



Join an Extraordinary
Pilgrimage to the Sacred

Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine

Experience the Divine Grace of Lord Shiva

Do's for the Yatris

- It is mandatory for every registered Yatri to collect their RFID Card from designated locations in Jammu / Srinagar before embarking on the Yatra. Carry your Aadhaar details for collecting RFID Cards
- Wear the RFID card around your neck at all times during Yatra for safety & security.
- Do carry sufficient woolen clothing, umbrella, wind cheater, raincoat and waterproof shoes. Weather remains unpredictable and temperature may abruptly fall to below 5 degree Celsius.
- Walk slowly and steadily — don't rush on steep paths.
- Take regular breaks to avoid fatigue.

Don'ts for the Yatris

- No registered yatri shall be allowed to embark on Yatra without valid RFID card.
- Don't ignore the symptoms of high altitude illness.
- Don't drink alcohol, caffeinated drinks, or smoke.
- Don't stop at places with warning signs.
- Don't take shortcuts on the route—it's risky.
- Don't pollute or disturb the Yatra environment.
- Don't separate from your group — always stay with your companions.



Scan to Access
SASB Website

Department of Information & Public Relations
Government of Jammu & Kashmir



@informationprjk



Information & PR, J&K



@diprjk



@dipr_jk

DIPK-3196/25
DT: 01-07-2025



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

No Evidence To Prove Left-Handed People More Creative, Researchers Find

Press Trust Of India

The widespread belief that left-handed people are more creative may not be true, according to researchers who analysed studies published since the 1900s that examined the relationship between handedness and creativity. Researchers from Cornell University in the US and The Chinese University of Hong Kong discovered that right-handed individuals may be more creative. The findings were published in the journal 'Psychonomic Bulletin and Review'. Left-handed individuals, often referred to as "lefties", make up about 10 per cent of the global population and are frequently perceived as more creative. This perception may stem from the idea that both left-handedness and creative genius are rare, leading to the assumption that one explains the other. Moreover, left-handed individuals are more commonly found among musicians and artists, but they also experience higher rates of depression and schizophrenia, contributing to the belief that creative genius and mental illness are linked. "This idea that left-handed-



ness, art and mental illness go together -- what we call the 'myth of the tortured artist' -- could contribute to the appeal and the staying power of the lefty creativity myth," Daniel Casasanto, the senior author and associate professor of psychology at Cornell University, said. However, Casasanto emphasised that this "urban legend" results from statistical cherry-picking, where only a few studies with small or biased samples are cited. "The focus on these two creative professions where lefties are over-represented -- art and music -- is a common and tempting statistical error that humans make all the time," the senior author said. The research team said they sifted through nearly 1,000 scientific papers published since 1900 and ultimately analysed 17 of them. Most

studies were excluded due to non-standardised data reporting or because they included only right-handed participants. The authors "found no evidence that left- or mixed-handers are more creative than right-handers." "People generalised that there are all these left-handed artists and musicians, so lefties must be more creative. But if you do an unbiased survey of lots of professions, then this apparent lefty superiority disappears," Casasanto explained. On the contrary, right-handers were found to score higher on divergent thinking in a lab test. Divergent thinking, which is associated with the brain's right hemisphere, involves generating numerous potential solutions to a problem quickly, often facilitating connections between seemingly unrelated concepts.

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 Aarizoo Jaan D/o Imtiyaz Ahmad Hajam R/o Hajam mohalla seelo with verified date of birth 14/05/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that:

Model: 2019

Bike Number: JK01AK6064

Owner Name: Soban Fayaz Shah

S/o: Fayaz Ahmed Shah

R/o: Awanta Bhawan, Bagati

Shoora, Srinagar

The number plate of the above-mentioned vehicle has been lost, and the owner intends to apply for its duplicate. If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same before the RTO Office, Srinagar, within one week from the date of publication of this notice.

Media Line Ads

NAME CHANGE

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

Media Line Ads



Convocation Notice -2025

It is notified for the information of all the concerned that IUST is mulling to hold its 4th Convocation tentatively in the month of August, 2025. Apropos of it, the provisional list of the students for the conferment of Gold Medal and Certificate of Merit has been made available for the attention of the notified awardees. They are as such requested to check the said list on the University Website www.iust.ac.in and report discrepancy/objections (if any) to the office of the Controller of Examinations by or before 10-07-2025. The candidates who have qualified their Ph.D from the University successfully shall also be honoured with their Doctorate Degree's during the said event. Any claim made by the student(s) beyond the stipulated deadline shall not be considered.

No. IUST/Exam-Unit/Convocation/25/1312

Dated: 01-07-2025

DIPK-NB-994/25

Sd/

I/C Controller of Examinations

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Mining Department. Civil Secretariat, J&K.

Subject: Issuance of Tentative Seniority List in respect of Mineral Officers in the Geology and Mining Department.

Notification

Whereas, vide Government Order No. 02-MNG of 2021 dated 25.01.2021, the final seniority list of Mineral Officers was issued as it stood on 01.01.2020; and,

Whereas, the seniority list is required to be updated by excluding the names of the officers, who have either been promoted to next higher posts or have retired on superannuation and by including those who have been appointed on the posts by way of direct recruitment or promotion; and

Whereas, in terms of Geology and Mining (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules notified vide SRO 142 of 1992 dated: 19.06.1992, the method of recruitment to the post of Mineral Officer is 100% by promotion from Class VI category 'C' from amongst persons possessing at least 3 years service on that post. In case no eligible candidate is available in the category 'C', then promotion would be made from Class VI category 'A' with 03 (three) years service ; and

Whereas, sanction/cadre strength of the posts of Mineral Officer is 02, out of which 01 post is filled and another 01 is vacant in the Department; and

Whereas, on the basis of the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee/ Public Service Commission, following Officer has been promoted to the post of Mineral Officer in the Geology and Mining Department vide Government Order No. 07-MNG of 2021 dated 05.03.2021:

- Sh. Khurshid Ahmad Mir, Mineral Officer

Now, therefore, following tentative seniority list in respect of Mineral Officer of the Geology and Mining Department, as it stood on 01.01.2025, is hereby notified for inviting objections, if any, from the concerned within a period of 21 days and no objections shall be entertained, after the expiry date of tentative seniority list:-

S. No	Name of the officer	Designation	Qualification	Date of Birth	Date of entry into Government Service	Date of appointment to the present post
1	Sh. Khurshid Ahmad Mir	Mineral Officer	M.Sc. (Geology)	30.03.1979	25.06.2004	22.09.2017

The Date of Birth mentioned in the notification shall not be taken as final and shall be subject to further verification of Service Book/ record and Date of Birth certificate.

DIPK-3163/25

Dated: 01-07-2025

Sd/-

(Anil Kumar Singh) IAS

Principal Secretary to the Government

Dated: 27.06.2025

No: GM-MNG/116/2025-04

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER MINI-SECRETARIAT KULGAM

Tel: 01931-467195 email: ceokulgam-accts@jk.gov.in, ceokulgamaccts@gmail.com,
web: www.ceokulgam.in

Subject: Publishing of Final Seniority List of Class IV / MTS of District Kulgam.

NOTICE

This office Vide No: CEO/K/Estt-NT/3077-80/2025, Dated: 16.06.2025 published the Tentative Seniority List of Class IV employees of this District in daily News Paper Kashmir Monitor on 17th of June 2025. After receiving updated particulars from concerned DDOs, the Updated Final Seniority List of Class IV employees is hereby issued for information to all Class IV employees and DDOs. The list has been updated strictly as per particulars and documents furnished by the Concerned DDOs. The Final Seniority list of Class IV / MTS is available on official website of this office (www.ceokulgam.in).

(Mohd Shabir)
Chief Education Officer
Kulgam

No: CEO/K/Estt-NT/3443-46/25

DIPK-3180/25

Dated: 01/07/2025

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) DIVISION BUDGAM

Tel/Fax: 0194-2440121, Email: piu.budgam@gmail.com

Short Term

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS (1st Call)

E-NIT NO: 03/EE/PMGSY/B/ OF 2025-26 dated: 30/06/2025

Executive Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA), Division Budgam on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K, invites bid on percentage basis in electronic tendering system in Single Cover for hiring of registered commercial vehicles on monthly basis.

Name of item	Cost ceiling of the job	Cost of tender Document	EMD/CDR	Period of car/taxi service required	Class of Contract
Providing of 01 light Vehicle i.e.Bollero/ Toyota Innova/ Innova Crysta /Scorpio(Mahindra) including services of driver for official Purpose in the office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Budgam.	30000.00 Rs Thirty Thousand only	DD of Rs 500/- (Rs Five Hundred only)	Rs 6000/- (Rupees Six Thousand only)	ONE Year	Travel.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in as per below schedule.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30/06/2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 30/06/2025 4.00 P.M to 07/07/2025 4:00 P.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	30/06/2025 From 4.00 P.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	07/07/2025 up to 4:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	08/07/2025 11 A.M in the office of the Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Budgam.

1. The intending and eligible bidders may submit the tenders online at www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in under single cover in the prescribed proforma. Tenders are to be submitted online only using the e-procurement portal www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in.

2. The Bidders who have not enrolled/registered in e-procurement portal should enroll/register before participating through the website www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in. The portal enrolment is free of cost.

3. Interested bidders may submit their quotation online on www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in as per NIT in the website www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in. Bidders are requested to follow the instructions carefully as per the tender document and the instructions given in the above said website. All the documents in support of eligibility criteria etc. are also to be scanned and uploaded. Tender sent by any other mode will not be accepted. No tender documents will be accepted after the expiry of stipulated date and time for the purpose under any circumstances what so ever. Any corrigendum/addendum regarding this tender will be available on the above said website only.

4. Demand Draft for an amount of Rs. 500/- (Rupees: Five Hundred Only/-) (non-refundable) from Nationalized/scheduled bank drawn in favor of Executive Engineer, PMGSY (JKRRDA), Division Budgam has to be submitted before opening of bids to this office (Scanned copy of DD to be uploaded online) towards tender document fee, failing which the bid will be rejected. Bidders are requested to write their name and full address at the back of the Demand Draft.

5. The duly filled-in tender documents shall not be accepted if they are not accompanied by the scanned copy of the demand draft towards the Tender fee.

6. This Office reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the Tender Document or to reject any or all tenders without giving any notice or assigning any reason. The decision of the Executive Engineer, PMGSY (JKRRDA), Division Budgam in this regard shall be final and binding on all.

7. The Bidder is expected to examine all instructions, forms, specifications, terms and conditions in the NIT. Failure to furnish all information and documents required as per the NIT in every respect will be at the Bidder's risk and shall result in rejection of the bid.

No:EE/PMGSY/B/822-24

DIPK-3194/25

Dated: - 01-07-2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

PMGSY (JKRRDA)

Division Budgam

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

No: 103/B&D/TZ/2025

Date: 30/06/25

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Gh Hassan Bhat S/o Jamal Bhat R/o Wadoora Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth certificate in favour of self Born on 05-02-1954 as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

fko

Naib Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate
Bomai

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

No: 102/B&D/TZ/2025

Date: 30/06/25

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Tufail Farooq S/o Farooq Ahmad Hajam R/o Seeloo Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth certificate in favour of self Born on 18-08-2010 as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

fko

Naib Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate
Bomai

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Departmental Identity Card of my deceased husband, bearing ID No. 1139, issued in the name of Muhammad Ashraf Wani, who was serving in the J&K Police as an SGCT under Service Number EXK 001968 and 51/SSG. If anyone has found the said ID card, they are requested to inform the nearest police station or contact the Office of the SSP Crime, Srinagar.

Shaheena Saleem
W/o Late Muhammad Ashraf Wani
R/o Duderhama, Ganderbal

sku

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mst. Taja, W/o Assadullah Hajam, R/o Chitragam Shopian would like to bring to the attention of the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as Taja Begum in my Aadhaar Card. I am in the process of correcting the same with the concerned authorities.

If anyone has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the concerned aadhar centre Jammu Srinagar within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After that, no objections shall be entertained.

fko

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

No: 105/B&D/TZ/2025

Date: 30/06/25

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Ghulam Hassan S/o Mohammad Ramzan R/o Zaloora Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth certificate in favour of self Ghulam Hassan Ganie Born on 16-02-1971 as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

fko

Naib Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate
Bomai

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

No: 193/B&D/TZ/2025

Date: 30/06/25

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Zahid Hussain Pir S/o Ghulam Hassan Pir R/O Harwar Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth certificate in favour Of his Son Usman Zahid who was born on 07-02-2018 as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

fko

Naib Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate
Bomai

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

No: 194/B&D/TZ/2025

Date: 30/06/25

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Aarsalan Auyoub Bhat S/O Mohammad Auyoub R/O Logripora Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth certificate in favour Of his Son Usman Zahid who was born on -- as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

fko

Naib Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate
Bomai

Pahalgam Attack a War on the Economy: EAM

Press Trust Of India

New York: The Pahalgam terror attack was an act of economic warfare meant to destroy tourism in Kashmir, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, asserting that India has made it clear that it will not allow nuclear blackmail to prevent it from responding to terror emanating from Pakistan.

India has had a string of terrorist attacks over the years emanating from Pakistan and in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, there was a sentiment in the country that "enough is enough," Jaishankar said on Monday.

His remarks came during a conversation with Newsweek CEO Dev Pragad hosted at the publication's headquarters at One World Trade Centre near the 9/11 Memorial in Manhattan.

Jaishankar said that the Pahalgam attack "was an act of economic warfare. It was meant to destroy tourism in Kashmir, which was the mainstay of the economy. It was also meant to provoke religious violence because people were asked to identify their faith before they were killed."

"So we decided that we cannot let terrorists function with impunity. The idea that they are on that side of the border, and that, therefore, sort of prevents retribution, I think, that's a proposition | [Full Story on P4](#)

Kashmir's June 2025 Heat Rewrites History

» Srinagar Logs Hottest June Since 1978, 2nd Warmest in 133 Years » Qazigund Records Warmest June In Over 50 Years

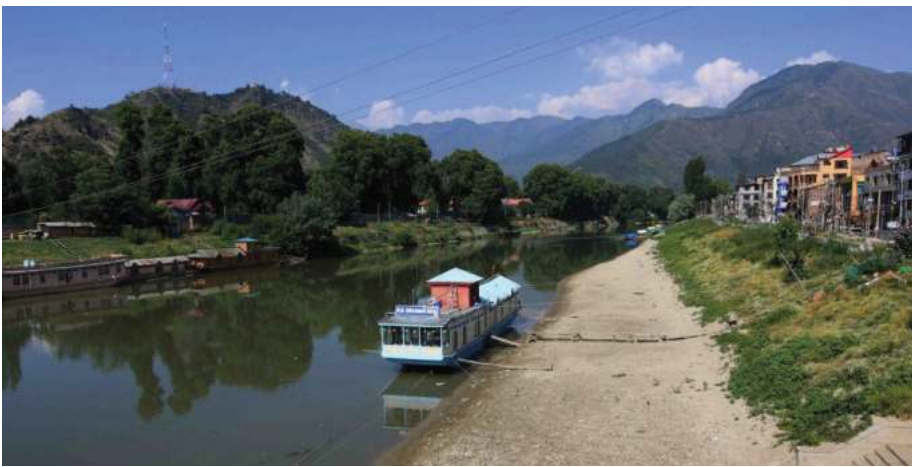
Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir witnessed one of its hottest Junes in recorded history this year, with both Srinagar and Qazigund logging record-breaking average temperatures

Srinagar recorded its hottest June since 1978, making 2025 the second warmest June since official observations began in 1892.

According to independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif, the average maximum temperature stood at 31.0°C, and the mean minimum at 18.2°C, resulting in an overall average of 24.6°C.

"This is the same overall average that was recorded in 1971 and 1973," Arif said. "Only



1978 was hotter, when the average touched 25.0°C due to a higher maximum of 32.9°C, even though the minimum

was lower at 17.1°C." Interestingly, the year 2008 still holds the record for the highest mean

minimum temperature in June at 18.3°C, just slightly above this year's figure. Meanwhile, | [More on P10](#)



Srinagar Hotter Than Jammu
Hot, Humid Weather Till July 4: MeT

Srinagar on Tuesday was hotter than Jammu on Tuesday, with the summer capital recording a maximum temperature of 34.2°C, while Jammu city settled at 29.0°C, a full 7°C below normal, according to the Meteorological

Department. Qazigund recorded a maximum of 32.6°C, while Pahalgam touched 30.0°C. Northern Kashmir towns also witnessed high temperatures, with Kupwara at 34.7°C, Kokernag at 32.4°C, and the | [More on P10](#)

Srinagar – June 2025

- Hottest June since 1978
- Avg max temp: 31.0°C
- Mean min temp: 18.2°C
- Overall avg: 24.6°C
- Matches 1971 & 1973; only 1978 (25.0°C) was hotter.
- 2008 holds the record for highest mean minimum: 18.3°C.

Qazigund – June 2025 Highlights

- Warmest June in over 50 years.
- Avg max temp: 30.3°C
- Mean min temp: 16.1°C
- Overall avg: 23.2°C – highest since 1973 (23.7°C).
- Ties with 1978 (23.2°C) but with slight temp variation.
- Highest mean min ever: 17.3°C in 1971.

