



'No Major Wet Spell In Sight'

Srinagar Sizzles At 32.3°C



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amid the absence of any major wet spell, Jammu and Kashmir continued to reel under hot and dry weather conditions on Saturday.

Only light intermittent rain-fall was witnessed at isolated

places between June 25 and 27. However, the weather has once again turned dry, leading to a rise in temperatures across the Valley. Srinagar experienced a sunny and hot day with the mercury settling at 32.3°C—several degrees above normal for this time of the year. | [More on P6](#)

'Unbearable Heat, No Power'

Amid severe hot weather conditions, people of many areas in Kashmir 'continue to face the unscheduled outages in both metered and non-metered places.' The electricity consumers of different areas of Kashmir region complained that the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) was not delivering the same amount of power as they were promised. "We are facing unscheduled power cuts very often." | [More on P6](#)

FROM JULY 1 TO 2, THE WEATHER is expected to remain partly cloudy with the possibility of intermittent rain and thundershower at scattered locations

3.6 Magnitude Earthquake Hits J&K

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: An earthquake of magnitude 3.6 on the Richter scale hit Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, but there were no reports of any loss of life or damage to property, officials said. The quake hit Jammu

and Kashmir at 7:36 pm at a latitude of 32.96 degrees north and a longitude of 74.71 degrees east with a depth of nine kms, they said.

The officials, however, added that there were no reports of any casualty or property damage.

Dachigam Tops Nation In National Park Evaluation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Dachigam National Park in Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as the top-performing protected area in India, securing the highest score in the Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India, officials said on Saturday.

Scoring an impressive 92.97 percent, Dachigam ranked first among 438 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries assessed across the country, marking a significant milestone for the region's conservation efforts.

"This is a remarkable achievement and a testament to the

park's outstanding conservation standards, adaptive management, and ecological protection protocols," said a spokesperson from the Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu and Kashmir.

The MEE, a tool developed under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, assesses how effectively protected areas are managed. It evaluates factors such as biodiversity conservation, habitat management, protection measures, community participation, and research initiatives.

Preserving the Hangul's Last Refuge

Dachigam is globally significant for being | [More on P6](#)

Despite Challenges, Better Facilities Ensured: LG On Amarnath Yatra

■ Chairs Meeting; Says All Stakeholders Have Assured Full Support

■ 'People Of J&K Have Served The Yatra With Dedication'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a crucial stakeholder meeting ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday held deliberations with key representatives from various sectors to review arrangements for the pilgrimage. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also attended the session held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar.

The interaction brought together members of civil society, religious leaders, DDC chairpersons, MLAs, and representatives from business and trade associations. Senior officers from



the administration were also present.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Principal Secretary to the LG Mandeep K. Bhandari, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, top police officers, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, V K Bidhuri and around 77 civil society members were present in the meeting.

Expressing his gratitude to the participants LG Sinha said, "I'm thankful to all of you for your presence. For the past few months, we've been holding regular meetings to review preparations for the pilgrimage," he said.

Addressing the gathering, LG Sinha said the administration has made extensive | [More on P6](#)

Field Officers Must Remain Alert: DGP

With the annual Amarnath Yatra scheduled to begin on July 3, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Saturday chaired a high-level security review meeting in Jammu, directing officers to adopt proactive and preventive measures to ensure the peaceful and secure conduct of the 38-day-long pilgrimage.

The DGP called for strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and urged security agencies to remain on high alert throughout | [More on P6](#)

Udhampur Search Op Enters 3rd Day

Observer News Service

Jammu: The search operation to track down three Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists in a forested area of Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur entered its third day on Saturday amid heightened aerial surveillance, officials said.

The cordon and search operation is being carried out by a joint team of security forces.

A Pakistan-based JeM terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces on Thursday, while three of his associates remain trapped in the forested area of the Basantgarh belt.

Amid strengthening of the multi-tier cordon, the search operation, widened by the joint operation group, resumed this morning with the backing of drones and sniffer dogs, they said.

The cordon has been further strengthened with additional reinforcements to eliminate the remaining terrorists of the group, the officials added.

Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti | [More on P6](#)

PM: Shukla's Space Sojourn Marks New Era for India

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday hailed astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla's journey to the International Space Station (ISS) as the beginning of a new era for India's space ambitions, calling it the first step toward Mission Gaganyaan.

In an 18-minute video call with Shukla, who is part of the commercial Axiom-4 mission, PM Modi said, "Shubhanshu, today you are the farthest from the land of India, but the closest to the hearts of every Indian." The conversation concluded with both chanting "Bharat Mata ki jai" from 400 km above Earth.

Modi said Shukla's name carries the word 'shubh' (auspicious), and that his



journey marked the auspicious beginning of a new era.

'Bharat Mata ki jai' chant filled up the space station as the prime minister raised the slogan towards the end of the 18-minute conversation, which was reciprocated by Shukla.

Shukla told the prime minister that his space sojourn was "not my journey alone but

also our country's", and that he was absorbing these "new experiences like a sponge".

"Everything is different here," the astronaut said, sharing his experience in micro-gravity conditions on the space station.

"We trained for a year and I learnt about different systems... but after coming here, everything | [More on P6](#)

J&K To Roll Out Unique Family ID System

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a move aimed at reshaping public service delivery and enhancing governance, the Jammu & Kashmir administration is set to introduce Unique Family IDs for every household in the Union Territory. The initiative, discussed in detail during a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Saturday, is designed to serve as a centralised, verifiable source of truth for all government departments.

The meeting, held at the Civil Secretariat, brought together top officials including the Principal Secretary (Finance), MD of J&K Bank, Commissioner Secretaries of multiple departments, and representatives from BISAG-N and the IT Department.

Together, they laid the foundation for what is being termed a transformative shift in citizen-centric governance.

Chief Secretary Dulloo emphasised the critical role the Family ID system will play in improving beneficiary outreach and ensuring that public welfare schemes reach every eligible individual. "Creation of Family IDs will provide invaluable insight into the traction of our welfare programmes while reducing duplication, paperwork, and verification bottlenecks," he said.

The Family ID will act as a digital profile for each household, consolidating data across multiple platforms and schemes. Departments currently rely on repetitive documentation, which delays benefit distribution and burdens both citizens | [More on P6](#)

'BURNING SMELL' IN CABIN Chennai-bound AI Flight Returns To Mumbai

Press Trust Of India

Mumbai: A Chennai-bound Air India flight was forced to return to Mumbai on Saturday due to a "burning smell" in the cabin. The aircraft, however, landed back safely, Air India said in a statement.

"Air India flight AI 639, operating from Mumbai to Chennai, on Friday, June 27, made a precautionary air-return to Mumbai due to a burning smell in the cabin," the airline said in a statement.

The flight landed "safely" back in Mumbai, and an aircraft change was initiated, Air India said without giving specific details. The airline further said | [More on P6](#)



Farmers harvest lavender flowers in a field in Sirhama, Bijbehara, in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Photo By Faisal Bashir

Respect Or Regret: Iran FM Fires Back At Trump's 'Disrespect'

Trans Asia News

Tehran: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi Saturday delivered a sharp rebuke to U.S. President Donald Trump, warning that Tehran will not tolerate threats or insults while reiterating Iran's commitment to independence, dignity, and national pride.

In a strongly worded message invoking national pride, military might, and cultural depth Araghchi made clear in a post on X (formerly Twitter) that Iran demands respect—and is ready to respond forcefully if crossed.

President Trump said Friday that Iranians have no hope, and"



it will only get worse!" "I wish the leadership of Iran would realize that you often get more with honey than you do with vinegar," he wrote on his X handle "Truth Social".

Responding to the US president, Iranian Foreign Minister wrote on X that, "The Great and Powerful Iranian People do not take kindly to threats and insults," suggesting that Iran's retaliatory missile strikes had exposed the vulnerability of the Israeli government. "The Israeli regime had NO CHOICE but to RUN to 'Daddy' to avoid being flattened by our missiles," he claimed, in a reference to U.S. support for Israel during the recent escalation.

Trump also launched a torrent of abuse at Iran's supreme leader on his X handle on Friday, claiming | [More on P6](#)

70-yr-old Doctor Put Under 'Digital Arrest' For Days

Duped Of Rs 3 Crore

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: A 70-year-old doctor was cheated by cyber criminals of Rs 3 crore and kept under "digital arrest" for eight days after being accused of involvement in a non-existent money laundering scam, a Mumbai police official said on Saturday.

In the month of May, the victim got a call from a person identifying himself as telecom department staffer Amit Kumar, who told her a SIM card had been bought with

her personal details for use in criminal activities.

"She then got a call from another person who identified himself as Crime Branch Officer Samadhan Pawar. He told the victim that her bank account and debit card details were found during a raid at the residence of an airline company owner who was earlier arrested for money laundering and is currently out on medical bail," the official said.

According to PTI, the accused sent her multiple documents claiming those were from probe | [More on P6](#)

Clampdown On Terror Ecosystem

Police Search 32 Locations In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Saturday carried out searches at over 30 locations in the city as part of a clampdown on the terror ecosystem in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead, an official said. The searches of residences of more than 200 terrorists/terrorist associates have been conducted by Srinagar Police since the attack. Srinagar Police has intensified searches across multiple locations in the city with the aim to dismantle

terror-supporting infrastructure in the district, said a police spokesman. The searches were conducted to combat the continued resolute efforts to combat terrorist ecosystem by targeting terrorist associates of proscribed terrorist outfits and in the furtherance of investigation into cases registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), he added. The spokesman said the searches of residences of more than 200 terrorist associates have been conducted till date in the | [More on P6](#)



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02

Study Links Autoimmune Condition With Near Doubling Of Mental Health Risks

Press Trust Of India

Having an autoimmune condition, in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks and damages healthy tissues and organs, could be linked to a near doubling of risk of experiencing persistent mental health issues, a study has found.

Researchers from The University of Edinburgh, UK, said that a persistent inflammation, which is a hallmark of autoimmune disorders, could explain the risks.

Women were found to be at a higher mental health risk, compared to men having the same conditions, according to the study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Mental Health.

The study looked at six autoimmune disorders that included rheumatoid arthritis (affects joints), inflammatory bowel disease and lupus,

which can damage kidneys and brain among other organs.

The researchers said that inflammation is linked to mental ill-health. However, many studies have looked at small sample sizes, limiting their validity.

They analysed data of 15.6 lakh people from a UK dataset, of which 37,808 reported autoimmune conditions.

"Overall, the risk of affective disorders among people living with autoimmune conditions was nearly twice that of the general population," the authors wrote.

Further, those with autoimmune conditions were more likely to be women, and at a higher chance that their parents were diagnosed with a mood disorder -- such as depression, anxiety or bipolar -- at least once in life.

A diagnosis of mood disorder was found to be prevalent among 29 per cent of the participants affected by an

autoimmune condition, compared to the general population (18 per cent).

Similarly, depression and anxiety were prevalent among 25.5 per cent and 21 per cent of the autoimmune-affected, compared to 15 per cent and 12.5 per cent in the general population, the researchers found.

Further, while overall prevalence of bipolar disorder was much lower, it was found to be significantly higher among those having an autoimmune disorder -- about one per cent, compared to 0.5 per cent of those not having the disorder.

Mood disorders were also seen to be significantly and consistently higher among women (32 per cent), compared to men (21 per cent) having the same health conditions.

The authors cautioned that being an observational study, the results do not allow to establish a cause-and-effect link.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE VERINAG

Email: gdcverinag@gmail.com Phone: 9419560578

No. GDC/VRG/25/EOI/194

Dated: 28/06/2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of interest is invited from the Booksellers/publishers registered with the Federation of Publishers and Book Suppliers Association of India along with application fee of Rs. 100/= and a refundable security deposit of Rs. 10,000/- to get themselves empanelled with the college within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice for supplying books/references to the college for the financial year 2025-2026 on the terms and conditions available in the office of the undersigned on all working days during office hours.

The minimum discount fixed by the college on soft bound and hardbound books is 21% and 31% respectively.

DIPK-3095-25

DT: 28/06/2025

Sd/-
Principal

CHANGE OF VENUE TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief & sorrow. We share the untimely and heartbreaking demise of our beloved Son Sh. HITESH WALI s/o Late. Sh. Hira Lal Wali R/o Razdan Yaarbal, Bana Mohalla, Srinagar, presently at Flat # L-1, Pandit Colony, Sheikhupura, Budgam Kashmir, who left for heavenly abode on 21st Jun'2025.

