providing additional details, and that there might be a separate deal coming up that would "open up" India.

During US-China trade talks in May in Geneva, Beijing committed to removing non-tariff countermeasures imposed against the United States since April 2, although it was unclear how some of those measures would be walked back.

As part of its retaliation against new US tariffs, China suspended exports of a wide range of critical minerals and magnets, upending the supply chains central to automakers, aerospace manufacturers, semiconductor companies and military contractors around the world.

"The administration and China agreed to an additional

understanding for a framework to implement the Geneva agreement," a White House official said on Thursday.

The understanding is "about how we can implement expediting rare earths shipments to the US again", the official said.

A separate administration official said the US-China agreement took place earlier this week.

US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick was quoted as saying by Bloomberg: "They're going to deliver rare earths to us" and once they do that "we'll take down our countermeasures". China's embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

While the agreement shows potential progress following months of trade uncertainty and disruption since Trump took office in January, it also underscores the long road ahead to a final, definitive trade deal between the two economic rivals.

Oil Prices Have Receded, But Too Soon To Sound 'All Clear': FinMin

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The higher oil prices triggered by a brief Israel-Iran war have come down, but it is too soon to sound the "all clear" for the rest of the year, said a finance ministry report on Friday.

The ministry's monthly economic review also stressed that with no major imbalances in the macro aggregates, a subdued inflation rate combined with a growth-supportive monetary policy stance, India's macroeconomic health is in a relative goldilocks situation.

The brief Israel-Iran war, followed by the US intervention, pushed the price of crude oil sharply higher, it noted.

"Its persistence would have threatened India's growth and fiscal outlook in the current financial year. Thankfully, there is a ceasefire, and oil prices have retreated sharply," the ministry said.

While there is an ample global supply of oil, insurance costs and the perceived risk of potential closure of choke points might cause the landed price to rise.

"Therein lies the risk to India. For now, the risk has receded. But, it is too soon to sound the "all clear" for the rest of the year.

"But, then, we have to get used to doing the balancing act or the high-wire act for some time to come. In this, India is on a better footing than many other nations," it said.

The government seeks to build on it through critical agriculture, manufacturing,



resources and technology missions and deregulation initiatives that unleash productivity.

These may be nervous but exciting times for the Indian economy, the review report said, adding, "Geopolitics may offer us opportunities that appeared remote previously. It is up to us to be flexible enough to ride the tide".

It further said India's economic momentum continues to grow, reflecting the country's ability to navigate complex global challenges while sustaining domestic growth drivers.

In FY25, real GDP grew by 6.5 per cent, aligning with the second advance estimates.

This growth came amid a challenging global environment marked by geopolitical tensions and trade uncertainties, the ministry said.

"Robust domestic demand, particularly a rebound in rural consumption, steady investment activity, and a positive shift in net exports, underpinned the economy's resilience," it said, and added the services sector continued to be the main driver of growth on the supply side.

Investors' Wealth Surges By Rs 12.26 Lakh Cr In 4 Days Of Market Rally



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Equity investors became richer by Rs 12.26 lakh crore as stock markets surged for the fourth day in a row on Friday amid de-escalation in geopolitical tensions and softening crude oil prices in international markets.

On Friday, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 303.03 points or 0.36 per cent to reclaim the 84,000 level and settled at 84,058.90. During the day, the Sensex jumped 333.48 points or 0.39 per cent to 84,089.35.

In the past four days, the benchmark has jumped 2,162.11 points or 2.64 per cent.

Tracking optimism in equities, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms soared by Rs 12,26,717.72 crore to Rs 4,60,09,217.58 crore (USD 5.38 trillion) in four trading days.

"Benchmark indices Nifty and Sensex closed on a firm footing in the green on Friday, capping off the week with robust gains. The rally was underpinned by de-escalation in geopolitical tensions post the

Israel-Iran ceasefire and growing optimism surrounding a prospective US-India trade pact, which acted as key macro tailwinds. On a weekly basis, both frontline indices logged gains of 2 per cent," according to Bajaj Broking market commentary.

On Friday, as many as 2,251 stocks advanced, while 1,760 declined and 154 remained unchanged on the BSE.

From the Sensex pack, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, Power Grid, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries, Bharat Electronics, Hindustan Unilever and Sun Pharma were among the major gainers.

In contrast, Trent, Eternal, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank and Titan were among the laggards.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.54 per cent, and the midcap index went up by 0.38 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, oil & gas jumped 1.21 per cent, services (1.17 per cent), power (1.14 per cent), commodities (1.11 per cent), energy (1.10 per cent), utilities (0.99 per cent) and telecommunication (0.90 per cent).

Gold Plunges Rs 930 To Rs 97,670/10 G Amid Easing Off Israel-Iran Tensions

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices plunged Rs 930 to Rs 97,670 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday as traders rushed to selling amid easing off Middle East tensions and favourable reports about a trade deal between the US and China.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 98,600 per 10 grams on Thursday.

On Friday, gold of 99.5 per cent purity declined by Rs 850 to Rs 97,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had settled at Rs 98,050 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

"Gold prices continue to correct as strong profit booking sets in, with safe-haven demand easing due to the lack of fresh geopolitical triggers.