Kashmir's June 2025 Heat Rewrites History

- Srinagar Logs Hottest June Since 1978, 2nd Warmest in 133 Years
- Qazigund Records Warmest June In Over 50 Years

Heavy rain likely across India over next 7 days, says IMD

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday said very heavy rain is expected in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan over some of the next six to seven days.

It said the monsoon will remain active in many parts of northwest, central and east India during this period.

Heavy rain is also likely in Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim and Jharkhand. Some days may see heavy showers in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha.

The IMD said heavy to very heavy rain may occur at some places in Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra and Gujarat. Saurashtra and Kutch may also receive heavy rain in the next seven days.

Northeast India is likely to get heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places during this period.

Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Karnataka may receive heavy rain on some days of the week, it said.

The weather department on Monday predicted above-normal rainfall in the country in July and asked authorities and people in central India, Uttarakhand and Haryana to stay alert due to the risk of flooding.

It said rainfall is likely to be below normal | [More on P10](#)

'Identify Terror Sympathisers In Govt Departments'

LG Directs Officials To Reopen Buried Terror Cases



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday directed security agencies to reopen cases of civilians killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists and identify individuals linked to the terror ecosystem who may be serving in government

departments.

Chairing a high-level meeting of top civil and police officials, Sinha called for filing of FIRs in previously buried cases and immediate steps to provide government jobs on priority to the next of kin (NoKs) of the victims.

"The time has come to bring justice to the | [More on P10](#)

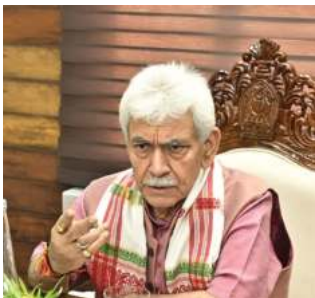
Amarnath Yatra Set To Begin: LG To Flag Off First Batch Today

Reviews Final Arrangements, Expresses Higher Pilgrim Turnout

Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will flag off the first batch of Amarnath Yatra pilgrims from the high-security Bhagwati Nagar base camp on Wednesday, marking the formal commencement of this year's pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine in Kashmir.

The 38-day yatra to the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath shrine begins July 3 via two



routes – the traditional 48-kilometre Nunwan-Pahalgam track in

LG Stresses Traffic & Security Coordination

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting with senior officers and reviewed the final preparations for the annual Amarnath Yatra. | [More on P10](#)

Yatra Gets Tight Security Cover

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In response to heightened security concerns, authorities have put in place an elaborate multi-tiered security framework for the annual Amarnath Yatra, which begins July 3. The joint efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army, CRPF, BSF, ITBP, and SDRF aim to ensure a safe and smooth pilgrimage for thousands of devotees arriving from across the country. Jammu Police have

established joint checkpoints across strategic locations, including key stretches of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44). Daily anti-sabotage checks and frisking operations are being carried out to prevent any untoward incident.

To further bolster surveillance, facial recognition systems (FRS) have been installed along the Pahalgam route to detect and flag potential threats in real-time. The CRPF has deployed drone defense | [More on P10](#)

GST Landmark Reform That Reshaped India's Economic Landscape: PM

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: On the eighth anniversary of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) roll out, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the indirect tax regime stands out as a landmark reform that has reshaped India's economic landscape.

He said on X, "By reducing the compliance burden, it has greatly improved the ease of doing business, particularly for small and medium enterprises. GST has also served as a powerful engine for economic growth, while fostering true cooperative federalism by making states equal partners in this journey to integrate India's market."

The GST, which was implemented from July 1, 2017, has unified 17 taxes and 13 cesses, creating a seamless national market by simplifying compliance and | [More on P10](#)

The Long Goodbye: How The Qazi Couple Lost Their Home In Kashmir

Married in Rawalpindi, raised in Srinagar, the couple fought deportation for 35 years, until a recent court ruling changed everything.

Sanjeev Sirohi

Srinagar: For nearly four decades, Mohammad Khalil Qazi and Arifa Qazi made Srinagar their home. They raised a family, sought a sense of belonging, and fought a legal battle to stay in the city where they were both born.

But on May 9 this year, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh ruled that their time in India had officially run out.

The couple's story began long before their case reached the courtroom.



Mohammad Khalil was born in Srinagar in 1945. As a young child during the turbulence of the

India-Pakistan partition, he found himself stranded in Pakistan, separated from his home.

Over time, he became a Pakistani citizen. Arifa, also born in Srinagar, held an Indian passport.

In 1986, she married Mohammad Khalil in Rawalpindi, but the relationship with her in-laws soon turned bitter.

Facing difficulties in Pakistan, the couple returned to Srinagar in 1988 on Pakistani passports, bringing their young son with them.

Local authorities initially allowed | [More on P10](#)

Couple Residing On Expired Visa, Not Indian Citizens: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has upheld the validity of a government order, directing deportation to Pakistan of a couple who had arrived in Srinagar in 1988. The High Court passed the verdict 35 years after the couple—Mohd Khalil Qazi and Arifa Qazi residing at Baha-ud-din Sahib here, filed a petition to challenge the government order of their deportation to Pakistan.

In the plea filed in 1990, Arifa had contended that she was

born in Srinagar on 23 April 1962 and claimed to be a permanent resident of the State of Jammu & Kashmir, along with her parents. However she said that with Qazi being her cousin she married him in Rawalpindi in December 1986.



Thereafter the couple submitted that they came to Srinagar in July 1988 on the basis of their Pakistani passports.

"The petitioners have acted in their own volition acquired the citizenship of a foreign Country. Their passports and the residential permit issued in | [More on P10](#)

NOC For Sale?

DDC Member Booked For Demanding ₹5 Lakh Bribe

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Srinagar has registered a case against a sitting District Development Council (DDC) member and his alleged associate for demanding a bribe of ₹5 lakh in exchange for facilitating No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for a private school in Srinagar's Dara Harwan area.

In an official statement, the ACB said it registered FIR No. 12/2025 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018), and Section 61(2) of

the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), against DDC member Mohammad Shaban Chopan, son of Ghulam Qadir Chopan, and his tout Ghulam Mohammad Khathana, son of Mukeem Khathana—both residents of Dara Harwan.

The case was filed following a written complaint received by the ACB, alleging that the DDC member and his aide demanded ₹5 lakh from the complainant for securing the necessary official clearances for his educational institution, Scholars Boarding School, established at Dara. The | [More on P10](#)

How A School Swimming Pool Became A Battlefield In Kashmir

What began as weekend swims turned into a fight over bribes and power that still shadows the school's gatesz

Ansar Hussain Dar

Srinagar: In a serene schoolyard in Harwan, a village on the northern edge of Srinagar, a simple swimming pool has become the centre of a corruption investigation that is now making its way through the region's anti-graft offices.

For years, the pool at Scholars School had been a peaceful gathering place. On weekends, former students would return



to the school to swim under the summer sky, a ritual that

brought them back to the classrooms and courtyards where

they had once studied.

But that familiar rhythm was interrupted this year when local officials accused the school of polluting a nearby canal and soon demanded a bribe to make the trouble go away.

On June 30, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested Mohammad Shaban Chopan, a local District Development Council (DDC) member, while he was allegedly accepting an initial bribe payment linked to

the dispute.

According to the ACB's statement, Chopan and his close aide, Ghulam Mohammad Khathana, had demanded ₹5,00,000 from the school's founder, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, in exchange for securing clearances the school had already lawfully obtained.

The arrests have brought rare attention to a story that began silently and unfolded in the kind of slow, steady pressure that is

common in Kashmir's smaller villages.

"They wanted me to buy silence," Dr. Mushtaq told Kashmir Observer. "But I chose not to pay."

The dispute focused on a canal that passes through the school's yard and continues downstream to a nearby fishery. The local DDC member accused the school of polluting the water by operating the swimming pool, but no similar concerns

were raised about the fishery, which uses the same canal and has expanded beyond its permitted land.

"They kept pointing at the school," Dr. Mushtaq continued. "They never looked anywhere else."

Court records and ACB documents reveal a pattern of harassment.

The local power brokers allegedly blocked the school gates, stopped students from entering, and repeatedly | [More on P10](#)

Heavy Rain Likely Across India Over Next 7 Days, says IMD

Press Trust Of India

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday said very heavy rain is expected in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan over some of the next six to seven days.

It said the monsoon will remain active in many parts of northwest, central and east India during this period.

Heavy rain is also likely in Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim and Jharkhand. Some days may see heavy showers in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha.



The IMD said heavy to very heavy rain may occur at some places in Konkan and Goa, Madhya Maharashtra and Gujarat. Saurashtra and Kutch may also receive heavy rain in the next seven days.

Northeast India is likely to get heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places during this period. Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Karnataka may receive heavy rain on some days of the week, it said.

The weather department on Monday predicted above-normal rainfall in the country in July and asked authorities and people in central India, Uttarakhand and Haryana to stay alert due to

the risk of flooding.

It said rainfall is likely to be below normal in large parts of the northeast, many areas of eastern India and extreme southern peninsular India.

IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said during an online press briefing that there is a high chance of heavy rainfall in central India and the adjoining southern peninsula.

This includes east Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, adjoining areas of Vidarbha and Telangana and parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra.

"We should monitor the catchment areas of rivers such as the Godavari, Mahanadi



Araghchi: Bombs Can't Erase Iran's Nuclear Knowhow

Trans Asia News

Tehran—Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has asserted that the country's nuclear expertise remains intact despite a 12-day joint Israeli-American military campaign targeting its nuclear facilities, vowing a rapid recovery and warning against expectations of a quick return to diplomatic talks.

In an interview aired Tuesday by CBS News, Araghchi dismissed U.S. President Donald Trump's claim that American strikes had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear capabilities, citing Pentagon assessments that contradicted the White House's statement. "One cannot obliterate the technology and science for [peaceful uranium] enrichment through bombings," Araghchi said,

emphasizing that Iran's nuclear knowledge was indestructible and that the country is fully capable of repairing damage and resuming its program.

The remarks follow Israel's unprovoked military assault on June 13, which triggered a 12-day conflict and saw U.S. forces join late in the campaign, striking key nuclear sites in central and north-central Iran. Despite the coordinated attacks, Araghchi underscored Iran's resolve, noting that the nuclear program had become a source of national pride and public unity during the war. "During the war, we demonstrated and proved our ability to defend ourselves," he said.

The top diplomat also made it clear that Tehran is not prepared to resume nuclear negotiations with Washington in the near future.

Talks, which began in April through Omani mediation and spanned six rounds, had already stalled due to U.S. demands—amplified by Israel—that Iran completely cease uranium enrichment. Those conditions have been categorically rejected by Iranian officials.

"I don't think negotiations will restart as quickly as that," Araghchi stated, adding that Iran would need solid guarantees the U.S. would not return to military threats during any renewed diplomatic process. "We still need more time," he said.

The recent military escalation has cast a long shadow over diplomacy, with Iranian officials now openly questioning U.S. intentions and urging caution against placing trust in further talks while hostilities remain a possibility.

US Lifts Syria Sanctions Amid Israel-Damascus Thaw

FRANCE 24

Washington: President Donald Trump on Monday formally dismantled US sanctions against Syria, hoping to reintegrate the war-battered country into the global economy as Israel eyes ties with its new leadership.

Trump lifted most sanctions against Syria in May, responding to appeals from Saudi Arabia and Turkey after former Islamist guerrilla Ahmed al-Sharaa ended a half-century of rule by the Assad family.

In an executive order, Trump terminated the "national emergency" in place since 2004 that imposed far-reaching sanctions on Syria, affecting most state-run institutions including the central bank.

"This is in an effort to promote and support the country's path to stability and peace," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters.

"These actions reflect the president's vision of fostering a new relationship between the United States and a Syria that is stable, unified and at peace with itself and its neighbors," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a statement.

Rubio said he would start the potentially lengthy process of examining whether to delist Syria as a state sponsor of terrorism, a designation dating from 1979 that has severely dis-

couraged investment.

He also said he would look at removing the terrorist classification of Sharaa and his movement Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), which was once linked to Al-Qaeda. The United States already removed a bounty on Sharaa's head after he came to power.

Brad Smith, the Treasury Department official in charge of sanctions, said the move "will end the country's isolation from the international financial system, setting the stage for global commerce and galvanising investments from its neighbors in the region as well as from the United States".

The order, released by the White House, said that Syria has been "transformed" since the fall of Assad, including through "positive actions taken by the new Syrian government under President Ahmed al-Sharaa".

The orders still maintain sanctions on elements of the former government, including Bashar al-Assad, who fled to Russia late last year.

Syrian Foreign Minister Assaad al-Shibani said the US move marked a "major turning point".

"With the lifting of this major obstacle to economic recovery, the long-awaited doors are opening for reconstruction and development" as are the conditions "for the dignified return of displaced Syrians to their homeland", he wrote on X.

Tougher UK Visa Measures For Foreign Workers Tabled In Parliament

Press Trust Of India

London: The British government on Tuesday tabled the first set of tougher visa norms in the House of Commons to curb the recruitment of foreign skilled workers across different sectors, including the care industry, dubbing it a "complete reset" of the country's immigration system.

The new rules, proposed as part of an 'Immigration White Paper' back in May, will involve the skills and salary thresholds for foreign workers – including Indians – rise, overseas recruitment for care workers end, and more than 100 occupations including chefs and plasterers being taken off the shortage list which allowed certain visa exemptions.

These changes, once approved by Parliament and effective from July 22, are designed to attract graduate level or above workers by making several low-paid jobs ineligible for visas.

"We are delivering a complete reset of our immigration system to restore proper control and order, after the previous government allowed

net migration to quadruple in four years," said UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper.

"These new rules mean stronger controls to bring migration down, to restore order to the immigration system and to ensure we focus on investing in skills and training here in the UK," she said.

The minister said her department's tougher approach "values skills, tackles exploitation and ensures those who come to the UK make a genuine contribution".

According to a Commons statement tabled by Home Office minister Seema Malhotra, skilled workers already in the UK will be exempt from the increased skill level requirement which stipulate a Bachelor's degree or equivalent for applications from July 22 onwards when these changes come into force.

"Salary requirements for work visas are being raised in line with the latest Office for National Statistics data, ahead of an upcoming thorough review of salary requirements (including discounts) by the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC)," reads Malhotra's parliamentary statement.

35 Dead In Telangana Pharma Factory Explosion

Press Trust Of India

Sangareddy (Telangana)- The death toll from the explosion at the Sigachi Industries' pharma plant in Pashamylaram has risen to 35, police said on Tuesday.

District Superintendent of Police Paritosh Pankaj told PTI that the toll rose to 35. He, however, did not provide further details.

"Several bodies have been found under the debris while removing it. As many as 31 bodies have been extricated from the debris while three died in hospital while undergoing treatment. The last leg of the rescue operation is still going on," he said.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, accompanied by some of his cabinet colleagues, visited the accident site.

When contacted, a senior official of Pranaam Hospitals in Miyapur said they received 21 patients on Monday with burns and head injuries. However, two were declared brought dead and one succumbed this morning.

A senior official of Dhruva Hospitals in Patancheru told PTI that they received 11 patients on Monday out of which two were referred to superspecialty hospitals.

"Out of the Nine patients, five are on ventilators. We have seven patients with burns ranging from 40-80 per cent burns and two are with 10 per cent burns," the official said.

According to a revenue department official, the identity of nine bodies has only been established so far while the remaining need to undergo DNA profiling.

‘No More Rockets, Cars’: Trump Threatens Musk Over Subsidies

Reuters

Washington: US President Donald Trump suggested on Tuesday that the government efficiency department should take a look at the subsidies that Tesla CEO Elon Musk's companies have received in order to save money.

Trump's comments come after Musk, the world's richest man, renewed his criticism on Monday of Trump's sweeping tax-cut and spending bill, vowing to unseat lawmakers who backed it after campaigning on limiting government spending.

"Elon may get more subsidy than any human being in history, by far, and without subsidies, Elon would probably have to close up shop and head back home to South Africa. No more Rocket launches, Satellites, or Electric Car Production, and our Country would save a FORTUNE. Perhaps we should have DOGE take a good, hard, look at this? BIG MONEY TO

BE SAVED!!!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social, referring to the federal Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

In response to Trump's post, Musk, on his own social media platform X, said "I am literally saying CUT IT ALL. Now."

Trump previously threatened to cut Musk's government subsidies and contracts when their relationship dissolved into an all-out brawl on social media in early June over the bill, which non-partisan analysts have said would add about \$3 trillion to the US debt.

Musk's businesses include rocket company and government contractor SpaceX, which has about \$22 billion in federal contracts, and its satellite unit Starlink.

His rift with Trump also caused volatility for Tesla, with shares of the electric car company losing about \$150 billion of its market value on June 5, the largest single-day decline in the company's history, though it

has since recovered.

Tesla shares trading in Frankfurt tumbled 5% on Tuesday. After weeks of relative silence following his earlier feud with Trump over the legislation, Musk rejoined the debate on Saturday as the Senate took up the package, calling it "utterly insane and destructive" in a post on X.