Tenth Day will be performed at Purushary Ghat, Habba Kadal, Srinagar, on Monday 30th June at 8:30 am



GRIEF STRICKEN:

Smt Khama Wali (Mother),
Smt Anita Wali (Pooja)(Wife),
Parth Wali & Aradhya Wali (Son & Daughter),
Shri Upender Wali & Smt. Santosh Wali (Uncle & Aunty),
Smt. Dimpy Wali Bhat & Shri. Sandeep Bhat (Sister & Brother-in-law)
Smt. Urvasi Raina & Shri. Deepu Raina (Sister & Brother-in-law)
Shri. Umil Wali & Smt. Shivani Wali (Brother & Sister-in-law)
Samast :Wali, Pandita, Bhat, Raina, Ganjoo, Nehru Parivaars
Mobile No.:- +91 9797970456, +91 8800882273

IRF

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 Mohammad Mohtashim Mushtaq s/o Mushtaq Ahmad Baba R/o Pattan with verified date of birth 13/04/2009 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained

FKO

Public Notice

I, Abdul Gaffar Dar, S/o Assadullah Dar, R/o Al Noor Colony, Ellahibagh (Nowshera), Srinagar, wish to inform that I am applying for a name change in the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID: 0204040013123, which is currently in the name of Abdul Razak Dar. I request that the said connection be transferred to my name, Abdul Gaffar Dar. If anyone has any objection to this change, they may submit the same in writing to the concerned department within seven days from the date of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

Media Line Ads

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OFFICE OF GENERAL MANAGER (S&M) KASHMIR

Email: jksfcsaleskashmir@gmail.com

AUCTION CALENDAR FOR REDUCTION/CLEARANCE SALE

The following dates have been fixed for auction of timber in the following sale depots shown against each during the month of July-2025 in Kashmir Region:

| # | Name of the Sale Depot | Date | Day | Type of auction | Remarks |
|---|------------------------|------------|----------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Shaitang I & II | 08.07.2025 | Tuesday | | Reduction Sale |
| 2 | Sangam/ Harnag | 15.07.2025 | Tuesday | Field Auction | Clearance Sale |
| 3 | Kakapora/ Kunjoo | 17.07.2025 | Thursday | | |

Note: - The auctions will start at 10.30 A.M sharp.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- To be eligible for participation in the auction every bidder/ purchaser before start of bidding: -
 - Shall have to deposit a sum of Rs. 25000/- in the shape of FDR/ CDR pledged to J&K Forest Development Corporation with the General Manager (S&M) Srinagar.
 - Shall have to deposit a photocopy of GSTIN/PAN.
- The rules governing the timber trade and its transportation issued by the Forest Department from time to time shall be binding on all the intending bidders/purchasers.
- For further details refer to the General Auction Notice issued vide this office No. 2501-21/GM(S&M) K dated 31.03.2022, read with addendum issued vide this office No. 398-412/GM/S&M/K dated 18.05.2022 which shall be available in the office of undersigned and on www.jksfc.jk.gov.in.

Sd/-

DIPK-NB-942-25
DT:28/06/2025
M. Ayub Dar
General Manager (S&M) K

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I intend to change the name on my electricity bill bearing consumer Id No. 0206030031811 from Gh. Qadir Bhat to Rehana Shabnum W/o Nisar Ahmad Sheikh R/o Magam Budgam. In this regard If anybody have any kind of objection he/she may file the same with Executive Engineer JKPDD Sub Division Beerwah within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

BT mag

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public I intend to correct the particular in my aadhar card to Mir Saqib Hussain S/o Akbar Hussain Mir D.O.B 09-09-2008 R/o Iskander Pora Beerwah instead of Akbar Hussain D.O.B 07-09-2008. In this regard if anybody have any kind of objection he/she may file the same with concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

BT mag

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old Name) Rubina Akhtar to (New Name) Rubina Rouf Mir. In future I will be known as (New Name) Rubina Rouf Mir. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be entertained

FKO

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 Aliza Aarif D/o Arif Ahmad Tantray R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 09/12/2022 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

FKO Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Subject:-Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name and style M/S" Grand Adventure Trips" Situated at Al Hamza Colony Buchpora 190020.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Mr Nabeel Wani & Naziya Shabir S/o / W/o Hial Ahmad Wani & Shabir Ahmed Khanday R/o Al Hamza Colony, Buchpora, 190020 & Dar Mohalla, Buchpora 190020, Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "Grand Adventure Trips" Situated at Al hamza Colony Buchpora 190020, Srinagar Kashmir under the Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years) Character Certificate (Police Department) Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/ Adventure tour Operator.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (e-mail Id:-ddtrog123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

Media Line

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FISHERIES DISTRICT BUDGAM

TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of His Excellency, The Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir sealed tenders are invited from registered dealers/suppliers having GST number for supply of Fish Transportation Tank, Aluminum raceway screens, feed additives and other fish farming equipments. The details of items along with terms and conditions can be had from office of the undersigned during office hours against bank draft of Rs.500/- non-refundable favoring to the Assistant Director Fisheries District Budgam up to 07/07/2025. The tenders must reach this office by or before 11/07/2025 up to 2PM after which no tender will be accepted.

No: ADF/Bud/2025-26/ 1526-28 Yours faithfully,
Dated: 27 /06/2025

DIPK-3102-25
DT:28/06/2025
Assistant Director Fisheries,
District Budgam.

اطلاع عام

میں مظہر حسن رفیق جو ولد محمد رفیق جو یہ خبر مشتر کرتا ہوں کہ میں نے ایک عدد دوکان کرایہ پر لیا تھا جو کہ اب میں اپنی مرضی اور جبر کے مالک دوکان زیر اندر خان واقعہ حیدریہ کالونی بمبہ خیمہ چوک کو واپس کرتا ہوں۔ اب مجھے اس دوکان کے ساتھ کوئی لین دین نہیں رہے گا اور آئندہ کوئی داوہ کرنے کا حق بھی نہیں رکھتا ہوں۔ اسلئے اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر اپنے عزیز پیش کرے۔

منجانب

حسن رفیق جو ولد محمد رفیق جو

ساکنہ حیدریہ کالونی بمبہ خیمہ چوک سربنگر

SH

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Adil Nazir R/o Sheesh Bagh, Ellahi Bagh, Srinagar have lost my Passport (Bearing Passport no. P 1711727). Now I want to its Duplicate. In this regard if anybody is having any objection he/she may file his/her objection to the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a week's time after that no objection will be entertained.

Media Line Ads

NOTICE

I, Shabeer Ahmad Sheikh F/o Toiba Shabeer want to correct the name of my Daughter in her School Record From Toiba Shabir To Toiba Shabeer Studying 8th class, Section Green, Roll no:- 24, in R. P. School Nagbal, which needs to be corrected. In this regard, If anybody has any objection he/she may file the same in the office of the Principal R. P. School Nagbal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Media Line Ads

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EXTENSION NO. 1

In view of the request received from various intending bidders/firms for grant of extension to the e-bid submission (end) date for submission of tender proposal in respect of this office's e-NIT No. CE/D/KPDCL/01 of 2025-26, Dated : 05/06/25 (having Tender ID : 2025_PDD_278351_1) for work titled "Appointment of Project Management Agency for Providing Consultancy Services for Assisting and Supporting in Project Management and Quality Monitoring to KPDC for works under UT-CAPEX, District-CAPEX, PRI / DD, DC Works and Other UT Schemes" and to ensure maximum participation, the e-bid submission (end) date shall now be extended for a period of 10 days, as per the details enumerated hereunder :

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Last Date and Time for Submission of e-Bids online - (Extended) | 08/07/2025, 05:00 PM |
| e-Bid Opening Date and Time - (Extended) | 10/07/2025, 11:00 AM |

No: CE/D/KPDCL/27178-87

Dated : 27/06/25

DIPK-NB-940-25

DT: 28/06/2025

Sd/-

Chief Engineer

Distribution, KPDC

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UNITED AGAINST DRUGS:

DLSA Organizes Comprehensive Awareness Programme



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In continuation of its efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized a series of awareness initiatives to mark the extended commemoration of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, observed globally on 26th June.

As part of the initiative, the Authority conducted various outreach activities, raising awareness among the public about the devastating effects of drug addiction, legal implications of trafficking, and the importance of community-based prevention strategies.

In this connection, DLSA Srinagar, in collaboration with the Child Welfare Committee, Srinagar, and PRAYAS Juvenile Aid centre Society (NGO), organized a comprehensive awareness programme on Saturday at HMT Road, Shalteng (PRAYAS).

The programme was conducted under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and closely monitored by Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

Khair Ul Nisa, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Srinagar, delivered an insightful address to the participants, particularly focusing on the vulnerability of children and adolescents in the face of increasing substance abuse. She emphasized that children exposed to drug environments are not only at a higher risk of addiction but also of neglect, abuse, and conflict with the law.

Highlighting the crucial role of early identification and intervention, she called for coordinated efforts between legal authorities, educational institutions, families, and civil society to safeguard the future of children.

Police Attaches Property Of Notorious Drug Peddler



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards dismantling the infrastructure of drug trafficking, Srinagar Police on Saturday attached property worth approximately Rs 50 lakhs belonging to a notorious drug peddler from Anantnag, under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The seized property, which includes a two-storied residential house and adjacent land in Sirgufwara, belonged to Bilal Ahmad Wani, son of Gh. Ahmad Wani. He is involved in FIR No. 05/2025 registered under sections 8/20 and 29 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Shaheed Gunj.

According to officials, investigations established that the immovable assets had been acquired through proceeds of illicit drug trade. Acting in accordance with Sections 68-E and 68-F of the NDPS Act, the property

has been formally attached following due legal procedure. The order bars any sale, transfer, or other transaction involving the property without the consent of the competent authority.

Police said that Bilal Ahmad Wani has a history of narcotics-related offences and was instrumental in pushing drugs into local communities, especially targeting vulnerable youth, posing a grave threat to public health and safety.

This attachment is part of a broader and intensified campaign launched by Jammu and Kashmir Police to combat drug networks by striking at their economic backbone. Officials reiterated that similar action would continue against individuals and networks benefiting from drug trafficking.

"The war on drugs is not only about arrests; it's also about choking the money trail and dismantling support systems of drug lords," a senior police officer stated. She also underlined the statutory duties of the Child Welfare Committee in providing care, protection, and rehabilitation to children in need and at risk due to drug-related issues.

Advocate Suhaila, Panel Lawyer with DLSA Srinagar, served as the key resource person for the programme. She provided a comprehensive overview of the legal framework surrounding drug abuse and trafficking, including the provisions of the NDPS Act, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, and the role of Legal Services Authorities in ensuring access to justice for affected individuals.

She elaborated on the legal rights and entitlements of children in need of care and protection, as well as children in conflict with the law, particularly those affected by drug-related circumstances. Advocate Suhaila also emphasized the importance of spreading legal literacy at the grassroots level and encouraged the participants to become ambassadors of awareness within their communities.

The event concluded with an anti-drug pledge, where all participants, including children, volunteers, and stakeholders, solemnly committed themselves to fight against drug abuse, spread awareness, and support individuals in need. The pledge symbolized collective determination and solidarity in building a drug-free, safe, and healthy society.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials, Legal Aid Defense Counsels, officers/officials from Child Welfare Committee, Officials of PRAYAS Juvenile Aid centre Society (NGO), and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar, all of whom pledged to work together to curb the rising tide of drug abuse and protect the rights and well-being of children and youth.

SANJY-2025:

DC, Commissioner SMC Visit Yatra Transit Camp Pantha Chowk



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo & Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb on Saturday evening undertook a site visit of Yatra Transit Camp (YTC) at Panthachowk to oversee the arrangements being put in place for the Yatries expected to participate in annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY-2025) beginning from July 03.

DC along with SMC Commissioner inspected the facilities and arrangements put in place for safety and convenience of the yatriis during their halt at the transit camp Srinagar.

On the occasion, DC & Commissioner were apprised that all necessary facilities including provision for drinking water, electricity, sanitation, public convenience facilities, boarding, lodging, bedding, KYC registration counter, medical facilities, etc have been made available at the Yatra Transit Camp well in advance before the commencement of the annual pilgrimage.

During the visit, DC & Commissioner assessed the condition and functionality of various facilities, ensuring they are operating as intended, to ensure pilgrims do not face any difficulty at the camp.

While interacting with the Officers, DC emphasized seamless coordination among departments to ensure smooth, seamless and peaceful conduct of the Yatra.

