

Amarnath Yatra Begins

Over 12K Pilgrims Visit Cave Shrine On Day 1



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The annual Amarnath Yatra began on Thursday, with over 12,000 pilgrims trekking to the holy cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas on the very first day of the pilgrimage, officials said.

A total of 12,348 devotees, including 9,181 men, 2,223 women, 99 children, 122 sadhus, seven sadhvis, and eight transgender pilgrims, offered prayers at the 3,880-metre-high cave, which houses a naturally formed ice 'Shivling' — a sacred symbol revered by Hindus.

The pilgrimage commenced early in the morning from both the Baltal base camp in Ganderbal and the traditional Nunwan base camp in Anantnag. Pilgrims began their journey along the 14-km Baltal route and the 48-km Pahalgam

route, chanting "Bam Bam Bhole" and "Har Har Mahadev" as they moved forward with devotion and determination.

"There's no fear. Baba has blessed us. The arrangements are excellent," said a pilgrim from Gujarat, encouraging others to join the yatra without hesitation. The trek was also joined by Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, who took the Baltal route.

The turnout on Day One exceeded expectations, especially given the recent security concerns following the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives. Despite that, the enthusiasm among pilgrims remained undeterred.

On Wednesday, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had flagged off the first batch of 5,892 yatris from the [More on P10](#)



Thousands joined the traditional 7th Muharram procession in the old city of Srinagar. KO Photo By Faisal Khan

'Strict Timings, Tight Security'

Kashmir To Witness Largest 8th Muharram Procession Today

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Thousands of Shia Muslim mourners on Friday are set to take out the 8th Muharram procession through the traditional Guru Bazar to Dalgate route in Srinagar, marking one of the most significant religious gatherings in the Kashmir Valley this year. The

procession commemorates the valour and martyrdom of Hazrat Abbas ibn Ali (AS), the flag bearer of Imam Hussain (AS) in the Battle of Karbala. Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari will address the mourners before taking out the procession.

The traditional route—spanning Guru Bazar to Dalgate—was off-limits for mourners

since 1989, when authorities, citing concerns over law and order and alleged political undertones, imposed a blanket ban on major Muharram processions. For 34 years, from the onset of militancy until 2023, Shia mourners were barred from marching along the city's central stretch. Nevertheless, smaller gatherings and processions continued to be held

in inner mohallas and neighbourhoods, preserving the essence of azadari and the remembrance of the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (A.S.).

In a major policy shift, the Jammu and Kashmir administration under Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha lifted the decades-long restriction in 2023. That year, mourners were permitted [More on P10](#)

Heavy Rains Forecast In J&K From July 6

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir continues to reel under intense heat, with Srinagar recording a sweltering 34.0°C on Wednesday — 4.4 degrees above normal. However, much-needed relief is on the horizon as the Meteorological Department has forecast widespread rainfall starting July 6.

According to data, Kupwara followed Srinagar as the second hottest spot in the Valley at 33.4°C, while Qazigund and Kokernag recorded 32.8°C and 32.4°C respectively. Tourist destinations like Pahalgam and Gulmarg registered lower highs of 29.0°C and 23.5°C.

In the Jammu region, temperatures remained below normal, with Jammu city at 34.5°C. Banihal, [More on P10](#)

Rs 8.3 Lakh Tribal Scholarship Scam

ACB Chargesheets Ex-ZEO Tangdhar, 3 Others

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday filed a charge sheet against the former Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Tangdhar and three other education officials for allegedly misappropriating 8.3 lakh in scholarship funds meant for Pahari-speaking and Gujar-Bakerwal students during 2010-2011.

According to a statement issued by the ACB, an inquiry into the [More on P10](#)

SC: No Insurance For Deaths From Rash Driving

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has said insurance companies are not liable to pay compensation to the families of individuals who die as a result of their own rash and reckless driving.

A bench of Justices PS Narasimha and R Mahadevan refused to grant 80 lakh compensation sought by the wife, son and parents of a man who died while driving a car at high speed.

The top court refused to interfere with the Karnataka High Court's order dated November 23 last year which had dismissed the plea filed by the deceased legal heirs claiming compensation.

"We are not inclined to interfere with the impugned judgment passed by the high court. Hence, the Special Leave Petition is dismissed," the bench said in an order passed [More on P10](#)

Centre To Establish ₹150 Cr Clean Plant Center In J&K

- Crop Insurance, Saffron Mission Revamp Among Other Key Announcements
- Land-Allottee Farmers Without Papers To Be Included In PM-KISAN



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Union Minister for Agriculture, Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development,

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, on Thursday announced a comprehensive package of agricultural and rural development initiatives [More on P10](#)

'5 Lakh Homeless In J&K Identified for Housing'

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday said the central government has identified around five lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir who do not have

permanent homes and efforts are being made to provide them housing under a government scheme. Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, the minister, per news agency—Kashmir [More on P10](#)

Man Used Forged MCI Certificate To Land SKIMS Job

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing (EoW) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday filed a charge sheet against a Srinagar resident for allegedly using forged medical documents, including a fake Medical Council of India (MCI) registration certificate, to secure a job at Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Medical College, Bemina.

According to an official statement, the EoW—formerly Crime Branch Kashmir—submitted the charge sheet before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, against Numan Farooq Wani of Umarabad, Zainakote. He is accused of submitting fake medical credentials at the time of his engagement at SKIMS Bemina.

The case (FIR No. 01/2023) was registered following a complaint that Wani had [More on](#)

Power Shortage In J&K

NRPC Document Flags Non-Payment, Market Reliance

Agencies

Srinagar: Limited procurement of power and financial non-compliance are key reasons for power shortages in Jammu & Kashmir, an official document has revealed.

The agenda note of the 79th meeting of Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) lays bare that the primary reasons for power shortage in J&K were limited procurement of power from market and trading restrictions on J&K in power exchange due to non-payments. "The reason for shortage in most of the occasions is either due to limited procurement of power from market which may be due to high power demand in the market or barring of J&K from trading in exchange due to payment issues (sic)," reads the document.

The document states that J&K has experienced power shortages in the past year. "It is to be noted that in the past year, there have been power shortages reported in J&K when the states from the rest of the country are able to supply power and not reporting shortages," the agenda note states.

The document points out that J&K's dependency on importing power has increased in recent years as there has been no increase in its internal generation.

"There has also not been an increase in internal generation in J&K UT for the last 4-5 years, therefore the increased demand had to be met by importing higher power from the interstate network," it states.

It further reveals that J&K's dependency on [More on P10](#)

Govt Liable For Live Wire Death, HC Cuts Compensation To ₹11.2 Lakh

MAHMAD

Srinagar: Holding the government responsible for maintaining live electric supply lines, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh upheld its liability in the tragic death of a man struck by a high-voltage wire but revised the compensation amount awarded to his family.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar dismissed a government appeal challenging its responsibility but reduced the compensation from ₹24.3 lakh to ₹11.2 lakh, citing calculation errors in the earlier verdict.

The court observed that Nazir Ahmad, 45, died on July 24, 2013, when

an 11,000 KV live electric wire fell on him in the Uri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district — a clear result of negligence on the part of the government.

"Maintenance of electric supply live lines is the duty of the government authorities, especially when dealing with such hazardous activities," the Bench said, adding that negligence in such cases is to be presumed.

However, the court found flaws in the single bench's method for calculating compensation — including incorrect application of the multiplier and failure to base income on minimum wages — and revised the final payable amount to ₹11.2 lakh with 6% interest from 2022, the year the petition was filed.



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2

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-28.07.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tenders towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through only payment modes** available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type		Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open		Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders		Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
02.07.2025		14.07.2025	28.07.2025/15:00 Hrs.
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	
1.	71-2025-26-ADEN-I+ASR	Annual zone work for ordinary repair and maintenance of VKA-BAT & BAT-QDN in the section of SSE/W/BL/ASR under ADEN-I+ASR(2025-26).	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
	79.99,994.75/-	1,60,100.00/-	60 Days
	Similar nature of work:-	"Any civil work other than track work"	12 Months

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No: 71-2025-26-ADEN-I+ASR Date: 02.07.2025

2004/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the General public that my Son's name and (DOB) Date of Birth in his Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No:- 7183 4087 2334 has been wrongly mentioned as Suhaib Fayaz DOB 18.03.2012 instead of Mohammad Suheab Bhat DOB is 18.03.2013 .Now I am applying for its Correction as per School and Birth Certificate record bearing Reg No :-R202201002300000231 . if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

Fayaz Ahmad Bhat
F/O. Mohammad Suheab Bhat
R/O :- Udiopora .Tehsil :- Langate Distt : Kupwara
.Pin Cod.193302



FKO

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE BOMAI ZAINGEER

No: 195/B&D/TZ/2025 Date: 03/07/2025
Subject: Issuance of registration orders in respect of delayed Birth & Death.

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Yasir Mohi-u-Din, S/O: Ghulam Mohi-u-Din Wani R/O: Yemberzalwari Payam, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death Certificate in favor of self. Who was Born as per document evidence produced by the applicant. In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the office undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.

Sd//
Naib Tehsildar
Zaingeer

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that I want to change the name of the electricity power connection of Consumer No. **0204040012704** and installation No.**119585-SM** already registered on the name of my father **Late Ghulam Nabi Ahangar to Tariq Ahmad** presently installed at Sarfie Colony, Lane No 3, Buchpora, Srinagar.

Any person having any objection can contact the concerned Division/Subdivision office of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd, Srinagar within a period of Seven days from the date of publication of this notice after which no claim will be entertained.

Tariq Ahmad

Sarfie Colony, Lane No 3, Buchpora,
Srinagar, Kashmir

Office of Advocate Ishfaq Rasool Sheikh And Associates

In the case of
Ghulam Rasool Sheikh
S/o: Late Abdul Gani Sheikh
R/o: Tantraypora Palhallan Pattan District Baramulla

Caveator

Vs
1. Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh
2. Ghulam Hassan Sheikh
3. Abdul Rashid Sheikh
All Sons of Late Abdul Ganie Sheikh
All Residents of Tantraypora Palhallan Pattan District Baramulla

Non caveators

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

fko Sd/advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar card as Hafiz Ali Kawa, and my Date of Birth has been mentioned as 05-05-2016. However, my correct name is Hafiz Ali, and my correct Date of Birth is 11-05-2013. I am initiating the process to rectify these details. If anyone has any objection regarding the same, they may contact me at the earliest.

Name: Hafiz Ali
S/o Ghulam Mohammad Kawa
R/o Sarai Dangerpora

X

از نیات پہلان

عنوان :- غلام نبی الدین بٹ ولد عبدل رحمان بٹ ساکنہ پهلان تحصیل پٹنہ بمبراحصول لیگل بیلر سرٹیفیکٹ

اشتیہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کاغذات سائل دفتر بذائیں زیر کاوائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی ہے جس سے عیاض ہے سائل پہلان میں پیچھلے دس سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے سائل کی زوجہ مرحومہ سہاستہ عاشرہ مونہ 12-05-2025 کو فوت ہوچکی ہے موتانیف کے وارثان بذیل ہے۔

غلام نبی الدین بٹ شوہر دوکانداری 54 سال اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد یکدم نہیں ہے۔ سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ بدوعد مشتر اخبار رسات دن کے اندر اندر آ پنے غرض یا اعتراض مفروضہ کو دفتر ذی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعدگز سے میعاد کوئی غرض یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

از نیات پہلان

عنوان :- فردوس احمد ڈار ولد مرحوم غلام نبی دار ساکنہ پهلان تحصیل پٹنہ بمبراحصول لیگل بیلر سرٹیفیکٹ

اشتیہار ہرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کاغذات سائل دفتر بذائیں زیر کاوائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقے سے رپورٹ طلب کی ہے جس سے عیاض ہے سائل پہلان میں پیچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے سائل کا والد مرحوم غلام نبی ڈار ولد عبدل احمد ڈار مونہ 16-04-2016 کو فوت ہوچکا ہے متوفی کے وارثان بذیل ہے۔

مسماطہ عامہ و بیگم فردون احمد ڈار شوہر مزدوری 28 سال بسملہ نبی دفتر گھریلو کام 26 سال ابن نبی -- زیر تعلیم 15 سال محمد عمر ڈار شوہر مزدوری 23 سال

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد یکدم نہیں ہے۔ سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ بدوعد مشتر اخبار رسات دن کے اندر اندر آ پنے غرض یا اعتراض مفروضہ کو دفتر ذی اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعدگز سے میعاد کوئی غرض یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Erstwhile Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Srinagar)
Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email Id: xnmhchdck@vahoo.in

GIST

NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2025-26/40/e-tendering, Dated: -02.07.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two cover system on percentage basis from eligible registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:

Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion	Accord of Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
SITC of 1000 Kg/hr capacity steam generator with allied works for Laundry Section of SMHS Hospital, Srinagar	42.79	2000	@2% of the estimated cost	120 Days	27 MCS of 2025 Dt:-28.06.2025	SEMHK/TS-14/20 Dt:-01.07.2025

- Position of funds: Available with the intending department
- Downloading of Bids:- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 02-07-2025 (18:00 hrs.) and can be downloaded from 02-07-2025 (18.00 hrs.).
- Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 03-07-2025. (10:00 hrs.) to 21-07-2025 (13:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids: - The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 21-07-2025 at 15.00 (hrs.)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, M&H Division
Srinagar.