On Monday, he said lawmakers who had campaigned on cutting spending but backed the bill "should hang their heads in shame!"

"And they will lose their primary next year if it is the last thing I do on this Earth," Musk added.

Musk called again for a new political party, saying the bill's massive spending indicated "that we live in a one-party country – the PORKY PIG PARTY!!!"

Musk's criticism marked a dramatic shift after the tech billionaire spent nearly \$300 million on Trump's re-election campaign and led the administration's controversial DOGE cost-cutting initiative.

NEWS MAKERS

Thailand PM Suspended Over Leaked Phone Call

Associated Press

Thailand's Constitutional Court suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra from office Tuesday pending an ethics investigation over a leaked phone call with a senior Cambodian leader.

The judges voted unanimously Tuesday to take the petition accusing her of a breach of ethics, and voted 7 to 2 to suspend her from duty as a prime minister. The court gave Paetongtarn 15 days to give evidence to support her case.

Paetongtarn has faced growing dissatisfaction over her handling of the latest border dispute with Cambodia, involving an armed confrontation on May 28 in which one

Cambodian soldier was killed. The leaked phone call while she engaged in diplomacy with Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen set off a string of complaints and public protests.

Paetongtarn said after the court order that she would accept the process and would do her best to defend herself, as she had no other intentions but to protect the country and preserve peace.

"I only thought about what to do to avoid troubles, what to do to avoid armed confrontation, for the soldiers not to suffer any loss. I wouldn't be able to accept it if I said something with the other leader that could lead to negative consequences," she said.

She also thanked her supporters and apologised to people who got upset over the



leaked call.

Deputy Prime Minister Suriya Junggruangkit is expected to become the acting prime minister, although there's been no official confirmation.

Earlier Tuesday, King Maha Vajiralongkorn had endorsed a Cabinet reshuffle

forced when a major party left Paetongtarn's coalition over the leaked phone call. The reshuffle had replaced Anutin Chavirakul, leader of the Bhumjaithai Party, as deputy prime minister.

Paetongtarn took the position of culture minister in addition to prime minister in the new Cabinet, though it's still unclear if she can take the oath to remain in that role.

Outrage over the call mostly revolved around Paetongtarn's comments toward an outspoken regional army commander and her perceived attempts to appease Hun Sen to ease tensions at the border.

Thousands of conservative, nationalist-leaning protesters rallied in central Bangkok on Saturday to demand Paetongtarn's resignation.

Delhi Man Duped of 14 Lakh in 'Digital Arrest' Scam

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Two men were arrested for allegedly duping a retired government employee of Rs 14 lakh by posing as cybercrime officials and threatening him with a fabricated digital arrest in north Delhi, an official said on Tuesday.

Banshi Lal and Prem Kumar, both 20 years old and currently pursuing their graduation, were arrested after Kailash Kumar Meena (57) filed a complaint stating that he received a video call from a man claiming to be a cyber-crime officer from Mumbai, he said.

"The caller falsely accused him of being involved in a cyber fraud and warned that police were en route to arrest him. Under duress, the complainant transferred Rs 14 lakh to a bank account provided by the caller," a senior police officer said.

A case was registered on April 22 at

the North Cyber Police Station and an investigation was launched. Police conducted a detailed analysis of call data, money trails, and access logs from various digital platforms.

The accused frequently changed locations to avoid detection, but continued mobile surveillance helped the police zero in on their presence in Barmer in Rajasthan.

A raid was conducted on June 15, leading to the arrest of Banshi Lal. Based on his interrogation, his associate Prem Kumar was also nabbed from the same village, he added.

"During questioning, Banshi Lal revealed that he had opened a bank account and handed over the linked mobile number and internet banking details to Prem Kumar for Rs 8,000. Prem Kumar, in turn, provided this account to a key conspirator, Satpal Bishnoi, in exchange for Rs 15,000," the DCP said.



Houseboat Association, Dal Dwellers Call On CM Omar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Representatives of the Houseboat Owners Association, Shikara Union, and Dal dwellers' community on Tuesday met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to raise pressing concerns affecting their livelihoods and living conditions.

The delegation urged the government to address long-standing issues ranging from renewal of houseboat licenses to improvement of basic infrastructure in and around Dal Lake. The meeting, held in Srinagar, also focused on sustainable solutions for communities dependent on the lake.

The interaction was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, senior officials from the Fire & Emergency Services, Tourism, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Housing, and heads of the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) and Srinagar Development Authority.

MLA Tanvir Sadiq opened the discussion with a comprehensive

briefing on the concerns of the deputation. The Houseboat Owners Association highlighted delays in license renewals, and appealed for rehabilitation plans for those based along River Jhelum and Chounti Khul willing to relocate. They also sought marketing space at Srinagar Airport and Railway Station, renovation of facilities at Chinara Bagh, and a dedicated fire station near Nigeen Lake due to frequent fire incidents.

Dal dwellers stressed the need for urgent repairs of wooden culverts and bridges, especially ahead of Muharram, and called for improvement in basic services in the lake interiors. They also flagged the lack of a reliable ration supply system for lake inhabitants.

Shikara owners requested restoration and maintenance of ghats and jetties along the lakefront to support their operations.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah gave a patient hearing and assured that genuine issues would be taken up on priority. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting the interests of lake-dependent communities while ensuring the ecological sustainability of Dal Lake.

Traffic Police Issues Advisory For 8th Muharram Procession

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In view of the 8th Muharram procession scheduled to take place in Srinagar city, special traffic arrangements have been put in place, particularly along the stretch from Guru Bazar to Dalgate, officials said on Tuesday.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic City Srinagar, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat, said the department has already issued a detailed traffic advisory for Muharram processions across the city. He said the ongoing processions in areas like Rainawari, Saida Kadal and others are proceeding smoothly as per the plan.

He added that no vehicular movement is allowed in areas designated for the procession routes, as already mentioned in the earlier advisory.

"For the 8th Muharram procession from Guru Bazar to Dalgate, MA Road will be fully affected. A separate advisory for that day will be in place, and we urge commuters to avoid the route and plan accordingly," SSP Aijaz Ahmad Bhat said.

He informed that traffic coming from Radio Kashmir and Abdullah Bridge will be diverted through Residency Road, and then routed via Hari Singh High Street towards Jehangir Chowk.

"Vehicles from Downtown Srinagar will be diverted via Habba Kadal. These changes will be enforced on the day of the procession," he said.

The SSP further added that adequate parking arrangements will be made at Gindun (Joggers) Park Rajbagh, SP College, and the surrounding areas to ensure there is no disruption due to roadside parking.



From Netherlands To Kashmir:

69-Year-Old Woman Silently Cleans Dal Lake For 5 Years

Observer News Service

Srinagar: It is 'Hollandse Schoonmaak' (Dutch cleaning) in Kashmir as a 69-year-old woman from the Netherlands has made it a mission to clean the waters of the famous tourist attraction Dal Lake of plastic waste.

Armed with her love for nature, Ellis Hubertina Spaaanderman can often be seen rowing her boat quietly in the waters of the lake to collect plastic waste and other trash.

She picks up the trash items one by one carefully from the waters and places them in a bag on her boat to clean the lake inch-by-inch.

"I also did it in the Netherlands as I was living on the seaside. In general, the Netherlands is clean, but ships throw waste, so I started collecting the waste, it is in my nature. When I see it, I cannot avoid cleaning up," Spaaanderman said when asked about her passion.

According to PTI, the Dutch tourist came to Kashmir first nearly 25 years ago and instantly fell in love with the place.

When she returned about five years ago, she stayed in the valley, but was dismayed with the levels of pollution in the lake.

"I started picking the trash right from the day I came to Kashmir. Now, it has been five years," she said.

Spaaanderman got a boat of her own in November last year to get help in her campaign.

"I thought if no one is doing it, I am gonna do it. Maybe it is only a drop in the ocean, but I have learnt one thing that if you want

to teach people, the best thing is to be an example. People start noticing," she added.

The foreigner said she wants to create mass awareness about the environment.

"I care about the environment, I want it to be clean. But, it is so dirty here, I cannot do it alone. This is my way to clean it and create awareness among the people. I notice that now when I am collecting waste, not only here

hiking and on the way I collect waste," she said.

Spaaanderman does the cleaning all alone -- without any support or funding. Her small 'shikara' is like a wooden manual de-weeder.

Dal is not just a lake. The famous water body is a source of livelihood for many Kashmiris and a famed tourist attraction. However, over the years, the lake has witnessed pollution and en-

"I started picking the trash right from the day I came to Kashmir. Now, it has been five years,"

but in streams and forests, people start helping me.

"I am convinced that if everyone will help me, the whole of Kashmir can be cleaned within two years. I really believe in that. Many Kashmiris say it will take 1,000 years...no you can teach within a generation," she said.

Spaaanderman said she has grabbed some attention for her work.

"The vice-chairman of J&K LCMA (Lake Conservation and Management Authority) asked me to come and speak with him. They want to work with me and want to use my knowledge to educate the children in schools," she said.

When the Dutch national is not collecting trash, she is often cycling the streets of the city, especially the Foreshore Road.

"Sometimes I am busy and I cannot do it on a daily basis. Most days I do this when I have nothing else to do. Then I go to lakes, swimming, pedalling, cycling,

croachment.

While there have been efforts by the government like dredging, de-weeding and anti-encroachment drives, the water body still faces a threat.

The Dutch tourist said she considers the lake her home and wants to give something back to it. Her efforts are being appreciated by the locals.

Yawar Ahmad, a local, said he has seen Spaaanderman collecting plastic waste many times.

"It is truly appreciable what she is doing. I often think, if a foreign tourist woman can do it, then why can't we?" he said.

Ahmad said the Dutch tourist's work is an inspiration and expressed hope that she would inspire the younger generation to think about the environment and also raise awareness among the people to stop throwing waste in the water bodies and other places.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

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

HIGHWAY STATUS
 • Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
• Mughal Road - (Open)
• Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

 HIJRI CALENDAR 06 Muharram 1447	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	3: 39
	ZUHR	12:35
	ASR	5: 35
	Magrib	7:50
	ISHA	9: 30

This Day In History

- 1298 - Battle on Hasenbuhl (Gollheim) between German kings Adolf and Albrecht I
- 1582 - Battle of Yamazaki: Toyotomi Hideyoshi defeats Akechi Mitsuhide
- 1600 - Battle at Newport: Earl Mauritius van Nassau beats Spanish Army
- 168 - 7 King James II disbands English parliament
- 1698 - Thomas Savery patents the first steam engine
- 1794 - Second Battle of Seneffe: France-Austria
- 1823 - Bahia Independence Day: the end of Portuguese rule in Brazil, with the final defeat of the Portuguese crown loyalists in the province of Bahia
- 1839 - Slaves aboard a Spanish schooner La Amistad revolt to secure their freedom while being transported from one Cuban port to another
- 1916 - Lenin says Imperialism is caused by capitalism
- 1916 - Russian offensive in Armenia
- 1921 - Warren G. Harding signs a joint congressional resolution declaring the official end of war with Germany
- 1940 - Indian independence leader Subhas Chandra Bose is arrested and detained in Calcutta
- 1947 - Military coup discovered in France
- 1949 - The State of Vietnam is internationally recognised, governing the southern half of Vietnam, with Bao Dai as chief of state
- 1971 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1972 - India and Pakistan sign Simla Agreement peace accord
- 1982 - Soyuz T-6 returns to Earth
- 1985 - Andrei Gromyko appointed president of USSR
- 1985 - European Space Agency launches Giotto (Halley's Comet Flyby)
- 2001 - Bush Administration announce that it will seek to let oil companies drill on about 1,500,000 acres of the Gulf of Mexico
- 2001 - UN Security Council, facing an almost certain Russian veto, agrees to postpone indefinitely a vote on the US-led "smart sanctions" package for Iraq
- 2006 - Sri Lanka's Sanath Jayasuriya (152) and Upul Tharanga (109) compile world record cricket ODI opening stand of 286 vs England at Headingley

From KO Archives

J&K Second Most Corrupt State: Survey

NEW DELHI - Kerala has emerged as the country's least corrupt state while the dubious distinction of being the worst in this regard went to Bihar followed by Jammu and Kashmir according to global corruption watchdog Transparency international first state wise analysis.

The India Corruption Study 2005 conducted by Transparency International India (TII) and Centre for Media Studies (CMS) said Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra - in that order - were the least corrupt states.

The study had a sample of 14405 respondents in 15 cities and 306 villages across 20 States and covered 11 services including police, Judiciary, schools and public distribution system. While Kerala topped in all the departments, Bihar was the last, it said.

The national capital Delhi was ranked 11th in the least corrupt state preceded by Chhattisgarh (6) Punjab (7), West Bengal (8), Orissa (9) and Uttar Pradesh (10).

Tamil Nadu was placed 12th followed by Haryana, Jharkhand, Assam, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

Jammu and Kashmir was placed very low at 19th position only to be followed in Bihar.

(Kashmir Observer, 02 July, 2005)



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

Kashmir Observer, with 28 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV's across the world

Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and documentaries on critical issues facing Kashmir on KO youtube channel.

OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

28th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

VISIT

<https://www.youtube.com/c/kobserver>

OR SCAN



KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of
Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex,
Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief : Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdos Ali
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KO VIEW

Degrees Without Direction

Young Kashmiris, degree in hand, are returning home not to take up careers, but to sit behind shop counters, wait for exam results, or prepare for another shot at a government job that may never come. As highlighted by a story published in this paper, the valley’s education system has been producing graduates trained for a world that no longer exists. A generation was told that if you became an engineer, a doctor, or a civil servant, success was guaranteed. That story has expired. Yet our classrooms continue to push students into streams without asking if these fields still hold opportunity - or whether they suit the child at all.

Meanwhile, the global economy has changed. Artificial Intelligence is not just transforming industries, it’s redefining what work itself looks like. Skills like data analysis, coding, design thinking, and digital communication are not optional anymore. They are essential. And yet, in most government schools and colleges across Kashmir, there is barely a whisper about these fields. At the same time, it is also true that even some of these skills are being rendered redundant by the AI.

This disconnect is not just academic; it is deeply personal for students. Many of them aren’t failing because they lack ambition. They’re failing because the system has never shown them what’s possible. They’re carrying degrees, not direction. They’ve memorized answers for exams, but never learned how to solve real-world problems. They know what to study for the UPSC, NEET or JEE, but not what new technology is doing to the education and jobs.

The solution is not simple, but it is clear. We must update the syllabus - not just tweak it, but overhaul it. Courses should reflect the realities of today’s job market. Vocational education must be treated with dignity and seriousness. Career counseling should begin in high school, not after failure. Teachers themselves must be trained to understand and explain the opportunities of a tech-driven world.

There are some hopeful signs - isolated efforts by a few schools, training centers, and local entrepreneurs who are showing that alternatives exist. But they remain exceptions in a system built on inertia.

If we truly care about the future of Kashmiri youth, we must reimagine what education prepares them for. Not the past. Not the dreams of their parents. But the world that is already here - and the one that’s fast approaching. To keep teaching the old ways is not just outdated. It is manufacturing future unemployment crises as the youth armed with existing degrees will struggle to find a place for themselves in the evolving economy,

Financial Fix

Kashmiris Bet on Mutual Funds

Simple, steady investments like mutual funds are helping Kashmiris move beyond risky shortcuts toward safer wealth-building.

Irshad Mushtaq

Saving money has always been a way of life in Kashmir. But growing that money is a newer idea. As people here look for safer ways to build wealth, many are turning to mutual funds: small, steady investments that can change lives.

The key is compounding. It’s how money grows when earnings start earning. Put in 1 lakh today, and over time it can double, then double again. It’s not magic, it’s patience.

What’s changing in Kashmir is that more people now see mutual funds as a safer option. You don’t need big money to start. With as little as 500 a month through a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), anyone can begin.

These funds are handled by professionals and monitored by India’s market regulator, SEBI. That makes them safer than the risky schemes that still trap many in the region.

Too often, Kashmiris have been lured by unregulated plans promising fast profits. Many lose their savings chasing these shortcuts. The smarter move is to pick regulated funds, stay invested for years, and let time do the work.

The trick is to focus on quality. Look for strong, steady funds with honest advisors. Past performance matters, but it’s not everything. The future depends on careful choices and patience.

In Kashmir’s uncertain economy, learning to save is no longer enough. Learning to invest smartly is now part of building a safer future. Wealth comes, not from chance, but from small, steady steps.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Mohammad Amin Mir

In the story of land in Jammu & Kashmir, a single harvest still holds the key. It’s not about what you grow today or even how long you’ve tilled the soil. It all comes down to what’s written in the record books for the Kharief season of 1971.

For farmers across the valley, this entry is not just a line on paper. It decides who owns the land and who doesn’t.

The 1976 Agrarian Reforms Act promised a revolution. It broke the centuries-old grip of landlords by giving ownership rights to the people who actually worked the land. But this promise came with one strict condition: the farmer’s name had to appear in the Girdawari, the seasonal crop inspection record, for Kharief 1971. No other entry would do.