"Crude oil prices also declined after Iran signalled restraint by avoiding strikes on key oil infrastructure and transport routes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz which is one of the most critical choke points for global oil shipments," Abans Financial Services' Chief Executive Officer Chintan Mehta said.

This de-escalation has reduced immediate risk premiums across markets, pressuring



gold further, Mehta added.

In addition, silver prices slipped by Rs 100 to Rs 1,03,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Friday. The white metal had ended at Rs 1,03,100 per kg on Thursday.

In the overseas market, spot gold dropped by USD 43.45 or 1.31 per cent to USD 3,284.40 per ounce.

"Investors now await the release of the US Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE) price index data later in the day for further cues about the Fed's interest rate-cut path," Ma-

neesh Sharma, AVP - Commodities & Currencies, Anand Rathii Shares and Stock Brokers, said.

According to Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, the US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's recent comments indicating that interest rate cuts are not imminent further weighed on bullion prices.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE DEALS WITH EVERYBODY. Some we are just going to send them a letter, say thank you very much. You are to pay 25, 35, 45 per cent,"

Banks Should Ensure No Mis-selling of Insurance to Customers: DFS Secy

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Banks need to ensure that there is no mis-selling of insurance to customer and premium are affordable so as to help increase market penetration for such products, Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju said on Friday.

Insurance, which is a sensitive financial product, should be explained thoroughly to customers before onboarding them, he said at an event to announce strategic partnerships between Central Bank of India and Generali Group of Italy.

Often, a particular product is explained to the customer, but a separate product is sold to them, he said.

Both insurance regulator Irdai and the Finance Ministry have repeatedly asked the banks and insurance companies to desist temptation of mis-selling of policies to customers as part of investor protection.

While the bancassurance model has significantly contributed to improving insurance penetration across the



country, it has also raised concerns about instances of mis-selling, Sitharaman had said at an event in October.

According to Nagaraju, mis-selling often leads to higher premiums for customers and as a result policyholders don't renew their premium.

Observing that high premiums dissuade people from buying insurance, he said "companies have to ensure that premiums are reasonable".

Companies need to honour the commitment made in the policy and deviation can lead to breach of trust, he said.

Insurance companies will

survive only when people have trust, he said. Nagaraju also said that insurance companies must ensure customers' claims are processed fairly and on a timely basis.

"Please ensure that claims submitted are honoured and claimed are processed timely so that customers are not unnecessarily troubled," he said.

Later talking to media on mis-selling, Central Bank of India MD & CEO M V Rao said the bank does not provide any additional incentive to field staff for selling insurance products and therefore there are hardly any such instances.

Int'l MSME Day Celebrated At Ministry of MSME's Field office Srinagar, CIED IUST

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- On the occasion of International MSME Day, Field office Br MSME DFO Srinagar under Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Govt. of India organized special programs at two locations viz. Br. MSME Development and Facilitation Office (DFO), Srinagar and CIED, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Awantipora.

Programmes aimed to recognize the significance of the MSME sector and highlight the available opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs in the Kashmir region.

At Br. MSME DFO Srinagar, the event was chaired by Saheel Alagband, Assistant Director MSME. He addressed officials on the critical importance of the MSME sector in India's economic framework. He emphasized that MSMEs are the backbone of the economy, contribut-

ing significantly to the country's GDP and being the largest source of employment after agriculture.

Speaking on the occasion, Alagband said, "Our role in service to this vibrant and resilient sector is enormous. We must remain committed to supporting and guiding MSMEs as they continue to innovate, generate employment, and build a self-reliant India."

He further added that the Ministry of MSME has rolled out numerous entrepreneurship and skill development programs to support aspiring entrepreneurs and promote sustainable enterprise growth.

Another program was held at CIED, IUST, where Dr. Parvaiz, CEO, CIED, and Syed Zeeshan Andrabi Functional Manager, DIC Pulwama graced the event. The session focused on the potential and opportunities available for MSMEs in the Kashmir region, especially in light of emerging markets and local innovation.

India's Foreign Debt Jumps 10 Pc To USD 736.3 Bn

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- India's external debt increased by 10 per cent to USD 736.3 billion at the end of March 2025 compared to USD 668.8 billion in the year-ago period, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

As a percentage of the GDP, the external debt increased to 19.1 per cent at the end of the recently concluded financial year from 18.5 per cent a year ago, it added.

In a year which saw some volatilities in the currency markets, the RBI said the "valuation effect" due to the appreciation of the US dollar against the rupee and other currencies amounted to USD 5.3 billion, while if one were to exclude the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by USD 72.9 billion instead of USD 67.5 billion in the year.

The overall debt included USD 261.7 billion of loans taken by non-financial corporations, USD 168.4

billion by the government and USD 202.1 billion by deposit-taking corporations, excluding the central bank, the RBI said.

At March-end 2025, long-term debt (with an original maturity of above one year) was USD 601.9 billion, an increase of USD 60.6 billion over the year.

The share of short-term debt (with original maturity of up to one year) in total external debt declined to 18.3 per cent at March-end 2025 from 19.1 per cent a year ago, but the ratio of short-term debt to foreign exchange reserves increased to 20.1 per cent in FY25 against 19.7 per cent at the end of March 2024.

US dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt with a share of 54.2 per cent at March-end 2025, followed by debt denominated in the rupee (31.1 per cent), yen (6.2 per cent), SDR2 (4.6 per cent), and euro (3.2 per cent), the RBI said.