No: M&HDS/TS/2231-35

DIPK-3274/25

Date: -03.07.2025

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No- 28 of RnB-Sopore of 2025-2026 e-tendering DATED 02.07.2025

For and on behalf of the LT. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. InLacs)	Cost of T/ E/ DOC (In Rupees)	E/ Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M.H of Account
1	Construction of Additional Class room at Girls Middle School Botingoo	20.73	41460/-	800	90 days	23.07.2025	BEE/CEE	PAB Samagra Shiksha 2025-26

Project Authority: Directorate (Samagra)
Position of funds: Available
Position of AAA/ TS / Accorred

- The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	02.07.2025	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02.07.2025	22.07.2025 (upto 4.PM)
3	Bid Submission start date	02.07.2025	
4	Bid submission End date	22.07.2025 (4.00 PM)	
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	23.07.2025 (12 PM)	In the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division, Sopore

- Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan and CDR (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the quoted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
- Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.
- Unbalanced Bid:- In case bid of the successful bidder is unbalanced, the Successful bidder will have to provide additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR as per the breakup given below pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender receiving authority).

S. No.	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz advertised Cost on account of low rates	Additional Performance Security
01	Upto and including 5% below	Nil
02	>5% upto and including 20% below	5% of Advertised Cost
03	>20% upto and including 25% below	10% of Advertised Cost
04	>25% upto and including 30% below	15% of Advertised Cost
05	>30% Below	20% of Advertised Cost

The additional performance security shall be released only after successful completion of work.

- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their registered e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Tender Receiving Authority.

- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- Instructions to Bidders Regarding e-Tendering Process:
- Bidders are advised to download the Bid Submission Manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from the "Bidders Manual Kit" on the website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint themselves with the bid submission process.
- To participate in the bidding process, bidders have to obtain a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per the Information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get the digital certificate from any approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with a digital signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per the time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents with the bid.
- Note: Scan all documents at 100 dpi with the black-and-white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of the cost of the tender document in the shape of a Treasury Challan pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (the date of the challan should be between the date of start of bid and the bid submission end date) must be uploaded with the bid.

- The original Treasury Challan (cost of the tender document), and related documents, etc., must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any changes in the BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In case they attempt to create a similar BOQ manually, it may lead to rejection of the bid.
- Price Escalation and Taxes:
- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees. The rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work, unless otherwise specified.
- Deductions on account of taxes shall be made from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their user login on the R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines/standard bidding documents shall be followed.

- Instructions to Bidders (ITB):
- a. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents with their bids:
- b. Copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business along with cell number and correspondence address.
- c. Treasury Challan.
- d. GSTIN number and PAN card.
- e. Valid GSTIN along with the latest sales tax clearance certificate (Form GST-3B) for the preceding month or preceding quarter.

For and on behalf of the
Lt. Governor of J&K UT

No: 3129-38
DIPK-3273/25
Dated: 03.07.2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore

No: 1472-86

Dated: 03-07-2025

Sd/-

Executive Engineer
PWD(R&B) Division Qazigund

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Cooperative Department Commemorates 'International Year Of Cooperatives'



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Cooperatives on Thursday organized a Divisional Level function at Tagore Hall here to commemorate the International Year of Cooperatives 2025, as declared by the United Nations under the global theme: 'Cooperatives Build a Better World'.

Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Mohammad Shafiq Chak was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Registrar Cooperative Societies highlighted the transformative power of cooperatives in building a sustainable and economically viable society. He said that cooperatives are more than economic enterprises and are value-driven organizations built on solidarity and mutual support.

The Registrar also spoke about the roadmap for cooperative movement in Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on digital integration, capacity building, financial literacy, and easier access to credit facilities for grassroots organizations.

In his welcome address, Additional Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Kashmir, Bashir Ahmad Wani highlighted the vital role of cooperatives in driving sus-

tainable economic development, inclusive growth, and youth empowerment within the Union Territory.

He shared the department's vision for the cooperative movement in Jammu and Kashmir and emphasized the revival of primary cooperative societies, particularly in agriculture, dairy, handicrafts, and rural credit—contributing to the economic upliftment of the region.

Speakers from various cooperative societies shared personal insights into how the cooperative movement has transformed their lives and positively impacted their communities, underscoring the movement's grassroots strength and social value.

Later, the Registrar also inspected exhibition stalls set up by various cooperative societies and held brief, engaging interactions with their representatives.

The event also featured cultural performances, showcasing the cooperative ethos and community spirit unique to the region.

A special segment of the event included the felicitation of Best Performing Cooperative Societies as well as outstanding departmental officers and officials from across Kashmir Division, recognizing their contributions to the sector.

Thousands Join 7th Muharram Procession In Old City



KO PHOTO/FAISAL KHAN

Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: The first major Alam Sharif procession of Muharram 2025 was taken out in Srinagar's old city on Wednesday, as mourners marched from Botraj Mohalla, Androoni Kathidarwaza to Imam-bargah Hassanabad, commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions at Karbala.

The 7th Muharram procession, a significant event in the Shia mourning calendar, was held with official permission and followed its traditional route through the inner areas of Hassanabad. A large number of mourners joined the procession in an atmosphere of solemnity and religious devotion.

The event commenced after Zohrain prayers and a majlis (religious gathering), addressed by

prominent cleric Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari, as per the tradition maintained by the Raja family, who have been organizing the procession for decades.

Along the route, local residents and volunteers had set up saabels (refreshment stalls), distributing water, sherbet, and tea to the mourners as a gesture of service and solidarity.

To ensure the peaceful conduct of the procession, the district administration had deployed additional police and paramilitary forces.

"We are committed to facilitating religious freedom while ensuring peace and order," a senior police official said.

The 7th Muharram procession marks one of the most important gatherings in the ten-day mourning period leading up to Ashura, observed on the 10th of Muharram,

when Shia Muslims worldwide remember the supreme sacrifice of the Prophet's grandson, Imam Hussain (AS).

In a bid to provide relief to mourners, people of Hassanabad locality pooled money to install water sprinklers on midways and roadsides for mourners participating in Muharram processions.

Sprinkler chain was installed by local youth without any governmental assistance.

The water sprinklers, attached to street lights, sprinkle water on both sides of the road.

"The water sprinklers, strategically placed along key points of the procession paths and the constant mist of water provides a refreshing respite, ensuring that the mourners remain cool as they stand and walk for hours together," locals told *Kashmir Observer*.

CM Flags Off Water Tankers To Boost Supply



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister, along with Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmed Rana flagged off a fleet of 10 water tankers from the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

This special initiative has been undertaken to ensure adequate water supply especially during Muharram.

The initiative aims to augment water supply services across Kashmir valley, particularly in water-stressed areas facing temporary disruptions in piped water delivery due to peak summer demand or ongoing infrastructure development.

The event witnessed the presence of Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, several MLAs, senior officials from the Jal Shakti Department, representatives from the Public Health Engineering (PHE) wing, among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the government's commitment

Omar Visits SKIMS To Enquire About Mehbooba's Mother

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday went to SKIMS Hospital Soura on learning about the ill-health of the mother of Mehbooba Mufti, PDP President & former chief minister.

The Chief Minister enquired about her health and wished her

a speedy recovery. CM also met the family members at the hospital. CM was accompanied by Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani.

Director SKIMS Dr. Ashraf Ganai & Medical Superintendent Dr. Farooq Jan briefed the Chief Minister about her health condition and assured the CM that all necessary treatment and health care is being provided to her.

ment to ensuring uninterrupted access to safe and clean drinking water for every household in Jammu & Kashmir.

Minister of Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, in his remarks, highlighted that the tankers will be strategically deployed to areas experiencing acute water shortages and

will operate in coordination with local administrative units to ensure timely delivery.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the presence of elected representatives on the occasion, stating that such collective participation underscores the government's inclusive and responsive approach to governance.

Children Use Summer Break to Reconnect With Muharram Heritage

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As much of Kashmir's younger generation seeks respite from the scorching summer indoors, a committed group of Gen Z youth is stepping outside, delving deep into the living heritage of Muharram. Through immersive Dar'ke Azadari Photo Heritage Walks, these students are exploring the spiritual, artistic, and cultural dimensions of the mourning traditions associated with Imam Hussain (a.s.).

In Srinagar's historic Old City — where echoes of Karbala resonate through narrow alleys and age-old structures — school and college students are taking to the streets with cameras, notebooks, and questions. Their aim isn't merely to document Muharram but to understand its deeply rooted Kashmiri context.

"This isn't just about photography," says 16-year-old Muneeb Fatima, a

Class 11 student. "It's about discovering a part of ourselves that textbooks and classrooms often ignore. Azadari here isn't just ritual — it's memory, emotion, art, and resistance."

The initiative is led by heritage expert Ilyas Rizvi, founder of EdRAAK, who began the journey in 2013 with a modest photo exhibition. Over the years, it has grown into a dynamic youth engagement programme comprising heritage walks, poetry readings, storytelling circles, and traditional calligraphy workshops — all centred around the commemoration of Karbala. "Our goal was to make heritage accessible, emotional, and experiential," says Rizvi. "Muharram is not just about mourning — it's also about memory-making, creative expression, and the preservation of a powerful legacy."

To maintain depth and personal engagement, each walk is restricted

to 15 participants. The students visit lesser-known Azadari sites — some on the verge of fading into oblivion — where centuries-old traditions like the recitation of Marsiya (elegiac poetry) are still observed. These quiet spiritual corners, often missed in mainstream Muharram coverage, reveal the unique Kashmiri articulation of grief and remembrance.

Importantly, the walks encourage reflection and creativity. Participants conclude each session by producing a piece of original work — whether a short story, poem, photograph, or sketch — that captures their emotional and intellectual response to the experience.

"This is history with heart," says Mahira Hussain, a college student from Nowhatta. "Before this, I didn't even know Kashmiri Marsiya was a genre. It's sad that such a beautiful tradition isn't part of our curriculum."

Salman Sagar Seeks LG's Nod For Extension Of 11th Muharram Procession

Agencies

SRINAGAR: National Conference MLA from Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagar, has written to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, seeking approval for the extension of the 11th Muharram procession route in Srinagar from Sheeshgari Mohalla, Khan-yar to Chinkra Mohalla, Habakadal.

In his letter, the legislator said the annual Muharram procession in Sheeshgari Mohalla has been conducted peacefully for years and carries deep religious significance.

"The community has now collectively expressed the desire to extend the traditional route to include Chinkra Mohalla, citing both religious sentiments

and historical precedent," Sagar wrote, adding that local residents and religious organizations have assured complete discipline and cooperation.

The MLA further mentioned that a formal communication regarding the request has already been sent to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir under letter No. MLA/HBL/SGR/328 dated July 1, 2025.

"I request your kind intervention and approval of the proposed route extension. The community stands ready to work in full coordination with the administration and law enforcement to ensure a smooth and peaceful procession," Sagar added, urging the LG to consider the plea on humanitarian and religious grounds. (JKNS)

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

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KASHMIRI Kashmiri American Society of Healthcare, Medical Education & Research in collaboration with HPVT Help Poor Voluntary Trust, is initiating a free 8 weeks group therapy for the individuals suffering with OCD by a team of consulting clinical psychologists led by leading consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.

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India, US To Finalise 10-Year Defence Framework: Pentagon

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his American counterpart Pete Hegseth have agreed to firm up a 10-year framework to further expand defence and strategic ties between India and the US. The decision on the de-



fence framework was mentioned in a Pentagon statement that was released on Wednesday, a day after Rajnath Singh and US Defence Secretary Hegseth held a phone conversation.

"Secretary Hegseth and Minister Singh agreed to sign the next 10-year US-India Defence Framework when they next meet this year," it said.

It said the two sides discussed pending major US defence sales to India and the imperative of close defence industrial cooperation between the two countries.

"Secretary Hegseth emphasized the priority the United States places on India as its key defense partner in South Asia," the Pentagon said.