SMC authorities briefed that proper sanitation and cleanliness in the transit camp on a regular basis, besides deployment of sufficient staff has been ensured. Directions were passed for installing dust bins at



SMC AUTHORITIES BRIEFED THAT PROPER SANITATION AND CLEANLINESS in the transit camp on a regular basis, besides deployment of sufficient staff has been ensured.

different locations in the premises of the transit camp.

In order to ensure hassle free RFID and KYC registrations at the Camp, DC asked the concerned to ensure all required machinery and electronic gadgets are functioning properly.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid and SDPO Panthachowk, Zohaib Hassan, the DC was accompanied by SDM East, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineers of R&B, PDD, PHE, Tehsildar Panthachowk, Chief Sanitation Officer and other senior officers of Police and Civil Administration.

Legal Awareness Programme On Children's Rights Held

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards empowering and protecting the rights of children, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences Kashmir (IMHANS-K), Saturday organized a comprehensive legal awareness programme focusing on 'Legal Provisions for Vulnerable Children, Children's Rights and the Remedies Available through Legal Services.'

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and supervised by Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The event aimed at raising awareness about child protection laws, constitutional and legal rights of children, and the mechanisms available for ensuring legal aid and assistance to children in need of care and protection. It also shed light on the pivotal role of legal services institutions in promoting access to justice for every child, especially those facing mental health, social, or economic vulnerabilities.

Advocate Malik Fahad Ul Haq and Advocate Syed Shabana Kausar, Panel Lawyers and active members of the Legal Services Unit for Children, served as the key resource persons.



They provided insightful presentations and engaged the participants in interactive discussions on child rights, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, POCSO Act, and other vital legislations. The resource persons highlighted how timely legal intervention, counseling, and awareness can help prevent the exploitation and marginalization

of children and ensure their holistic development.

The programme was attended by mental health professionals, Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar.

DLSA, Srinagar, reiterates its commitment to upholding the constitutional mandate of providing free and competent legal services to the marginalized and vulnerable, with a special focus on children.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sr.DEE/TR/JAT acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date 21.07.2025 at 15:00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

| Tender No. | Name of work | App. Cost (Rs.) | Cost of Tender form(Rs.) | Date & time of submission of tender | Earnest Money # (Rs.) | Completion period | Opening of tender | Website Particulars |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 752-TRD-JAT-2025-26 | TRD work in c/w construction of ROB at KM 65between SMBX - VJPJ Section and at KM 50 between HRNR - GHGL Section over Jammu division. | 1,34,28,877.74 | NIL | Up to 21.07.2025 15:00 Hrs | 2,17,200/- | Eight (08) Months | 21.07.2025 after 15:00 Hrs. | www.ireps.gov.in |

Note: Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway. **No.: 752-TRD-JAT-2025-26 Dated: 27.06.2025**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

1954/25

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

| | |
|--------|-------|
| FAJR | 3:37 |
| ZUHR | 12:33 |
| ASR | 5:34 |
| Magrib | 7:50 |
| ISHA | 9:31 |

This Day In History

- 1916- Boeing aircraft flies for 1st time
- 1929- 1st high-speed jet wind tunnel completed Langley Field Ca
- 1932- USSR & China sign non-aggression treaty
- 1943- US forces landed at Nassau Bay, near Salamaua, New Guinea
- 1943- Germany begins withdrawing U-boats from North Atlantic in anticipation of the Allied invasion of Europe
- 1949- US troops withdraw from Korea after WW II
- 1961- Launch of Transit 4a, with 1st nuclear power supply (SNAP-3)
- 1966- In the Vietnam War, US planes bombed Hanoi & Haiphong for 1st time
- 1966-US bombs fuel storage facilities near North Vietnamese cities
- 1967- Israel removes barricades, re-unifying Jerusalem
- 1972- USSR launches Prognoz 2 into earth orbit (549/200,000 km)
- 1981- Bomb attack on headquarters of Islamic Party in Teheran, 72 killed
- 1985-NASA launches Intelsat VA F-11
- 2002- Naval clashes between South Korea and North Korea lead to the death of six South Korean sailors and sinking of a North Korean vessel.
- 2008- Thomas Beatie, the world's first pregnant man, gives birth to a daughter
- 2012 -15,000 Japanese anti-nuclear protesters blockade the Japanese Prime Minister's office in Tokyo
- 2015- Beijing Times reports 30% of the Great Wall of China has disappeared due to natural forces and stealing of bricks

From KO Archives

BJP, Bar Call 2-Day Jammu Bandh Against Autonomy

Rajinder Singh

JAMMU: Effigies of the union home minister, L K Advani, and the chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, were burnt when thousands of people, mostly gujjars, staged a demonstration to protest at the border town of Poonch today against the adoption of the autonomy resolution by the state assembly on Monday. They burnt the erased slogans like, "We want peace, development and employment, not autonomy".

Reports reaching here said the demonstrators marched through various streets in the border town and submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner demanding rejection of the autonomy report.

Meanwhile, work in courts was disrupted for the second day today following boycott called by the Jammu Bar Association in protest against the adoption of the autonomy resolution by the state legislature. The boycott will continue tomorrow. While the BJP has called for a bandh on Friday, the Panun Kashmir follows suit on Saturday. The decision for Jammu bandh on Friday was taken at an emergency meeting of the state BJP leaders here today.

According to reports, the autonomy resolution has evoked widespread resentment among the people of the region who described it as a political drama' under a 'secret agreement between the National Conference (NC) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Prominent leaders of gujjars and other scheduled cast communities described the autonomy report as a 'dangerous move to deprive them of the rights and privileges provided under article 338,339,340,341 and 342 of the Indian constitution which the report has recommended to be abolished'. The leaders included Gujjar United Front president, Anwar Chaudhry, Ch. Muhammad Siraj, Shah Muhammad, and Ch Culzar Ahmad.

Barring the BJP, reports said, all the political parties and other organisations have demanded the dismissal of the Farooq Abdullah government and holding of fresh elections 'as the ruling party has lost its representative character.

Though the BJP's state unit has demanded that the Centre should reject the autonomy resolution in parliament when it comes up for its discussion, they are reported to be incensed at what they described as the criminal silence' of me party high command over the chief minister's 'anti-national' move.

The non-BJP parties alleged there was a secret pact between the BJP and NC as both the - parties would exploit the issue during the ensuing snap polls in the state which are considered to be around the corner. The BJP will exploit it in Jammu region to woo the Hindu majority while the NC will make it the main, election plank in the valley, they alleged.

Observers are of the opinion Farooq Abdullah may very soon recommend dissolution of the state assembly and a snap poll as he is believed to be under tremendous pressure in the wake of the on-going moves of the Centre to start a dialogue with the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC). Various political groups in the Jammu province have projected the demand for separate statehood for Jammu and supported the Ladakhis call for union territory status for toe region

(Kashmir Observer, June 29, 2000)

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✂️ KO VIEW

Irrigation crisis

At a time when paddy fields in Kashmir are cracking under the summer sun, the empty chairs in the Jal Shakti Department stand as a symbol of state apathy. This means that agriculture in the Valley, a lifeline of our economy, is facing a crisis not just of water, but of governance.

As is clear from the media reports, 10 Chief Engineer posts and hundreds of engineering positions in the Jal Shakti Department lie vacant at the peak of the irrigation season. This is not just a bureaucratic failure, but a dereliction of duty. The farmers from parts of the Valley are witnessing dry canals, defunct lift irrigation systems, idle tube wells, and dying crops. For a region whose economy is still largely rooted in agriculture, this is nothing short of an emergency.

The irrigation crisis didn't appear overnight. It has built up over years of under-investment in infrastructure, erratic policy focus, and now, a crippling manpower shortage. Creeping climate change has only further aggravated it. This summer has brought with it a punishing heatwave. In villages across south and central Kashmir, daytime temperatures have risen far earlier than usual. But it isn't just the heat. Precipitation levels - both rain and snow - have been worryingly low in the past two years. The snowfall that once fed Kashmir's rivers and irrigation canals through spring and summer has weakened. Even more alarming is the pattern of glacier retreat. The glaciers of the Pir Panjal and Greater Himalayas, which silently stored and released water into Kashmir's lifelines, are melting too quickly - or sometimes, not releasing enough due to shifting temperature cycles.

For paddy farmers, the timing couldn't be worse. June and July are crucial months when saplings are transplanted and irrigation determines the scale of the harvest. But across vast swathes of the Valley, water simply isn't arriving. Canals are dry. Tube wells aren't running. And fields lie exposed under a sky that offers no relief. The long-term impact of this creeping drought could be severe. Rice is a staple crop in the Valley. Any decline in its production will have a far-reaching fallout.

This is not a crisis that can be solved with a few bureaucratic reshuffles. Yes, key positions in the Jal Shakti Department must be urgently filled. But Kashmir also needs a climate-resilient irrigation plan - one that accounts for glacier behavior, rainwater harvesting, and local storage solutions. Traditional irrigation knowledge, modern hydrology, and clear governance must come together.

As the moon of Zilhajj sets, Muharram unfolds its solemn wings. With it returns not merely a season of mourning, but a season of reflection and purpose.

After the sacrifice of Ibrahim (A.S.), dawns the moment of the Prophet's own offering. Ibrahim gave Ismail in submission; the Prophet, in love, gave Hussain to the Divine.

Allama Iqbal beautifully encapsulates this profound continuity:

غریب و سادہ و رنگین ہے داستانِ حرم
نہایت اس کی حسین، ابتدا ہے اسماعیل

“The tale of the sanctuary is simple, humble, yet full of colour; Its climax is Hussain (A.S.), its beginning is Ismail (A.S.).”

This couplet binds two sacred sacrifices, offered on the altars of Mina and Karbala. Both were acts of absolute surrender to the will of Allah: one father raised the knife in obedience, and one grandson walked into a storm to revive a fading truth.

Iqbal further deepens the connection:

اللہ اللہ بانی بسم اللہ پدر
معنی ذبح عظیم آمد پسر

“Allah, Allah! The ‘Ba’ of Bismillah was the father;

The son became the meaning of the Great Sacrifice.”

Here, the “Ba” of Bismillah symbolises Imam Ali (A.S.), referring to his foundational role in Islamic knowledge, guidance, and guardianship.

This literary and spiritual metaphor views Hazrat Ali (A.S.) as the doorway to divine wisdom, just as “Ba” is the entry to the Qur'an.

Iqbal suggests that the “Great Sacrifice” (*Zibh-e-Azeem*) is Imam Hussain (A.S.), uniting the trial of Ismail with the martyrdom at Karbala.

Why Did Imam Hussain Rise?

Imam Hussain (A.S.) did not rise against Yazid out of personal rivalry. He sought neither power nor position. His mission was *Islah*, moral reform. He declared:

“I did not rise out of arrogance, nor for corruption or oppression. I rose to seek reform in the nation of my grandfather. I want to enjoin good and forbid evil, and follow the path of my grandfather and my father.” (*Bihar al-Anwar*, Vol. 44, p. 329)

Grand Ayatollah Jawadi Amuli af-

MUHARRAM:
Beyond Mourning

Karbala lingers beyond mourning, softly
asking us to carry its truth into our daily lives.

Dabirah Hassan

firms, “From Imam Hussain's words and actions, it is clear that his purpose was to revive the true spirit of religion. He stood for *Tawheed*.”

Not only in speeches, but when Imam Hussain left Makkah on the Day of Arafah, he recited a du'a which is popularly known as *Du'a-e- Arafah*. This prayer shows the journey of love from the lover to the Beloved. Consider these lines:

“What has someone gained who lost You?

What has someone lost who found You?

Blind are the eyes that can see everything but cannot see You.”

The Battlefield of Love

Iqbal captures this divine longing with piercing clarity:

بہر حق در خاک و خون غلتیدہ است
پس بنا، ای لا الہ، گردیدہ است

“For the sake of Truth, he rolled in dust and blood—

Thus, O ‘La Ilaha’, the foundation has been laid.”

This is no mere poetic metaphor, it's the spiritual essence of Karbala. Through the lens of *Ishq-e-Haqiqi* (divine love), martyrdom becomes a consummation of love between the Lover and the Beloved. Imam Hussain does not fall in defeat, he prostrates in love. His rolling in the dust is the ultimate *sujūd* (prostration), not of the body but of the soul.

In the second line—“*Pas binā, ey Lā Ilāha, gardida ast*”—Iqbal declares that the foundation of *La Ilaha Illallah* is laid not by tongue but by wound. Yazid symbolizes every false idol. Hussain destroys them all through the power of *Ishq*, rejecting every worldly attachment for the sake of Divine Unity.