Post Offices Across India To Start Accepting Digital Payments From August

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Post offices across India will start accepting digital payments at counters from August after completing the rollout of a new application in their IT system, official sources said.

Post offices have not been able to accept digital payments as they don't have their accounts synced with Unique Payment Interface (UPI) system.

"The Department of Posts is implementing its IT infrastructure which will have new applications that are enabled to perform transactions with Dynamic QR Code. Rollout will be completed at all post offices by August 2025," an official source said.

Pilot rollout of the new system under IT 2.0 has been started in the Karnataka circle. QR-based book-



ing of mail products was successfully carried out at the Mysore head office (HO), Bagalkot HO and its subordinate offices.

Initially, the Department of Post had introduced static QR code at the point of sale counters at the post offices to enable digital transactions.

However, due to recurring technical difficulties and customer complaints, this approach had to be discontinued.

‘Not Ambedkar’s Legacy’: Jitendra Singh On Revisiting Preamble Additions

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: In an indirect support to the RSS' call to review the words "socialist" and "secular" in the Preamble of the Constitution, Union minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said any right-thinking citizen will endorse it because everybody knows that these words were not part of the original Constitution written by Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

The RSS on Thursday called for reviewing the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the preamble of the Constitution, saying they were included during the Emergency and were never part of the Constitution drafted by B R Ambedkar. Addressing an event organised at New Delhi on 50 years of the Emergency, RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said, "The preamble of the Constitution Baba Saheb Ambedkar made never had these words. During the Emergency, when fundamental rights were suspended, Parliament did not work, the judiciary became lame, then these words were added."

Talking to reporters, Singh said, "I think any right-thinking citizen will endorse it because everybody knows that

it was not part of the original Constitution written by Dr Ambedkar and the team."

Singh was replying to a question on whether the BJP endorses the removal of the words "secular" and "socialist" from the Preamble of the Indian Constitution.

"Who doesn't want that? Even you may want it."

"It is not a question of the BJP versus the non-BJP. It is a question of preserving democratic and constitutional values," Singh said, adding that those who are raising the Constitution book are the biggest violators of it.

Replying to another question on whether the BJP is going to bring a bill in Parliament regarding this, he said, "I did not say that. I am not accredited to say that."

He further said just yesterday, Dattatreya ji raised a demand for the removal of these words. "These were not part of Dr Ambedkar's original Constitution. These words are not the legacy of Dr Ambedkar."

"Ambedkar gave us the best Constitution in the world. If these terms were not his idea, then whose ideology was it that inserted them?"

Taking a dig at the Congress,

he said the term of the Lok Sabha and state assemblies was extended under these clauses from five to six years during the Emergency.

"This provision was misused in Jammu and Kashmir as well. Sheikh Abdullah extended the term of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly to six years."

"When Morarji Desai became prime minister after three years, he reversed this provision at the national level. However, using Article 370, this change was never implemented in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The Union minister further said while all other assemblies in the country reverted to a five-year term, the J-K Assembly continued with a six-year term until August 5, 2019, when abrogation took place.

"The Jammu and Kashmir government not only misused the Emergency provisions, they misused them twice by invoking Article 370," he said.

Hosabale said discussions were held on this issue later, but no effort was made to remove them from the Preamble. So whether they should remain in the Preamble should be considered, he added.

The suggestion from the RSS'

second senior-most functionary to consider removing the two terms came as he hit out at the Congress for its Emergency-era excesses and demanded an apology from the party.

Lambasting the Congress for showcasing itself as the champion of Independence, he said, "I can say this with full confidence that no matter how many times the Congress beats the drum about the Constitution or how loudly it calls itself the party of freedom fighters, the truth is that the Congress never demanded independence. I am saying this with all the confidence at my command."

He further said until 1930, there was no document or record in which the Congress had demanded that India be given independence or had raised the slogan of complete independence.

"Even post-1930, the Congress was only demanding home state, home rule or dominion status. When Bhagat Singh was demanding complete independence, the Congress was still only talking about home rule. It was only in 1931, at the Lahore session of the Congress, after the hanging of Bhagat Singh, that the first resolution was passed

demanding complete independence," he said.

It was also done in the wake of high emotions running among youth after the hanging of Bhagat Singh, he said.

Singh said the resolution included the demand for independence, which means Congress only truly demanded freedom 17 years before it was achieved. "So, if we go by that, Congress fought for India's independence only for 17 years," he said.

Lashing out at the Congress for the imposition of the Emergency, he said Indira Gandhi, in the darkness of night, woke up then president Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed from sleep to impose the Emergency. "A specific 38th constitutional provision was used at that time so that no one could approach the court."

He said subsequently, a series of amendments were passed, among which the most notorious were the 42nd and 43rd Amendments. "It was under these amendments that the words 'secular' and 'socialist' were inserted into the Constitution," he said, adding that just on Thursday, Hosabale raised a demand for the removal of these words.

Amarnath Yatra Over 180 Companies Of Paramilitary Forces Deployed In Jammu: IGP

KO Web Desk

Jammu: A multi-tier security setup is being put in place for the annual Amarnath Yatra, with more than 180 companies of paramilitary forces deployed in the Jammu region, officials said.