Sambhal Row

Court to Hear Namaz Ban Plea on July 21

Press Trust Of India

Sambhal (UP)- A Chandausi court in Sambhal district on Thursday set July 21 to hear a plea seeking ban on offering of namaz at the disputed Shahi Jama Masjid, which is claimed to be Harihar Temple. The petition sought the ban on offering of Islamic prayers citing its "disputed status".

Civil Judge (Senior Division) Aditya Singh took on record the plea filed by one Simran Gupta.

The dispute had previously reached the Allahabad High Court, where the Muslim side challenged the subordinate court's order for a survey of the mosque premises.

On May 19, however, the high court upheld the trial court's decision and directed that proceedings continue there.

The petitioner argued that since the site was deemed disputed by the court, Muslims too should be barred from offering prayers, just as Hindus were restricted from worship.

The plea requested that the mosque be sealed and placed under the custody of the Sambhal District Magistrate.

Gupta also sought to be made a petitioner on behalf of the Hindu side.

Both matters will come up on July 21.

It said the two leaders reviewed the "considerable progress" both countries have made toward achieving the defense goals set out in the February 2025 joint statement by President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The two discussed pending major US defence sales to India and the imperative of close defense industrial cooperation between the two countries," the Pentagon readout said without providing further details.

In the phone conversation on Tuesday, Mr Singh urged Hegseth to expedite the delivery of GE F404 engines to power the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft, people familiar with the matter said.

Mr Singh also pitched for early finalisation of a proposed deal between Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and US defence major GE Aerospace for joint production of F414 jet engines in India, they said. The delays in supply of F404 engines by GE Aerospace has resulted in HAL missing the deadline to supply Tejas Mark 1A aircraft to the Indian Air Force.

An Indian readout on Tuesday said Mr Singh and Hegseth discussed a wide canvas of issues ranging from long-term cooperation in the defence sector, including training and military exchanges, to expanding indus-

The original suit was filed on November 19, 2023, by eight Hindu petitioners, including advocates Hari Shankar Jain and Vishnu Shankar Jain.

On that day, a court-ordered survey was conducted at the mosque.

A second round of survey was carried out on November 24, after which the matter was placed before the Chandausi civil court. The last hearing was held on April 28.

Advocate Sri Gopal Sharma, representing the Hindu side, told PTI that the high court's order rejecting the Muslim side plea was submitted in court as part of the record.

On the other hand, advocate Qasim Jamal, representing the Shahi Jama Masjid, acknowledged that the opposing side had submitted the High Court's ruling and said the mosque's legal team would abide by whatever order the court issues.

Advocate Babu Lal Saxena, who filed the petition seeking a stay on namaz, told PTI that his client Gupta believes religious activity by any group should be restricted at the disputed site until a final judgment is passed.

The case saw violent clashes in Sambhal on November 24, 2024, during the second survey at the mosque



94 More Killed In Gaza, Including 45 Waiting For Aid

Agencies

Tel Aviv- Airstrikes and shootings killed 94 Palestinians in Gaza overnight, including 45 while attempting to get much-needed humanitarian aid, hospitals and the Health Ministry said on Thursday.

Israel's military did not have immediate comment on the strikes.

Five people were killed while outside sites associated with the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, the newly created, secretive American organization backed by Israel to feed the Gaza Strip's population, while 40 others were killed waiting for aid trucks in other locations across the Gaza Strip.

Dozens of people were killed in airstrikes that pounded the Strip Wednesday night and Thursday morning, including 15 people killed in strikes that hit tents in the sprawling Muwasi zone,

where many displaced Palestinians are sheltering, and a strike on a school in Gaza City sheltering displaced people.

A separate strike on a school in Gaza City sheltering displaced people also killed 15 people.

Gaza's Health Ministry said the number of Palestinians killed in Gaza has passed 57,000, including 223 missing people who have been declared dead. The ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its death count but says that more than half of the dead are women and children.

The deaths come as Israel and Hamas inch closer to a possible ceasefire that would end the 21-month war.

Trump said Tuesday that Israel had agreed on terms for a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza and urged Hamas to accept the deal before conditions worsen. But Hamas' response, which emphasised its demand that

the war end, raised questions about whether the latest offer could materialise into an actual pause in fighting.

The Israeli military blames Hamas for the civilian casualties because it operates from populated areas. The military said it targeted Hamas militants and rocket launchers in northern Gaza that launched rockets towards Israel on Wednesday.

The war began on October 7, 2023, when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking roughly 250 hostages.

The war has left the coastal Palestinian territory in ruins, with much of the urban landscape flattened in the fighting. More than 90 per cent of Gaza's 2.3 million population has been displaced, often multiple times. And the war has sparked a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, leaving hundreds of thousands of people hungry. (AP)

Amnesty Accuses Israel, Aid System Of Using Starvation To Commit Gaza Genocide

Agencies

Cairo- Amnesty International accused a controversial Israeli- and US-backed system to distribute aid in Gaza of using starvation tactics against Palestinians to continue to commit genocide in the Gaza Strip during Israel's war with Hamas.

The UK-based human rights group released a report Thursday condemning Israel and the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which the US and Israel have backed to take over aid distribution in Gaza from a network led by the United Nations.

Gaza's Health Ministry says more than 500 Palestinians have been killed at or near GHF distribution centres over the past month. The centres are guarded by private security contractors and located near Israeli military positions. Palestinian officials and witnesses have accused Israeli forces of opening fire at crowds of people

moving near the sites.

The Amnesty report said Israel has "turned aid-seeking into a booby trap for desperate starved Palestinians" through GHF's militarised hubs. The conditions have created "a deadly mix of hunger and disease pushing the population past breaking point."

"This devastating daily loss of life as desperate Palestinians try to collect aid is the consequence of their deliberate targeting by Israeli forces and the foreseeable consequence of irresponsible and lethal methods of distribution," said Agnès Callamard, Amnesty's secretary general.

Israel's foreign minister denounced the Amnesty report, saying the organization has "joined forces with Hamas and fully adopted all of its propaganda lies." The Israeli army says it has fired warning shots to control crowds and only fires at people it says are acting suspiciously.

The Foreign Ministry and

COGAT, the Israeli defense body in charge of coordinating aid to Gaza, said Israel has facilitated the entry of over 3,000 aid trucks into the Gaza Strip since May 19 and GHF has delivered boxes of food with the equivalent of 56 million meals.

Humanitarian organizations say that amount is not nearly enough to meet overwhelming need in Gaza. GHF did not immediately return requests for comment.

The World Food Programme says despite the new Israel-backed initiative, food consumption reached a critical low last month, with food diversity reaching its worst level since the conflict began.

"The continued closure of crossings, intensified violence since March, soaring food prices, and extremely limited humanitarian and commercial supplies have severely restricted access to even basic food items," the WFP said in a June report.(AP)

MEA: Op Sindoor's Objective Was Clearly Communicated

Press Trust Of India

New York/Washington- Operation Sindoor conveyed to the world with great clarity that India will act against terrorism, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in a statement in line with the UN Security Council calling for those responsible for the Pahalagam attacks to be brought to justice.

"What is important for us in the Quad statement, as also the statement that the Security Council had issued on April 25, is that the perpetrators of terrorism must be held accountable. They must be brought to justice," Jaishankar said during a press conference in Washington on Wednesday.

"And that's important because we then have to communicate to the world what we did. On May 7, the objective of Operation Sindoor is that if there are terrorist attacks, we will act against the perpetrators, the supporters, the financiers, and the enablers. So that message, I think, was conveyed with great clarity," he said.

A joint statement issued by Quad Foreign Ministers — Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Foreign Minister of Australia Penny Wong, and Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya — unequivocally condemned all acts of terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms



and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism.

The Quad foreign ministers condemned in the "strongest terms" the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalagam, Jammu and Kashmir, which left 26 people dead.

"We call for the perpetrators, organisers, and financiers of this reprehensible act to be brought to justice without any delay and urge all UN member states, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant UNSCRs (UN Security Council resolutions), to cooperate actively with all relevant authorities in this regard," the joint statement said.

The UN Security Council press statement condemned the Pahalagam attack, with members of the Security Council underlining the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice.

Sonia, Rahul Gandhi Wanted To "Usurp" Rs 2,000 Crore Company: Probe Agency

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday alleged Sonia and Rahul Gandhi wanted to usurp the assets of Associated Journals Limited (AJL), a Rs 2,000 crore company, the publisher of the National Herald newspaper.

Special judge Vishal Gogne was hearing the submissions on the point of cognisance in the National Herald case.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju said a conspiracy was hatched to form Young Indian Private Limited in which the Gandhis held 76 per cent shares to usurp the assets of AJL, which took a Rs 90 crore loan from the All India Congress Committee (AICC) despite having assets worth in crores.

Explaining the conspiracy, the ASG said, "AJL was not making profits but had assets worth Rs 2,000 crore. But they were finding it difficult to manage their daily affairs. If you are doing reasonably well, you cannot say, I am in loss, etc. You have to build a facade. Rs 90 crore loan was taken from the AICC. They (AJL) said we cannot repay you (AICC). Ordinarily, any prudent person would have sold their assets. (Rs) 90 crore is child's play."

Mr Raju further said, "The conspiracy was creation of Young Indian to usurp Rs 2,000 crore in exchange for a Rs 90 crore loan. Sonia and Rahul Gandhi wanted to take over this Rs 2,000 crore company." Within six days of Rahul's appointment as the director of Young Indian, Raju said, it sent a representation to AJL to repay the loan or convert it into equity.

Judge Gogne posed a question to Mr Raju about the possibility of the AICC writing off AJL's loan, similar to public sector banks.

The ASG said banks wrote off loans of defaulters in the absence of assets as collateral but in this case AJL had assets worth Rs 2,000 crore which they gave away for a loan of Rs 90 crore.

Mr Raju alleged that the AICC distanced itself from a direct transaction to avoid "creating ripples" and instead created Young Indian.

The judge again asked Mr Raju if it was peculiar for political parties to own a newspaper.

"Political parties acquire running newspapers and channels. The main question is how can they acquire an asset for peanuts," Mr Raju said adding that AJL was acquired by Young Indian, in which 76 per cent shares were held by Sonia and Rahul Gandhi.

NEWS MAKERS

PM Conferred Ghana's National Honour

Press Trust Of India

Accra- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with 'The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana', the country's national honour, for his "distinguished statesmanship and influential global leadership".

Modi received the award on Wednesday from the Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama.

"Honoured to be conferred with 'The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana,'" the prime minister said on X.

In his acceptance speech, Modi said the award was a matter of great pride and honour for him.

"I humbly accept the award on behalf of the 140 crore Indians," he said, dedi-

cating it to the aspirations and bright future of the youth of the two countries, the historical ties between Ghana and India, and their rich cultural traditions and diversity.

"This honour is also a responsibility; to keep working towards a stronger India-Ghana friendship. India will always stand with the people of Ghana and continue to contribute as a trusted friend and development partner," he said in an X post.

The award was conferred on the prime minister in recognition of his "distinguished statesmanship and influential global leadership", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

Thanking the people and government of Ghana for the special gesture, the prime minister noted that



the "shared democratic values and traditions of the two countries would continue to nurture the partnership".

He said the award "further deepens the friendship between the two countries and places new responsibility on him to embrace and advance bilateral ties".

Apart from Modi, prominent personalities awarded the 'Order of the Star of Gha-

na' include Queen Elizabeth II as Queen of the UK, Nelson Mandela, the former president of South Africa, and Kofi Annan, the former secretary-general of the UN, King Charles III as the Prince of Wales in 2018, King Mohammed VI, the King of Morocco, and Giorgio Napolitano, the former president of Italy.

Modi asserted his confidence that his "historic" state visit to Ghana would impart a new momentum to India-Ghana ties, according to the MEA.

"A testament to the deep and long-standing India-Ghana ties," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on X.

Earlier, Modi held wide-ranging talks with Mahama, after which India and Ghana elevated their ties to the level of a comprehensive partnership.

TV Actor's Son Jumps from 51st Floor After Tuition Row Ask ChatGPT

Press Trust Of India

A 14-year-old boy, son of a television actor, allegedly died by suicide by jumping from a high-rise in Kandivali, Mumbai, following an argument about attending tuition classes, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place at 6 pm on Wednesday at a residential complex where the actor, who has worked in popular Gujarati and Hindi television serials, stays in a 51st floor flat, the official said.

"On Wednesday, the Class 9 student was asked by his mother to go for tuition but he was reluctant, which led to an argument. The boy left the house at 6pm, climbed down a couple of floors and then jumped to his death. His mother was alerted to the incident by a resident. We are ascertaining the exact floor from which he jumped off," the

official said. "No foul is suspected as yet. An accidental death report has been registered and further probe is underway," the Kandivali police station official said. Sources said police might visit the deceased's school and tuition centre as part of the probe.