In Sufi thought, true love demands annihilation of the self (*fanā fillāh*). That is what Karbala teaches us: Imam Hussain's every breath, every step, every drop of blood cried out—“I am Yours, O Allah. To You I return.”

The Heart of Karbala Was Tawheed

At the center of Hussain's sacrifice was not Hussain. It was *Tawheed*. He rose not to preserve lineage, but to defend *La Ilaha Illallah*. The banner of Karbala carried the message of Tawheed as well, not just his name. The center of Hussain's sacrifice in Karbala was to protect Tawheed.

What Does Muharram Ask of Us?

We attend *majalis*, raise flags, and recite elegies, but do we ask ourselves: What does Muharram want from us?

It is not a cultural ritual. It is a spiritual call. It asks us: to awaken *basirat*—inner vision; to respond to the cry: “*Hal min nasir yansurna?*” — “*Is there anyone to help us?*” and to uphold *Tawheed*, even at the cost of our lives.

Karbala is not history. It is legacy. Every time we remain silent before injustice, we crucify Hussain again.

The Transformation of Hurr
You've likely heard of Hurr ibn Yazid al-Riyahi, a respected commander in Yazid's army. He was tasked with intercepting Imam Hussain and preventing him from reaching Kufa.

In the days before the battle, Hurr felt the weight of his conscience. He recognized the nobility of Imam Hussain's cause.

On the Day of Ashura, he was seen trembling. When asked why, he replied: “By God, I see myself between Paradise and Hell. And I will not choose anything over Paradise, even if I am cut to pieces and burned.”

In one of Karbala's most emotional moments, Hurr rode to Imam Hussain's camp, fell at his feet, and begged for forgiveness: “O son of the Messenger of Allah, I was the one who blocked your path. I never imagined it would end like this. Will you forgive me?”

Imam Hussain lifted him and said: “Hurr, you are free—just as your mother named you. Free in this world and the next.”

So, what changed Hurr?

It was Hussain. Each Muharram asks: *Is there a Hurr among us?*

No matter our past, repentance is always open. But too often, we treat Muharram as a ritual occasion rather than a call to transformation. Like Hurr, we can choose courage over comfort, clarity over confusion.

The True Purpose of Mourning

Islam values mourning. Imam Jafar Sadiq (A.S.) said: “Whoever weeps for Hussain... Allah grants him a place in Paradise.”

But mourning without awakening is hollow. If tears do not lead to transformation, we have missed the essence. We cry for Hussain's thirst but forget the thirsty. We grieve over oppression yet ignore modern-day Yazids. Ritual is the bridge, not the destination.

The Sacredness of the Pulpit

In Yazid's court, Imam Zain-ul-Abideen (A.S.) asked: “Will you allow me to ascend this pile of wood and speak words that please Allah?”

He didn't call it a pulpit, but a pile of wood. Because a pulpit becomes sacred only when truth is spoken from it. Today, not every orator represents Karbala. Not every speech reflects Hussain.

Shaheed Ustad Murtaza Mutahhari said Imam Hussain was martyred three

ondhand smoke develop weak lungs before they've even had a chance to grow strong. The bidis that men roll in their fingers deliver far more nicotine than the costlier cigarettes they sometimes cannot afford. The Ghutka and Pan-Masala chewed between errands slowly steal away the ability to eat, to speak, to laugh without pain.

In time, what began as a casual habit becomes a family crisis.

Even worse is how the habit defies advice. A father who chews tobacco cannot convincingly tell his son to avoid it. The son has already seen him choose it again and again.

And when neighbours and shopkeepers and friends all say, “It's no big deal,” the warning slips away before it can take root.

In villages across Kashmir, tobacco finds its way into daily life not because people want to destroy themselves, but because nobody told them that this small thing could hollow out their futures.

Awareness campaigns pass by, educational posters hang in clinics, but the real teaching happens in the kitchen, in the courtyard, where children grow up watching and copying.

Tobacco never arrives in a rush. It slides in silently, through the cracked door of habit, through the unguarded moment when a child decides that what his father does must be safe.

And maybe that's why the danger stays invisible for so long. It doesn't explode. It seeps. It doesn't always steal life in a headline-making way. Sometimes, it just leaves a person too breathless to chase his grandchild, too sick to go to the market, too weak to finish the work of an ordinary day.

In Kashmir, where so much of life is already uncertain, it's the slowest threats that often go unnoticed. And sometimes, the greatest dangers don't come from outside. They grow quietly, right inside our homes.

Syed Majid Gilani is a government officer based in Kashmir and a writer who explores family, culture, and the hidden struggles within everyday life.

times: physically, in Karbala; in character, through slander, and in mission, through ritualization.

The third, Mutahhari argues, is the most dangerous—because it disguises betrayal as remembrance.

Reclaiming the Mission

This is not a call to abandon mourning. It is a call to balance it with mission.

Imam Hussain stood for justice, dignity, truth, and divine unity. He carried the Prophet's torch and reminded the world: “Silence in the face of injustice is betrayal of faith.”

Allama Iqbal echoed this cry:

نکل کر خانقاہوں سے ادا کر رسمِ شبیری
کہ فقر خانقاہی ہے فقط اندوہ و دلگیری

“Step out of the monasteries and embody the path of Shabbir;

For monasticism has been reduced to sorrow and despair.”

The Qur'an says: “*But monasticism, which they invented—We did not prescribe it for them.*” (Surah Al-Hadid, 57:27)

Iqbal's challenge is timeless: *Are you weeping for Hussain—or living like Hussain?*

True Azadari: Not Just Ritual

The real tribute to Hussain is not how loudly we cry, but how righteously we live.

If our tears dry without awakening conscience, we have not truly mourned. If we attend *majalis* but walk away unchanged—silent before oppression, indifferent to truth—then Karbala becomes a tale we admire but do not embody.

Imam Hussain did not sacrifice himself so we could merely grieve. He rose so we could rise. He bled so we could awaken.

To call ourselves *Hussaini* is not easy. It needs that courage, that willpower, and that *basirat*, so we are ready to give everything in the way of Allah.

To call *Hussain* by tongue is not easy. It reminds me of one more couplet by Allama Iqbal:

تیر و سنان و خنجر و شمشیرم آرزوست
با من میا کہ مسلکِ شبیرم آرزوست

“Arrows, spears, daggers, and swords — these are my desires. Do not side with me, for the path of Shabbir is my desire.”

---Author is Head Multimedia Division, Kashmir Observer. She can be reached at Dabirah@kashmirobsERVER.net

Kashmir's
Staged Sins

In the valley, even the most private acts are now on display. But who are we really speaking to?

Nusrat Hassan

Faith in Kashmir sits close to the skin. It seeps into morning prayers, shapes the rhythm of work, and lingers in the silence of long winters.

But somewhere along the way, even the act of turning back to Allah, once so personal, has started to look like a performance.

It's not rare anymore. On Instagram, a young woman from Budgam films herself in tears, speaking about leaving behind her bad habits.

In Anantnag, a boy posts a caption about walking away from sin. They speak the language of repentance, but it lands like a carefully rehearsed line.

In a valley where silence was once the space for taubah, we now see ring lights, curated posts, and audience applause. The question sits uneasily: When we repent, who are we really speaking to—our Creator, or the people watching?

This isn't just a social shift. It's a cultural one.

Kashmir's relationship with the internet is deeply complicated. The region has endured one of the longest internet shutdowns in the world. And when the screens returned, they filled with longing.

Between 2012 and 2021, Kashmiris turned to social platforms with a kind of hunger to reconnect, to be seen, to keep pace with a world that had moved on without them. But in that rush, something sacred slipped.

Public confessions, once rare, now appear on timelines as if repentance is another moment to capture and post.

In one video, a young man in downtown Srinagar promises to never miss another prayer. The video is captioned with sincerity, but his friends whisper that the post was more about image than change. It's hard to tell anymore.

There's no data that tracks how many Kashmiris turn their repentance into content, but the patterns are visible.

A 2023 study showed that nearly all university students in the valley use social media daily, and almost half say their feeds are shaped by religious and motivational posts.

On the surface, that looks like a spiritual revival. But underneath, it raises harder questions: Are we performing for the crowd or turning back for real? Does publicizing a change make us more accountable, or does it just make us more liked?

Repentance was never meant to be loud. It is not an announcement. In the old stories, taubah was a soft thing: prayers whispered at dawn, hands shaking in secret, a man in the back row of a mosque with his head bowed so low you couldn't tell if he was crying or just breathing hard.

In Kashmir, that tradition held for generations. Silent, steady, between a person and Allah. It didn't need to be filmed.

Now, public repentance travels faster than the change itself.

Aneesa from Sopore posted a tearful video about giving up harsh words. It went viral. People praised her courage. But weeks later, her neighbour overheard her speaking in the same old tone she claimed to have abandoned.

The story moved on, but the post still shines on her timeline, untouched, still collecting hearts.

What does that leave us with? Repentance as a social signal, not a personal journey.

There's a loneliness beneath it all - an unspoken fear of not being seen. In Kashmir, where young people live with the constant ache of interrupted lives and limited choices, social media offers a stage.

And once you step onto it, the line between honesty and performance starts to bend.

But the One who matters was never watching the post. The work is in what comes after - the next prayer, the next choice, the next quiet moment where no one else is looking.

Maybe the real act of turning back has no camera angle. Maybe it's too ordinary to trend. And maybe that's why it still matters.

Some things don't need to be told. Some stories are meant to stay between a trembling heart and the One who already knows.

The author is a student at the GDC, Ganderbal.

Kashmir's Hidden Classroom War

Behind the polished image of Kashmir's top private schools, teachers face low pay, silent harassment, and a suffocating culture of fear. Their quiet departures leave behind a question no one seems ready to face.

Khurram Rasool

On a crisp morning in Srinagar this month, a teacher folded her lesson plans one last time and walked out of a school that many in Kashmir admire.

The institution is known for its excellent results, its glossy brochures, and its promise of building futures.

But the teacher wasn't leaving for better pay or a new job. She left because she no longer felt safe.

Her resignation letter mentioned workplace harassment by someone in a senior position. The letter didn't cause an uproar, but among teachers, it landed like a familiar ache.

The story moved quickly across staff rooms, WhatsApp groups, and conversations over tea. For many, it was not a surprising story. It was one they had lived but never dared to tell.

Kashmir's private schools have built their reputations carefully. They promise international standards, modern teaching tools, and creative classrooms.

They hire teachers with master's degrees, NET/SET qualifications, and in some cases, doctorates.

Yet, the teachers who hold up these institutions say the system stands on the silent suffering of those inside it.

Most teachers, no matter how qualified or experienced, are paid between ten to fifteen thousand rupees a month. Even the schools that charge some of the valley's highest fees rarely offer more than thirty thousand.

"It's not a salary, it's a way to remind you that you can't ask for more," said Tehmeena, a soft-spoken teacher in Srinagar. "We teach in some of the most expensive schools in the city, and yet we cannot afford to send our own children here."

Teachers describe the work environment as suffocating. They are allowed just one casual leave per month. Women get forty days of paid maternity leave.



Beyond that, the rules are cold: no pay, no exceptions. Illness, a child's emergency, a parent's death—none of it softens the system.

Fatima has spent ten years in the profession. She said the hardest part is not just the rules, it's how they are enforced. "There is no humanity. You can be in a hospital bed and the school will still mark you absent. There's no space to be a person. You are just a position to be filled."

And then there is the gap no one openly talks about: men are paid more.

The explanations given are as old as they are cruel. "They told me men need more because they are responsible for families," said Shahana, who has been teaching for eight years. "I stood there thinking, who do they think I'm working for? For sport? For pocket money?"

The imbalance is not just about pay. It is about power.

Teachers say they are micromanaged to exhaustion. They are made to feel replaceable,

sometimes humiliated in front of students. They are rarely allowed to speak up.

A disagreement with management, even a polite question, can cost a teacher more than her job. It can close doors across the city.

"They talk to each other," said a teacher in one of Srinagar's best-known schools. "If you are labeled difficult in one school, you will not be hired in another. You can vanish from the system in a week."

Fear hangs over the classrooms like bad air. Teachers are expected to deliver perfect

lessons, to bring results, to carry the school's reputation on their backs.

But the moment they make a mistake, or worse, raise their voice, they are seen as troublemakers. "You can give ten years to a school and they will still act like you owe them," said another teacher who asked not to be named.