The 38-day-long yatra is scheduled to start on July 3 from the twin routes – the traditional 48-kilometre Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-kilometre Baltal route in the Ganderbal district – leading to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine of Amarnath. The first batch of pilgrims will leave for Kashmir from the Jammu-based Bhagwati Nagar base camp a day before the start of the yatra.

"The administration is ready and committed to ensuring a successful yatra this year. Jammu and Kashmir Police has made multi-tier security arrangements for the yatra," Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti told reporters here.

Tuti, who along with divisional commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chaired a high-level meeting to review arrangements, including security,

for the yatra, said, "Just like we have been providing security in previous years, this year, even better arrangements are being made, whether in terms of the number of paramilitary forces, deployment in sensitive areas, or CCTV surveillance. Compared to earlier, more vigilant and multi-layered security is being ensured."

Replying to a question about the deployment of forces for the yatra in the region, he said, "Apart from Jammu and Kashmir Police, more than 180 companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed for the yatra."

He said that security forces have been deployed along the Jammu Kashmir National Highway from Lakhampur to Banihal. "From road opening parties to CCTV cameras, everything has been set up, and security has also been provided at langars, lodging centres. There was no ROP (road opening party) arrangement from Lakhampur to Jammu last year, but this year there will be ROP here as well," he said.

The IGP added that starting from July 2, the traffic police will issue a daily advisory.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

College Dreams On

apply every year, seeing it as a path to a better future. But this year, many feel the system is working against them.

The issue doesn't stop at Delhi University. The PMSSS portal is mistakenly demanding the same CSAS document from students applying to Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), a university that doesn't even follow the CSAS admission process.

"It's not just a glitch. It's a total shut-down of our options," said Mohammad Zaid, a student from Anantnag who wants to apply to JMI for undergraduate studies. "I tried everything. The portal rejects the form if you don't upload the CSAS document, but Jamia doesn't issue it because they don't use CSAS. It's a dead end."

Several students, including Mareeha and Zaid, have sent emails to AICTE, which manages the scholarship, and to Jamia's admission office. Some say they've been told to "wait and watch," while others have not received any reply.

"It feels like no one is listening," Mareeha said. "We've written, we've called, but the silence is the same from all sides."

A senior AICTE official, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly, admitted that some technical issues have been flagged but said the resolution may take time.

"We are aware of student concerns. If necessary, we may recommend an extension of the choice-filling deadline," he said.

For students, the looming deadline feels more like a countdown to lost chances. "Every day we wait, we are closer to losing the seat we've dreamed of," said Ifra Jan from Pulwama, who is also stuck in the portal's CSAS requirement loop.

Even more worrying is the mismatch in eligibility rules between the PMSSS portal and university guidelines.

For example, Delhi University's B.A. (Hons.) Economics program requires applicants to have studied mathematics in both Class 11 and Class 12. But the PMSSS portal lists only the CUET qualification as the criterion.

"If we get selected for a course without the correct academic background, DU might reject us later," Ifra said. "That would be a disaster."

Several teachers and education consultants have also raised the alarm.

"There is a complete breakdown in coordination between AICTE, universities, and the portal team," said Parvaiz Bhat, an education consultant in Srinagar. "How can the students, many of whom come from villages with limited internet, be expected to solve this on their own?"

According to AICTE's own data, over 5,000 students from Jammu & Kashmir applied under PMSSS last year. Many of them are first-generation college-goers, carrying not just their personal ambitions but also the hopes of their families.

"This scheme is a bridge for us," said Zaid. "Without it, most of us would never even dream of studying in a place like Delhi University or Jamia."

When asked about the mounting student grievances, an official from Delhi University acknowledged the delay in the CSAS process but emphasized that the admission cycle is running as per their calendar.

"We cannot issue documents that

don't exist yet. The CSAS Phase 2 will open soon," he said, without giving a specific date.

Students, meanwhile, are stuck between two systems that don't seem to be talking to each other.

"The portal wants something that the university hasn't provided. The university says wait. The AICTE says wait. But the deadline doesn't wait for us," said Mareeha.

With hardly any time left before the choice-filling window closes, many are now pleading for an immediate deadline extension or a temporary fix on the portal to allow them to proceed.

"If we lose this chance, we lose a year," said Ifra. "We've worked hard for this. Please don't let the system fail us now."

All Set For

provide boarding and lodging facilities for over 50,000 people at various lodgement centres across the Jammu region, from Lakhampur to Banihal. A total of 106 lodgement centres have been set up for the purpose," Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar told reporters here.

These arrangements have been made by the district administrations of Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur and Ramban besides the police wings, he said.

He said community kitchens have been established with the support of voluntary organisations to provide food to the pilgrims in Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur and Ramban districts. "Sanitation facilities including toilet setup have been made at all lodgement centres in these districts too," he said.

Boarding and lodging centres have been created in Jammu city to accommodate the pilgrims in support with social organisations, he said.

Kumar said the Yatra will commence from Jammu on July 2 and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will flag it off from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp amid tight security arrangements. "The Yatra will formally start from Kashmir on July 3."

In addition to regular registration counters, there will also be a facility for tatkal (on-the-spot) registration, which will be available at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, he said.

"This registration will be done based on a daily quota. There are five registration centres for this. Pilgrims who have completed their registration will be issued RFID cards for the Yatra. These RFID cards can be obtained from the Lakhampur entry point, Samba, Jammu, Chanderkote and Banihal centres," he said.