Div Com Flags Off SANJY Pilgrims From Domail



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Amarnath Yatra 2025 commenced on Thursday with great enthusiasm as the first batch of pilgrims was ceremoniously flagged off from the Domail, Baltal in Ganderbal district by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri.

Secretary, Science and Technology Department, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary (Nodal Officer for Yatra-2025 for Baltal axis); Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore; SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal; and other senior officers from the District Administration and Police were also present on the occasion.

The officers extended warm wishes to the pilgrims, praying for their safe and spiritually enriching journey.

The Baltal base camp echoed with chants of "Bam Bam Bhole" and "Har Har Mahadev", as thousands of ecstatic pilgrims including men, women, elderly

devotees, and sadhus, set off on their sacred journey to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Amarnath Ji.

The pilgrims expressed joy and appreciation for the robust arrangements made by the Jammu and Kashmir UT Administration Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB), and the Police. They lauded the seamless coordination and facilities put in place to ensure a smooth and secure Yatra experience.

To ensure the safety and well-being of the pilgrims, the administration has made comprehensive arrangements, including round-the-clock security, well-equipped medical camps, sanitation facilities, and other essential services along the Yatra route.

The commencement of the Yatra marks the beginning of a deeply spiritual and revered pilgrimage, reflecting the unwavering devotion of the yatrias and the commitment of the administration to facilitate a smooth and safe pilgrimage.

DC Budgam Reviews Progress On New District Hospital



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner of Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat visited the construction site of 125-bedded new District Hospital and a 100-bedded Critical Care Unit in Reshipora.

During the visit, DC highlighted the need for accelerating construction efforts to ensure these essential healthcare facilities are completed in a timely manner.

He pointed out that these hospitals will greatly improve the healthcare infrastructure in the district and offer advanced medical services to local residents.

Dr. Bhat noted that both projects are on track and, once completed, will significantly boost healthcare delivery in the region by providing specialized care and critical medical services.

The District Administration, together with the Roads and Buildings (R&B) department

and the health department, is committed to completing these important projects as quickly as possible, aiming to make them available to the public ahead of schedule.

The establishment of the hospital and critical care unit is expected to be crucial in meeting the healthcare needs of Budgam, particularly in delivering specialized and critical medical care to public.

DC informed that continued monitoring of the projects is being conducted to promptly address any issues through coordinated efforts among multiple departments.

During the visit, he was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Superintending Engineer R&B circle Budgam, Chief Planning Officer Budgam, Chief Medical Officer of Budgam, Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Budgam, as well as various executive engineers and representatives from the agencies.

J&K RTI Movement Holds Capacity Building Workshop



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A two-day capacity-building workshop on the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, was organised by the J&K RTI Movement in collaboration with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), Uri Foundation, and Kashmir Law Circle. The event brought together legislators, administrators, legal experts, civil society leaders, journalists, and aspiring law students for in-depth discussions on transparency, accountability, and citizen empowerment.

MLA Kulgam Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami, speaking at the inaugural session, highlighted how the constitutional right to life is tied to the RTI Act, as it enables citizens to access essential information. He stressed that without public participation, governance remains dysfunctional, and criticized the abrogation of Article 370, arguing it could have been contested if RTI had been widely used.

MLA Wagoora-Kreeri Irfan Hafeez Lone called RTI the soul of democracy and praised the J&K RTI Movement, particularly Dr. Shaikh Ghulam Rasool, for sus-

taining public engagement. Lone, also recognized as J&K's first RTI activist, played a key role in introducing the J&K RTI Act 2004 along with Balraj Puri.

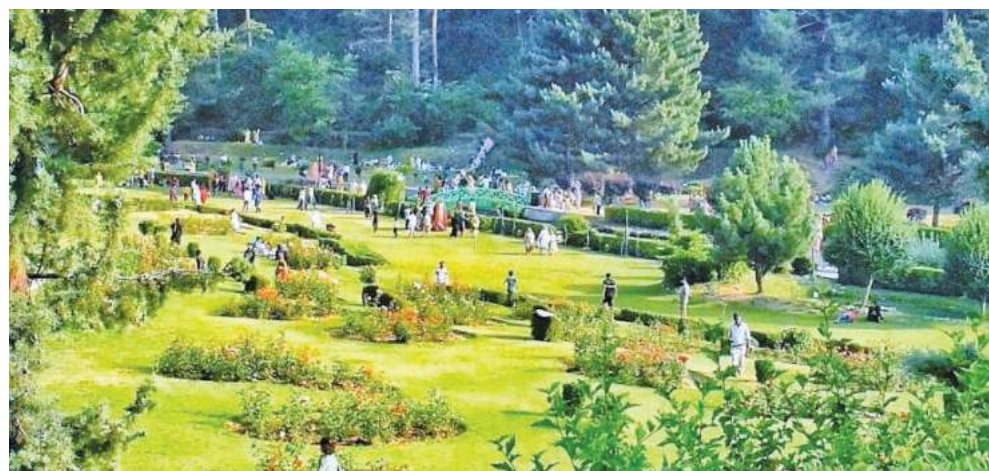
In his valedictory address, India's first Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah emphasized the simplicity of the RTI process, stating that citizens don't need legal expertise to file applications. He encouraged widespread usage of the Act to uphold democratic values.

DDC Baramulla Chairperson Safeena Beigh urged students to learn the responsibilities tied to RTI before exercising them, while CHRI Director Venkatesh Nayak stressed the need for constant questioning of public institutions.

Dr. Shaikh Ghulam Rasool emphasized the importance of enforcing transparency laws such as the RTI Act, Public Services Guarantee Act, and Forest Rights Act. Advocate Naveed Bukhtiyar recounted how the RTI Movement shaped his political journey and urged young lawyers to become advocates for justice. Legal Adviser Advocate Mujtaba announced plans for similar workshops across J&K.

Anantnag Witnesses Tourism Boom

Reopening Of Kokernag, Achabal, Daksum, Verinag Sparks Tourist Influx



FILE PHOTO

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Anantnag district has witnessed a remarkable surge in tourist footfall, with over 1.5 lakh visitors thronging four prominent destinations—Kokernag, Achabal, Daksum, and Verinag—between June 17 and July 1. This spike comes in the wake of the recent reopening of these sites, which were temporarily closed due to security concerns following the Pahalgam terror attack.

As per official records, a total of 150,994 tourists visited the four parks during this two-week period. Kokernag attracted the highest number of visitors, recording 45,523 footfalls. Achabal followed with 40,870, while Verinag drew 38,795 tourists. Daksum, known for its scenic landscapes, saw 25,806 visitors. Among the total visitors, 30 were foreign nationals.

While Verinag is managed by its own Development Authority, Kokernag, Achabal,

and Daksum fall under the jurisdiction of the Kokernag Development Authority (KDA).

Speaking to KNO, Mohammad Rouf Rahman, Chief Executive Officer of KDA, said: "These destinations were closed for a brief period due to security concerns. They were reopened on June 17, and since then, Kokernag, Daksum, and Achabal have witnessed an overwhelming response. The ongoing summer vacations and the intense heat wave across the plains have also contributed to the rush."

Rahman said that Kokernag continues to bustle with activity, with full occupancy at guesthouses and peak crowd levels throughout the day. "Kokernag is not just a garden—it spans across nearly 80 kilometres. To manage the growing number of tourists, we have extended the garden hours until 7 PM, implemented better traffic regulation on all approach roads, and deployed our entire staff to ensure a seamless experience," he added.

The CEO said the development authority is actively working on new development proposals and infrastructure upgrades aimed at enhancing Kokernag's tourism appeal. "Our goal is to make Kokernag the second-most visited destination in south Kashmir after Pahalgam. With the Amarnath Yatra currently underway and movement restrictions in place around Pahalgam, we see an opportunity to attract more tourists to Kokernag," he said.

Efforts are also being made to shift Kokernag's perception from a daytime picnic spot to a destination suitable for overnight stays. "We are encouraging local residents to establish homestays and guesthouses. A few foreign tourists have already started arriving. With better accommodations, we expect those numbers to grow," the CEO said.

He stressed the importance of boosting the local economy, saying, "Tourism supports hundreds of shopkeepers and vendors. When footfall is high, the entire population benefits."



THESE DESTINATIONS WERE CLOSED FOR A BRIEF PERIOD DUE TO SECURITY CONCERNS. They were reopened on June 17, and since then, Kokernag, Daksum, and Achabal have witnessed an overwhelming response. The ongoing summer vacations and the intense heat wave across the plains have also contributed to the rush."

HEATWAVE

Doctors Warn Of Gastrointestinal, Heart Risks

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As Jammu and Kashmir continues to reel under an intense heatwave, health experts are raising alarms over the surge in heat-related illnesses.

They said that from gastrointestinal infections to life-threatening cardiovascular complications, the soaring temperatures are posing a serious threat to public health.

Doctors, with whom KNO spoke, said that extreme heat can trigger a wide range of diseases, especially among vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions.

Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir, a noted physician posted in south Kashmir, said that heatwaves drastically increase the risk of gastrointestinal issues like diarrhoea, vomiting, and food poisoning, particularly due to the consumption of unhygienic or spoiled food.

"During summers, food spoils faster, especially street food and items like meat, milk, and juices. These can quickly become breeding grounds for

bacteria, leading to gastroenteritis and related infections," he said.

Dr Nisar added that junk food, commonly consumed by youth and children during summer outings, also contributes to stomach-related issues. In many cases, children develop tonsillitis or throat infections due to consuming ice-cold or contaminated beverages, he said.

Another major concern during a heatwave is dehydration, which can lead to electrolyte imbalance, fatigue, and even heatstroke in extreme cases, he added.

Doctors said that heat waves can also have a serious impact on those suffering from hypertension and cardiovascular conditions.

Dr Showkat Ahmad, a cardiologist, said temperatures can cause blood pressure to fluctuate, and in hypertensive patients, this can increase the risk of stroke or heart attack. Such cases, he said, have been reported in Kashmir in the last few weeks.

In some instances, the body's natural cooling system

can fail under prolonged exposure to heat, leading to heat exhaustion or heatstroke — a medical emergency that requires immediate attention," Dr Ahmad said.

Doctors advised people to drink plenty of water, even if not thirsty. "Avoid alcohol, sugary drinks, and caffeinated beverages, which can increase dehydration," they said.

They advised, "Avoid stale, oily, or spicy food. Opt for freshly cooked meals and fruits like watermelon, cucumber, and oranges that have high water content, limit outdoor activities between 12 pm and 4 pm, when temperatures are at their peak, prefer cotton and light-coloured clothing to allow ventilation and reduce heat absorption and always refrigerate perishable items and ensure proper hygiene while preparing and consuming food."

The doctors further advised to use ORS and electrolyte solutions, especially for children and the elderly who are more susceptible to dehydration.

Kashmir has been undergoing a severe heat wave for the past one month.

DC Doda Reviews JJM & JSJB 2.0 progress

Observer News Service

DODA: A detailed review meeting was convened at the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Doda, to assess the implementation status of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Jal Shakti Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) 2.0 initiatives in the district.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, who also serves as the Chairman of DJJM Doda, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Doda. Among the attendees were Chief Planning Officer, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Doda, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and Irrigation & Flood

Control Divisions, Assistant Executive Engineers from Doda and Bhandarwah and members of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) team.

The Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Doda, delivered a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation highlighting the district's progress under both missions. Key indicators such as the number of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), completion of rapid sand filtration plants, bore wells and other critical infrastructure were presented. The performance of three major divisions Jal Shakti PHE Division Doda, PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Gandoh and Hydraulic Divisions of

Kishtwar and Thatthri was also reviewed.

During the discussions, the Deputy Commissioner directed all executing agencies to expedite pending works within the stipulated timelines and to conduct regular field inspections to monitor real-time progress. They underscored the importance of inter-departmental coordination, timely resolution of bottlenecks at the field level and quality assurance in the execution of projects. The officers were also instructed to prepare a clear roadmap for addressing gaps in water quality testing and to enhance public awareness about water conservation and judicious usage.



CS Emphasises Timely Aadhaar Seeding Of DBT schemes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant push towards greater transparency and efficiency in public services delivery, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo emphasized upon all the concerned departments to embark on a time-bound ambitious drive to complete Aadhaar seeding for the remaining beneficiaries within the next two months.

This critical initiative aims to ensure that the benefits directly reach the deserving, effectively eliminating the role of middlemen.

The meeting was attended by the Administrative Secretaries of the concerned departments besides officers from the Finance Department.

The Chief Secretary underscored the dual benefits of this accelerated Aadhaar seeding remarking that it isn't just about transparency; it's about empowering our citizens by ensuring that every rupee of assistance reaches those it's intended for, without any dilution or diversion.