For many female teachers, the silence is heaviest when it comes to harassment. Some spoke of senior staff using their authority to intimidate them. Others described the helplessness of reporting harassment from male students.

One young teacher recalled the day a boy in her class behaved in a sexually inappropriate way. She reported it. The school told her, "It's normal at this age."

There was no investigation. No warning to the student. Only silence.

The message was clear: keep quiet, or leave.

One teacher described the slow erosion of her spirit. "You walk in excited. You think you will shape young minds, make a difference. You think this is meaningful work. And then the system chips away at you, slowly."

Some teachers walk away before the damage is too deep. Others stay, but they grow smaller inside. The children keep coming to class, the lessons go on, but the people teaching them are often carrying invisible weight.

It's a bitter irony. These schools ask teachers to build character, to teach values, to be moral anchors. But how can a teacher teach strength while being denied their own?

The resignation earlier this month was not the first. It won't be the last. The teacher left the building, but the question she carried remains.

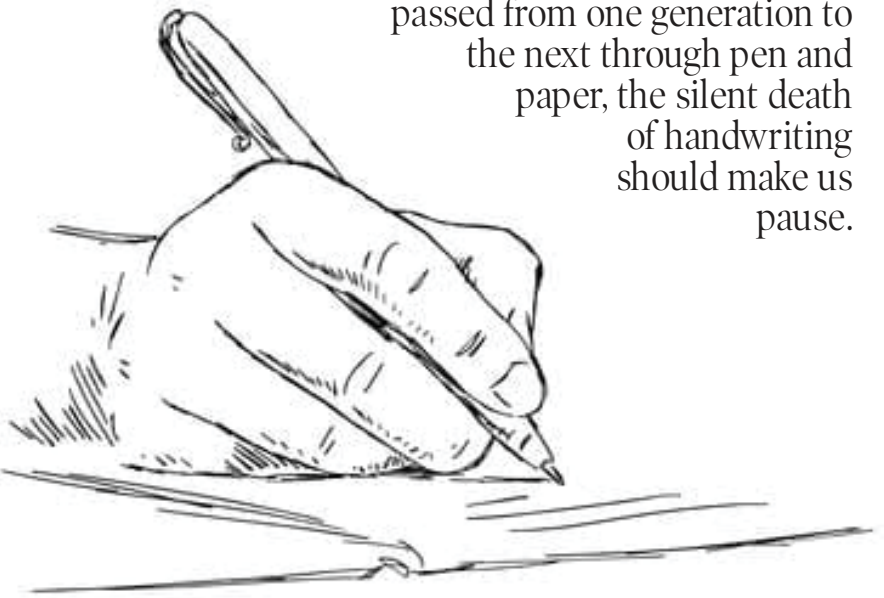
Who protects the teachers? Who listens to their side of the story?

And what happens when too many of them stop believing anyone ever will?

The author is a senior scribe based in Srinagar

The Lost Art of Handwriting

In a place where stories once passed from one generation to the next through pen and paper, the silent death of handwriting should make us pause.



Ilyas Jeelani

When was the last time you picked up a pen to write something by hand? Not your signature on a bank slip or a note in your child's school diary, but a real piece of writing.

In Kashmir, this question cuts deeper than it seems. Writing by hand was once part of everyday life here. It wasn't just about school-work or office files. It was how we passed stories, prayers, recipes, and family histories from one generation to the next.

Now, in a valley where digital screens glow in almost every home, handwriting is silently slipping away.

Technology has taken over our classrooms and workplaces. From the youngest child to the eldest grandparent, we are all hooked to phones, tablets, and laptops. The art of writing by hand feels old-fashioned now, something left behind in the rush to tap and scroll.

I often think about my childhood Sundays in Pulwama. They didn't feel like Sundays to me. Every week, I would sit in front of my grandfather, forced to write down every word he dictated in his soft, careful voice. I didn't like it then. I was more worried about making mistakes or getting scolded for messy handwriting.

But over time, those sessions turned into some of my most precious memories—lessons packed with stories, advice, and quiet wisdom. Somewhere along the way, books and school exams replaced those dictations, and I didn't even notice what I was losing.

Science tells us something important: when we write by hand, we wake up parts of

our brain that help us remember, focus, and think clearly.

But most of us have slowly started trusting our phones more than our own memory. GPS tells us where to go. Phones remind us what to do. When we see something worth remembering, we don't pause to write. It's easier to snap a photo and move on.

This may sound harmless, but when we stop using parts of our brain, those skills begin to fade. And that includes memory, attention, and even our ability to hold a steady hand.

Handwriting may seem like a small thing, but it can change lives. It can build confidence, teach patience, and ease the loneliness many Kashmiris quietly live with.

There's something powerful in the simple act of pressing pen to paper. Clicking on a screen can't offer that. Tapping a phone doesn't slow us down the way writing does.

We must encourage our children to write more. Let them draw lines on paper, even on walls, without fear of punishment. Let them make mistakes. Those crooked lines and wobbly letters are not a waste of time. They are how children learn to focus, express themselves, and feel proud of their own small creations.

It won't be easy. Many children will resist. Weekends will feel ruined. But we must stay with them. Because if we don't save handwriting now, it might disappear from Kashmir's homes and schools.

And with it, something deeply human might be lost, too.

The author is an Assistant Engineer, Pulwama.

PM Modi's Letter to a Survivor: Ayushman Bharat is India's Promise of Care

In a personal exchange, Bihar's Gyanendra and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflect on life, health, and hope.

PIB

"Crores have benefitted from the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, and I am one of them. I was diagnosed with a kidney ailment, and under this scheme, I received treatment in Patna, Bihar. This scheme is greatly benefiting the poor and middle-class sections of the country. It is indeed an effective and beneficial initiative."

These words, filled with contentment for the accessible medical treatment and the relief of receiving care free of cost, are from Shri Gyanendra Kumar Gupta of Bihar, whose kidney treatment was made possible at no charge through the Ayushman Bharat scheme. After his recovery, Gyanendra wrote a heartfelt letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to express his gratitude.

Thanks to this transformative scheme, crores like Gyanendra—who, just a decade ago, might have fallen below the poverty line due to the crushing burden of healthcare expenses—have been able to access essential medical care. In this context, the revolutionary initiative of providing free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh has proved to be a blessing for 55 to 60 crore Indians, particularly those from economically weaker sections, the middle class, and the elderly.

Although universal healthcare had been discussed in the country before, it is for the first time that a government has provided the world's largest healthcare facility, with free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh. That is why the sentiments of beneficiaries naturally overflow with gratitude.

When Gyanendra expressed his emotions in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister too responded with warmth and empathy, reflecting his deep connection with the citizens.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote a letter to Gyanendra Kumar Gupta, a resident of Patna, Bihar, conveying his heartfelt wishes for his continued recovery.



The Prime Minister's letter is a clear reflection of his sensitive and sincere commitment to the welfare of the people of the country. He wrote in his letter, "I am truly delighted to learn about your improved health... The information you shared in your letter about the successful kidney treatment under the Ayushman Bharat scheme has brought immense satisfaction to my heart."

In his letter, Gyanendra had written, "Your (PM Modi's) courage and persona continue to offer relief and guidance to the people of the nation."

In response, the Prime Minister too could not help but pour his emotions into words. He wrote, "We have witnessed how the entire life savings of families are wiped out in an instant due to medical expenses. Often, people would avoid seeking treatment altogether due to these costs. Today, Ayushman Bharat is ensuring that no Indian is deprived of healthcare. This scheme has demonstrated how proper treatment can give new hope and direction to a person's life."

Prime Minister Modi further wrote about how essential a Swastha Bharat (healthy India) is for building a Viksit Bharat (developed India). A healthy individual not only supports their

own family but also plays an active role in the nation-building process. Accordingly, in his letter to Gyanendra, the Prime Minister wrote, "It is said—'Shariramadyam khalu dharmasadhanam', meaning the body is the foremost instrument for fulfilling all duties and responsibilities. When citizens are healthy, only then can the nation become strong and capable."

The Prime Minister noted that it is truly gratifying to see that central government schemes are reaching ordinary citizens at the grassroots and bringing about real changes in their lives. He added, "To witness people like you confidently moving forward in life once again after treatment is a significant achievement for us."

In conclusion, the Prime Minister conveyed his best wishes for Gyanendra's good health and bright future.

Undoubtedly, the Ayushman Bharat scheme represents a healthcare revolution in pursuit of a Viksit Bharat. In fact, studies show that even a one-year increase in life expectancy, owing to improved healthcare, can boost GDP by up to 4%. In this context, the significance of the Ayushman Bharat scheme for a vast and diverse country like ours can be easily understood.

Courtesy PIB

Israeli strikes kill at least 72 in Gaza as ceasefire prospects move closer

AP

Israeli strikes killed at least 72 people across Gaza overnight and into Saturday, health workers said, as ceasefire prospects were said to be improving after 21 months of war.

Three children and their parents were killed in an Israeli strike on a tent camp in Muwasi near the southern city of Khan Younis. They were struck while sleeping, relatives said.

"What did these children do to them? What is their fault?" said the children's grandmother, Suad Abu Teima, as others knelt to kiss their bloodied faces and wept. Some placed red flowers into the body bags.

Also among the dead were 12 people near the Palestine Stadium in Gaza City, which was sheltering displaced people, and eight more in apartments, according to staff at Shifa Hospital. More than 20 bodies were taken to Nasser Hospital, according to health officials.

A midday strike killed 11 people on a street in eastern Gaza City, and their bodies were taken to Al-Ahli Hospital. Another strike on a gathering in eastern Gaza City killed eight including five children, the hospital said. A strike on a gathering at the

entrance to the Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza killed two, according to Al-Awda Hospital.

Hopes for a ceasefire agreement in the coming week

US President Donald Trump says there could be a ceasefire agreement within the next week. Taking questions from reporters on Friday, he said, "We're working on Gaza and trying to get it taken care of."

An official with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press that Israeli Minister for Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer will arrive in Washington next week for talks on a Gaza ceasefire, Iran and other subjects. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

Indirect talks between Israel and Hamas have been on again, off again since Israel broke the latest ceasefire in March, continuing its military campaign in Gaza and furthering the territory's dire humanitarian crisis. Some 50 hostages remain in Gaza, fewer than half believed to still be alive. They were among 251 hostages taken when Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, sparking the war.

"What more is left to do in Gaza that has not already been



done? Who else is left to eliminate?" Yotam Cohen, brother of hostage Nimrod Cohen, said Saturday evening as weekly rallies by families and supporters resumed following Israel's ceasefire with Iran.

Over 6,000 killed since latest ceasefire ended

The war has killed over 56,000 Palestinians, according to the Health Ministry, which

does not distinguish between civilians and combatants. It says more than half of the dead were women and children. It said the dead include 6,089 killed since the end of the latest ceasefire. Israel says it only targets

militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas, accusing the militants of hiding among civilians because they operate in populated areas.

There is hope among families of hostages that Trump's involvement in securing the recent ceasefire between Israel and Iran might lead to more pressure for a deal in Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is riding a wave of public support for the Iran war and its achievements, and he could feel he has more space to move toward ending the war in Gaza, something his far-right governing partners oppose.

Hamas has repeatedly said it is prepared to free all the hostages in exchange for an end to the war in Gaza. Netanyahu says he will end the war only once Hamas is disarmed and exiled, something the group has rejected.

Hundreds have been killed while seeking food

Meanwhile, hungry Palestinians are enduring a catastrophic situation in Gaza. After blocking all food for 2 1/2 months, Israel has allowed only a trickle of supplies into the territory since mid-May.

More than 500 Palestinians

have been killed and hundreds more wounded while seeking food since the newly formed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation began distributing aid in the territory about a month ago, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Palestinian witnesses say Israeli troops have opened fire at crowds on roads heading toward the sites. The Israeli military says it has only fired warning shots and that it was investigating incidents in which civilians had been harmed while approaching the sites.

Thousands of Palestinians walk for hours to reach the sites, moving through Israeli military zones.

Separate efforts by the United Nations to distribute limited food have been plagued by armed gangs looting trucks and by crowds of desperate people offloading supplies from convoys.

Saturday's death toll included two people killed by Israeli gunfire while waiting to receive aid near the Netzarim corridor, a road that separates northern and southern Gaza, according to Al-Shifa and Al-Awda hospitals, which each received one body.