On including all pilgrims in the Yatra convoy, he said those who have their own vehicles and are associated with the Yatra will also move along with the convoy after fulfilling all necessary formalities. Kumar said those who want to travel by private vehicles will also proceed to Kashmir under security cover. "An advisory has been issued stating that even individual pilgrims coming from outside will have to proceed along with the convoy."

All of them will check in at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu, from where they will leave daily in a convoy protected by security personnel, he said.

The divisional commissioner said this time the Amarnath Yatra will not involve travel by train. "All the arrangements for the Yatra have been completed."

The Divisional Commissioner added that in case of bad weather or the closure of the highway, control rooms have been set to provide information to travellers in real time.

He said arrangements have also been put in place for various other yatras in the region, particularly the Budha Amarnath pilgrimage in Poonch.

Travel In Convoys

convoys for their own safety and convenience. "Travellers should come in convoys so their journey can be simple and easy," he said.

He said security along both the Baltal and Pahalgam routes – the twin tracks leading to the holy cave – has been significantly strengthened. "Proper security arrangements have been made at both tracks, as they are essential. The Baltal Axis has detailed measures in place to make the journey safe and smooth for devotees," the IGP said.

Birdi added that traffic management will be a key part of the yatra arrangements, and traffic police will issue regular advisories, including cut-off timings to guide movement.

"I urge all pilgrims to check the traffic advisories before starting their journey to avoid any inconvenience and ensure they follow the designated cut-off timings," he said.

The 52-day-long yatra to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in the Himalayas of south Kashmir is one of the largest annual religious pilgrimages in India, drawing devotees from across the country.

NIA Gets

Pakistani terrorists affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) at a seasonal dhok (hut) in Hill Park before the attack.

The two provided food, shelter and logistical support to the terrorists, who, on the fateful afternoon, selectively targeted and killed tourists based on their religious identity, making it one of the most gruesome terrorist attacks in recent memory, the agency said.

3 Booked Under

Sopore booked three individuals under the PSA for their continued involvement in activities prejudicial to the security and sovereignty of the UT, a police spokesman said.

He identified the trio as Irfan Mohiuddin Dar, a resident of Sangrampora Sopore; Mohammad Asif Khan, a resident of Harwan Bomai; and Gowhar Maqbool Rather, a resident of Hardushiva.

Despite being previously booked in multiple FIRs under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and facing repeated preventive actions, the trio continued to operate discreetly using encrypted VOIP platforms and VPN networks to maintain contact with terrorist handlers across the border, the spokesman said.

They were also involved in clandestinely motivating local youth into anti-national activities, he said.

Following sustained surveillance and dossier preparation, detention orders were issued by the competent authority. All three have been formally detained and lodged in Kot Bhalwal Jail, the spokesman added.

India Dismisses

and that its establishment was inconsistent with the provisions of the

Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) signed in 1960.

The MEA said the ruling referred to as a "supplemental award" relates to questions of jurisdiction over the two hydroelectric projects. "India maintains that the tribunal was set up in violation of the treaty and that any findings or awards made by it are not valid," the MEA said.

It said that India does not recognise the legitimacy of the tribunal or any outcomes from its proceedings.

In a statement issued by the MEA, India accused Pakistan of misusing international mechanisms to raise objections that are political in nature.

It described the arbitration process as being initiated unilaterally by Pakistan and as lacking any binding foundation in treaty law.

India also pointed to recent security developments, including a terrorist attack in Pahalgam in April, as part of its reasoning for suspending its treaty obligations. Following the attack, which resulted in multiple casualties, India announced it would temporarily place the treaty in abeyance.

The MEA said this decision was taken under international law and reflects India's position on national sovereignty and security.

India reiterated that it is not bound by any decisions from a tribunal it considers unlawfully constituted. It also stated that it expects Pakistan to address concerns related to cross-border activity rather than attempting to seek outcomes through disputed legal forums.

The MEA said that India would continue to assert its rights under international law and uphold its position regarding the development of hydroelectric infrastructure within its territory.(KNO)

J&K Must Regain

and Kashmir goes back to its position as the pre-eminent tourist destination – and then stays there."

Reflecting on the region's fragile tourism climate, the chief minister cited the drastic shift in mood earlier this year. "From flying over Dal Lake and seeing hundreds of shikaras on April 21, to seeing none just days later – it was a brutal reminder that the past can intrude into our present, and God forbid, our future," he said, referring to the fallout from the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22.

Omar acknowledged that while most destinations enjoy long-term planning, J&K's volatility demands adaptability. "Unlike most other places where tourism planning can be done years ahead, here we plan week to week. But still we plan, and still we persist," he remarked.

He expressed appreciation for the tourism fraternity and FICCI for continuing to support the region through both prosperous and difficult times.

The chief minister also announced a key initiative named SPREAD, aimed at developing nine new tourist destinations across Jammu and Kashmir, with expected support from international funding agencies. "We can't confine ourselves to three or four destinations," he said. "Jammu offers pilgrimage and border tourism; Kashmir offers scenic, cultural and adventure tourism. Together, we can build a more holistic tourism ecosystem."