Further beyond the direct benefit transfer, the Chief Secretary highlighted Aadhaar seeding as a fundamental prerequisite for widespread adoption of SNA-SPARSH. This innovative "just-in-time" fund release system, soon to be mandatory for all Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) being implemented across the country, promises to revolutionize the financial management and optimize fund utilization.

To facilitate a seamless tran-

sition, he directed the departments to nominate the dedicated liaison officers. These officers will undergo specialized training by the financial experts within the Finance department, equipping them to navigate the intricacies of the new SNA-SPARSH framework.

On the occasion, Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, provided a detailed overview of various Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes currently operational across the departments. He offered valuable insights into the current status of Aadhaar seeding for each scheme and laid out a clear roadmap for achieving complete coverage.

Vaidya also elaborated on the strategic plan for a smooth transition to SNA-SPARSH, with active support and collaboration from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). He designated the contact persons for each Department who would lend a helping hand in ironing out all the obstacles faced during the course of action taken by respective departments.

The review highlighted significant strides, with an overall Aadhaar seeding percentage of 55.2% across 76 schemes, encompassing a grand total of 7,883,610 beneficiaries.

The meeting, focusing on "DBT Bharat" and "Apna Adhikar, Apne Dwar" initiatives of the GoI, underscored the government's commitment towards ensuring efficient and transparent delivery of benefits directly to the intended recipients exclusively.

DC Udhampur Reviews Good Governance Index Performance

Observer News Service

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai chaired a meeting with officers from various line departments to review the status of the Good Governance Index in the district.

At the outset, DSEO, Darshan Kumar, presented an overview of the District Good Governance Index through a detailed PowerPoint presentation. He outlined the objectives of the index and its role in monitoring district-level performance across key developmental sectors.

The meeting was attended by PO Poshan Subash Dogra, General Manager DIC Kishore Singh Katoch, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, Chief Planning Officer Mohd Iqbal Zargar and other senior officers of line departments.

During the meeting, Chief Education Officer was instructed to take proactive measures to improve gender parity in

the education sector. The Executive Engineer, JPDCL was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply to all government schools. In this regard, the DC emphasized checking the availability and functionality of both power and drinking water facilities in schools.

The Social Welfare Department was asked to boost beneficiary enrollment under the Atal Pension Yojana, while the PO Poshan was directed to monitor abandoned buildings for their potential use in accommodating Anganwadi Centres.

Additionally, the Health Department was instructed to take steps to increase the rate of institutional deliveries in the district, as part of efforts to strengthen maternal and child health services.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all departments to work in close coordination and adopt a result-oriented approach to ensure significant improvement in governance standards at the grassroots level.

Annual Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra Commences At Kishtwar

Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: The revered Annual Yatra of Shri Ashtadash Bhujia Mata Sarthal Devi Ji commenced today in Kishtwar, marking the beginning of a joyous and spiritually significant event.

The yatra began with a grand Hawan ceremony held at Gori Shankar Mandir, Sarkoot, where devotees fervently offered Aahuti and Puran Aahuti (sacred oblations).

Accompanied by an impressive Shoba Yatra, the Chari Mubarak (holy procession) proceeded through Chowgan Ground, Shaheedi Chowk, and the Bus Stand, starting from Gori Shankar Mandir.

Thousands of devotees, including men, women, and children, enthusiastically chanted religious slogans and bhajans, while traditional "Paddari Dance" to drum beats resonated along the procession route.

Local communities from various neighborhoods extended a warm welcome to the Holy Chari.

At the Bus Stand, devotees boarded buses and other vehicles to make their way to the historic Shri Sarthal Devi Temple in Kishtwar.

A grand Jagran (night-long devotional singing) is going to be organized today at the Sarthal Devi Mata Bhawan, adding to the spiritual fervor of the yatra.

Tomorrow morning, on 04 July, a Maha Yajna (grand religious ritual) will be performed at Sarthal Devi Mandir.

The district administration and police have made meticulous arrangements for security, drinking water, power supply, transportation, and other essential facilities at Kishtwar and Sarthal to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for the devotees.

Sarthal Devi Ji is revered as the "Kul Devi" (patron goddess) of the region.

The historic yatra has been organized every year since the Dogra regime, and each devotee holds a deep and unique faith in this sacred pilgrimage.

The Poet Who Preserved Karbala in Kashmiri Verse

Mirza Abul Qasim's marsiyas gave voice to Kashmir's grief and moral strength. Decades later, his forgotten work finds new life through the efforts of those who refuse to let memory fade.

Muzaffar Hussain Bhat

In the small pockets of Shia neighbourhoods across Kashmir, the sound of marsiyas, poetic elegies mourning the tragedy of Karbala, once shaped not just rituals of remembrance, but also the moral pulse of the community.

Among the many voices that carried this tradition, Mirza Abul Qasim stands apart.

His words, written in Kashmiri in the 19th century, carried both the weight of grief and the light of spiritual teaching.

For years, though, his legacy slipped from public memory.

That began to change when Syed Anis Kazmi took it upon himself to revive Qasim's work.

It was not an easy task. Marsiyas in Kashmir were mostly passed down by heart, recited at majlis gatherings, remembered but rarely written.

Kazmi, feeling the deep loss of elderly marsiya reciters who had died over the decades, feared that not just the voices but also the very words would disappear.

"These days I feel an emptiness," Kazmi once wrote, naming a long list of beloved Zakirin, the community's reciters, who had passed, each taking with them a lifetime of memorized marsiyas.

Among them were Zakir Gh Mustafa Sofi Magam, Zakir Syed Ali Palar, Zakir Khwaja Akka, and Zakir Qasim Bhat.

Kazmi's worry was simple: with their passing, how many priceless marsiyas were now gone forever?

He worked tirelessly, collecting, recording, and finally compiling the marsiyas of



Mirza Abul Qasim. His effort was more than an act of preservation. It was an act of devotion.

To Kazmi and many others, Qasim's poetry is more than art. It is the soul of Kashmiri

Shia heritage.

Today, scholars and poets are once again looking closely at Qasim's marsiyas, seeing in them not just literary beauty but powerful lessons that still speak to Kashmir's Shia

community.

His poems carry the story of Karbala, but they also push beyond sorrow, reaching toward spiritual strength and moral clarity. In his marsiyas, Qasim didn't just mourn.

He taught. His work carries a Tablighi pehlu, a preaching dimension, where every verse holds a message.

The story of Imam Hussain's stand against tyranny becomes more than history. It becomes a guide, urging listeners to live with courage, justice, and faith.

Through simple yet moving language, Qasim drew people into the story of Karbala, not as distant spectators, but as participants in its lessons.

His marsiyas often blended verses from the Quran, sayings of the Prophet, and moral teachings to remind the community of what it means to live a righteous life.

For generations, Shia Kashmiris listened to these poems and found in them both tears and direction.

Even now, in the middle of modern struggles and changing times, Qasim's marsiyas remain a source of pride and purpose. They hold the memory of a community's pain but also its resilience.

Kazmi's collection, compiled in the 1970s, saved this legacy from being lost.

Today, as younger scholars and poets rediscover Qasim's work, there is a growing effort to bring these marsiyas back into homes, gatherings, and public recitations.

Mirza Abul Qasim's poetry may have come from another century, but it continues to speak to Kashmir, to its faith, its sorrow, and its spirit.

His poems remind us that some legacies do not belong to the past. They are still alive, waiting to be heard.

The author is a Kashmir-based columnist from Kanter Bugh, Gund Khawaja Qasim.

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The Price of Getting Married in Kashmir

In the rush for lavish weddings, many in the Valley are paying with debt, delay, and heartbreak.



Saboora Majid

Weddings in Kashmir have turned into something else.

Once, they were warm gatherings, stitched together by love and shared plates. People sat cross-legged on carpets, scooping handfuls of wazwan, smiling across steaming cups of noon chai.

There was singing, not with loudspeakers, but with voices that rose softly in small, packed rooms. Neighbours helped. Relatives brought bread. A wedding felt like it belonged to the entire lane.

Now, it belongs to the highest bidder.

Weddings in the Valley have become grand displays of tents, glittering stages, camera crews, and singers flown in to perform.

The bride's walk to the stage is no longer a festive family moment. It is a show, filmed and posted, judged and shared.

Families seem to plan not for the marriage, but for the photographs.

In this new race, the wealthy have set the rules.

The number of dishes at the wazwan grows longer each season. Twenty, thirty, sometimes more. Guests pick through piles of lamb and chicken, tasting little, leaving much. The pressure to keep up is impossible for many.

In the homes where money is thin, fathers count their savings in the dark. Mothers run their fingers over worn-out wedding lists, crossing off what they can't afford, knowing that each missing item might bring shame to their daughters.

Girls wonder if their weddings will be enough. Boys are told to measure their in-laws by the weight of the feast.

There are stories that rarely leave the kitchen walls. A poor girl, newly married, hears her husband say her family gave him nothing. His relatives repeat it. It sits with her in every room. There are girls who carry this humiliation for years.

In the rush for more - more dishes, more lights, more noise - the old ways are slipping away. The songs have been replaced by

shrill. The neighbourhood gatherings have given way to rented banquet halls.

Love, which used to hold these weddings together, has been crowded out by spectacle.

Some girls never make it to the wedding at all. Their families can't afford the price. They grow older while the guest lists around them grow longer.

Some parents take loans that will follow them for years. Some step back from the race altogether.

Religious scholars remind people that simplicity is the way. They quote the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who said that the best weddings are the easiest ones.

The reminder seems small against the lights, against the pressure to impress. In the Valley's towns and villages, the message is heard, but not often followed.

Even the government has started to take notice, introducing guidelines to limit extravagance.

But this is not a rulebook problem. It is not about bans or penalties. It is a way of thinking that has settled deep inside the Valley's walls.

It can change, but the change has to start inside homes.

It starts when a family chooses a wedding that does not leave another family gasping to match it.

It starts when people decide that a wedding should be a blessing, not a bill.

It starts when the poor can bring their daughters to the aisle without fear of being laughed at.

Weddings in Kashmir were once simple, and they were beautiful. They can be that again.

There is still time to choose love over display, to choose meaning over numbers, to bring the wedding back to what it was: a beginning, not a burden.

The author is a sixth-semester student at Government Degree College Ganderbal, who writes about social issues and cultural practices in Kashmir.

Dear Therapist, Why I Kept Coming Back to Therapy

A Kashmiri woman pens an honest tribute to her therapist, showing how even the slowest journeys can lead to profound change.

Aisha Hasnain

Dear Wasim Rashid Kakroo Sir,

Given my OCD tendencies and propensity, it is hard for me to call you Dr. Wasim because you are not a Ph.D.

When you asked me if I could help you with an honest review on Google, I felt very sorry because I don't go by my real name anywhere.

It felt like I wouldn't be able to do it in a genuine manner. "I'll do it some other way," I told you. Hence, I will share my experience with a psychologist, which happens to be you, here.

My first session with you was on June 4, 2022. I cannot believe it has already been three years. You were recommended by a relative of a dear friend.

A couple of months back, I proudly wanted to write to you that, 'dear therapist, my last session with you was my last session with you,' but last week I decided to come back, making it my 113rd session with you.

On completing one year with you, I wanted to leave a feedback to you on WhatsApp but my progress had been so slow and subtle that it was hard to recognize what I could write to you.

I told you that the only profitable thing I could count until then was 'accountability'. The irony is that last week, I came back for therapy for the same reason: Accountability.

Having done quite a bit for my mental health, I need to shift my focus towards physical health and I am failing to do it on my own.

The first time I called you, you asked me if I would like to consult with a colleague of yours instead, equally competent, because you didn't have time slots available for a new client.

As I was an agreeable person, I took the contact of the other psychologist from you. But then I called you back and told you that you came as the recommended one, so I would like to consult with you only.

Maybe that is where I can look at if I want to recall when I began to say 'no'. You know I have grown a lot since.

Being under the guidance of a professional has been crucial. And I couldn't have asked for better. I have taken baby steps in these three years. Online therapies because of my social anxiety disorder would hurt and I was hoping to meet you in person one day.



It was going to be May, 2023 eventually. Now I am at a point where I am able to come to the clinic for offline sessions. Unbelievably so.

God, I am a person who happily socializes with any person of any age group! It would drive me crazy why I faced social anxiety. You have given me answers. Indeed psychology and cerebral creativity are intricate. You undid the knots in the much unorganized bundle of threads of my unconscious / subconscious thoughts.

What I thought could merely heal by a miracle I am achieving today with my hard-headedness, tenacity and your help.

Your personal story and glory out of those troubles is what makes you one of the best. That's just natural. Your first hand experience makes you an inspiration. But you would ask me to inspire you.