There was no immediate Israeli military comment.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Srinagar Sizzles

A local Meteorological Department (MeT) official said that there is no major rainfall expected in the immediate future. However, light to moderate showers accompanied by thunder-showers are likely at scattered places across Jammu and Kashmir till June 30.

"From July 1 to 2, the weather is expected to remain partly cloudy with the possibility of intermittent rain and thundershower at scattered locations," the official added.

The ongoing dry spell has resulted in warmer days, especially in the Kashmir Valley, where residents had earlier witnessed some brief respite from the heat due to short-lived rainfall earlier in the week.

The department continues to monitor conditions closely and advises people to stay hydrated and avoid direct exposure to the sun during peak hours, especially in urban areas experiencing the heat surge.

'Unbearable Heat

One of the locals of Nawa-Kadal in Downtown, Muzamil Ahmad said that the area is facing long durational distress cuts.

The residents of other areas informed that despite installing smart meters they continue to face unscheduled power cuts.

"This is the first time we have felt that there shall be uninterrupted power services during summers. But ironically, we are facing unscheduled power cuts during the peak summer hours," they said.

They further said, "In the scorching heat weather conditions, we are being forced to stay outdoors to evade the unbearable heat of rooms."

Another local of Gojwara, Nazir Ahmad said, "Despite facing the extra power curtailment, the power voltage is extremely low during the peak hours."

The electricity consumers of different areas of south Kashmir's Anantnag, Pulwama and Shopian districts narrated the same ordeal—saying, "KPDCL has sorrowfully failed to deliver relief to the consumers in this ongoing scorching heatwave."

One of the locals said, "I think this is for the first time people of Kashmir are demanding for uninterrupted power supply in summers because of the heatwave but unfortunately we are being pushed to face the unscheduled power cuts."

Top officials informed that, "In Jammu and Kashmir, JKPD has a power demand of nearly 3,000 Megawatts including nearly 1600 MW from Jammu and around 1350-1400 MW from Kashmir division.

"As of now we are delivering more than 2800 MWs of power across Jammu and Kashmir" the official said. (KNO)

Despite Challenges

preparations, including security-related measures, to ensure a safe and comfortable pilgrimage.

"Despite challenging weather conditions and tough terrain, efforts have been made to provide better facilities for the pilgrims. Many of you are already aware of the significant improvements that have taken place," he said, while also commending the dedication of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in supporting the yatra over the years.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, LG Sinha said that all stakeholders had assured him of their full cooperation in ensuring the success of both the Amarnath Yatra and the

upcoming Muharram observances.

"I had invited all senior leaders and representatives of political parties to Raj Bhavan and appealed to them for their support. They assured me of full cooperation for both the yatra and Muharram," he said.

Highlighting the inclusive approach taken by the administration, Sinha added, "Members of civil society, religious leaders, DDC chairpersons, business and trade representatives, and MLAs were consulted today. This has been a collective effort that we've continued for the last four years."

He noted that the yatra belongs more to the people than to the administration or the Shrine Board, and that the collective support of all communities remains vital.

"With the blessings of Baba Amarnath, I hope the yatra will be successful," the lieutenant governor said.

In a message of harmony, the LG invoked a Kashmiri saying, "Khudai Chu Ekh, Naav Chis Setha" — "There is only one God with many names," underlining that the Yatra is not just a religious journey but a symbol of unity and shared values.

"The people of Kashmir have always been associated with this pilgrimage. Their involvement is not just vital for logistics but also for trust and security," LG Sinha said, asserting that local support remains pivotal in facilitating the Yatra.

Referring to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, LG Sinha called it an attack on Kashmir's soul. "What happened in Pahalgam and how people spontaneously came out in protest — I have not seen anything like this in my five years as LG," he said.

He said that the attack was a desperate attempt by Pakistan-backed forces to create discord, but the people of Kashmir responded with unity and dignity, drawing praise from across the country.

"This attack has placed Kashmir under national and international scrutiny. Our responsibility has become even greater now," he said.

"More than the administration, it is the responsibility of the people to make this Yatra successful," LG Sinha stated. He assured that all issues related to locals will be addressed promptly.

Security arrangements have been strengthened, and civil society members present in the meeting pledged their full support, describing the Yatra as "the people's Yatra."

Though some religious leaders expressed their desire to formally welcome devotees, LG Sinha clarified that while such gatherings would not be possible officially, individuals were free to meet pilgrims in their personal capacity.

LG Sinha affirmed, "Peace is a prerequisite for development. How the people of Jammu and Kashmir are standing up against terrorism shows their determination for a better future."

Field Officers Must

the Yatra period. "We must dismantle the terror ecosystem and maintain a robust security grid. Field officers must remain focused and alert to ensure the highest level of preparedness and public safety," Prabhat said during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the J&K Police, Indian Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), intelligence agencies, civil administration, telecom, NSG, and other departments involved in the Yatra's security and logistical arrangements.

Key attendees included IGP Jammu Zone Bhimsen Tuti (IPS), IG BSF Jammu Sector Shashank Anand (IPS),

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar (IAS), DIG Traffic Jammu Dr. Haseeb Mughal (IPS), DIG JSK Range Shiv Kumar Sharma (IPS), and SSP Jammu Joginder Singh (JKPS), along with officers from the Army's 16 Corps and 26 Division.

At the outset, officers presented detailed briefings on security deployments, inter-agency coordination, and contingency planning for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025. The emphasis remained on seamless coordination between all forces to preempt potential threats and respond swiftly if necessary.

Tech-Enabled Surveillance in Focus
SSP Jammu delivered a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation detailing security measures, particularly at key locations such as lodgement centers, registration counters, and token distribution points. He highlighted the integration of Facial Recognition Systems (FRS), anti-drone technologies, and real-time monitoring tools aimed at enhancing surveillance capabilities.

Senior officials from the Army, BSF, CRPF, intelligence, and other wings shared updates on their preparations, ranging from route domination to night patrolling and convoy protection.

The DGP also interacted with nodal officers to assess field-level coordination and instructed them to identify and plug any operational gaps before the Yatra begins.

Civil Administration Readies Lodgement Facilities

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, informed the gathering that 106 lodgement centers have been established across the Jammu region to house pilgrims. He lauded the synergy between security and civil agencies and reiterated the administration's commitment to providing a smooth and comfortable pilgrimage experience.

Kumar emphasized that all basic amenities, including water, electricity, sanitation, and medical facilities, are being ensured at the lodgement points in coordination with district administrations.

The meeting concluded with a firm commitment from all participating agencies to maintain unwavering vigilance, ensure timely coordination, and adopt a zero-compromise approach to security. The DGP reiterated the importance of community engagement and urged officials to maintain sensitivity in their dealings with pilgrims and local residents alike.

Udhampur Search

said the terrorists are reported to be still within the cordoned off area.

He said that out of the four terrorists, one — the commander of the group — has been killed.

The group had been tracked for over a year. Two terrorists affiliated with JeM from this group were eliminated in Basantgarh in September last year.

On Thursday, the four terrorists were found hiding near Karoor Nallah in the Bihali high-altitude belt and were engaged by the joint search party led by the Army's Para Commandos, resulting in an encounter.

One of the terrorists killed in the encounter has been identified as Haider alias Jabbar, code-named Maulvi, from Pakistan.

Supported by overground workers (OGWs), the terrorists had been moving from one area to another using forests and natural caves to hide, PTI reported. Five OGWs have been arrested over the past several months in the belt for providing food and shelter to the terrorists.

It is also believed that a local terrorist, who had returned from Pakistan after several years, is actively supporting the group.

The search by troops led to the recovery of the body of the killed terrorist along with ammunition, explosive material, and cash, the officials said.

Basantgarh lies on a traditional infiltration route used by Pakistani terrorists who enter from the International Border in Kathua and move via the higher reaches to Doda and Kishtwar districts in Jammu region and further into the Kashmir Valley. It has witnessed several encounters and terror incidents in the past.

On April 25, Havaladar Jhantu Ali Shaikh of the Army's 6 PARA was killed in an encounter with terrorists in the Basantgarh area.

On April 9, an encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists in the Jopher-Marta belt of Basantgarh in Udhampur district.

On September 11 last year, two terrorists affiliated with JeM were killed in an encounter in the upper reaches of Basantgarh.

A CRPF inspector was killed in another encounter with terrorists at Dudu on August 19, 2024.

On July 11, 2024, the Sang police post in Udhampur's Basantgarh came under attack by terrorists but was foiled by alert cops.

On April 28, 2024, a Village Defence Guard, Mohammad Sharief, was killed in an encounter with terrorists in Basantgarh.

J&K To Roll

and officials. The Family ID promises to streamline this process by serving as a unified reference for eligibility and service delivery.

Secretary, Planning, Talat Parvez, provided a detailed background of the initiative and outlined the robust framework being developed. Secretary, IT, Dr. Piyush Singla, assured that the infrastructure and expertise needed for implementation are well in place. He added that the system would reduce redundancy while making government processes faster and more transparent.

Key databases from the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY will serve as foundational datasets. Future updates to the Family ID will accommodate changes due to births, deaths, and migration, ensuring the data remains dynamic and accurate.

Another major advantage of this initiative is the potential reduction in fraud and misuse of schemes. With a centralised digital identity for each household, the government hopes to ensure only genuine beneficiaries avail services.

The collaborative effort between departments and agencies was highlighted as the cornerstone of the project's success. The Chief Secretary concluded the meeting with a call for swift and coordinated action, stressing that the Family ID initiative could redefine how governance is delivered across Jammu & Kashmir.

PM: Shukla's Space

changed...Here, even small things are different because there is no gravity in space... Sleeping here is a big challenge... It takes some time to get used to this environment," he told the prime minister.

The astronaut said that the space station orbits the Earth 16 times a day and that he was privileged to witness 16 sunrises and 16 sunsets every day.

"Right now, we are travelling at a speed of 28,000 kilometres per hour.

This speed reflects how fast our nation is progressing and now, we must go even beyond this," Shukla said.

Shukla reached the International Space Station on Thursday along with three other astronauts as part of the commercial Axiom-4 mission for a 14-day stay during which the crew will be part of a series of science experiments.

"When I saw India for the first time from space it appeared much larger and grander than on the map," Shukla said in the interaction with the Prime Minister.

"You can truly feel the sense of oneness — there are no borders, no lines. It feels as if this entire Earth is our home and we are all its citizens," Shukla said.

Modi told the Lucknow-born astronaut that his historic journey was not just limited to space, but would add fresh momentum to the march towards Viksit Bharat (developed India).

"We have to take Mission Gaganyaan forward. We must build our own space station. And we must ensure that an Indian astronaut lands on the Moon."

"Your experiences will play a crucial role in all these future missions. I am confident that you are diligently recording every bit of your experience," the prime minister said.

Shukla said his travel to the space station was not just his personal feat but a collective achievement of the entire nation.

The prime minister told Shukla that his space sojourn would become a source of great inspiration to the youth of the country.

"I am confident that this will become a source of great inspiration. It has been a true pleasure speaking with you today," PM Modi said.

Shukla told the prime minister that he had brought with him gajar ka halwa, moong dal halwa and aam ras (mango nectar) which was relished by fellow astronauts on the space station.

The International Space Station now has 11 astronauts from six countries.

Dachigam Tops

the last habitat of the critically endangered Hangul (Cervus hanglu hanglu) — also known as the Kashmir stag — which is found nowhere else in the world. Recent population estimates have shown a positive trend in Hangul numbers, offering hope for the long-term survival of the species.

Officials attribute the park's success to dedicated anti-poaching vigilance, habitat improvement, scientific monitoring, and eco-development initiatives. The recognition comes as a boost for conservation strategies in the Kashmir Himalayas, which host unique biodiversity amid fragile ecosystems.

Leadership and Field-Level Commitment Lauded

"This recognition is a tribute to the tireless efforts of the officials and frontline staff of the Department of Wildlife Protection, who have shown exceptional professionalism under visionary leadership," the department spokesperson added.

Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, congratulated the department, calling the achievement a benchmark for other protected areas in the Union Territory. "This accomplishment is a model to be emulated across ecologically sensitive regions of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Chennai-bound

its ground teams in Mumbai provided all necessary support to passengers to minimise the inconvenience caused by this unforeseen disruption.

Respect Or Regret:

he had saved Khamenei from "A VERY UGLY AND IGNOMINIOUS DEATH" and accusing him of "blatantly and foolishly" lying when he claimed "victory" in the war the previous day.

Araghchi condemned what he called a "disrespectful and unacceptable tone" toward Iran's Supreme Leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, urging President Trump to abandon inflammatory rhetoric if he is sincere about pursuing a deal with Tehran.