It’s a detail that still stings. For many farmers, this record is missing. Sometimes the Patwari didn’t visit. Sometimes landlords blocked names from being written. Sometimes it was just clerical neglect. Yet the law has rarely allowed room for these stories.

The Agrarian Reforms Act did not offer half-measures. Section 4 made it clear: the land would automatically transfer to the tenant without needing the landowner’s approval. But this life-changing shift rested on one small proof: the Girdawari of Kharief 1971.

Why that season? The government chose it carefully. It was a moment before the political upheavals of the mid-70s, before records could be tampered with. It was supposed to be a clean, untouchable benchmark.

But it also became a gate that shut many farmers out.

Judges have consistently ruled that this Girdawari entry is non-negotiable. In Ghulam Mohammad Wani v. State of J&K, the High Court ruled that a Kharief 1971 entry is essential. Later entries, no matter how convincing, don’t carry the same legal weight.

In State of J&K v. Abdul Ahad Mir, the court stressed the same point: the law only protects those whose names appeared in the 1971 record. Even if a farmer can show continuous cultiva-

Judges have consistently ruled that this Girdawari entry is non-negotiable. In Ghulam Mohammad Wani v. State of J&K, the High Court ruled that a Kharief 1971 entry is essential. Later entries, no matter how convincing, don’t carry the same legal weight.

tion since then, the courts have often refused to look past that missing entry.

For the system, it’s a clear line. For the farmers, it’s a cold one.

On paper, the rules are neat. On the ground, they are messy.

Across Kashmir, thousands of farmers have no Kharief 1971 entry in their name. Some were excluded by mistake. Some were never recorded because landlords pressured the Patwaris. Some cultivated informally, with nothing written down.

In the late 2000s, revenue officers started at-testing land mutations based on later entries. They looked at continuous possession, land revenue receipts, even statements from village elders. It was a way to honour the spirit of the law, even if the original record was missing.

But these decisions didn’t always hold up in court. Revenue circulars from 2006 to 2009 made it clear: no Girdawari, no mutation.

Some officers argued they could rely on other evidence. Some even invoked oral testimonies. But legally, the foundation remained shaky.

Take Ghulam Nabi Dar from Pulwama. He had worked five kanals of orchard land since 1969. His name never appeared in the 1971 Girdawari. Landlord pressure, he says, kept him off the record. His name finally showed up in Rabi 1972.

When he applied for mutation under the Agrarian Reforms Act, he brought everything he could: land revenue receipts, sworn statements from village officials, proof of continuous

Chenab Valley Is Still Waiting to Be Seen

For years, the people of Chenab Valley have asked for fair treatment. Their fight is not for power, it’s for a place at the table.

Ayaan Saroori

has surfaced. In 1996, Farooq Abdul-

lah promised more control for the region. In 2000, a Hill Development Council was proposed. In 2014, people marched through Doda to call for divisional status. In 2019, Omar Abdullah pledged his support. The promises faded, but the need did not.

The latest round of debate began when Muzamil Vaid, a social media user, floated the idea of carving out a Jammu state that would include Chenab Valley.

For many in the valley, this idea felt like a step backwards. It would fold the region into a larger plan that overlooks its own distinct history, language, and culture.

Anzer Ayoob pushed back. The Chenab Valley, he said, cannot be reduced to a bargaining chip in bigger power games. It is not simply an extension of Jammu, nor does it see itself as a pawn in these talks of divi-

sion. It has its own rhythm, its own stories, its own scars.

The online conversation that followed showed how deep these divisions run. Some, like Burhan Dar and Sabir Ayub, supported the idea of a unique “Chenabi” identity, one that holds together different communities, languages, and cultures. Others insisted the Chenab Valley has always belonged to the Jammu division. Some accused Anzer of ignoring local identities or promoting outside interests.

His response was measured. He called himself “a native Kishtwari, ethnically Kashmiri.” His focus was not on labels. It was on basic needs: roads that hold up in the rain, schools that open on time, jobs that don’t require leaving home.

His call was for a Divisional Commissioner who would focus on Chenab Valley’s people, not just

pass through on the way to somewhere else.

This tension between being part of the larger whole and fighting for local fairness is not new to India.

The country’s map has changed many times to make space for voices that felt left out. But the Chenab Valley is not asking for a redrawn map. It is asking for a seat at the table it already belongs to.

The 2019 decision to scrap Article 370 shifted the region’s political ground. In its place came new policies and new rumours, like whispers of a separate Jammu state.

Meanwhile, the 2024 reservation policy that cut the general merit quota to 40 percent left many in Chenab Valley feeling even more sidelined. It wasn’t just about percentages. It was about what gets left behind when no one is paying attention.

These debates on social media often slide into sarcasm or partisanship. But at their core is something real.

Anzer’s fight isn’t about scoring political points. It isn’t about siding with one party or one region. It’s about his home. It’s about a valley that keeps asking the same question in different ways: when will we matter?

In the end, this is not a story about division. It is a story about belonging. The Chenab Valley isn’t asking to leave. It’s asking to be seen.

The author is a regular columnist. He can be reached at ayaansaroori8@gmail.com

Letter to Editor

Why Airlines Shouldn’t Penalize Kashmir’s Stranded Trekkers

I’m writing to share the distress faced by hundreds of Indian trekkers who had planned to explore the Kashmir trails this season.

Many of us had carefully planned these trips, some months in advance, only to see them abruptly cancelled after the recent terror attack in Pahalgam.

Security concerns and new restrictions have now forced trekking operators to suspend major expeditions, including the famous Kashmir Great Lakes and Tarsar Marsar routes.

In the face of such an emergency, the cancellations clearly fall under what is commonly known as force majeure—a situation beyond anyone’s control.

But what’s deeply unfair is how the trekkers are being treated by airlines. Despite the extraordinary circumstances, travelers are being denied full refunds. Many are now losing a significant portion of their travel expenses to cancellation fees, with no real alternatives like rescheduling or credit options being offered.

Most of the affected trekkers are

young professionals, students, and adventure lovers. They followed government advisories and prioritized their safety, but are now being made to pay the price for a situation they neither caused nor could have predicted. It feels as though the systems meant to protect us in times like these are simply missing.

There seems to be no coordination between the airlines, the Civil Aviation Ministry, and the Tourism Boards to create a fair response for travelers caught in emergencies. It leaves ordinary people stranded, financially and emotionally.

Kashmir is one of India’s most treasured trekking destinations, and incidents like this shouldn’t scare travelers away. But unless airlines show empathy, and unless the authorities step in to build proper protections, this will only weaken the trust people place in the system.

I sincerely hope the government, airline companies, and tourism authorities will listen and offer a solution that puts fairness first.

Sincerely,
Soumyajit
Hyderabad, Telangana.

A Wonder That Lives Off the Map

In the hills of Ramban, far from the noise, a town waits with meadows, healing springs, and a way of life that stays with you.

Syed Aijaz Shah

The road to Gool winds through the hills of Ramban like a forgotten thread, stitching together forests, small homes, and the hush of mountains that seem to listen more than speak.

In this corner of Jammu and Kashmir, where the air grows sweeter and the summers softer, Gool sits, not in a hurry, not trying to be seen, just there, as it has always been.

When I first heard about the town, it was a passing mention, the kind of place people recommend with a wave of the hand, half expecting you won't go.

But something about it called me. Maybe I was looking for air that didn't burn in June. Maybe I was just tired.

The valley had been wilting under a hard sun. Srinagar was gasping at thirty-five degrees, the streets thick with dust and restlessness.

In Gool, I was told, the breeze still ran cool across the meadows, and the forests still smelled of pine.

I packed light and left for a place I had only heard in stories. What I found was something I had not known I was missing.

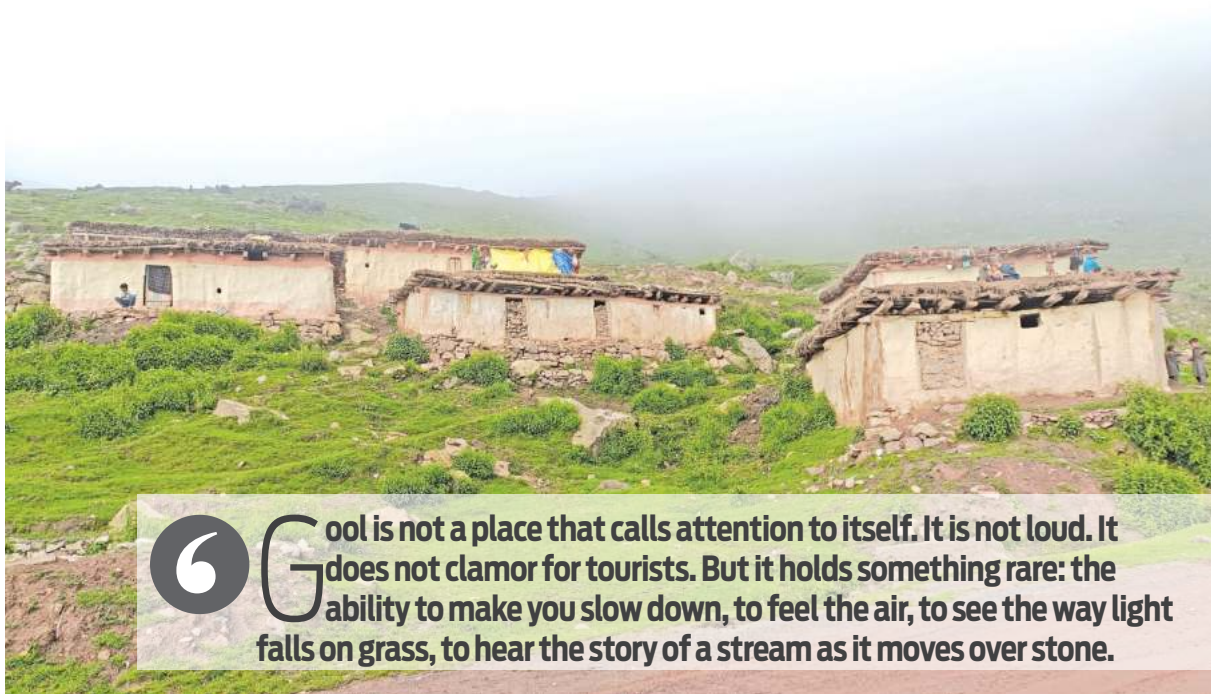
The days in Gool do not follow the same rhythm as the cities. They stretch and soften.

The mornings arrive with a thin gold light that falls over the hills and slips into the streams. The evenings walk in slowly, the air growing tender, the sky folding itself in a soft blue-grey.

The pine trees lean over the paths, the leaves whisper under your feet, and the meadows seem to hold their breath as you pass.

One afternoon I wandered toward Ghora Gali, where the grass opened up in wide, gentle patches between thick forests. I sat there for hours, listening to the birds and the faint rustle of wind moving through the trees. There was no rush to leave. The place seemed to know that.

Further along, about ten kilometers from Gool, the road led me to Dagan-top, a place that knows how to fill your eyes.



Gool is not a place that calls attention to itself. It is not loud. It does not clamor for tourists. But it holds something rare: the ability to make you slow down, to feel the air, to see the way light falls on grass, to hear the story of a stream as it moves over stone.

It was like standing on the edge of a green sea, the meadows rolling out in soft waves, stitched with wildflowers and brushed by air that carried the sharp, clean scent of the mountains.

In the distance, the folds of hills rose and fell like the slow breathing of the earth. They say in winter, the place transforms, thick with snow, alive with sledges and skiers.

But in June, it felt like standing inside a story where the pages turned with the wind.

Some places in Gool are not known for grand views, but for the way they let you be still. Rama Kunda is like that, a small space tucked into the lap of the hills, where the trees stand tall and close.

There, you can sit with your thoughts and let them settle, like dust in a glass of water. You don't need to speak. The place understands.

On the last day, I found myself at Tatta Pani, where warm sulphur springs bubble up from the earth, known to soothe aching joints and

tired muscles.

People come here from nearby villages, from towns further away, to feel the water on their skin, to lean into its slow medicine. I let my feet sink into the warmth and watched the way the steam curled up into the air, soft and steady, as if the ground itself was breathing.

The places we stayed became part of the memory. In Gool, we spent our nights at a small Forest Hut, where the scent of pine slipped in through the windows, and the air was fresh enough to wake you before dawn.

In Sangaldan, the Farooq Naik Guest House welcomed us with simple comfort: a room that felt like it belonged to the hills, not borrowed from somewhere else.

But places, no matter how beautiful, become something more because of people. My brother-in-law, Syed Abid, made sure of that. His warmth, his careful planning, his small kindnesses stitched the trip together in a way that no guidebook could.

His team, Bashir Sahib, Amir, moved like old friends, making sure every path we took, every meal we had, felt like it had been waiting for us. In their company, I was not a visitor. I belonged.

Gool is not a place that calls attention to itself. It is not loud. It does not clamor for tourists. But it holds something rare: the ability to make you slow down, to feel the air, to see the way light falls on grass, to hear the story of a stream as it moves over stone.

When I left, I carried more than just pictures. I carried the shape of mornings spent in meadows, the sound of crickets in the dark, the touch of warm springs on tired feet, and the memory of a place that does not ask you to be more, only to be present.

Some places you visit. Some places stay with you. Gool, for me, is the latter.

The author is a teacher at the GMS, Hardushiva

In a Father's Shadow

In the valley's pervasive silence, a father's love continues to speak where words have long fallen away.

Er Umair Ul Umar

It has been five years since my father Abdul Rehman Khanday passed away. Yet, his absence never learned how to stay still.

It moves through my days. It sits across from me. I still turn, at times, half-expecting to see him where I know he isn't. Some people go, but they do not leave.

My father lived without ceremony. His life had weight, but no noise. He spoke the truth, even when it unsettled people. Some misunderstood his words, but no one who knew him doubted his heart. He didn't know how to be dishonest. His words could be sharp, but his soul was light. He was not a man who carried bitterness.

At home, his love lived in the small things. He didn't just provide; he stayed. On long exam nights, when my siblings and I studied into the early hours, he would rise silently, make tea, and place it on our desks with his own hands. He would sit in the corner of the room, his presence enough to steady us, and he would not leave until we closed our books and drifted to sleep. He never said much. He didn't need to. His being there was the language he spoke best.

There were no easy doors for him. He built everything from the ground up, inch by inch. No shortcuts, no inherited comforts. His life was a slow, deliberate climb. He worked so that we wouldn't have to start where he did. For his children, he became the ladder. And he made sure the ladder held.

He raised us to stand upright. He made us careful, made us curious, made us aware that dignity was not a gift, it was a responsibility. That was his craft. That was what he left behind.

I grew up inside his mind as much as his home. He loved to follow world affairs. In the early 2000s, Kashmir's sky was heavy with conflict. Credible news was hard to find. But we had Sharbeen, the BBC's Urdu service on the radio. Every morning at seven, and every



evening at nine-thirty, I would sit beside him, listening. He didn't ask for silence, but we fell into it. We followed the distant voices that made the world feel both larger and closer. Those hours shaped me more than he knew. He didn't hand me opinions. He gave me the tools to form them.

He met life's difficulties with calm. When hardship came, he did not crumble. His faith carried him. "Whatever Allah does is for the best," he would say. It is that same belief that steadies me now.

He did not leave behind wealth. What he gave us was better. He gave us the dignity of his name, the weight of his kindness, the shelter of his values. He taught us to move through the world without arrogance. He taught us to speak carefully. He taught us to live in a way that did not harm.

Even now, his presence lingers. His voice, his steady hands, and his soft laughter live in the rooms I walk through. He is not gone. He has simply become part of me.

I carry him in the way I think, in the way I sit with silence, in the questions I still ask.

When my own time comes, I pray Allah reunites me with him. Let that be my Paradise.

The author can be reached at umairulumar77@gmail.com

A Decade of Digital India

From fiber to fintech, India's digital infrastructure now powers one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

Narendra Modi

Ten years ago, we embarked on a bold journey into uncharted territory with great conviction.

While decades were spent doubting the ability of Indians to use technology, we changed this approach and trusted the ability of Indians to use technology.

While decades were spent thinking that use of technology will deepen the gap between the haves and the have-nots, we changed this mindset and used technology to eliminate the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

When the intent is right, innovation empowers the less empowered. When the approach is inclusive, technology brings change in the lives of those on the margins.

This belief laid the foundation for Digital India: a mission to democratise access, build inclusive digital infrastructure, and opportunities for all.

In 2014, internet penetration was limited, digital literacy was low, and online access to government services was scarce. Many doubted whether a country as vast and diverse as India could truly go digital.

Today, that question has been answered not just in data and dashboards, but in the lives of 140 crore Indians. From how we govern, to how we learn, transact, and build, Digital India is everywhere.

Bridging the Digital Divide

In 2014, India had around 25 crore internet connections. Today, that number has grown to over 97 crores. Over 42 lakh kilometres of Optical Fibre Cable equivalent to 11 times the distance between Earth and the Moon now connects even the most remote villages.