My friends and family had doubts about dear Aisha's psychologist: "Where are the results?"

Remember you once told me that it is always hard in the beginning, frustrating in the middle and easy towards the end? The same friends are proud of my healing journey now. They see that I am no longer the same person. But I still have _miles to go_, we know, _before I sleep_...

In between, some sessions I dedicated to my book. I chose you to be my first reader and proof-reader. You proofread it with more dedication than I was expecting.

You have seen me grow through these years and I did most of my growth in these years only. I fought with all the sinews left in me.

The first Thursday of last Ramazan you asked me if I could write in your

stead for this newspaper. Your faith in me took me by surprise. I complied and since then I haven't stopped. That happened to be my last session with you until I decided that I needed to resume for my physical health.

You use the metaphor of a stock market graph with dips and spikes to describe the process of healing. Such a visual in my mind has been of help.

My first session with you, early morning if my memory serves me, was very reassuring. A few things you told me at that time lit up my neurons. You laid the foundation stone to my healing journey by reducing all my fears and doubts to pure anxiety. You told me that I needed to cultivate self-love.

Indeed, self-love has been the answer to my suffering. And boy, did I struggle with understanding the core of self-love.

You said eventually I will be able to forgive those who did me wrong because I will have no doubts that they no longer had any power over me.

This last part is tricky because in my case, not forgiving and being ruthless made sense. I had become used to forgiving and going back to get trampled over again.

Life has been tough but thankfully it didn't break my faith. I fail to describe my story and my article, Dandelion was one of the false ways to put across the ache in my spiritual mass.

I had come with little hope and I cannot be thankful enough for this progressive journey.

Psychotherapy, undoubtedly, is the primary cure to mental health issues and sometimes, it is hard to stick to the process. Perseverance was pricier than my small diamond-studded earrings.

Choosing you to monitor my emotions for me served me right. Thank you for giving me the worth of my money, for doing your job with honesty, compassion, professionalism and patience!

I hope one day I am rich enough to gift you a new laptop, if you haven't replaced the one you have yet. It wouldn't start easily when we were discussing my book.

Sincerely,
Aisha [You know my real name].

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

Drones Can Be Key To Safe Transport Of Blood And Its Components: ICMR Study

Press Trust Of India

The integrity of blood components and parameters do not get compromised, and blood can be transported safely by drones, particularly in far-flung areas and difficult terrains, an ICMR study has found.

The feasibility study to evaluate the efficiency and sustainability of drone-based delivery of blood saw the drone travel around 36 km in eight minutes, while a van took around 55 minutes to cover the same distance.

The study titled "Adopting drone technology for blood delivery: a feasibility study to evaluate its efficiency and sustainability" tried to determine how drone delivery impacts the quality and stability of blood components after transport, compared to traditional delivery methods.

The study published in the Springer Nature journal said that in the future, drones could be an option to deliver other important and time-sensitive medical supplies, such as emergency drugs or pharmaceutical products as well.

Blood and blood component transfusions may be lifesaving for patients in emergencies like hemorrhagic shocks, surgeries and accidents. Even in the best resource settings, blood components are not always available readily and cannot be transported to the needed place, the study stated.

Transportation of blood and its components is complicated as they need to be stored at a specified temperature, else their functionality is affected such as the oxygen-carrying ability of blood is greatly reduced.

Also, the risk of bacterial contamination and hemolysis rises if it is exposed to aseptic conditions or a warm environment. Conversely, blood exposed to extremely low temperatures may get hemolysed and can lead to a fatal transfusion reaction, the study stated.

Maintaining cold chain integrity is essential for compliance and accreditation. Blood banks and transfusion services adhere to stringent national and international regulations and quality standards that mandate strict temperature control throughout the



blood supply chain, from collection to transfusion.

"Overall, management and transportation of blood and its components is a complex task due to stringent storage conditions, limited shelf-life, the unpredictable requirements, complex geographical and climatic conditions," the study stated.

The UAVs are being considered as one of the potential solutions to the logistic challenges, as they can reach inaccessible areas in a shorter duration. Drones have been proven to have great potential for increasing the capacity and efficiency of the healthcare systems, it said.

Drone trials in several countries such as Italy and Rwanda have indicated drone as a viable solution for blood transportation, not affecting the integrity of the blood and its components, in spite of the accelerations-decelerations sometimes.

Another study which was conducted in a Southeast Asian country suggests that obstacles for ground vehicles, including geographical distances, challenging topographical features such as mountains and rivers, and poor or under-developed road systems can be overcome with drones as a

mode of transportation.

Therefore, a drone is a potential alternative to explore in tropical countries as a first response vehicle in emergencies.

But more scientific evidences are required about the practicality, operational challenges and impact on the quality of blood after transportation via drone, the study said.

The primary aim of the present study was to assess the impact of drone-based delivery on the blood components after the transportation and their comparison to conventional modes of transportation and will also try to identify the challenges encountered in the process.

The study was conducted for three months from May-July 2023 when the ambient temperature was -30-40 degrees Celsius.

The present study documents the challenges experienced by the study team during the drone-based delivery of blood while maintaining the biochemical parameters of blood components.

In this study the drone travelled around 36 km in eight minutes with a velocity 70-75 mtr/sec, while van took around 55 minutes to cover the same distance (with a velocity of 10-15 mtr/



Blood and blood component transfusions may be lifesaving for patients in emergencies like hemorrhagic shocks, surgeries and accidents. Even in the best resource settings, blood components are not always available readily and cannot be transported to the needed place, the study stated.

Notice

I want to transfer the Electric Connection bearing Consumer No.0202020010019 ,Installation No. HZ-31/HZB-6 from Abdul Gani Sheikh S/o: Sonallah Sheikh to Rashma W/o Late Abdul Gani Sheikh R/o: Haft Chinar Srinagar, which is registered on my late Husband name in the Electric Department. In this regard, if anybody having any objection He/She may convey to Assistant Executive Engineer Electric Sub Division Hazuri Bagh Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rashma
W/o: Late Abdul Gani Sheikh
R/o: Haft Chinar Srinagar

ab

از نیابت ہومی

عنوان :- درخواست منیانب ریجیڈرڈ ہسپتال احمد کمار ساکنہ تجربہ پٹی ہار ربرادبراد عطانگی OBC تحت 176 SRO بحق پسر بازل شیر

اشتہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکنہ نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹیفکیٹ بذمہ

کمار پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے

جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ واقعی کمار ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور ساکنہ دھبہ میں

رہائش پذیر ہے اور کبھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ساکنہ کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

بشیر احمد کمار ولد غلام محمد کمار مزدوری 43 سال 5000 آمدنی

عائشہ بیگم زوجہ بشیر احمد گھریلو کام 42 سال

الفت شیر دختر زیر تعلیم 20 سال

ریحانہ شیر -- -- 21 سال

اشفاق احمد پسر -- -- 18 سال

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

5,000 روپے تک ہے ۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا

عترض ہو تو وہ بعد مشہر اخبار رسالت دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض عدالت ہذا کو فوری اوقات

کے دوران پیش کریں ۔ بعد گزرے مہیا کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا ۔

نائب تحصیلدار

FKO



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Sharma Highlights Direct Selling As Catalyst For Economic Growth, Youth Empowerment

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, Thursday emphasized the transformative potential of direct selling industry in empowering youth, fostering ethical entrepreneurship and catalyzing inclusive economic growth in Jammu & Kashmir.

He was speaking at a conclave organised by Federation of Indian Direct Selling industries on Direct Selling and Consumer Markets on the theme "Regulations, Innovations and Growth".

The Minister appreciated the Dignitaries, Industry Leaders and the Delegates for their collective commitment towards fostering a robust and ethical direct selling ecosystem in the region and across the nation.

"The landscape of consumer markets is constantly evolving and at the heart of this evolution lies the direct selling industry, a sector that has shown remarkable resilience, adaptability and the power to reach grassroot communities across India," maintained the Minister. He underscored the necessity

of a clear and comprehensive regulatory framework, calling it not just beneficial but essential. "Trust forms the very foundation of direct selling between the seller and the consumer and within the business model itself. Well-defined regulations provide this trust, protect consumers from malpractices and create a level playing field for all the stakeholders," he said.

Reiterating Jammu & Kashmir Government's commitment, Sharma assured full support for ethical practices, consumer protection and responsible business conduct. "We are resolute in ensuring effective implementation of regulations that eliminate ambiguities and build consumer confidence, thereby unlocking the full potential of direct selling," the Minister stated.

Highlighting the sector's role in youth engagement, the Minister said that the direct selling is a powerful vehicle for generating employment, promoting skill development and enabling meaningful self-employment, especially among women and youth. It offers a low-barrier entry point for entrepreneurship, contributing significantly to local economies, he added.

Stock Markets Decline On Fag-End Selling; Financial Stocks Drag

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty pared intra-day gains to close lower on Thursday due to last-hour selling in financial and metal shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped by 170.22 points or 0.20 per cent to settle at 83,239.47. The index opened higher and rose further by 440.4 points or 0.52 per cent to hit a high of 83,850.09. However, profit taking emerged in the last hour of trade dragging the barometer to a low of 83,186.74 in the pre-close session.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined by 48.10 points or 0.19 per cent to 25,405.30.

Among the Sensex firms, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Adani Ports, Trent, State Bank of India, Titan and Tata Consultancy Services were the laggards.

However, Maruti, Infosys, NTPC, Asian Paints, Eternal and Hindustan Unilever were among the biggest gainers.

"Markets traded volatile on the weekly expiry day and ended marginally lower, continuing the ongoing consolidation phase," Ajit Mishra -- SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

Sector-wise, the trend remained mixed -- auto and pharma posted gains, while metal and realty were among the top losers, he added. The broader indices also mirrored this movement and closed on a



flat note.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.47 per cent while mid-cap index dipped 0.06 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, services dropped the most by 1.08 per cent, followed by metal (0.77 per cent), realty (0.61 per cent), telecommunication (0.55 per cent), utilities (0.48 per cent) and bankex (0.48 per cent).

Healthcare, consumer discretionary, auto, consumer durables and oil & gas were the gainers.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said that investors remain watchful of developments surrounding the potential US-India trade agreement, with the 90-day pause nearing its end. FIIs have turned cautious in the recent days due to premium valuation.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled higher while Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended lower.

European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended mostly higher on Wednesday.

Op Sindoor Aftermath: Centre Okays ₹1 Lakh Cr Arms Purchases

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India on Thursday approved capital acquisition of a plethora of military hardware and platforms worth approximately Rs 1.05 lakh crore that included procurement of 12 mine counter-measure vessels at a cost of over Rs 44,000 crore for the Indian Navy.

The critical procurement projects were cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, weeks after the May 7 to 10 military conflict between India and Pakistan.

The DAC accorded initial approval for 10 capital acquisition proposals amounting to about Rs 1.05 lakh crore through indigenous sourcing, the defence ministry said.

The approval for the procurement of mine counter-measure vessels (MCMVs) comes after at least three failed attempts to procure them in the last 15 years.

Around seven years back, India's negotiations with a South Korean defence major to procure the MCMVs, popularly known as minesweeper vessels, broke down in view of a variety of issues.



The Indian Navy does not have any MCMV at present. The force has been strongly pitching for acquiring the specialized warships that are crucial for detection, tracking and destroying underwater mines.

Underwater mines are used by adversaries to disrupt maritime trade, choke harbours and ports, and disrupt shipping.

According to the proposal, the MCMVs will be manufactured in India.

The DAC accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) or initial approval procurement of armoured recovery vehicles, electronic warfare system, integrated common inventory management system for the tri-services and surface-to-air missiles.

"These procurements will provide higher mobility, effective air defence, better supply chain management and augment the operational preparedness of the armed forces," the defence ministry said.

It said approvals were also accorded for procurement of moored mines, super rapid gun mount and submersible autonomous vessels.

"These procurements will enable mitigation of potential risks posed to the naval and merchant vessels," it said.

"To provide further impetus to indigenous design and development, AoNs were accorded under the Buy (Indian-Indigenously designed developed and manufactured) category," the ministry said.



THESE PROCUREMENTS WILL PROVIDE HIGHER MOBILITY, effective air defence, better supply chain management and augment the operational preparedness of the armed forces,"

Insolvency Proceedings Can Not Sidestep PMLA Process: NCLT

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Proceedings under the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code cannot be used as a mechanism to "frustrate or sidestep" the process going under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) said.

Rejecting the plea for dissolution of Shakti Bhog Snacks, which is under the lens of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) with a special PMLA Court taking cognisance of the complaint filed by the probe agency, NCLT said it "would amount to judicial overreach".