"If President Trump is genuine about wanting a deal, he should put aside the disrespectful and unacceptable tone towards Iran's Supreme Leader, Grand Ayatollah Khamenei, and stop hurting his millions of heartfelt followers."

Referencing Iran's rich cultural heritage, Araghchi drew a parallel between the intricate artistry of Persian carpets and the perseverance of the Iranian people, describing them as a nation defined by complexity, patience, and unshakable resolve. "Our basic premise is very simple and straightforward," he wrote. "We know our worth, value our independence, and never allow anyone else to decide our destiny."

He warned that miscalculations by Iran's adversaries could trigger a devastating response. "If illusions lead to worse mistakes, Iran will not hesitate to unveil its real capabilities, which will certainly end any delusion about the power of Iran," he said.

Despite the confrontational tone, Araghchi ended the post with a message of conditional openness: "Good will begets good will, and respect begets respect," hinting that diplomatic avenues remain open if approached with mutual dignity.

The post has drawn sharp reactions online, with Iranian hardliners praising the assertive stance, while international analysts view it as both a warning and a signal that Iran remains interested in diplomacy—provided it is approached on equal footing.

70-yr-old Doctor

agencies like the CBI, Enforcement Directorate as well as the RBI.

"A man in police uniform also spoke to her husband on video call, all of which convinced her about the case. She was then put under video surveillance, which these fraudsters call digital arrest, for eight days. She was made to report to them every hour during this period. Out of fear, she transferred Rs 3 crore into various bank accounts given to her," he said.

She approached West Region cyber police station on June 5, after which a case was registered, the official said.

A probe has found the accused converted Rs 82 lakh in cryptocurrency, he said, adding efforts were on to nab them and retrieve the lost money.

Police Search 32

last two months. Police conducted searches at the residences of 32 terror associates on Saturday, he added. The searches were conducted in accordance with proper legal procedures in the presence of executive magistrates and independent witnesses under the supervision of Jammu and Kashmir Police officers, the spokesman said. The searches were carried out to seize arms, documents, digital devices etc. with the objective of evidence collection and intelligence gathering to detect and deter any conspiratorial or terrorist activity against the security of the nation, he added. The spokesman said this decisive action of Jammu and Kashmir Police aims to dismantle the terrorist ecosystem by identifying and taking legal action against individuals engaged in such anti-national and criminal activities.

CM Launches 'Mission YUVA' At SKICC



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a push for youth-led development, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday launched Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), promising a transformative shift in Jammu and Kashmir's entrepreneurship landscape. The initiative aims to create 1.37 lakh enterprises and generate 4.25 lakh jobs over the next five years.

Describing Mission YUVA as "a programme for the future," Omar pledged full commitment to the youth of the region. "I promise the youth of Jammu and Kashmir that I will try my best to take you to that height, where you will not only write a better destiny for yourself, but for Jammu and Kashmir," he said in his address.

The event was attended by a wide spectrum of stakeholders — from ministers and bureaucrats to bankers and aspiring entrepreneurs. Ministers Sakeena Itoo, Javed Rana and Satish Sharma, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, and J&K Bank MD Amitabh Chatterjee were among the dignitaries present.

Reflecting on past efforts, the Chief Minister acknowledged previous youth-focused schemes, including SKEWPY from his earlier tenure. He, however, lamented the lack of continuity in governance. "Unfortunately, the government that followed ours was more concerned with changing the name of the program than continuing its vision," he said.

He firmly added: "Let me say clearly: the name Mission Yuva should not be a matter of contention. It should not represent any

party, any leader—not my name, nor anyone else's. It should belong to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir."

According to Omar, Mission YUVA was built on extensive fieldwork and data analysis. "More than one crore people were surveyed—an exercise comparable to a census," he noted, adding that over 30% of the projected entrepreneurs under the scheme would be women.

Addressing the financial hurdles faced by aspiring entrepreneurs, the CM said the mission aims to tackle bank rejections and procedural barriers using modern tools. "Getting a loan requires a DPR, but many youths don't know how to prepare one. Under Mission Yuva, even that burden is being lifted—through Artificial Intelligence," he announced.

AI, he explained, will be used not only for preparing DPRs but also for creating a more efficient loan disbursal system. "No matter how good your idea is, unless it reaches the market, your business will struggle. That's why Mission Yuva is also focused on market linkage and ecosystem support," he said.

Omar concluded by crediting the humility and vision of the team behind the mission. "This initiative is not the result of decisions made behind closed doors—it is built on the ground realities and the aspirations of the youth," he said.

The launch of Mission YUVA marks what the Chief Minister called the beginning of a new chapter for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir — one grounded in opportunity, innovation, and ownership.

DC Gbl Reviews Arrangements For Muharram

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: In view of Muharram, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today conducted an extensive visit to Kullian and Nilgrath areas of the district to review and assess the preparedness for smooth conduct of Muharram-related activities.

During the visit, DC took a detailed appraisal of the arrangements being put in place to facilitate the conduct of religious processions and other events, ensuring that devotees face no inconvenience during the sacred days.

Representatives from Shia and Auqaf Committees of Kullian and Nilgrath interacted with the DC and raised several key issues regarding uninterrupted water and power supply, installation and repair of street lights, sanitation measures, and the repair of inner roads.

Taking note of their concerns, DC issued on-the-spot instructions to the concerned departments for time-bound redressal of the highlighted issues. He emphasized that all necessary

arrangements must be completed well in advance to ensure a peaceful and organized observance of Muharram.

Executive Engineer R&B was directed to carry out immediate repairs and renovation works on inner roads where required. Assistant Director, FCS&CA, was instructed to ensure timely supply and distribution of essential commodities in these areas.

Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal was tasked with deploying First Aid Teams at both locations with sufficient stock of essential medicines and necessary medical supplies to cater to any health emergencies during the processions.

Further, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats was directed to ensure thorough cleanliness and sanitation around Imambaras and mosques from where the processions originate during Muharram.

DC was accompanied by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, I&FC, and R&B, CMO, ACP, AD FCS&CA, Tehsildar Gund and other concerned officials.

Chowk.. During the drive, over five truckloads of material that have been displayed outside business establishments or spread on footpaths for sale were seized.

The business owners, rehariwalas and pheriwalas were sensitized on the importance of maintaining clear pedestrian pathways and unobstructed vehicular movement. They were warned against placing goods beyond their shutter lines and were informed that repeated violations will lead to sealing of the establishments, as per the High Court directions.

The shopkeepers were also advised not to place tables, counters or any goods beyond the shutter lines and rehariwalas and pheriwalas were instructed to operate only in designated zones, avoiding covering of footpaths and roads.

Traffic Advisory For Amarnath Yatra-2025 Notified

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To ensure smooth movement of yatra convoys & yatris, the Traffic Police Jammu & Kashmir issued a detailed advisory for the initial cut off timing for Yatra Convoys/ Yatris for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025.

According to the advisory, for the Up Baltal Convoy, cut off timing for departure from Jammu towards Kashmir for Baltal is 0400hrs; departure from Lamber (Banihal) towards Baltal is 1000hrs; departure from Manigam Ganderbal towards Baltal is 1700hrs.

While for Down Baltal Convoy, departure from Baltal towards Jammu is 0600hrs & departure from Lamber (Banihal) towards Jammu is 1130hrs.

For Up Pahalgam Convoy, the cut off timing for departure from Jammu towards Pahalgam is 0430hrs & departure from Lamber (Banihal) towards Pahalgam is 1100hrs.

For Down Pahalgam Convoy, the cut off timing for Departure from Pahalgam towards Jammu is 0600hrs; departure from Nunwan, Pahalgam towards Jammu is 0630hrs & departure from Lamber (Banihal) towards Jammu is 0800hrs.

Regarding cut off timing for Non-Convoy/Yatris/Tourists from NAVYUG Tunnel to Valley & vice versa, the advisory states that from Jammu to Pahalgam (other than Main Convoy arriving from Jammu), the cut off for last vehicle to cross NAVYUG Tunnel towards Valley is 1500hrs & last vehicle to cross Mir Bazar towards Anantnag is 1600hrs.

From Pantha Chowk to Manigam, (other than Main Convoy arriving from Jammu), the cut off timing for last vehicle to cross Peaks Crossing, Lassjan towards Manigam is 1500hrs; cut off time for last vehicle to cross Shadipora/ Sumbal towards Manigam is 1530hrs and for last vehicle to cross Manigam Transit Camp towards Baltal is 1700hrs.

From Baltal to NAVYUG Tunnel (Jammu bound other than Main Convoy leaving at 0600 hrs from Baltal), the cut off timing for last vehicle to leave Baltal Base Camp towards Manigam is 0900hrs; for last vehicle to cross Sonamarg P/S towards Manigam cut off timing is 1000hrs; Last vehicle to

Inspection Of Health Facilities Enroute Holy Cave Held

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Director Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), Dr. Jehangir Bakshi undertook a comprehensive tour along the Baltal Axis, inspecting health infrastructure in preparation for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, scheduled from 3rd July to 9th August 2025.

The visit covered Base Hospital Baltal, and enroute health centres at Railpathri, Bryarimarg, Kali Mata, Lower Holy Cave, Sangam Top, culminating at Base Hospital Holy Cave.

During the tour, the Director held a detailed review of health facilities in terms of availability of staff, infrastructure, drugs, equipment & other logistics required for smooth functioning of

health care services.

DHSK personally checked the functionality of equipment and took in-depth assessment of all the sections of the facilities as per the mandate. He ensured that all the stations are equipped with requisite HR, logistics, drugs and equipment as per the predefined checklist.

While expressing satisfaction over the arrangements, he laid stress on the employees to serve and treat yatri pilgrims with utmost zeal and zest.

During the visit, DHSK also gave on spot directions to the concerned officers for further augmentation of health care services wherever it was applicable.

Director was accompanied by OIC Yatra DHSK, Medical Director Yatra Baltal Axis, Yatra Unit DHSK and other concerned official

cross Manigam Transit Camp towards Shadipora/Sumbal at 1200hrs; Last vehicle to cross Shadipora/ Shadipora crossing towards Peaks Automobile at 1300hrs and Last vehicle to cross Pantha Chowk towards Anantnag is 1500hrs.

From Nunwan, Pahalgam to NAVYUG Tunnel (other than Main Convoy leaving at 0630 hrs from Nunwan), the cut off timing for the last vehicle to cross Nunwan towards Jammu is 1000hrs.

From Mir Bazar to NAVYUG Tunnel (other than Main Convoy leaving at 0600 hrs from Pahalgam and at 0630 hrs from Nunwan), the cut off timing for last vehicle to cross Mir Bazar towards NAVYUG Tunnel is 1700hrs and last vehicle to cross Walnut Factory Qazigund towards NAVYUG Tunnel is 1730hrs.

Up vehicles (other than convoy) from Jammu towards Kashmir Valley, the cut off timing at Nagrota (Jammu) is 1200hrs; Cut of timing at Jakheni (Udhampur) is 1300hrs and Cut of timing at Chanderkote is 1400hrs and Cut of timing at Lamber, Banihal is 1500hrs.

Regarding general cut off timing, Advisory says that no Yatri/tourist vehicle shall be allowed to cross NAVYUG Tunnel towards Kashmir after 1500hrs; No Yatri/tourist

vehicle shall be allowed from Pahlagam towards Jammu/Srinagar after 1530hrs; No Yatri/tourist vehicle shall be allowed from Sonamarg towards Srinagar after 1600hrs; No tourist vehicle shall be allowed from Gulmarg towards Srinagar after 1700hrs & No tourist vehicle shall be allowed from Srinagar towards Gulmarg after 1700hrs.

Yatris/tourists have been advised to travel in Kashmir Valley only between 0700 hrs to 1800 hrs and should plan their travel accordingly, so that they reach their destination within this time period.

After withdrawal of ROP, i.e 1800 hrs, no vehicle of Yatri/tourist shall be allowed further movement. Concerned Police/Traffic/SFs have been instructed to bring such vehicles to the nearest Yatri/SFs camp.

It is informed that this advisory is valid only for Yatris/ Yatra Convoy/Tourists. For other HMVs/LMVS/SFs Convoys, people have been asked to refer to the Daily Traffic Advisory issued by Traffic Police.

Moreover, for any clarification/assistance, the numbers to be contacted are TCU Jammu: 0191-2459048, 9419147732, 7298515191; TCU Srinagar: 0194-2450022, 0194-2485396, TCU NHW Ramban: 6005820617 and TCU Udhampur: 9419993745.