Highlighting the transformative role of connectivity, Omar noted the scenic value of the new railway infrastructure. "Travelling by train through

tunnels and the world's highest rail bridge into the Valley is a breathtaking experience. We may not have a direct Delhi-Srinagar line yet, but that day isn't far," he said.

He also outlined the government's focus on infrastructure and emerging tourism sectors. "We're close to completing a world-class conference facility in Gulmarg to supplement venues like SKICC. MICE tourism, golf, fines, and destination weddings are critical components of our future strategy," he added.

Calling for active partnership from the industry, Omar said, "We value your support, your suggestions, and most importantly your criticism when needed. Together, we can build a resilient and vibrant tourism sector that not only brings visitors but makes them want to return."

The event also saw the release of Golfing in Paradise, a book authored by Atul Dir, celebrating Jammu and Kashmir's emerging profile as a premier golf tourism destination.

J&K Cyber Police

people to avoid clicking on unknown files, even from known contacts, and to enable two-factor authentication, especially on apps like WhatsApp.

Rising Cases of Sextortion

On the rise are sextortion scams, wherein individuals—mostly men—are tricked into video calls with fraudsters posing as nude women or men. The video is recorded and later used to blackmail the victims with threats of sharing the footage with their families or on social media.

"This is not the victim's fault," Kichloo said. "But many end up paying out of fear. We urge everyone not to panic and report such cases immediately on the 1930 helpline or at the nearest cyber police station."

Cyber Slavery: A New Threat

Perhaps most alarming, Kichloo noted, is a disturbing trend of "cyber slavery" where Kashmiri youth are being trafficked to countries like Myanmar and Cambodia on the pretext of fake job offers and are then forced to operate international cyber fraud networks.

"We have received genuine complaints. Parents and youth must verify any consultancy or job offer carefully," he said.

Digital Arrest & Other Tactics

The SSP also flagged an increase in "digital arrest" scams, where cybercriminals impersonate officials from agencies like the CBI or judiciary and threaten legal action to extract personal details. "Recently, even teachers in Kashmir narrowly escaped these scams," he said.

Kichloo warned against using public USB charging stations, which he said can be infected to steal data. He also advised against casually sharing phone numbers or email addresses at eateries or online forms.

Timely Reporting Saves Lives and Money

Highlighting the importance of immediate response, Kichloo said that Rs 7 crore was recovered and returned to victims last year, but only because of quick reporting within the "golden hour"—the initial few hours after a scam occurs.

Appreciating the efforts of the J&K administration and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Kichloo said cyber police stations have now been established in every district. He also lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts

through "Mann Ki Baat" in spreading awareness about digital safety.

"You are not alone, Cybercrime can happen to anyone. There's no shame in reporting. The cyber police is available 24/7. If you face any cyber issue, just call 1930 or visit the nearest cyber police station," SSP Kichloo said.

Court Rejects Bail

which is even yet to culminate into a charge sheet," Principal Sessions Judge Anantnag, Tahir Khurshid Raina, said while rejecting the bail plea filed by the accused, Zubair Ahmad of Pahalgam.

The accused had contended that he had been falsely implicated in the case and alleged that investigation was not being conducted in a "fair and just manner".

"Before parting, this court wishes to put on record its remarks on this unfortunate incident, as the society speaks through the judge. The alleged incident is highly unfortunate, condemnable by all possible words, and ought to have jolted the conscious of this society which claims its moorings to be based on rich ethical values and culture but now stands shaken to the hilt," the court said, adding, "A revered guest, who was a senior lady was on her visit this land of saints and seers, was treated so shabbily and shockingly that for all times to come, she will have remorse over the choice of place she made to spend a period of her old age days with her children."

It is not an isolated act to be ignored, but a reflection of a highest degree of depravity and sick mentality prevailing in the society which must bow its head down in shame and invites a serious introspection as to what it stood for, and how that has now collapsed, the court noted.

"This court, which every day witnesses the reflection of the probity level of this society, express its concern that it is hopelessly getting eroded on various fronts," the court said, adding, "No sooner the sheet-anchors, conscious keepers, watch dogs, and philanthropists of this society will rise to the occasion to check what is going wrong on the moral front of the society, the better will be for saving the Kashmir as the paradise on earth in its true sense."

Mere meadows, mountains, lush green fields, forests, springs, rivers, rivulets and gardens will not come to the rescue of Kashmir as a desired tourist destination, the court added.

The court started the bail rejection order with a beautiful Urdu couplet that captures the rich hospitality of Kashmir goes like this: "Rastey mein Sanghrazno ne diya Pani Mujaay. Zarra Zarra hai meray Kashmir Ka Mehman Nawaz (Enroute, pebbles offered me water. Every particle of my Kashmir is a cradle of hospitality.)"

"Notwithstanding the picturesque, serene and eye catching beauty of the valley of Kashmir, it's rich cultural values combined with a blend of hospitality par excellence, has attracted tourists from across the world to visit, experience and enjoy the enchanting beauty of Kashmir—often described as "heaven on earth"," the court said, adding, "These tourists have, in turn enriched the culture and value system of the Kashmir to a level that matches the global standard of civilization." However, hospitality of the people of Kashmir has in-fact, outweighed all other lofty values for which Kashmir has been known across the world, the court said.