India's 5G rollout is among the fastest in the world, with 4.81 lakh base stations installed in just



two years. High-speed internet now reaches urban hubs and forward military posts alike including Galwan, Siachen, and Ladakh. India Stack, which is our digital backbone, has enabled platforms like UPI, which now handles 100+ billion transactions a year. Around half of all real time digital transactions happen in India.

Through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), over ₹44 lakh crore has been transferred directly to citizens, cutting out middlemen and saving ₹3.48 lakh crore in leakages.

Schemes like SVAMITVA have issued 2.4 crore+ property cards and mapped 6.47 lakh villages, ending years of land-related uncertainty.

Democratising Opportunity for All

India's digital economy is empowering MSMEs and small entrepreneurs like never before.

ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) is a revolutionary platform which opens a new window of opportunities by providing a seamless connection with huge market of buyers and sellers.

GeM (Government E-Marketplace) enables the common man to sell goods and services to all arms of the government. This not only empowers the common man with a huge market but also saves money for the Government.

Imagine this: You apply for a Mudra loan online. Your credit-worthiness is assessed through an account aggregator framework. You get your loan and start your venture. You register



on GeM, supply to schools and hospitals, and then scale up via ONDC.

ONDC recently crossed 200 million transactions, with the last 100 million in just six months. From Banarasi weavers to bamboo artisans in Nagaland, sellers are now reaching customers nationwide, without middlemen or digital monopolies.

GeM has also crossed ₹1 lakh crore GMV in 50 days, with 22 lakh sellers including 1.8 lakh+ women-led MSMEs, who have fulfilled orders worth ₹46,000 crore.

Digital Public Infrastructure: India's Global Offering

India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) from Aadhaar, CoWIN, DigiLocker, and FASTag

to PM-WANI and One Nation One Subscription is now studied and adopted globally.

CoWIN enabled the world's largest vaccination drive, issuing 220 crore QR-verifiable certificates. DigiLocker, with 54 crore users, hosts 775 crore+ documents, securely and seamlessly.

Through our G20 Presidency, India launched the Global DPI Repository and a \$25 million Social Impact Fund, helping nations across Africa and South Asia adopt inclusive digital ecosystems.

Startup Power Meets Aatmanirbhar Bharat

India now ranks among the top 3 startup ecosystems in the world, with over 1.8 lakh startups. But this is more than a start-



up movement, it is a tech renaissance.

India is doing extremely well when it comes to AI skill penetration and AI talent concentration among our youth.

Through the \$1.2 billion India AI Mission, India has enabled access to 34,000 GPUs at globally unmatched prices at less than \$1/GPU hour making India not just the most affordable internet economy, but also the most affordable compute destination.

India has championed humanity-first AI. The New Delhi Declaration on AI promotes innovation with responsibility. We are establishing AI Centres of Excellence across the country.

The Road Ahead

The next decade will be even

more transformative. We are moving from digital governance to global digital leadership, from India-first to India-for-the-world.

Digital India has not remained a mere government program, it has become a people's movement. It is central to building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and to making India a trusted innovation partner to the world.

To all innovators, entrepreneurs, and dreamers: the world is looking at India for the next digital breakthrough.

Let us build what empowers. Let us solve what truly matters. Let us lead with technology that unites, includes, and uplifts.

The author is the Prime Minister of India.

Gross GST Collections Rise 6.2% To Over Rs 1.84 Lakh Cr In June

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gross GST collections increased by 6.2 per cent to over Rs 1.84 lakh crore in June but slipped below the Rs 2 lakh crore mark recorded in the previous two months.

Gross GST collections stood at Rs 1,73,813 crore a year ago, as per government data released on Tuesday.

In May, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection was Rs 2,01 lakh crore. It touched a record high of Rs 2.37 lakh crore in April this year.

In June, gross revenues from domestic transactions rose 4.6 per cent to about Rs 1.38 lakh crore, while GST revenue from imports grew 11.4 per cent to Rs 45,690 crore.

The gross Central GST revenues stood at Rs 34,558 crore, State GST revenues at Rs 43,268 crore and Integrated GST at about Rs 93,280 lakh crore in June. Revenues from Cess were Rs 13,491 crore.

Meanwhile, total refunds during the month rose by 28.4 per cent to Rs 25,491 crore.

The net GST mop-up stood at about Rs 1.59 lakh crore, registering a 3.3 per cent year-on-year growth.

Looking at the numbers on a month-on-month basis, the net GST collections of June this year have shown a reduction of



8.48 per cent, with collections from the domestic market and imports showing a fall, Karthik Mani, Partner, Indirect Tax, BDO India, said.

Coming on the 8th anniversary of the introduction of GST, it is hoped that such muted growth in collection on a year-on-year basis is just an aberration and GST collections would be back to the usual growth trajectory in the coming months, he added.

While large states like Maharashtra, West Bengal, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu have reported collection increases of 4 to 8 per cent, other states like Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Gujarat reported contraction between 1 and 4 per cent.

Some states like Haryana, Bihar and Jharkhand have shown median increases of 10 per cent.

According to Vivek Jalan, Partner, Tax Connect Advisory, after two successive months of Rs 2 lakh crore plus GST revenues and double-digit growth, Rs 1.85 lakh crore collections in June 2025 seem a little dampening.

EIGHT YEARS OF GST IN J&K; A Journey Of Economic Integration And Growth

Observer News Service

JAMMU- The Goods and Services Tax (GST), introduced across India on July 1, 2017, marked a transformative shift in the country's indirect tax regime, replacing a complex web of central and state taxes with a unified, consumption-based tax system.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the implementation of GST faced distinct challenges but has since played a pivotal role in fostering economic integration and growth.

Unlike other states, J&K required specific legislative measures to adopt the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) laws. The state legislature passed the Jammu and Kashmir Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (Act No. V of 2017) on July 7, 2017, with the law coming into effect on July 8, 2017.

Over the past eight years, GST has significantly reshaped J&K's economic landscape, aligning it with the national market and fostering growth in several areas. In year 2017-18, only 72,000 dealers were registered under GST in entire Jammu and Kashmir. However, currently over 2,20 lakh dealers are registered with the department out of which 114,475 dealers are registered Jammu division only with 80,403 are active.

In Jammu division, 82,76 new taxpayers registered with the department in year 2024-25 due to massive outreach awareness and campaign.

The revenue growth also shown a promising progress as the estimated monthly revenue collection of Jammu and Kashmir was around 200 crores with collection of Rs 2402.22 in year 2017-18. The monthly revenue

of Jammu and Kashmir is now raised to Rs 723 crores with collection of Rs 8673.81 GST in year 2024-25, which is a trend that has continued with improvements in tax collection efficiency.

The GST also provided Economic Integration of J&K into India's unified tax regime, reducing tax barriers and enabling seamless trade with other states. The removal of multiple indirect taxes has simplified compliance for businesses, allowing them to claim input tax credits and reduce the tax burden on final products.

The introduction of GST Suvidha Kendras and e-way bill systems has further enhanced compliance efficiency. The State Taxes Department, supported by the National Informatics Centre, has developed digital platforms to assist taxpayers in filing returns and obtaining registrations.

As J&K marks eight years of GST, the focus is on further enhancing compliance, expanding the tax base and leveraging technology. The State Taxes Department's ongoing efforts to improve digital infrastructure, coupled with initiatives like GST Suvidha Kendras, aim to make tax administration more accessible.

The region's transition to Union Territory status has also opened opportunities for deeper integration with national economic policies, potentially attracting more investment.

On completing 8 years of GST in J&K, Commissioner State Taxes, P K Bhat commended the efforts of officers and officials of the department for their dedication, resilience, and innovative spirit to ensure smooth tax administration in Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring robust revenue collection while fostering a taxpayer-friendly environment.

Cabinet Approves Rs 1.07 Lakh Cr Employment Linked Incentive Scheme To Create 3.5 Cr Jobs In 2 Years

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The central government on Tuesday approved an Employment Linked Incentive scheme with an outlay of Rs 1.07 lakh crore to create 3.5 crore jobs over the next two years through social security schemes run by the retirement fund body EPFO.

The ELI scheme to support job generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with special focus on the manufacturing sector, was approved by the Union Cabinet in a meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The scheme aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs in the country over two years, an official statement said.

The scheme will provide incentives to employees as well as employers to boost job creation.

Under the scheme, while the first-time employees will get one month's wage (up to Rs 15,000), the employers will be given incentives for a period of two years for generating additional employment, with extended benefits for another two years for the manufacturing sector.

The ELI scheme was announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 as part of the package of five schemes to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth with a total budget outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore.

The ELI scheme aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs in the country over a period of 2 years, it stated.

Out of these, 1.92 crore beneficiaries will be first timers, entering the workforce. The benefits of the scheme would be applicable to jobs created between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2027.



The plan consists of two parts, with Part A focused on first timers (employees) and Part B focused on employers.

Targeting first-time employees registered with EPFO, this Part A will offer a one-month wage up to Rs 15,000 in two instalments.

Employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh will be eligible. The first instalment will be payable after 6 months of service, and the second instalment after 12 months of service and completion of a financial literacy programme by the employee.

"To encourage the habit of saving, a portion of the incentive will be kept in a savings instrument or deposit account for a fixed period and can be withdrawn by the employee at a later date. Part A will benefit around 1.92 crore first-time employees," the statement said.

Part B of the scheme will cover the generation of additional employment in all sectors, with a special focus on the manufacturing sector.

The employers will get incentives with respect to employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh.

The government will incentivise employers, up to Rs 3,000 per month, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months. For the manufacturing sector, incentives will be

extended to the 3rd and 4th years as well.

Establishments, which are registered with EPFO, will be required to hire at least two additional employees (for employers with less than 50 employees) or five additional employees (for employers with 50 or more employees) on a sustained basis for at least six months.

The benefit to the employer (per additional employment per month) will be up to Rs 1,000 for employees with a monthly wage of Rs 10,000, while this will be Rs 2,000 for employees with wages of more than Rs 10,000 and up to Rs 20,000.

Employees with wages up to Rs 10,000 will get a proportional incentive.

The benefit will be Rs 3,000 per month to the employers for employees with a wage of more than Rs 20,000 (up to a salary of Rs 1 lakh/month).

Part B (for employers) is expected to incentivise employers for the creation of additional employment for nearly 2.60 crore persons.

All payments to the first-time employees under part A of the scheme will be made through the DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode using the Aadhar Bridge Payment System (ABPS).

Payments to employers under Part B will be made directly into their PAN-linked Accounts.



THE ELI SCHEME AIMS TO INCENTIVISE the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs in the country over a period of 2 years, it stated.

Rs 2000 Notes Worth Rs 6 099 Cr Still In Circulation: RBI

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The high-value Rs 2000 notes worth Rs 6,099 crore are still in circulation even after two years of the Reserve Bank withdrawing the currency, according to official data released on Tuesday.

Rs 2000 banknotes continue to be legal tender.

On May 19, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the withdrawal of Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation.

In a statement, the RBI said the total value of Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation, which was Rs 3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of Rs 2000 banknotes was announced, has declined to Rs 6,099 crore at the close of business on June 30, 2025.

"Thus, 98.29 per cent of the



Rs 2000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, have since been returned," the central bank said.

The facility for deposit and/or exchange of such banknotes was available at all bank branches till October 7, 2023. However, this facility is still available at the 19 issue offices of the Reserve Bank.

Since October 9, 2023, the

RBI issue offices are also accepting Rs 2000 banknotes from individuals and entities for deposit into their bank accounts.

Further, people can also send Rs 2000 banknotes through India Post from any post office within the country to any of the RBI issue offices for credit to their bank accounts.

CS Discusses Industry-Driven 'Hub & Spoke Model' For ITI Modernization With Stakeholders

Observer News Service

JAMMU- In a significant move aimed at transforming the skilling ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting with key government functionaries and prominent industry representatives to deliberate on implementation of the Government of India's flagship scheme for modernization of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) through a hub and spoke model.

The meeting witnessed participation from Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education; Principal Secretary, Finance; CMD, J&K Bank; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD); Director General, Budget; Directors of SDD and I&C (Jammu/Kashmir) and senior representatives from leading public and private sector enterprises including SIDBI, NHPC, TCS, IOCL, HPCL, BPCL, CVVPL, NHAI and others.

The deliberations revolved around the ways and means of implementing the newly launched Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled 'National Scheme for ITI Upgradation and Setting up of National Centres of Excellence (NCOE) for Skilling', which carries a massive outlay of ₹60,000 crore, comprising Central share of ₹30,000 crore, State share of ₹20,000 crore and Industry/CSR contribution of ₹10,000 crore.

Addressing the participants, the Chief Secretary emphasized that the success of this ambitious skilling initiative hinges on a robust public-private partnership.



He sought candid inputs from all participants on how best to implement the scheme in the UT to ensure that the youth of J&K are trained with market-relevant skills that make them employable and industry-ready.

He called upon the industry stakeholders to actively adopt and take ownership of hub-and-spoke clusters by aligning them with real-time industrial demands. "You can play a pivotal role not only in shaping the curriculum and upgrading infrastructure but also in nurturing these institutions on professional lines," he told the industry leaders, urging them to sign MoUs for formalizing their commitment under the scheme.

Dulloo further instructed the Skill Development Department to explore potential partnerships with leading PSUs and industrial conglomerates across the country, tapping into their CSR initiatives and technological expertise.

Speaking during the meeting, ACS, Higher Education, Shantmanu encouraged the stakeholders not to be deterred by challenges. He urged for innovative engagement models and suggested leveraging every possible channel for training, mentoring, and eventual placement of youth over time.

JKEDI Trains 117 Entrepreneurs, Including 93 Women Under RAMP Scheme

Management Development Programs conclude in 6 districts



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) has successfully concluded a series of Management Development Programs (MDPs) across six districts under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme.

The initiative is funded by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, and implemented in the Union Territory by the Industries and Commerce Department, J&K.

The training programs, which commenced on June 24, 2025, were held simultaneously in Doda, Jammu, Kulgam, Ramban, Srinagar, and Udhampur. A total of 117 aspiring and existing entrepreneurs, including 93 women, participated in the six-day, 30-hour comprehensive training. The strong representation of women highlights a positive trend toward gender

inclusivity in the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The MDPs focused on enhancing the managerial, financial, and strategic skills of participants, aiming to help them scale operations, boost competitiveness, and build sustainable enterprises. The curriculum, meticulously developed by subject matter experts, featured modules on business planning, marketing strategies, digital tools, financial literacy, legal compliance, innovation, and leadership.

To provide practical exposure, the programs also included field visits to successful business ventures, interactive sessions with sector specialists, and mentorship opportunities. Experts from District Industries Centres (DICs) and the Labour and Employment Department shared insights with participants, helping them align their ventures with current industry practices.

All Aboard! Railone App Launched As One-Stop Solution For Passenger Services

Press Trust Of India

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched on Tuesday the RailOne mobile application, which can help passengers get easy access to multiple services such as ticket booking, train and PNR enquiry, journey planning, rail help services and meal booking. Vaishnaw inaugurated the app, available on both Android Play Store and iOS App Store platforms, at the 40th Foundation Day celebrations of the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS).

"RailOne App is a one-stop solution for all passenger needs. Through this app, passengers get easy access to the following services: Ticketing — reserved, unreserved, platform tickets; train and PNR enquiry; journey planning; rail help services; meal booking in train," a press note from the Railway Ministry said. "Additionally, facilities for enquiry related to freight are also available," it said.

Highlighting the basic objective of the app, the ministry said that it will provide a better experience to the users, realised through a simple and clear user interface.

"It not only houses all the services in one place but also provides integrated connectivity between services, giving the user a holistic package of Indian Railways services," the ministry said.

Maruti, Hyundai See Double-Digit Fall In June Sales Amid Demand Slowdown

Press Trust Of India

Automakers Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai Motor India reported a double-digit drop in vehicle dispatches in July amid a demand slowdown in the domestic market.

Mahindra & Mahindra saw an increase in dispatches to dealers last month, while Tata Motors witnessed a dip compared to June last year.

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki said its total domestic passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers dipped 13 per cent to 1,18,906 units last month compared to 1,37,160 units in the year-ago period.

Sales of mini-segment cars Alto and S-Presso declined to 6,414 units against 9,395 units in the same month last year.

Sales of compact cars, including Baleno, Celerio, Dzire, Ignis, Swift, and WagonR, also fell to 54,177 units from 64,049 units in June 2024. Utility vehicles Grand Vitara, Brezza, Ertiga, XL6, and Jimny clocked sales of 47,947 units last month compared to 52,373 units earlier.

"The slowdown in passenger vehicle sales is largely due to a sharp decline in the smaller segment cars. Historically, passenger vehicle sales used to grow at 1.5 times the GDP growth. But now, even after 6.5 per cent GDP growth, the car market is nearly flat," MSI Senior Executive Officer Rahul Bharti said.

Stock Markets Close Higher On Buying In Reliance, HDFC Bank

Press Trust Of India

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed higher in a range-bound trade on Tuesday, helped by gains in index heavyweight Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 90.83 points or 0.11 per cent to settle at 83,697.29 with 13 of its constituents closing higher and 17 in the red. During the day, it rallied 267.83 points or 0.32 per cent to 83,874.29. The 50-share NSE Nifty gained 24.75 points or 0.10 per cent to close at 25,541.80.