JKEDI Hosts Startup Meet With CEOs & Angel Investors

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Saturday hosted the "Startup Meet-2025" at its Sempora campus under the ambit of the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27. The landmark event brought together leading entrepreneurs, angel investors, startups, and ecosystem stakeholders from across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The event featured renowned startup founders including Siddharth Ladsariya, Founder of 'Everest Fleet', and Ankita Sheth, Co-founder of 'Stay Vista'- both acclaimed serial entrepreneurs and angel investors.

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Besides, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam and Professor and CEO Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), IUST, Awantipora Parvez Ahmad Mir were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Commissioner Secretary emphasized the government's unwavering commitment to nurturing startups through the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, which provides an enabling environment for innovation and enterprise.

Vikramjit Singh noted a rising trend of professionals returning to J&K to launch successful startups by leveraging government support. He also highlighted initiatives to integrate entrepreneurship education at the university and college level, and informed that several J&K based startups are



now actively participating in national-level incubator and investor programs.

He said, "Over the past two to three years, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has scaled up institutional financing, enabling young entrepreneurs to transform their ideas into impactful ventures. This sustained support has catalyzed the growth of a vibrant startup ecosystem in the Union Territory, fostering innovation, generating employment, and laying the foundation for a resilient and self-reliant economy."

The event began with a 'Startup pitching session', where ten carefully selected ventures presented their business ideas, showcasing innovation across sectors such as technology, agriculture, healthcare, and education. These pitches were followed by Q&A sessions, providing valuable investor feedback and mentorship.

In the subsequent session, Siddharth Ladsariya shared insights from his entrepreneurial journey. Reflecting on the early days of his venture 'Everest Fleet', which has grown to become India's largest Uber fleet

operator with over 20,500 vehicles, he highlighted key challenges startups face like funding, scalability, and operations.

He also urged startups to take full advantage of the various schemes and support systems offered by the government. Stressing the value of networking, collaboration, and government support schemes.

Ladsariya also extended an offer of incubation support to promising startups from Jammu & Kashmir, reaffirming his commitment to fostering innovation in the region.

Ankita Sheth, in a candid and inspiring address, spoke about the importance of resilience, teamwork, and adaptability in the startup journey. Drawing from her own experience building 'Stay Vista', she encouraged founders to embrace uncertainty, seek mentorship, and build meaningful relationships within the entrepreneurial ecosystem. She emphasized that a strong team is the foundation of success, and that effective teamwork drives results. Her motivational speech inspired young founders to embrace uncertainty and remain adaptable in a constantly evolving landscape.

NC's Fight Is For Constitutional Guarantees, Not Just J&K Statehood: Ruhullah

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- National Conference (NC) Lok Sabha MP Aga Ruhullah said here on Saturday that their party's struggle is not focused on restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir but rather on reclaiming the constitutional guarantees that were in place before the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

"My party can go to court, but I will only remind that our fight is not for statehood, our fight is for more than that. It is for those constitutional guarantees that were snatched from us in 2019," Ruhullah told reporters here.

In response to NC chief Farooq Abdullah's comments about moving Supreme Court if the restoration of statehood is inordinately delayed, Ruhullah emphasised, "We should not forget our fight." The Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar reiterated that the party's goal is to reverse the decisions made on August 5, 2019, when the Central government abrogated Article 370 and reorganised the then state into two Union Territories — Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

"The BJP has said in its manifesto as well as in the Parliament that statehood will be restored. The allied teams of the BJP (in J&K) also said they will fight for the statehood, but



NC's fight is not for statehood," Ruhullah said.

When asked about speculation regarding a bill for the restoration of statehood to J&K that might be presented in Parliament during the monsoon session, Ruhullah responded, "I do not know about the rumours, but if the bill is presented in the Parliament, I will talk about it then".

Regarding the report from the J-K cabinet's subcommittee on the reservation issue, the MP expressed urgency saying, the sooner the matter is resolved, the better.

"I am waiting, and the students are also waiting for the report to return from the Law Department. I had hoped it would be returned this week. The longer it is postponed, the more it affects the students. The quicker it is returned and implemented, the better it will be for them," he added.

AIP leaders To Join Er Rasheed's Day-Long Hunger Strike

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As jailed Member of Parliament and Awami Itihaad Party (AIP) President Er Rasheed has announced that he will observe a 24-hour hunger strike inside Tihar Jail, from 8:00 p.m. Saturday, June 28 to 8:00 p.m. Sunday, June 29, in protest of the continued denial of democratic rights to Kashmiris.

AIP leaders including Party General Secretary Price Parvaiz, Chairman AIP Political Affairs Committee Ishtiyaq Qaderi Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi, Senior Leader and Spokesperson Firdous Baba State Secretary Sheikh Ashiq have announced their will to join Er. Rasheed's hunger strike.

"We are holding hunger strike in solidarity with our party president who has been languishing

in jail since 2019 also to press upon national parties and regional parties, about the hundreds of Kashmiris languishing in Tihar Jail and other prisons under different laws. It is very unfortunate to see that the parties who claim that they represent Kashmir do hesitate in talking about Kashmiri prisoners and their miseries. Er Rasheed is one who feels the pain of prisoners and their family as he is himself a victim. We are associated with him and we are moral bound to support him and second his call. We have decided to start the hunger strike in solidarity with our leader," said Party General Secretary Price Parvaiz.

The decision came after Er Rasheed through his family announced that he will start a hunger strike tonight at 8pm to tomorrow 8pm for 24 long hours.

SANJY-2025:

DC Bandipora Reviews Facilities At Shadipora Transit Camp

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: In view of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Saturday visited the Transit Yatra Camp at Shadipora to review the arrangements and assess the facilities available for the Yatris.

During the visit, DC conducted an extensive inspection of the camp infrastructure and took stock of key services including accommodation, sanitation, potable water, electricity, medical facilities, and security measures.

He emphasized the need to ensure 24x7 availability of these services while maintaining high standards of hygiene

and cleanliness.

On the occasion, DC also chaired a review meeting with officers of various departments. The concerned officers apprised him that all requisite arrangements have already been put in place to facilitate a smooth and comfortable stay for the pilgrims.

Qadri stressed the importance of close inter-departmental coordination and timely execution of pending works, if any, to ensure the successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussan Shawl; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sumbal, officers from J&K Police, and other concerned officers.

DC Ramban Stresses Grievance Redressal, Youth Engagement

Observer News Service

RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the performance of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Youth Services & Sports (YSS), District Employment & Counselling Centre, J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Labour, Handicrafts & Handlooms departments. The meeting focused on strengthening service delivery, addressing public grievances, and enhancing livelihood opportunities for the youth of the district.

During the review, the Deputy Commissioner evaluated the FCS&CA Department's

management of ration card distribution and essential commodity supply chains. He instructed officers to prioritize grassroots grievance redressal, ensure timely ration delivery, and maintain transparency in distribution. Regular monitoring of fair price shops and swift resolution of complaints were also emphasized.

Assessing JKEDI's initiatives, the DC called for proactive outreach to inform unemployed youth about entrepreneurship schemes and skill development programs. He directed the institute to collaborate closely with Panchayati Raj Institutions, ensuring wider coverage and support for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Lower-Order Batters Are Putting In Work At Nets: Krishna

Press Trust of India

BIRMINGHAM: India's lower-order batters have left a lot to be desired with their failures in the first Test against England and seamer Prasidh Krishna says they are "putting in the work" at nets to come out better prepared for the second game here.

India's lower order caved in without a fight in both innings which proved decisive in the final outcome.

The visitors lost their last seven wickets for 41 runs in the first innings to be bowled out for 471, and in the second essay, Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah and Prasidh -- all fell for ducks -- as India lost their last six wickets for 32 runs.

"As the lower-order batsmen, we definitely are working on... If you look at our net sessions, we are putting in the work.

"I think it is about putting your mind in there as well, making sure you trust yourself, trust the skill that you have and be there at the crease for a little longer. And then the numbers and the runs are going to show, and we are working towards it," Prasidh said during a press conference.



Runs from the lower order and tail will be welcome as India look to restore parity after losing the series opener by five wickets at Headingley.

New skipper Shubman

Gill's captaincy in his first Test at the helm received mixed reviews from former players.

"About Shubman, yeah, I think he did a pretty good job. All of us saw how he rotated the bowlers, made sure everybody had enough breaks, brought in people at the right kind of spells," IPL 'Purple Cap' winner Prasidh said.

"He saw opportunities and brought in the right kind of bowlers. All of that was great. And knowing him, he set a very good atmosphere around. He's been speaking to all of us. We always go in with a plan and the communication is happening there," he added.

Gill succeeded Rohit Sharma as captain of the Indian Test team after the latter announced his retirement few days before Virat Kohli too decided to bring the curtains down on his illustrious career in the game's traditional format.

The second match of the five-Test series begins here at Edgbaston from July 2. Prasidh Krishna also took "complete responsibility" for his failure to hit the right lengths during a forgettable outing in the first Test against England, but said he was at all times trying to be parsimonious with his bowling.

Prasidh has been slammed by few former players after he leaked more than 200 runs in the series-opener at Leeds, which India lost by five wickets.



OFFICE OF THE CONVENOR ELECTION COMMITTEE
THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

UNIT-KASHMIR (AFFILIATED TO AIBOA)

Rajbagh extension above JK Bank TRC Branch Srinagar J&K
Email: riyazbhat66@gmail.com | shujaatmufti@gmail.com



PRESS RELEASE

Jammu Kashmir Bank officers Association Kashmir organised Felicitation ceremony of JK Bank Veterans today at Bank's Auditorium CHQ Srinagar Kashmir. The ceremony was attended by a good number of vetarns who had a contribution in having made the present while building a vision for future. On the occassion various vetarns addressed the gathering wile sharing their experiences and emotions. Also some veterans had sent messages thanking the Association for remembering them and honouring their contribution towards The Bank and the Association. The gathering was graced and addressed by Veteran Mohammad Amin Khan and veteran zaffar Makhdoomi, President and General secretary of JK Bank Pensioners Association. President Association com. Riyaz Ahmed Bhat while highlighting the contribution of The vetarns thanked them for having accepted the invitation to attend today's function. While appreciating the office bearers particularly com Mufti shujat Gen secretary and other activists for having made nice arrangements on the occassion he hoped that continuity in organising of these type of gatherings. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

Dated: 28.06.2025

Tariq Ahmed Secretary

Abbas Ads: 7006444730

EVCL League Trials Begin At Doon School In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma on Saturday inaugurated the Epic Victory Cricket League (EVCL) Trials at Doon School, Srinagar.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from aspiring cricketers from across the Kashmir Valley, marking a significant milestone in the region's grassroots sports development efforts.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister commended the initiative undertaken by Eventovista Private Limited through EVCL, describing it as a powerful platform to identify and nurture cricketing talent in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Jammu and Kashmir has no dearth of talent. What is needed is the right opportunity and a supportive ecosys-

tem. Initiatives like EVCL not only serve as talent pools but also reflect our shared vision of empowering youth through sports," Sharma said.

Former Indian cricketer and IPL player Anureet Singh joined the ceremony and officially flagged off the trials for Kashmir. His presence served as a major source of inspiration for the young participants.

The trials will continue over the coming days, with selected talent moving ahead to represent the Kashmir region in the broader EVCL tournament structure.

The event was organized with full cooperation from local authorities, to ensure smooth conduct and maximum outreach. The trials at Doon School are expected to become a launchpad for many promising cricketers from the region.

Pulwama Athletes Selected for Youth National Kabaddi C'ship

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two young Pulwama athletes from PMDP Kabaddi Centre have been selected to represent J&K in the 1st Youth National Kabaddi Championship for Boys and Girls, scheduled to be held at Haridwar from June 28 to July 1.

Sunaina Gulzar, daughter of Gulzar Ahmad Bhat from Putrigam, has been selected in the Under-18 Girls category, while Hamid Javaid, son of Javaid Ahmad Khan from Lasipora, will represent J&K in the U-18 Boys category. Both athletes have earned their place through dedication and strong performances.

The teams from J&K will compete under the banner of the J&K Amateur Kabaddi Association in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council.

Mentor Gowhar Muzaffar Shah, General Secretary of Pulwama Kabaddi Association Shahzaib Gull, Sports Promoter Faizan Qayoom and Raman Verma congratulated both athletes and extended best wishes for their performance in the championship and success in their future sporting careers.

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