ICC Updates Concussion Protocols, To Trial New Wide-Ball Rule



Press Trust of India

DUBAI: The ICC on Friday announced new playing conditions across formats including a minimum seven-day stand-down period for players diagnosed with concussion, trialling a new wide-ball rule in limited-overs cricket, besides changes with regards to boundary catches.

Cricket's global governing body said on its website that the new playing conditions for Tests were implemented with the start of the new World Test Championship cycle for 2025-2027 with Sri Lanka taking on Bangladesh in first Test at Galle from June 17-21.

The upcoming limited-overs series between the two countries will mark the start dates for new playing conditions for ODIs and T20Is.

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh will play a three-match ODI series from July 2 and then move on to a three-match T20I rubber from July 10.

In context of concussion protocols, the ICC said there are two changes.

Teams will now have to nominate designated concussion replacements for every match, which is being brought in to curb the home team's advantage of being able to select

from a larger group of players.

The ICC also announced a "minimum seven-day stand-down" period for any player diagnosed with concussion.

"A player diagnosed with a concussion during a match must observe a minimum stand-down period of a minimum of seven days before returning to play. This change has been recommended by the ICC Medical Advisory Committee to support players' safety and well-being," the ICC said.

The ICC said two new rules will be trialled by full members for a period of six months starting from October 2025. It includes a new wide-ball rule for ODIs and T20Is,

and is being brought in to offer a degree of leniency to a bowler who sees batter moving around "prior or during" a delivery.

"The position of the batter's legs at the point of delivery will now be used as the reference point for a wide, even if the batter subsequently moves across to the off side," the ICC said.

"The trial will see a ball that passes the popping crease between the leg stump and the protected area marker not being called a wide. To help with this, the protected area marker line will be extended to the popping crease and act as a guide for the umpires."

"Any leg side delivery that

passes behind the batter's legs and outside of the line at the time the ball reaches the popping crease may still be called a wide. Previously, a wide had been called for a delivery that would not have been called wide if the batter had retained their normal batting position," the ICC said.

Another rule to be trialled is for domestic First-Class cricket, in which teams can now name replacements for a player who suffers a "serious injury" after being picked in the XI.

For the DRS dismissals, the ICC said wicket zone will now be the actual outline of the stumps and bails.

Kuldeep Gupta Named Competition Manager For Kabaddi National

Dr. Kuldeep Kumar Gupta, General Secretary of the Jammu & Kashmir Amateur Kabaddi Association & Technical Director of the Asian Kabaddi Federation, has been appointed as the Competition Manager for the 1st Youth National Kabaddi Championship (Boys & Girls Section) scheduled to be held at Haridwar from June 28 to July 1.

In addition to this role, Dr. Gupta has also been designated as the Technical Delegate for the upcoming 3rd Asian Youth Games to be held in October 2025 in Bahrain. His vast experience includes serving as Technical Delegate at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China (2023), the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, China (2010), and the 14th Asian Games in Busan, Korea (2002). He has also contributed significantly as a Technical Official and Jury Member in several national games across India. (Observer News Service)

India To Host 2029 World Police & Fire Games In Gujarat

India has won the hosting rights for the 2029 World Police & Fire Games (WPFG) and the event, featuring more than 10,000 athletes, will be held across three venues in Gujarat's Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Ekta Nagar (Kevadia).

The athletes will represent police, fire, customs and correctional services departments from over 70 countries.

India will thus become the first south Asian country to host the WPFG games since its inception in 1985.

The announcement came after India's final representation to the California Police Athletic Federation (CPAF), which is the governing body of WPFG, last Sunday in Birmingham.

"India now joins a prestigious group of past host nations including Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, China, and the United States, affirming its arrival as a central player in the global multi-sport ecosystem," a release from the state government said.

India is also bidding to organise the Olympic Games for the first time in 2036, with Ahmedabad likely to be the main host city. (PTI)

Sri Lanka 4 Wickets Away From Innings Win v Bangladesh



Sri Lanka closed in on an innings victory in the second test at stumps on the third day Friday, needing to take four more wickets with a 96-run second innings lead.

Bangladesh was 115-6 at close of play having conceded a 211-run first innings lead to Sri Lanka, which was dismissed for 458 in the first innings. Bangladesh made 247 runs in the first innings after winning the toss on the opening day.

Anamul Haque (19), Shadman Islam (12), Mominul Haque (15), captain Najmul Hossain Shanto (26), Mushfiquir Rahim (26) and Mehedy Hasan Miraz (11) were all dismissed before they could take a start in their second innings.

Litton Das was batting on 13.

Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva (2-13) and left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya (2-47) shared the bowling honors.

Earlier, opening batter Pathum Nissanka scored more than 150 runs for a second consecutive test match and Kusal Mendis scored a quick 84 off 87 deliveries to extend Sri Lanka's lead after Bangladesh threatened to claw back into the match taking four wickets in the first session.

West Indies Pacer Seales Fined For Send-Off To Cummins

West Indies fast bowler Jayden Seales has been fined 15% of his match fee and was given one demerit point for his fiery send-off to Pat Cummins on the first day of the opening Test against Australia here.

He breached Level 1 of the ICC code of conduct and a demerit point was added to Seales' disciplinary record as it was the second offence in a 24-month period, according to the International Cricket Council.

According to the ICC's code of conduct, Seales was in breach of article 2.5: "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match."

There was no need for a formal hearing as the 23-year-old pacer admitted the offence and accepted the sanction, the ICC said.