Among Sensex firms, Bharat Electronics was the lead gainer, rising by 2.51 per cent after the company announced securing orders worth Rs 528 crore.

Reliance Industries advanced 1.84 per cent as analysts expressed optimism over the launch of a solar manufacturing facility. Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra Bank and HDFC Bank were also among the major gainers. Axis Bank, Trent, Eternal and Tech Mahindra were among the laggards.

"Markets traded lacklustre and ended almost unchanged, taking a breather after Monday's decline. Following an initial uptick, the Nifty moved in a narrow range and eventually settled at 25,541.80. Buoyancy in global markets—especially the US—along with stable domestic cues suggests that the prevailing trend is likely to continue," Ajit Mishra — SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Gold Snaps 7-Day Losing Streak; Rallies Rs 1,200 To Rs 98,670/10 G

Press Trust Of India

Cutting short the seven-day losing streak, gold prices rebounded by Rs 1,200 to Rs 98,670 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday due to fresh buying by stockists in line with strong global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at Rs 97,470 per 10 grams on Monday.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity climbed by Rs 1,100 to Rs 98,150 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday. It had closed at Rs 97,050 per 10 grams in the previous market close.

"A retreat in the US dollar, driven by concerns over the ballooning US fiscal deficit and the market's focus on President Donald Trump's proposed tax-cutting and spending bill, has made gold more attractive," Abans Financial Services' Chief Executive Officer Chintan Mehta said.

President Donald Trump has also threatened new tariffs on Japan ahead of the July 9 deadline for the implementation of reciprocal tariff. These shifts are helping non-yielding assets like gold hold up, especially with inflation expectations still running high, Mehta added.

In addition, silver prices rallied by Rs 2,000 to Rs 1,04,800 per kilograms (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday. The white metal had finished at Rs 1,02,800 per kg on Monday.



CS Reviews Final Arrangements For Amarnath Yatra 2025

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Ahead of commencement of the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra from July 3, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo undertook a comprehensive visit to Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu to take stock of the final arrangements being made by various departments for smooth and secure conduct of the pilgrimage.

Accompanied by the senior civil and police officers, the Chief Secretary inspected all key facilities at the Yatri Niwas, one of the pivotal base camps in Jammu for the devotees.

Those present during the visit included Divisional Commissioner Jammu; IGP, Jammu; IG, Traffic; Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; SSP Traffic (City); Commissioner, JMC; MD, JPDCI; Director, Information; Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti and PWD besides representatives from various security agencies and other concerned departments.

During his walkthrough of the facility, the Chief Secretary took a detailed assessment of the arrangements ranging from accommodation, sanitation and power supply to security and registration counters. He asked for increasing the number of registration counters to ease the process for the incoming pilgrims and minimize waiting times.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed functioning of the dedicated control room set up to monitor yatra-related activities round-the-clock.

Highlighting the significance of seamless inter-departmental coordination, he later chaired a high-level meeting of officers. He stressed the importance of ensuring a glitch-free and safe

experience for the pilgrims during the entire 38-day yatra period. He expressed satisfaction over the meticulous efforts of all the departments. He expressed confidence that the arrangements would offer pilgrims a comfortable and spiritually enriching journey.

Dulloo remarked that every department has worked with utmost dedication to create a conducive environment for the pilgrims. He further observed that our goal is not only to ensure their safety and comfort but also to leave them with a memorable experience that they can carry home with joy.

He also directed the Information Department to run a targeted communication campaign across the social and mass media platforms to provide real-time updates on weather, traffic and yatra advisories. The campaign will also help allay any doubts or apprehensions among the devotees and encourage confident participation in the sacred pilgrimage.

Earlier, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar briefed the Chief Secretary about the upgraded infrastructure and support services put in place this year. He informed that boarding, lodging, power, water supply, sanitation and fire safety services have been significantly enhanced compared to previous years.

IGP, Jammu, Bhim Sen Tuti, also gave a comprehensive overview of the multi-layered security grid and traffic management plan developed in coordination with other security forces. He assured that all necessary measures have been taken to ensure a safe, peaceful and well-regulated yatra this year as well.

Spiritual Fervour Grips J&K Ahead Of Amarnath Yatra: LG Sinha



Observer News Service

JAMMU: As the annual Amarnath Yatra begins, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the Jammu and Kashmir is gripped with spiritual fervour and fully prepared to welcome devotees of Baba Barfani arriving from across the country.

"Entire J&K is experiencing spiritual bliss on the eve of the holy pilgrimage. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are prepared with open hearts to receive the devotees coming from all parts of India," the Lieutenant Governor said in his address to pilgrims and citizens.

He praised the preparations for the yatra and lauded the Amarnath Shrine Board for its dedicated service. "The Shrine Board has performed its duties very well for the pilgrims. Since 2022, facilities for pilgrims have significantly improved," he said. The LG also announced that the Yatri Niwas at Baltal will be dedicated to pilgrims on July 4.

Participating in the 'Tawi Aarti' at the Tawi Riverfront in Jammu, the LG sought the blessings of Suryaputri River Tawi and Baba Barfani for a peaceful, blessed, and memorable pilgrimage. He said, "May Lord Shiva bless everyone with health, happiness and harmony."

He extended his felicitations to the Jammu Municipal Corporation, Department of Tourism, Jammu Smart City Limited, and Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council for organising the Aarti and emphasized making it a regular

spiritual event.

Highlighting the personal significance of his role, the LG remarked, "For me, the responsibility of J&K is not just an administrative assignment. It is an opportunity to restore the ancient glory of Jammu and Kashmir—an opportunity to rebuild this sacred land."

Reflecting on the transformation of the Union Territory, Sinha said, "After decades of darkness, J&K in 2019 leaped towards regaining its dignity, pride, and spiritual peak. It has got new wings in the last five years. The light of upliftment is dispelling darkness. Citizens are full of self-confidence, and the river of progress is flowing uninterrupted."

He reiterated his commitment to inclusive development and the revival of the region's rich cultural and spiritual legacy. "I have tried to recreate the grandeur of Jammu and Kashmir like the sacred temple. I have tried to restore the lost image of this holy land," he said.

Using poetic imagery, he added, "There is the song of God in the heartbeat of Jammu. The truth of life shines in the city's consciousness. The relationship between Jammu and spirituality is eternal. The city has always been in search of truth and it is blessed by divine energy."

The LG also saluted the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their enthusiastic participation in the development journey. "I am proud of the rapid pace at which Jammu Division and Kashmir Division have developed in the last five

years. Common citizens and intellectuals are engaged in this transformation, which is highly commendable," he said.

Expressing his unwavering faith in the spirit of the yatri, he stated, "The world's eyes are on this Yatra. The devotees' resolve is unshakeable; no threats can deter their spirit. With the cooperation and support of everyone, this year's Yatra will be even more historic than previous years."

The Lieutenant Governor urged civil society members and citizens to join the flag-off ceremony of the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 at Yatri Niwas on Tuesday morning. He also called on the media to help raise awareness about travelling in designated convoys for the safety of all pilgrims.

The Tawi Aarti event was attended by a large number of dignitaries and citizens including Bharat Bhushan, Chairman DDC Jammu; Ms. Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary H&UDD; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Devansh Yadav, CEO Jammu Smart City Ltd; Rajesh Gupta, Chairman Shri Raghunathji Corridor Vikas Council; members of religious and business associations, civil society, Acharyas, Archakas, MLAs, administrative secretaries, and officers from civil and police administration.

The Amarnath Yatra remains one of India's most revered pilgrimages, drawing lakhs of devotees annually to the Himalayan shrine of Lord Shiva nestled in South Kashmir.

“THE WORLD’S EYES ARE ON THIS YATRA. The devotees' resolve is unshakeable; no threats can deter their spirit.” — LG Manoj Sinha

Sakeena Itoo Felicitates NEET Achievers From Govt Institutions



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo felicitated champion students from various Government Institutions of Kashmir valley who have excelled in the prestigious JEE and NEET examinations this year.

Principal Secretary, School Education department, Ram Niwas Sharma; Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Secretary JKBOS, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh; Principals, CEOs, faculty members, NEER/JEE achievers, parents and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo lauded the hard work and perseverance of the students and acknowledged the crucial role played by government school teachers in nurturing talent from the grassroots. "These young achievers are not only a source of pride for their families but

also a beacon of hope for the entire region. Their success proves that with dedication and access to quality education, anything is possible", Minister Sakeena stated.

She emphasized on the need for continued academic mentorship of government school going children, especially from rural and underprivileged backgrounds to ensure equal opportunities for all.

While appreciating the JEE/NEET achievers, the Minister advised them to take this success forward with your near and dear ones as well as fellow classmates so that they can get inspiration from your success. She also appreciated the teachers and parents of achievers for their contribution in the success of these students.

The Minister on the occasion, also called upon the department to conduct regular capacity building programmes for the teachers as per the demand and evolving needs of the education system.

Addressing the gathering,

Principal Secretary, School Education department congratulated the achievers for their remarkable success in JEE/NEET exams. He advised the students to be the flag bearers of inspiration for the young school going students.

In his welcome address, Director School Education Kashmir lauded the hard work and determination of the achievers, emphasizing that their success is a testament to the improving quality of education in government schools.

He also acknowledged the dedication of teachers and the various support programs launched by the department to bridge the educational gap and promote competitive exam preparation among underprivileged students.

The Minister, on the occasion, also distributed tablets among the achievers for their remarkable achievements. Several teachers, nodal officers and other staff was also felicitated by the Minister on the occasion.



Deputy CM Reviews SANJY Arrangements Via Baltal Axis

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary conducted an extensive visit to Baltal to assess the arrangements being put in place for smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra (SANJY)-2025 via Baltal axis.

The Deputy CM chaired a high-level meeting at JKTDC Sonamarg and was briefed by the district administration and concerned departments regarding the measures being taken to ensure the safety, comfort and smooth movement of the pilgrims.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister held a detailed department-wise review of the Yatra arrangements at the Baltal Base Camp and along the Yatra route. Expressing satisfaction over the ongoing preparations, he commended the district administration and all line departments for their timely efforts in making adequate arrangements well in advance.

While interacting with the officers, the Deputy CM emphasized the importance of teamwork and inter-departmental coordination. "The departments are the face of the government on the ground and we must work together to ensure a safe and successful Yatra," he said. He further

stated that the successful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra would send a positive message across the country and serve as a milestone in reviving tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the significance of the Yatra, he said, "This is not just a pilgrimage; it is a major festival for the entire Union Territory. Devotees from all corners of the country will visit and it is our collective responsibility to welcome and facilitate them in the best possible manner."

The Deputy Chief Minister also commended the BRO for their significant contribution in development and maintenance of the Yatra track from Domail to the Holy Cave, which plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and accessibility for the pilgrims. He also urged all the departments to remain proactive and ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place, with a special focus on safety, sanitation, healthcare, traffic management and other essential services.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority, Bilal Mukhtar; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan; Executive Engineers from various engineering wings and other senior officers from the district administration.

Kathua Admin Welcomes First Batch Of Amarnath Yatris

Observer News Service

KATHUA: With chants of "Bam Bam Bhole" and "Jai Baba Barfani" echoing in the air, the District Administration Kathua extended a heartfelt and vibrant welcome to the first batch of AmarnathYatris at Lakhanpur—the traditional gateway to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Lakhanpur, transformed into a dynamic and spiritually charged facilitation centre, witnessed an exuberant reception early this morning. The pilgrims were greeted with traditional warmth and devotion by DDC Chairman Col. (Retd) Mahan Singh, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr. Rakesh Minhas, SSP Kathua Shobhit Sexena, Vice Chairman DDC Raghunandan Singh, MLA Kathua Dr Bharat Bhushan, ADC Vishavjeet Singh (Yatra Nodal Officer) and senior civil and police officers.

To ensure smooth facilitation, 12 RFID counters were operational on-site for issuing RFID tags after eKYC verification, a mandatory step for registered yatris before continuing their onward journey. The arrangements saw enthusiastic cooperation and timely processing, reflecting the administration's commitment to efficiency and pilgrim-centric services.

Before departing from Lakhanpur at 12:30 PM, the yatris were immersed in soul-stirring devotional performances—featuring Shiv Tandav stotras and bhajans—curated by artists from the District Information Centre Kathua. The spiritual ambiance energized the devotees, setting a powerful tone for their sacred journey ahead.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC welcomed the pilgrims with open arms, reaffirming the district's full preparedness to provide a safe, seamless and spiritually uplifting experience. He informed that dedicated helplines, service desks, medical aid points and sanitation facilities have been set up as part of a coordinated multi-agency Yatra support framework.

This year, Kathua District has gone the extra mile to turn the Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre into a symbol of hospitality, devotion, and administrative excellence, ensuring that every pilgrim receives not just logistical support, but also emotional and cultural enrichment.

Later, the Jatha was formally flagged off from Lakhanpur amidst chants of devotion and spirited farewells by the district officers, marking the symbolic commencement of this year's pilgrimage. The Jatha of yatris with proper security will now proceed to the Jammu Base Camp, where the formal commencement of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 is scheduled for July 2.

MUHARRAM 2025

Div Com, IGP Kashmir Hold Meeting With Shia Associations



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Vijay K Birdhi held a meeting with the representatives of various Shia associations to execute smooth & peaceful observance of Muharram.

Besides DIG, Kashmir, Rajiv Pandey, the meeting was attended by DC Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Commissioner SMC Faz Lul Haseeb, SSP Srinagar and other officers from civil administration and police.

The representatives of various associations included President, All J&K Shia Association Darul

Jawad Qamarwari, President, All J&K Anjuman Sharia Shian Darul Mustafa Budgam, President, All J&K Anjuman Sharia Shian Yusuf Abad Budgam and Yaadgar-i-Hussaini Committee Guru Bazar Srinagar.

During the meeting, community leaders were urged to exhibit responsible behavior, adhere to time schedules strictly for public convenience & traffic management and to augment strength of volunteers to facilitate mourners during the processions.

Div Com emphasized for close coordination between administration and leaders of associations to ensure smooth & peaceful observance of Muharram.

MD JJM Urges Faster Execution Of Water Supply Schemes

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Mission Director (MD), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah embarked on an extensive tour of Budgam district to inspect various Water Supply Schemes (WSS) in the district.

MD was accompanied by Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Budgam, Shazia Majeed and divisional and sub-divisional officials of the district.

MD inspected WSS Gadsathoo, Sheikh-ul-Alam, Shamas Faqir, Rayar and Arizal Zempora along with officials from PHE Division Budgam and the District Project Management (DPMU) Budgam team.

The visit aimed to review the progress and implementation status of the scheme. Field issues were discussed, and necessary

directions were given for smooth functioning and quality assurance of schemes being constructed under JJM.

MD sought particulars related to each WSS inspected in terms of the villages covered, Functional Household Connections (FHTCs) provided and sustainability of sources selected. It was assured that all works related to JJM will be completed in a time bound manner with assured quantity and quality related to water supply from these schemes once commissioned.

He also reviewed the functioning of Water Testing Labs and sought the details of reagents and number of tests conducted. It was informed that Water Testing through Field Testing kits (FTKs) is being undertaken in villages and schools under Dharti Aaba Abhiyan.

gives life. Imam Hussain's blood was spilled to awaken sleeping souls. Today, blood donation carries on that legacy by preserving life and reminding the world that Hussain's mission was — and remains — about saving humanity."

Umair Ali, one of the donors, shared that donating blood during Muharram is both spiritual and impactful. "It's not just a symbol; it's a living act of devotion. Where Imam Hussain gave his life so others might awaken, we give our blood so others may live."

Another participant, Aijaz Ali, pointed out the practical importance of these initiatives.

"In times when hospitals often face critical blood shortages, these Muharram camps are literally saving lives. They show that remembering Karbala is not just about mourning, but also about compassion, service, and community unity."

The organizers mentioned that the camp was not only a tribute but also a call to embody the spirit of Karbala through action. It encourages transforming grief into generosity and remembrance into relief.

Khanqah-e-Hydari Holds Blood Donation Camp

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: In a heartfelt tribute to the martyrs of Karbala, Khanqah-e-Hydari, along with Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag, organized a blood donation. People from various walks of life took part.

While Khanqah-e-Hydari regularly holds such drives, this camp took place during the holy month of Muharram to honor the legacy of Imam Hussain (A.S.) and his companions. They sacrificed their lives in Karbala for justice, truth, and humanity.

During the event, Dr. Sameer Siddiqui, a patron of Khanqah-e-Hydari, spoke about Imam Hussain's message, which goes beyond sectarian boundaries.

"Imam Hussain did not stand for one group or sect. He stood for all of humanity. Blood donation is seen as a symbolic gesture to honor his martyrdom and that of his companions. Donating blood keeps their memory alive. It's a way to continue their mission of mercy and sacrifice. Blood is a powerful symbol. It

Ashwini Vaishnaw releases RailOne app

“RailOne” - one-stop solution offering multiple public-facing services of Indian Railways

New Delhi: Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw launched a new app of Indian Railways “RailOne” to the general public. He emphasized that RailOne app will provide the convenience to the passengers to book all types of railway tickets and avail other related services through their mobile from any place. He congratulated CRIS for excellent performance and developing future digital roadmap.

Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) celebrated its 40th Foundation Day on 01 July 2025 in India Habitat Center, New Delhi. Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology was the chief guest on the occasion. Shri Satish Kumar, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer and Members of the Railway Board, CMDs of Railway PSUs and other high officials of Railways graced the event.



While addressing the gathering, Shri Vaishnaw said, Indian Railways is driven by PM Narendra Modi's vision of

making it the growth engine of India's Vikas Yatra. Launch of RailOne app reaffirms Bhartiya Rail's commitment to

democratizing technology and delivering world-class mobility to every passenger. He said the railways can quickly transform by focusing on customers and passengers, solve problems by embracing technology, and become a great strength for the country.

About RailOne app
RailOne app is a comprehensive, all-in-one application with a user-friendly interface. The app is available for download on Android Play Store and iOS App Store. It integrates all the passenger services

CRIS released the app to public for Beta test on 31-01-2025. The SuperApp for Indian Railways is a one-stop solution offering multiple public-facing services of Indian Railways. The App offers ease of access for services like Reserved, Unreserved, Platform and Parcel Bookings, Train Enquiry, PNR Enquiry, Help through RailMadad etc. It not only combines all services at one place but also has several

integrations between services to give user a complete package of Indian Railway services.

This app facilitates the user to access multiple services in the app through single-sign-on facility without the necessity of downloading multiple railway applications & remembering several passwords. Once downloaded, the user can use their existing user credentials of RailConnect or UTSonMobile App to register on the RailOne app and the same user credentials will be used on these two existing Applications of Indian Railways. Registration of new users is made easy and fast through minimum user data.

Login has been simplified through provision of numeric mPIN and biometric credentials. One can login as Guest through mobile number/OTP for enquiry purpose only. The existing scheme of R-Wallet (Railway e-wallet) applicable for unreserved tickets has been extended on RailOne for reserved ticket as well.

J&K Govt Warns OICs Against Laxity In Legal Cases

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has issued a circular warning Officer Incharge Litigations (OICs) against “casual and careless” handling of legal cases. The Government noted that many OICs were not following earlier instructions, leading to dismissal

of petitions and serious setbacks to the Government in court.

The circular re-emphasised duties such as timely coordination with legal officers, providing case files without delay, and ensuring replies are filed well before deadlines. Departments have been accordingly told to report any laxity for necessary disciplinary action.

No Interview For Assistant Scientific Officer Posts In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has announced that there will be no oral test or viva-voce for the post of Assistant Scientific Officer (Crime Scene) in the Forensic Science Laboratory (Subordinate Service). As per an order issued by the General Administration Department, the selection will now be based solely on a written test.

The order, issued by the General

Administration Department, states, “In exercise of the powers under the proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution of India, the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is pleased to direct that there shall be no oral test/interview, viva-voce for the post(s) of Assistant Scientific Officer (Crime Scene) in the Jammu and Kashmir Forensic Science Laboratory (Subordinate) Service, carrying Pay Level 6E (35,900–1,13,500).”

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir's June

Qazigund in south Kashmir also recorded its warmest June in over five decades. The town registered an average maximum of 30.3°C and a mean minimum of 16.1°C, pushing the overall monthly average to 23.2°C — the highest since 1973.

Back in 1973, Qazigund had recorded its hottest June on record with an overall average of 23.7°C. In 1978 too, the average matched this year's 23.2°C, although with slightly different temperature splits.

Arif further noted that Qazigund's warmest average minimum for June remains 17.3°C, recorded in 1971, when the overall average temperature was 23.3°C.

The unprecedented rise in average temperatures this June underscores the growing impact of climate variability in the region, which is also seeing frequent and intense heatwaves.

Srinagar Hotter

popular tourist destination Gulmarg relatively cooler at 24.5°C.

In the Jammu region, Banihal recorded 29.6°C, Batote 27.5°C, Katra 26.0°C, and Bhaderwah 31.8°C.

The Meteorological Department (MeT) has forecast hot and humid conditions to persist until July 4, with brief rain or thundershowers likely at scattered places across Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the MeT department, said that from July 5 to July 7, the region will see generally cloudy weather with intermittent light to moderate rainfall at many locations. “A few places in Jammu division may receive intense showers and heavy rainfall, increasing the risk of localized flooding,” he warned.

From July 8 to July 10, brief showers are expected at scattered places, according to the forecast.

The MeT has also issued an advisory warning of flash floods in vulnerable areas between July 5 and July 7, along with the risk of landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones, especially in hilly terrain.

“People living near streams, rivers, or landslide-prone zones should remain alert. A rise in water levels in rivers, local Nalas, and the possibility of water logging in low-lying areas is expected,” the advisory said.

The unexpected shift — with Kashmir hotter than Jammu — comes amid ongoing discussions around changing weather patterns and the region's vulnerability to extreme events.

Heavy rain likely

in large parts of the northeast, many areas of eastern India and extreme southern peninsular India.

IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said during an online press briefing that there is a high chance of heavy rainfall in central India and the adjoining southern peninsula.

This includes east Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, adjoining areas of Vidarbha and Telangana and parts of Gujarat and Maharashtra.

“We should monitor the catchment areas of rivers such as the Godavari, Mahanadi and Krishna. Our models show a high probability of above-normal rainfall in the upper Mahanadi catchment, which includes Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. There are several other rivers in the region. We must closely watch rainfall activity and the water levels in reservoirs,” he said.

He added that good rainfall is also expected in Uttarakhand and Haryana.

“This region includes several cities and towns, including Delhi. Many south-flowing rivers originate in Uttarakhand. We must take

precautions for all these river catchments, cities and towns,” Mohapatra said.

GST Landmark Reform

digitising tax systems. It has also expanded the taxpayer base and strengthened cooperative federalism, the government has said.

The gross GST collections in the first year of operation (nine months) were Rs 7.40 lakh crore. Over the years, it has witnessed exponential growth, it said.

In 2024-25, gross GST collections hit a record Rs 22.08 lakh crore, marking a year-on-year growth of 9.4 per cent. This rise reflects the growing formalisation of the economy and improved tax compliance.

Annual GST revenues nearly tripled, rising from Rs 7 lakh crore in FY 2017-18 to Rs 22 lakh crore in FY 2024-25, the finance ministry has said.

Amarnath Yatra Set

Anantnag and the shorter but steeper 14-kilometre Baltal route in Ganderbal. The pilgrimage will conclude on August 9.

A top official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that LG Sinha will flag off the first convoy of pilgrims at 4:00 am on July 2 for the Baltal route, followed by another convoy at 4:30 am for the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

The pilgrims will be escorted by a robust security convoy along the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) to ensure their safety.

More than 3.31 lakh devotees have registered for this year's yatra so far, officials said. On-the-spot registration has also begun at Jammu, with nearly 4,000 tokens distributed over the last two days. Over 3,500 pilgrims are currently staying at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

Reviewing the final arrangements on Tuesday evening, LG Sinha said, “I have witnessed the last four yatras, and from the perspective of pilgrims and facilities, the arrangements this time are better than before. From the security point of view as well, the forces have made foolproof arrangements,” Sinha told reporters during his visit to the base camp on Tuesday evening.

The LG was greeted by enthusiastic devotees chanting “Bum Bum Bhole”, “Har Har Mahadev”, and “Baba Barfani Ki Jai” as the atmosphere at the base camp turned devotional. He interacted with the pilgrims, who expressed satisfaction with the arrangements.

“Considering the way devotees are pouring in from across the country, I hope the numbers will increase in the coming days,” he said, adding that more than 5,000 pilgrims have already arrived in Jammu.

Seeking the support of the people of Jammu and the wider region, Sinha said, “I seek the support and cooperation of the media and every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir. This yatra belongs to everyone. It is not just the responsibility of the administration or security forces.”

The LG, who also chairs the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB), chaired a high-level meeting earlier to assess preparedness. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo also reviewed arrangements at the base camp and confirmed that all required facilities, including medical aid, transportation, and security, are in place.

Authorities have implemented a robust security plan with a multi-tiered grid, CCTV surveillance, and daily traffic advisories. The Security Wing of J&K Police has taken charge of the

Bhagwati Nagar base camp, while CRPF is managing perimeter security. Traffic restrictions will remain in place along the Jammu-Srinagar highway from July 2 to August 9, with designated cut-off timings and sector-wise monitoring.

The Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas serves as the primary transit point for pilgrims arriving from across India before heading to the shrine nestled in the Himalayas.

LG Stresses

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP J-K Nalin Prabhat and other senior officers from the police and civil administration, and senior officials of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB), an official spokesman said.

Sinha directed the officials to spread the traffic advisory widely so that common man is not inconvenienced during the 38-day pilgrimage that starts on Thursday.

The lieutenant governor took a comprehensive review of the traffic and security management and all the arrangements in place by the stakeholder departments for the smooth, safe and hassle-free holy pilgrimage, the spokesperson said.

District administrations, SSPs, traffic police and stakeholder departments should work in close coordination to ensure movement of pilgrims in designated convoys and smooth implementation of the traffic plan, the LG said.

Sinha directed the deputy commissioners to ensure that lodgement centres and sanitation units are in good condition. (PTI)

Yatra Gets Tight

systems and K-9 squads, with vulnerable areas like Udhampur and Ramban receiving heightened focus.

Meanwhile, BSF personnel are on high alert along the 200-km International Border from Akhnora to Kathua. The area is under a three-tier security mechanism involving the BSF, Army, and local police to pre-empt cross-border threats.

A key safety feature introduced this year is the mandatory RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) tracking for all pilgrims, allowing real-time monitoring of their movement. This is expected to enhance response time in case of emergencies.

Joint mock drills, including landslide preparedness exercises, were recently conducted in Udhampur and Pahalgam to test coordination among the forces and ensure operational readiness.

Due to security and logistical constraints, helicopter services for the yatra will not be available this year. Authorities have strongly advised all pilgrims, including those traveling in private vehicles, to move only with official convoys.

To ensure the smooth passage of yatra vehicles, the Traffic Police have enforced a detailed traffic management plan effective from July 2 to August 9. Certain routes in Jammu city and along the highway will be temporarily closed or diverted to prioritize pilgrim convoys. The public has been urged to cooperate and adhere to the traffic advisories issued.

With over 50,000 security personnel deployed and multiple agencies working in coordination, the administration is confident that this year's 38-day pilgrimage will proceed without incident.

LG Directs Officials

families whose loved ones were brutally murdered. Those responsible cannot be allowed to continue working in government offices,” Sinha said, according to officials present in the meeting.

He instructed Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police to take urgent action in freeing land and property of terror victim families that may have been illegally grabbed by terrorists or their sympathisers.

The Lieutenant Governor also directed officials to extend financial assistance under the MUDRA scheme and ensure handholding support for families wishing to start self-employment ventures.

In a major administrative step, Sinha announced the establishment of a Special Cell at the LG Secretariat dedicated to handling grievances of terror victim families. He also asked the Chief Secretary to set up a similar unit in his office, along with notifying a toll-free helpline to assist affected families.

“Every possible assistance will be extended to terror victim families, and culprits who have roamed free for decades will be brought to justice,” Sinha said.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat, senior civil and police officials, and representatives from the Home, Finance, and Jal Shakti departments, among others.

The Long Goodbye

them to stay on temporary residential permits, which were extended several times. The couple hoped to reclaim their Indian citizenship based on their Kashmiri roots, but their applications went unanswered.

By the end of 1988, their stay permissions expired, and the government issued deportation orders.

For the next 35 years, those orders remained unenforced, paused by a court's interim stay in 1990 after the couple challenged their deportation.

The Qazis argued that their ties to Kashmir were undeniable.

Mohammad Khalil's family had owned land in Srinagar, and his grandfather had held a permanent resident certificate. Arifa was born in the city and had traveled abroad on an Indian passport.

But the key fact that shaped the court's decision was their Pakistani citizenship, which they had both acquired — Arifa through marriage and Mohammad Khalil long before their return.

The High Court, led by Justice Sindhu Sharma, has now pointed to Section 9 of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

The law makes it clear: when an Indian citizen voluntarily becomes a citizen of another country, Indian citizenship is automatically lost.

The court found no evidence that the couple's efforts to reclaim Indian citizenship had ever been formally approved.

“They are staying in India on the strength of Pakistani passports,” the court noted. “There is nothing on record to suggest that their request for grant of citizenship of India has been accepted.”

The court reviewed several communications the couple had sent to Indian authorities over the years, including a letter to the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir in 1989.

But these attempts, the court said, did not amount to a formal citizenship process. Their passports, the court concluded, were proof enough that they remained Pakistani citizens.

The decision also leaned on earlier Supreme Court rulings, which affirmed that acquiring foreign citizenship automatically ends Indian citizenship.

In one recent case, the court noted that a child born to parents who had obtained citizenship elsewhere could not claim Indian citizenship by birth.

In the Qazi case, the judges said

that both husband and wife had acted by choice in acquiring and retaining Pakistani nationality. Their long stay in Srinagar was based on temporary permits that had long since expired.

The ruling has drawn attention in Kashmir, where borders, identity, and belonging are deeply personal.

The region has seen many families split across countries since 1947, and cases like this are often viewed through a humanitarian lens.

For the Qazi family, the judgment marks the end of a decades-long wait.

After spending most of their adult lives in Srinagar, they now face the prospect of leaving the city where their story began.

Couple Residing

their favour are cogent, unequivocal evidence of the fact that the petitioners are not citizens of India and, as such, orders to deport them were valid,” A Bench of Justice Sindhu Sharma said in a judgment passed last month.

“The petitioners have not placed on record any documentary proof of the fact that they had applied for the citizenship in terms of the Citizenship Act or Rules,” the court said, adding, “There is thus, clear evidence to explain the fact that the petitioners on the strength of passport of Pakistan and Visa, permission were granted to them to visit India.”

The court said that there is nothing on record to suggest that their request for grant of citizenship of India has been accepted. “They are staying in India on the strength of Pakistani passports, the period of which has expired and after expiry of the extension of their stay they had to return to their country,” the court said, adding, “The petitioners are residing in Srinagar since 1988 and during this period they have not placed anything on record to show that they are citizens of this Country.”

Referring to of the Citizenship Act of 1955, the court noted that in terms of legislation's Section 9(1), “a citizen who voluntarily acquires citizenship of another country after commencement of the 1955 Act or between 26th January, 1950 and date of commencement of the 1955 Act, upon such acquisition, such citizenship automatically cease to be citizen of India.”

“Petitioner No. 1 (Mohd Khalil Qazi) ceased to be a citizen of India as he migrated to Pakistan and is a citizen of Pakistan. Petitioner No. 2 (Arifa Qazi) has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of Pakistan after her marriage and their son is a citizen of Pakistan by birth,” the court said, adding, “Therefore, immediately upon acquiring the citizenship of Pakistan, they cease to be citizens of India. Thus, voluntary acquisition of citizenship of another country by an Indian citizen results in the termination of his Indian citizenship.”

DDC Member

complainant claimed he was pressured through an orchestrated official inspection intended to create false grounds for the bribe demand.

As per the complaint, the accused also demanded an initial payment of 50,000 along with a blank signed cheque as part of the deal.

The ACB said it carried out discreet verification of the allegations, which confirmed the authenticity of the complaint. “The verification clearly established the demand of bribe by the public representative through his tout,” the statement read.

Subsequently, a formal case was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar, and further investigation into the matter is underway.

How A School

questioned the school's right to

operate on the land, despite its verified ownership and proper construction approvals. The school's clearances had been in place for years.

The men's demands became more direct in the months leading up to the arrest. According to Dr. Mushtaq, they requested ₹50,000 to allow the school to continue operating without interference.

The ACB's investigation later confirmed that the DDC member had asked for an initial payment of ₹50,000 and a blank signed cheque when he was arrested.

The ACB's official statement described the bribe demand as a clear case of public office abuse and confirmed that the Bureau had been monitoring the situation based on Dr. Mushtaq's complaint.

The school has now secured a court order preventing the accused from interfering with its daily operations while the investigation continues.

The corruption case has already rattled the campus, where students and alumni once gathered freely on weekends to swim. Those visits have grown less frequent in the months since the harassment began.

“We used to hear laughter in the yard,” Dr. Mushtaq said. “Now, the weekends feel quieter.”

The swimming pool remains in place, but it now carries the weight of a story that is still unfolding.

The accusations came during a year when water levels in Kashmir's canals have visibly shrunk.

Across the valley, shrinking water flows, longer dry spells, and uneven rainfall have deepened concerns about how resources are shared.

In such an environment, it becomes easier to weaponize environmental claims, and more difficult to separate genuine concerns from the use of those claims to exert pressure.

In Harwan, environmental language became a tool.

“They said they were protecting the canal,” Dr. Mushtaq said. “But they were never really looking at the water.”

The nearby fishery, which continues to draw water from the same canal, has not faced similar scrutiny. No inspections have been ordered at its site.