This will also "impair the ED's ability to complete its investigation, pursue trial, and recover proceeds of crime," said NCLT while dismissing the plea of the Resolution Professional of Shakti Bhog Snacks.

A two-member NCLT bench further said the Supreme Court has already held that NCLT and the appellate tribunal NCLAT do not have jurisdiction to interfere with proceedings or orders passed under the PMLA, including attachment orders or criminal prosecution.

"In view of the foregoing, we are of the considered opinion that permitting dissolution despite the pen-



dency of the Special Court's cognizance over the Corporate Debtor would amount to judicial overreach and would impair the ED's ability to complete its investigation, pursue trial, and recover proceeds of crime," said a 14-page-long order by NCLT.

NCLT cannot assume jurisdiction in a manner that would render Shakti Bhog Snacks unavailable for criminal liability, particularly when it stands named as an accused, and assets, however meagre, are under attachment.

"It is not the quantum but the character of the proceedings that is determinative," said the NCLT bench comprising Members Sanjeev Ranjan and B V Balram Das.

Shakti Bhog Snacks Ltd (SBSL) is the group company of Shakti Bhog Foods Ltd (SBFL), which was once a leader in the wheat flour segment.

Insolvency proceedings against SBSL were initiated

by NCLT in January 2023 after default was established by one of its operational creditors. It also appointed an interim resolution professional, who also formed the Committee of Creditors (CoC) as per the provisions of the IBC.

However, RP could not get control of SBSL's physical assets and records as it was sealed by the Enforcement Directorate. Moreover, the company was not in operation. No person was available, and its land and building situated at Noida were already sold by the State Bank of India under the SARFAESI Act.

Moreover, in CoC, SBI was the sole member, and it could not even liquidate SBSL due to the absence of assets, records, operations, and personnel. The CoC recommended dissolution of SBSL instead of liquidation and the RP approached NCLT, filing plea under Section 54 of the IBC for dissolution.



Indian Services Sector Growth Touches 10-Month High In June: PMI

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Indian services sector growth touched a ten-month high in June aided by robust expansion in international sales and job creation, amid positive demand trends and ongoing improvement in sales, a monthly survey said on Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose from 58.8 in May to 60.4 in June, driven by sharp upturn in new business orders.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"The Services PMI business activity index was up to a ten-month high, led by a sharp rise in new domestic orders. New export orders also expanded, albeit at a softer pace. Margins improved, as the rise in input costs was below that seen for output charges," Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said.

New orders expanded at the quickest rate since August 2024. Services companies benefited most from the continued strength of the domestic market, alongside a marked increase in new export business.

Overseas demand particularly improved from the Asian, Middle Eastern and US markets, according to panel members.

The ongoing expansion of the Indian service sector had a positive impact on recruitment. Employment rose for the 37th consecutive month in June, with the rate of job growth outpacing its long-run average despite slowing from May's record.

On the price front, the survey said, cost pressures were most intense in the consumer services category, while the fastest upturn in output charges was noted in the finance and insurance segment.

As per the survey, optimism regarding the outlook for output levels in one year time was sustained, with 18 per cent of service providers forecasting growth. This proportion of upbeat firms was, however, the lowest since mid-2022. Hence, the overall level of confidence fell and was below its long-run average.

"Service providers remained optimistic about future growth, though their confidence faded a tad," Bhandari added.

Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite PMI Output Index rose from 59.3 in May to 61 in June, indicating the fastest rate of expansion in 14 months.

'Housing Sales Dip 2%, Office Demand Rises 41% In Jan-Jun Across Top 8 Cities'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India's top eight property markets saw a 2 per cent decline in housing sales during the January-June period, but office space leasing rose 41 per cent, according to Knight Frank.

In a webinar on Thursday, real estate consultant Knight Frank released its data for the Indian real estate market for January-June 2025.

The data showed that housing sales fell 2 per cent annually to 1,70,201 units during the first six months of this calendar year across eight major cities.

In contrast, the leasing of office spaces rose 41 per cent to 48.9 million (489 lakh) square feet area during January-June 2025.

The gross leasing stood at a record 71.9 million square feet for the entire 2024.

Considering the strong performance during the first half, the consultant expects the leasing number to scale a new high of 80-90 million square feet in the full current year.

In the residential segment, the consultant noted that the weighted average price across eight cities rose in a range of 2 per cent to 14 per cent.

During the first half of this year, Knight Frank data suggested that 49 per cent of all housing sales were for homes



costing Rs 1 crore and above, while 51 per cent were in the category of up to Rs 1 crore.

Among cities, housing sales in Mumbai and Ahmedabad remained flat at 47,035 units and 9,370 units, respectively, during January-June compared to the year-ago period. Housing sales rose in Hyderabad by 3 per cent to 19,048 units. Chennai too saw an increase of 12 per cent in sales to 8,935 units.

However, in Delhi-NCR, sales fell 8 per cent to 26,795 units.

Housing sales in Bengaluru dipped 3 per cent to 26,599 units, while sales in Pune decreased 1 per cent to 24,329 units.

Kolkata saw an 11 per cent fall in sales to 8,090 units during the January-June period.

"The residential market in H1 2025 reflected a nuanced shift where premium and luxury segments continued to thrive, even as lower value segments showed signs of continued moderation," Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director of Knight Frank India, said.

Probe Agency ED Attaches Yacht, Assets Worth Rs 131 Crore In Forex Case

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- A yacht, a boat, two houses and some other assets located in Spain and worth more than Rs 131 crore have been attached under the anti-money laundering law in a case against a "fraud" forex-trading platform that has allegedly cheated numerous investors, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said on Thursday.

The platform is named OctaFX.

"These assets belong to Pavel Prozorov, the mastermind behind OctaFX," the federal probe agency said in a statement.

A provisional order has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach a luxury yacht, a minijet boat, a costly car and two residential properties in Spain. These are worth Rs 131.45 crore, the ED said.

The yacht, named "Cherry", is an Italian-model commercial vessel cruising in the western Mediterranea-

nean, it added.

The money-laundering probe stems from an FIR of the Pune Police (Shivaji Nagar police station) against several individuals on charges of defrauding investors by falsely promising high returns through the OctaFX forex-trading platform.

OctaFX, the ED said, is an unauthorised forex broker promoted via the Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket tournament, social media and celebrities, and it "laundered" funds by collecting investors' money through mule accounts in the names of fake e-commerce firms.

These shell (bogus) firms, with dummy directors and manipulated KYCs, accessed payment gateways posing as legitimate merchants, the ED has found.

It was detected that funds were routed through "unauthorised" payment aggregators and escrow accounts, adding layers to obscure ownership and the transaction purpose.

Centre Proposes Changes To TRP Policy To Boost Competition

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- In a bid to encourage competition, the government has proposed to remove entry barriers for companies keen to foray in the sector of television viewership measurement ecosystem.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has proposed amendments to the Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies-2014 to ensure that the TRP system reflects the diverse and evolving media consumption habits of viewers across the country.

The proposed changes include the deletion of key clauses - 1.5 and 1.7 - that earlier restricted cross-holdings between rating agencies and broadcasters, advertisers, or advertising agencies.

The Ministry has invited feedback on the draft amendments by August 1 from viewers, broadcasters, advertisers or concerned citizens.

The Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) is the only agency providing TV ratings, but it does not track

connected TV device viewership, despite it being a major trend.

Currently, India has approximately 230 million television households. However, only about 58,000 people meters are used at present to capture viewership data, representing just 0.025 per cent of the total TV homes. "This relatively limited sample size may not adequately represent the diverse viewing preferences across regions and demographics," an official statement said.

It said the existing audience measurement technology does not sufficiently capture viewership on emerging platforms such as smart TVs, streaming devices, and mobile applications, which are witnessing growing adoption among audiences.

The proposed amendments to Clause 1.4 of the Guidelines seek to introduce an easier-to-comply provision to explicitly prevent rating agencies from engaging in consultancy or advisory services that may result in a conflict of interest with their primary role.

India's Quick Commerce Booms In Metros But Stays In Slow Lane In Non-Metros

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI--India's quick-commerce sector is growing rapidly but struggles to scale profitably beyond metros, with non-metro areas contributing a mere 20 per cent of gross merchandise value (GMV) due to lower demand, digital maturity, and local shopping habits, a report said.

According to market research firm Redseer, the Indian quick commerce industry grew by approximately 150 per cent year-on-year during the first five months of 2025, fuelled by the rapid rollout of "dark stores," aggressive category expansion, and fierce competition.

Yet, despite this explosive growth and the presence of quick-commerce platforms in over 100 cities, non-metro cities (excluding the eight metros) contribute just over 20 per cent of the sector's GMV.

This is starkly disproportionate to their 60-70 per cent share of the

overall retail market in India's top 100 cities, highlighting a significant untapped potential -- but also raising questions about the sector's ability to scale profitably in these markets.

Orders per day per dark store drop sharply beyond the top 10-15 cities, falling below 1,000, and further below 700 in the next 20 cities.

Further, the scale-up curve of a typical non-metro city (beyond the top 15) suggests that these cities tend to plateau out before the 1,000 OPD mark, reflective of weak demand, Redseer noted.

A variety of factors contribute to this: many users in smaller cities have lower digital maturity and trust in online platforms, which limits how often they place orders and their comfort with digital transactions.

Population density is lower in these areas, so there are simply fewer potential customers within each delivery zone.

NC Targets LG Over Delay In Advocate General Appointment, Business Rules

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The ruling National Conference on Thursday slammed the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha over various issues, including the delay in appointing an Advocate General and approving the business rules submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir government.

Chief spokesperson of the National Conference, Tanvir Sadiq, said while he appreciated Sinha's clarification that Raj Bhavan was only concerned with law and order, several questions remained unanswered.

"First, if the Raj Bhavan is only 'concerned with law & order,' why the persistent obsession with appointing the Director of Information?" Sadiq said in a

statement issued here.

He said the office of the Advocate General has remained non-functional since October last year.

"Why has the office of the Advocate General been rendered non-functional since October (2024) even when the elected government agreed to retain the same AG originally appointed by Raj Bhavan?" asked the MLA from Zadibal.

Sadiq also claimed that Raj Bhavan had withheld approval to the business rules, which have been submitted by the elected government twice.

"And finally, when will the business rules – sent not once, but twice by the Cabinet – receive the necessary approval?" he asked.

J&K Will Emerge As Key Growth Engine In India's Journey: Jitendra Singh

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday said Jammu and Kashmir will emerge as a key growth engine in India's journey.

Highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's continued importance in national priorities, he said the recent milestone projects like the Chenab bridge, the Lithium discovery and the purple revolution of lavender farming is empowering youth entrepreneurs in the region.

"J&K will emerge as a key growth engine in India's journey from the 4th largest to the 1st largest global economy," said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel.

His remark came during an informal luncheon hosted here for Delhi-based Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service



(IFoS) officers of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir cadre, now merged with Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory cadre (AGMUT).

He also recalled the turbulent times of peak militancy in the 1990s and early 2000s, acknowledging the courage of officers, who served in extremely

challenging circumstances.

The minister encouraged officers to break rigid hierarchies, sharing that he maintains personal contact with many officers and often reaches out directly.

"It saves time and gets the job done faster, especially when the outcome affects people's welfare," he said.

The gathering saw officers from diverse batches and services reminiscing about their days of service in Jammu and Kashmir and appreciating the opportunity to reconnect.

Singh, in his address, reflected on the careers of several officers – from their first postings in Jammu and Kashmir to their rise through the ranks into senior leadership roles.

He recalled a pioneering initiative started soon after the Modi government assumed office in 2014 – where senior officers were asked to revisit their first posting districts to

assess developmental progress over the years and file reports.

"It brought a sense of continuity and personal connection to public service," said the minister, who is also a Lok Sabha member from Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur constituency.

During the interaction, officers openly shared experiences, feedback and concerns, according to a Personnel Ministry statement.

From the IAS, senior-most officer Navin Kumar Choudhary (1994 batch) was present, followed by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi (1997), Hirdesh Kumar (1999), and Sarita Chauhan (1999).

Ajeet Kumar Sahu (2003), Pandurang Kondbarao Pole (2004), Simrandeep Singh (2008), Sushma Chauhan (2009), Shah Faesal (2010) and Sheikh Arshad Ayub (2013) were also present.

Paramount to pay \$16 million in settlement with Trump over '60 Minutes' interview

AP

In a case seen as a challenge to free speech, Paramount has agreed to pay \$16 million to settle a lawsuit filed by President Donald Trump over the editing of CBS' "60 Minutes" interview with then-Vice President Kamala Harris in October.

Paramount told media outlets the money will go to Trump's future presidential library, not to the president himself. It said the settlement did not involve an apology.