The incident took place on the opening day of the match on Wednesday when Seales gestured in the direction of the dressing room after dismissing Aussie skipper Cummins for 28.

Seales, who took 5-60 to help dismiss the visitors for 180 in their first innings, was earlier handed one demerit point during a Test match against Bangladesh in Kingston, Jamaica, last December. (PTI)

Kashmir Super League Player Bidding Begins In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary, J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, on Friday inaugurated the player bidding ceremony of the Kashmir Super League, region's first corporate franchise-based football tournament, at a vibrant event held at Hotel Golden Leaf here.

Organised in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council, the Kashmir Super League aims to revolutionize the football landscape by bridging grassroots talent with professional structures, corporate investment and organised league play.

The inaugural event witnessed enthusiastic participation from key stakeholders including Rajeev Sharma, Member J&K Sports Council; Anisa Nabi, Chief Sports Officer; franchise representatives from all six corporate teams, top-tier sponsors and some of the most passionate sports enthusiasts from across the Valley.

Lauding the initiative, Nuzhat Gul said, "Kashmir Super League is not just a tournament; it's a transformative movement for football in J&K. By bringing together corporates, youth, and sport on one stage, we are creating a sustainable ecosystem that will inspire a new generation of talent and ambition. This is the future of football in the region, bold, organized, and filled with opportunity."

The player bidding ceremony marks a significant milestone in the KSL journey, setting the stage for an exciting season ahead where homegrown talent will be matched with professionally managed teams, a first for the region's football landscape.

With match days scheduled to begin soon, Kashmir Super League promises not only high-octane football action but also a renewed sense of hope and energy in the sporting fabric of Jammu & Kashmir.



Neeraj Responds To Fan's Plea With All-Expense Paid Trip



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: On Wednesday, a fan expressed his wish to watch the inaugural NC Classic event, and Rs 2000 to cover his expenses. To his delight, the man on Friday received an all-expense paid trip to the tournament in Bengaluru from Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra.

Chopra surprised the fan by offering him a full VVIP experience, including accommodation, for the event scheduled for July 5.

Ranjith Kumar Ravichandran, a javelin enthusiast from Tamil Nadu's Coimbatore, had responded to a tweet on social media, expressing his wish to attend the tournament named after the two-time Olympic medallist from India.

He took to X and wrote: "If anyone sponsors me 2000 rupees, I can go to watch this from Coimbatore."

Moved by the post, the modest Chopra took it upon himself to fund the fan's trip to watch the event.

"Hi, Ranjith. You've got a full VVIP experience waiting for you in Bengaluru

because your trip to the nc_classic is on me! And thanks to RadissonHotels, you'll be staying about 90 metres away from me. See you soon," Chopra answered the fan's plea.

Initially scheduled for May 24, the event was deferred due to the India-Pakistan conflict.

Organised by double Olympic medallist Chopra in collaboration with JSW Sports and sanctioned by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), the event will feature a world-class field comprising seven top international throwers and five Indian athletes, including Chopra himself.

The event, which carries World Athletics gold level status, will be held at Sree Kanteerava Stadium.

A stellar line-up features elite javelin throwers, including Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Chopra, Thomas Rohler, and Anderson Peters among others.

Chopra, who recently breached the 90m barrier, is coming off a victory at the Ostrava Golden Spike 2025, where he won the javelin throw title with a best effort of 85.29 metres.

Madrid Coach Alonso Hoping Mbappé Is 'Back Soon' At CWC

Associated Press

MANCHESTER: Real Madrid coach Xabi Alonso still can't say whether Kylian Mbappé will be available to play in the next round of the Club World Cup after missing all three group games.

Mbappé was hospitalized last week with acute gastroenteritis and has not played a minute of the tournament so far.

Despite being back in training, he was not even named as a substitute for Thursday's 3-0 win against RB Salzburg.

"I don't want to be optimistic and get ahead of myself, but we need him because he's a top player,



er, one of the best in the world. We hope he's back soon," Alonso said when asked about Mbappé's availability for the round of 16 game against Juventus on Tuesday.

Mbappé is one of the biggest

stars at the expanded Club World Cup being staged in the United States and his absence has been a blow to a tournament FIFA president Gianni Infantino wants to become one of the biggest events

in the sport.

Infantino managed to get Lionel Messi into the tournament when Inter Miami was granted entry despite not winning the MLS Cup and encouraged teams to try to sign Cristiano Ronaldo during a specially created transfer window before the first game kicked off this month.

Mbappé, along with Messi and Erling Haaland, is one of the top attractions, but his headlines have been limited to off-field issues.

As well as his illness, he also made the news this week when it emerged he had filed a moral harassment case against former club Paris Saint-Germain. He unhappy with the way he was treated by

this year's Champions League winner when he was sidelined after his decision not to extend his contract with the club in 2023.

Mbappé is also at odds with PSG, arguing he is owed 55 million euros (\$61 million) in unpaid wages.

None of this is helping Madrid's bid to become the first team to lift the new Club World Cup and the golden trophy crafted by Tiffany & Co.

The 26-year-old Mbappé was Madrid's top scorer last season, with 43 goals in 56 appearances.

He had been following specific medical treatment to recover from gastroenteritis, Madrid said, but has missed two games since being discharged from hospital.

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