The case has also highlighted the power that local officials can hold over small institutions like village schools.

Across Kashmir, schools, farms, and businesses often operate within a delicate balance of official permissions, local politics, and community ties. When that balance tips, as it did in Harwan, there are few protections available.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau's case is still moving through official channels. Statements have been recorded. Files have been submitted. The legal process, though now active, moves carefully.

For Dr. Mushtaq, the experience has left the school standing, but not untouched.

He walks the schoolyard now with a slow pace. He stops by the pool, watching its still surface, aware that its meaning has changed.

“They used the pool as the excuse,” he said. “But the pool was never really the issue.”

The gates of Scholars School remain open, though fewer footsteps cross them now. In Harwan, people know that stories like this one often return, sometimes with different names, sometimes wearing different uniforms.

The court's protection holds for now. The canal still flows past the school, thinner than before, slipping past the fishery, feeding both places, accused and ignored.

The school waits for the next step, and for the silence to lift.

2nd Test: Gill Hopes To Take Measure Of Dukes Balls' Changing Behaviour

Press Trust of India

BIRMINGHAM: The rapidly evolving behaviour of Dukes, including the ball going soft 40 overs onwards, has created a major challenge for the Shubman Gill-led India in England.

Gill has been getting inputs from the likes of KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja, who have been to England multiple times, on how the Dukes has evolved in the last 7-8 years.

At Leeds, India missed the services of a second spinner on day five as England made short work of the 371-run target to go 1-0 up in the five-match series.

India needed their pacers to strike in the run chase but, barring Bumrah, none was able to make inroads. By the time the new ball was due, the game was as good as over.

On Tuesday, Gill spoke about his preference for an extra spinner in the 40-60 over phase over a pacer who would find it tough to contain the aggressive England batters.

"I have spoken to some of the players who were part of the 2018-19 series and they said the balls were slightly different in that series.



Even in the 2021 series as well, the ball was doing a little bit more. The ball stopped doing between 40-60 (overs) but then 60-80, the ball started doing again a little bit," said the

captain.

"And in this match that we played and even in WTC that we saw, after the 40 overs or 45 overs, the ball becomes quite soft.

"So even if there is something happening from the ball because it's soft, it's not the carry or there's not enough from the ball where you keep creating chances from the ball.

"We felt that it is easier to contain the runs for spinners than for fast bowlers, especially when the ball is old. In these conditions, the ball does not swing as much after 30-40 overs," he added.

Sighting The Red Cherry, A Problem Area

India dropped as many as seven catches at Leeds and that hurt them badly. Gill hoped that the worst is behind the team on the fielding front and the players can sight the ball better going ahead.

"This is one factor that the ball swings behind the wicket. You must have seen here that there are many problems in sighting the ball, especially when the fielders are standing in the square behind the wicket.

"Their team and our team, when there are stands behind the wicket or there are visuals behind the wicket, sometimes the ball is in sight very late. But we all know that it is difficult to sight the ball and the ball swings behind the wicket.

"It is very rare that 5-7 catches are missed in very few matches. Hopefully, it will not happen in the future," added Gill.

Indian Cricketers Stay Indoors After Suspicious Packet Found

The Indian cricket team, staying in the heart of Birmingham, was asked to stay indoors after a suspicious package was found at the nearby Centenary Square.

A BCCI source confirmed to PTI that players were asked not to venture out following a social media post from the Birmingham City Centre Police.

Usually the Indian cricketers explore the areas close to the team hotel and ahead of the second Test, they were frequenting the bustling Broad Street.

A total of eight players including captain Shubman Gill turned up for training at Edgbaston while the other 10 members had an off day.

"We've currently got a cordon in place around Centenary Square, Birmingham city centre, while we investigate a suspicious package," read a post from Birmingham City Centre Police on X.

"We were alerted just before 3pm, and a number of buildings have been evacuated as a precaution while it's assessed. Please avoid the area," the message read.

However, an hour later police lifted the cordon. (PTI)

Prima Facie RCB Is Responsible For The Gatheing: CAT

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) on Tuesday observed that the Royal Challengers Bengaluru are "prima facie responsible" for the stampede outside Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4, which led to the death of 11 people.

Nearly 2.5 lakh fans thronged the MG Road and Cubbon Road areas near the stadium after RCB announced a victory parade from the Vidhana Soudha and a fan engagement programme at the stadium to celebrate the team's maiden IPL triumph.

"...therefore, prima facie it appears that the RCB is responsible for the gathering of about three to five lakh people. The RCB did not take the appropriate permission or consent from the Police," the CAT noted.

The RCB had posted in its social media handles about the parade and the fan engagement on the morning of June 4, and the Tribunal noted that the police department did not have sufficient time in its hands to manage such a large gathering at such short notice.

"Because of shortage of time on 04.06.2026, the Police was unable to do the appropriate arrangements. Sufficient time was not given to the Police. Suddenly, the RCB created the aforesaid type of nuisance without any prior permission." (PTI)

Indian Delegation Meets IOC Officials For Hosting Olympics

A delegation, featuring IOA President P T Usha and Gujarat's Minister of State for Sports Harsh Sanghavi, met officials of the International Olympic Committee here to "explore the opportunity and feasibility of India hosting a future edition of the Olympic Games".

The delegation was here despite new IOC President Kirsty Coventry declaring that the entire host selection process was being paused and a working group being set up to figure out the "appropriate time" to identify a future host.

She had, however, made it clear that officials from India, which is seeking to host the 2036 Games, were welcome to engage in a dialogue.

The delegation also included senior officials from the IOA (Indian Olympic Association), the central sports ministry and the government of Gujarat, which is positioning itself as the future host.

"This crucial exchange aimed to explore the opportunity and feasibility of India hosting a future edition of the Olympic and Paralympic Games," stated a press release from the visiting delegation.

"The discussions provided a vital platform for the Indian delegation to articulate their vision for hosting a future Olympic Games in Amdavad (Ahmedabad)," it added.

It said the exchange will help the India team "sharpen its ambition". (PTI)

Bosch Takes Five In SA's 9th Straight Test Win

South Africa equalled its longest winning streak in men's test cricket when it finished off Zimbabwe by 328 runs on Tuesday.

The ninth straight win for the world test champion tied the record of the 2002-03 Proteas.

Medium-pacer Corbin Bosch claimed a maiden five-for as Zimbabwe, set a target of 537, was bowled out for 208 in its second innings after lunch on day four. Zimbabwe suffered its heaviest test defeat on runs.

Bosch struck on the day's first ball, removing Nick Welch after he did the same with the last ball on Monday when opener Takudzwanashe Kaitano was caught at third slip.

Sean Williams prevented the hat trick, but Zimbabwe's first-innings century-maker was among the five wickets to fall in the first hour.

Zimbabwe went from 32-1 overnight to 82-6, effectively the end of its unlikely chase.

The main resistance came from captain Craig Ervine with 49 and tailender Wellington Masakadza with 57, his maiden test half-century.

Bosch took 5-43 in his second test, and along with his unbeaten 100 in the first innings, became the first South African to do the hundred and five-for double in the same test since Jacques Kallis in 2002. He is only the fifth South African to achieve the feat. (AP)



Fit India Movement Gains Momentum Across J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K, has been actively organizing Fit India Runs across various districts as part of the nationwide Fit India Movement initiated by the Prime Minister of India. These events aim to promote physical fitness, healthy lifestyles, and community engagement among students and the general public. The Director General of the Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K has been personally monitoring these national-level activities to ensure widespread awareness and participation in the campaign.

In Rajouri, the Fit India Run was organized across 15 sports zones, including the Mini Stadium Sports Complex, under the supervision of District Sports Officers and local officials. The event emphasized the Government's commitment to fostering a culture of wellness and active living. Similarly, in Poonch, the Surankote zone witnessed a spirited rally, flagged off by Zonal Physical Education Officer, with participation from students, NYC volunteers, NCC cadets, and local citizens. Slogans like Hum

Fit Toh India Fit and Fitness Ka Dose Aadha Ghanta Roz echoed the collective enthusiasm for fitness.

Pulwama saw widespread participation in Fit India Runs across multiple sports zones, with District Youth Services and Sports Officer commending the efforts of participants. The events highlighted the importance of physical and mental well-being while fostering teamwork and community spirit.

In Kathua, the Fit India Run was conducted across all sports zones under the supervision of District Youth Services and Sports. The initiative aimed to integrate fitness into daily routines, aligning with the broader mission of the Fit India Movement.

Meanwhile, Kishtwar witnessed an energetic run with 120 athletes, including 85 boys and 35 girls, showcasing their dedication to a healthier lifestyle.

Doda district also joined the movement with a Fit India Run spanning 10 zones, organised under the guidance of the District Sports Office. The event reinforced the message of adopting active lifestyles for long-term well-being.



Khelo Bharat Niti Approved, To Bring India Into Top-5



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Calling it a "strategic road-map" for India's elevation into the top five of world sports, the cabinet on Tuesday approved the Khelo Bharat Niti to create "world-class systems" of coaching and athlete support along with a robust administrative set-up to make the country a strong contender for the 2036 Olympics.

Previously called the National Sports Policy and introduced for the first time in 1984, the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 will supersede the 2001 policy. It is a "guiding document" to formulate plans and schemes for betterment of the country's sporting ecosystem.

"We have used the experience of the last 10 years and the new policy will work towards improvement of sports. Major objective is to make India a top-five sporting nation by 2047. That's the overall objective," Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters while unveiling the policy and other cabinet decisions.

India is bidding to host the 2036 Olympic Games for which there has been a massive push to create infrastructure and bring events of international stature

to the country.

A statement from the Press Information Bureau described the new policy as an outcome of "extensive consultations" involving central ministries, NITI Aayog, state governments, National Sports Federations (NSFs), athletes, domain experts, and public stakeholders.

It seeks to link sports with tourism and economic development. The document also seeks to align with the National Education Policy by making sports an integral part of school curriculum. It states that the objective is to equip educators and physical education teachers with specialised training to promote sports education.

Among the listed goals is to establish a robust regulatory framework for sports governance and development of innovative financing mechanisms, including private sector participation through PPPs and CSR.

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya called it a transformative step towards reshaping India's sporting ecosystem.

The changes it makes to the previous policy includes calling for greater participation of private companies, something that Mandaviya has already spoken about.

Saudi Arabia's Great Football Experiment Is Paying Off At CWC

AP

MANCHESTER: The great Saudi Arabian soccer experiment is on full show at the Club World Cup.

The oil-rich kingdom, which is spending billions of dollars to become a major player in the world's most popular sport, scored a big win on the field Monday when Al Hilal beat Premier League giant Manchester City 4-3 to advance to the quarterfinals.

It was a seismic result in soccer terms; possibly the biggest upset of the tournament and precisely the type of statement Saudi Arabia has wanted to make since embarking on a project that will ultimately see it stage the World Cup in 2034.

"We wanted to show that Al Hilal has the talent, the power to be here," said defender Kalidou Koulibaly, who was among a slew of star players paid fortunes to leave



Europe's top clubs for the Saudi Pro League in recent years.

Superstar signings and ones that got away

The biggest of them all was Cristiano Ronaldo, who completed one of the most stunning moves in soccer history when joining Al

Nassr for a reported salary of up to \$200 million a year in 2022. That deal prompted a spectacular recruitment drive by Saudi teams — backed by the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund — and in came superstars like Neymar and Karim Benzema, while audacious attempts were made to sign Lionel

Messi and Kylian Mbappe.

Confirmation that Saudi Arabia had won the right to host the World Cup came in December. On the field, the Club World Cup was the first chance for the country to make a global statement about the growth of its domestic game, which is largely unheralded outside of Asia.

It is likely why Al Hilal — Saudi Arabia's most successful team — was so eager to make another marquee signing before the tournament began and tried, but failed, to lure Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes.

It pulled off a coup by hiring coach Simone Inzaghi. The Italian arrived after leading Inter Milan to a second Champions League final in three seasons and he is already making a mark with his new team after drawing 1-1 against Real Madrid in the group stage and then beating City.

The broader picture is what Al Hilal's run says about the standard of soccer in Saudi Arabia, which has been dismissed by some as a cash grab for players, who can earn far more than if they'd remained in Europe.

Despite recruiting so many players from Europe's top clubs — including Champions League winners N'Golo Kante, Riyad Mahrez and Roberto Firmino — it is difficult to judge the quality of the Saudi League.

Can Al Hilal win the Club World Cup?

The question now is how far Al Hilal can go. Next up is Brazil's Fluminense in the quarterfinals in Orlando on Friday.

City's exit — along with Inter Milan's defeat to Fluminense — has opened up that side of the draw, which also features Palmeiras and Chelsea.

TRAFFIC POLICE HEADQUARTERS, J&K, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

1. From 30-06-2025, 1700 hrs. to 01-07-2025, 1700 hrs., there was slow movement observed on NH-44 due to breakdown of 03 HMVs, single lane traffic at Nashri-Dalwas and between Marog & Kishtwari Pather.
2. Commuters belonging to Reasi, Katra, Udhampur, Patnitop, Doda and Ramban town are requested to keep their photo ID card to prove their identification after cut off timing from Jammu/Udhampur so that their movement can be facilitated smoothly.
3. Passengers/LMVs operators are advised to undertake journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW during day time due to apprehension of shooting stones between Ramban and Banihal.
4. Goods carrier (HMV/LMV) Operators carrying fresh perishable/live stock are advised to load their vehicle as per advisory issued by Traffic Police Headquarters time to time as there is single lane traffic and poor condition of road at Nashri-Dalwas and between Marog & Kishtwari Pather on Jammu Srinagar NHW.
5. Fruit growers/ Load carrier (HMV/LMV) Operators carrying fresh perishable from Valley towards Jammu are advised to load and park their vehicle timely (every morning before 9.00 am at designated place between NAVYUG Tunnel and Levdoora)
6. HMVs Operators/Owners are requested to desist from overloading and carry sufficient fuel during journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW. It is further requested that vehicle owners must double check the fitness of their vehicles and carry sufficient fuel before undertaking journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW.
7. HMVs with only 06 and 10 tyres shall be allowed to ply through Dhar road.
8. Commuters are advised to avoid unnecessary haltage between Ramban and Banihal especially near landslide/shooting stone area.

Subject to fair weather and better road conditions SANJY convoy/LMVs Passenger/Private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar NHW (NH-44) viz from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa.

However, HMTs shall be allowed on alternate days . TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing this traffic.

- Nagrota (Jammu) towards Srinagar: from 0600 hrs. to 1200 hrs.
- Jakhani (Udhampur) towards Srinagar: from 0700 hrs to 1300 hrs &
- Qazigund towards Jammu: from 1130 hrs to 1400 hrs.

TCU Jammu and TCU Srinagar will inform all concerned about the traffic advisory and cut off timings. No vehicle shall be allowed to move before and after cut off timings.

Subject to fair weather and better road conditions, HMVs shall be allowed from Jakheni (Udhampur) towards Srinagar after assessing the road and traffic situation on NH-44 and NO HMV shall be allowed after 1900 hrs. TCU Udhampur shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the HMVs.

Moreover, in view of ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji yatra 2025, to provide hassle free movement of trucks carrying fresh/perishable goods on NH-44, UT administration has decided all tankers of Petrol, Diesel, LPG bulk gas, all trucks carrying empty LPG cylinders; all empty vehicles of FCI; any other vehicle loaded/empty upto 10-tyres shall use only Mughal Road while returning to Jammu.

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting green signal from NHIDCL, LMVs/HPSVs shall be allowed from both sides viz from Anantnag towards Kishtwar and vice- versa on Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road. These vehicles shall be allowed from PP Parana towards Anantnag from 0800 hrs to 1600 hrs and from PP Daksum towards Kishtwar from 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs. No HMV other than designated HPSVs shall be allowed as per order issued by SDM Chhatroo vide No. SDM/C/2025-26/146-53 dated 16-05-2025 and SDM Kokernag vide No. SDM/KNG/665-71 dated 16-05-2025.

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting green signal from Road maintenance agencies (GREF). LMVs Passenger/Private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Mughal road viz from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa via Poonch. However, HMVs (Local Livestock) upto six tyres only shall be allowed from Poonch towards Shopian. These vehicles shall be allowed from Behrampala (Baffliaz) and Herpora (Shopian) at 0600 hrs. upto 1900 hrs. as per order issued by District Magistrate Poonch vide No. DMP/JC/8517-23 dated 05-06-2025.

People are advised to undertake journey only after confirming status of the road from Traffic control units as under:-

- **Jammu (0191-2459048, 0191- 2740550, 9419147732, 103)**
- **Srinagar (0194-2450022, 2485396, 18001807091, 103)**
- **Ramban (9419993745, 1800-180-7043)**
- **Udhampur (8491928625)**
- **PCR Kishtwar (9906154100)**
- **PCR Karail (9541902330, 9541902331)**



Achieve financial freedom

Set up Systematic Investment Plans in Exchange Traded Funds (Shariah Based ETF)



1, 10 Samad Complex, Ma Link Road, Srinagar, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar – 190001