Trump's lawyer said the president had suffered "mental anguish" over the editing of the interview by CBS News, while

Paramount and CBS rejected his contention that it was edited to enhance how Harris sounded. They had sought to get Trump's lawsuit dismissed.

There was no immediate word from the White House about the settlement of the case, which Trump filed in Amarillo, Texas.

The case has been closely watched by advocates for press freedom and by journalists within CBS, whose lawyers called Trump's lawsuit "completely without merit" and promised to vigorously fight it after it was filed.

In early February, "60 Minutes" released a full, unedited transcript of the interview.



Under the settlement reached with help of a mediator,

Paramount agreed that "60 Minutes" will release transcripts

of future interviews of presidential candidates, "subject to redactions as required for legal and national security concerns," CBS News cited the statement as saying.

Trump, who did not agree to be interviewed by "60 Minutes" during the campaign, protested editing where Harris is seen giving two different answers to a question by the show's Bill Whitaker in separate clips aired on "60 Minutes" and "Face the Nation" earlier in the day. CBS said each reply came within Harris' long-winded answer to Whitaker, but was edited to be more succinct.

The president's lawyer,

Edward Andrew Paltzik, said that caused confusion and "mental anguish," misleading voters and causing them to pay less attention to Trump and his Truth Social platform.

Paramount and controlling shareholder Shari Redstone were seeking the settlement with Trump, whose administration must approve the company's proposed merger with Skydance Media. CBS News President and CEO Wendy McMahon and "60 Minutes" executive producer Bill Owens, who both opposed a settlement, have resigned in recent weeks.

The Freedom of the Press

Foundation, a media advocacy group that says it is a Paramount shareholder, has said that it would file a lawsuit in protest if a settlement was reached.

In December, ABC News settled a defamation lawsuit by Trump over statements made by anchor George Stephanopoulos, agreeing to pay \$15 million toward Trump's presidential library rather than engage in a public fight. Meta reportedly paid \$25 million to settle Trump's lawsuit against the company over its decision to suspend his social media accounts following the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the US Capitol.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Over 12K Pilgrims

Jammu base camp at Bhagwati Nagar. The group was welcomed with warmth upon reaching the Valley by both officials and locals.

In response to heightened threats, the administration has implemented unprecedented security measures along the entire yatra route. Thousands of personnel from the police, CRPF, and other paramilitary forces have been deployed, with aerial surveillance and multi-tier monitoring systems in place to ensure the safety of the pilgrims.

The 38-day-long pilgrimage to the revered cave shrine will continue till August 9.

Kashmir To Witness

to march on the historic route for the first time since the insurgency began.

This year, in continuity with that decision, the 8th Muharram procession is set to follow the same traditional path. Thousands are expected to participate in the early morning event, underscoring not only religious devotion but also the symbolic reclaiming of space for spiritual expression in Kashmir's capital.

Authorities have instructed organisers to start the procession from Gurbubazar at 5:30 AM.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, SSP Srinagar Sundeep GV Chakravathy said, "The timing was agreed upon after discussions with community leaders and is based on inputs from administration. All arrangements are in place for a peaceful and dignified observance." When asked whether the procession could extend beyond the permitted time, he responded, "There will be no extension. The event must conclude as scheduled."

According to the official order, the procession must move strictly along the left side of the road, keeping the right lane open for emergency vehicles. Organisers are responsible for ensuring full compliance with all administrative instructions. Authorities have banned the use of drones and any 'anti-national, communal, or provocative' slogans. They have also warned that any act disrupting law and order, damaging public property, or obstructing traffic or emergency services will invite legal consequences.

The Yaadgari-i-Hussaini Committee, Gurbubazar which has been given the permission for the procession, welcomed the administration's decision. A spokesperson of the Committee told Kashmir Observer, "This procession is not merely a ritual. It's a sacred and emotional journey that reflects our deep devotion to the cause of Imam Hussain (AS). We will ensure full cooperation with the authorities

and maintain complete discipline."

In view of the large public gathering and its potential to disrupt city traffic, the Traffic Department has issued a detailed advisory to manage vehicular movement during the procession hours. Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Superintendent of Police, Traffic City Srinagar, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat said, "A number of route diversions will be in effect from 5:00 AM onwards, and we request the public to avoid unnecessary movement along the M.A. Road corridor during procession hours."

As per the advisory issued by the office of the SSP Traffic City Srinagar, traffic movement from Karan Nagar to Jehangir Chowk via Shaheed Gunj and Tankipora will be suspended from 5:00 AM to 8:00 AM. No traffic will be allowed from Jahangir Chowk towards M.A. Road up to Dalgate and Badyari Chowk during the duration of the procession.

Traffic coming from Batmaloo, the Civil Secretariat, and Rambagh intending to reach M.A. Road will be diverted through Residency Road via Hari Singh High Street. Vehicles from Rainawari and Nowpora will be rerouted near Mamta Hotel via SRTC Bridge, Barbarshah, Kralkhud, and Habba Kadal towards Karan Nagar. Traffic from Khanyar and Ikhwan Chowk will follow the same alternative route.

Motorists from Nishat, Shalimar, and adjoining areas will use the Boulevard-Gupkar Road-Radio Kashmir route via R.R. Road and Abdullah Bridge. Vehicles from Pantha Chowk and Sonwar will be diverted at Radio Kashmir towards Residency Road and Abdullah Bridge. Tourists and local residents near Nehru Park have been advised to use Nehru Park-Gupkar Road or Fore Shore Road to avoid traffic restrictions.

To ease congestion and facilitate parking for mourners, authorities have arranged designated parking spaces at S.P. College Ground, Gindun Park, and Batmaloo Bus Stand. Furthermore, a dedicated Control Room has been established at Room No. 103 to assist the public with information and guidance related to movement and security.

"We regret the inconvenience caused and appeal for the public's cooperation to ensure the event is conducted respectfully and without disruption," SSP Traffic Ajaz Ahmad Bhat added.

Heavy deployment of security personnel, medical teams, and traffic police will be placed along the route to manage the gathering and respond to any emergencies. Residents living along the route have been requested to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and avoid unnecessary movement during the procession hours.

Though bound by tight administrative constraints, this year's

8th Muharram procession is expected to witness one of the largest turnouts in recent memory. For mourners, it marks not only the remembrance of the sacrifice at Karbala but also the revival of a deeply rooted tradition that was long suppressed.

Heavy Rains

Batote, Katra, and Bhaderwah recorded maximums of 30.1°C, 27.2°C, 30.5°C, and 32.4°C respectively.

Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of MeT, said that hot and humid conditions are expected to continue on July 5, with potential for light to moderate rain and thunderstorms later in the night.

From July 6 to July 8, the MeT expects widespread light to moderate rainfall across Jammu and Kashmir, with heavy rain likely at isolated places in the Jammu region.

Independent weather forecaster Aadil Maqbool said the rainfall will be driven by an active Western Disturbance and strong monsoon winds, with peak intensity expected on July 6 and 7. "Heavy to very heavy rainfall cannot be ruled out," he added.

The MeT has issued an advisory, warning of possible flash floods, landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones in vulnerable areas during this period. Rising water levels in rivers, streams, and local nullahs may also lead to waterlogging in low-lying regions.

ACB Chargesheets

disbursement of tribal scholarships in Education Zone Tangdhar, Kupwara, revealed that the officials had fraudulently inserted over 600 fictitious names in the beneficiary list for Pahari-speaking students and more than 150 fake names under the Gujjar-Bakewal category. The funds, intended to support the education of tribal children, were allegedly siphoned off by the accused officials.

The charge sheet was presented before the Court of Additional Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Baramulla, against Mohammad Ashraf Bhat (then ZEO Tangdhar), Mohammad Ashraf Paswal (then Junior Assistant), Razia Bano (then Junior Assistant), and Shafiqa Rafiq (then Zonal Gender Coordinator). The investigation, conducted under FIR No. 32/2018, established that the accused public servants abused their official positions, hatched a criminal conspiracy, and forged disbursement records to show fraudulent scholarship payments. The ACB said the accused even obtained signatures from then MLA Tangdhar and a Member of the Advisory Board on utilization certificates by misleading them into believing the funds had reached genuine students.

One of the accused, Mohammad Ashraf Paswal, reportedly received 5 lakh directly into his

personal bank account at J&K Bank Tangdhar, withdrawing it later in ten installments of 50,000 each. He is already facing trial in a separate disproportionate assets case filed by the ACB.

The accused have been charged under sections 5(1)(c), 5(1)(d) r/w 5(2) of the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act, Samvat 2006, along with sections 468, 471, and 120-B of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) for forgery, conspiracy, and criminal misconduct.

All four accused were presented in custody before the court and released on personal bonds. The next hearing in the case is scheduled for September 10, 2025.

SC: No Insurance

on Wednesday.

On June 18, 2014, one N S Ravisha was driving from Mallasandra village to Arasikere town when the accident took place. His father, sister and her children were travelling in the car.

The court had found that Ravisha drove the car in a negligent manner without following traffic rules and lost control over the vehicle which toppled on the road. Ravisha sustained fatal injuries in the accident.

The high court had held that because "the accident occurred due to the rash and negligent driving of the deceased himself and he being self tort-feasor, the legal heirs cannot claim any compensation for his death, otherwise it would amount to a person who committed breach getting the compensation for his own wrongs."

Centre To Establish

for Jammu & Kashmir, following a high-level review meeting with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar.

Speaking at a joint press conference, the minister said a developed Jammu & Kashmir was integral to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat and unveiled a slew of measures aimed at boosting horticulture, irrigation, infrastructure, and farmer welfare in the region.

A key highlight of the announcements was the establishment of a 150-crore Clean Plant Centre in Srinagar under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). The centre will produce disease-free planting material for crops like apples, walnuts, almonds, and berries. Private nurseries will also be supported to ensure quality plant availability to farmers.

To boost saffron production – described by Chouhan as symbolic of Kashmir's identity – the Centre will establish a tissue culture lab and nursery and revise the National Saffron Mission to suit local conditions. An expert team will also be formed to enhance productivity.

Addressing the issue of undocumented land ownership, the

minister assured that land-allottee farmers lacking official documents would be considered for the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme benefits. He also announced that Jammu & Kashmir would soon see the launch of the Restructured Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RVBCIS) to cover horticulture crops under PM Fasal Bima Yojana.

Responding to regional demands, Chouhan said ICAR would extend infrastructural support to Jammu Agricultural University, and Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage capacities would be enhanced. Facilities up to 6,000 MT capacity will be eligible for subsidies under horticulture schemes, up to the 5,000 MT ceiling.

To improve soil health and regulate fertilizers, Quality Control Labs will be set up in Kathua, Baramulla, and Anantnag. Irrigation gaps from canal to field will also be addressed under the RKVY scheme.

Highlighting rural development,

Chouhan praised the J&K government's swift implementation of PMGSY Phase-IV, under which 4,200 crore was sanctioned for road connectivity. He also noted that 93% of houses under PM Awas Yojana had been completed and assured housing for all remaining verified applicants.

On employment and poverty alleviation, the minister said the Centre was promoting Self Help Groups under NRLM, with thousands of women becoming Lakhpati Didis and even Millionaire Didis. Job generation through MGNREGA and youth training programmes will also be scaled up.

Chouhan reiterated the Centre's commitment to working closely with the J&K government and thanked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his cooperation. "We are determined to ensure no farmer is left behind," he said.

'5 Lakh Homeless

News Observer (KNO) said the Prime Minister has decided that those who are still without homes will be given permanent shelter. "A survey has been conducted to identify the beneficiaries, and once verification is completed, housing allotment will begin. Verification is important so that no ineligible names are included," Chouhan said.

He added the work will be initiated to ensure every eligible individual in the region gets a permanent roof. The minister also said under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), efforts are underway to eliminate rural poverty, particularly among women. "Through self-help groups, the government is aiming to increase the annual income of women to over Rs 1 lakh under the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme".

Chouhan said that the scheme is progressing in Jammu and



2nd Test: Gill's Maiden Double Hundred Puts India On Top

Press Trust of India

BIRMINGHAM: Shubman Gill earned himself a place in the pantheon of Indian batting heavyweights with a near flawless, record-breaking double hundred, giving his team complete control of the second Test against England here on Thursday.

Gill's monumental 269 off 387 balls in his debut series as Test captain allowed India to post a massive 587 all out before the inexperienced Indian pace attack delivered upfront to dismantle England top-order to reduce the hosts to 77 for three at stumps on day two.

Joe Root (18 batting off 37) and Harry Brook (30 batting off 53) settled the nerves in the England dressing room after the hosts lost three wickets for 25 runs.

While England bowlers got no help from the surface, the Indians found swing and seam.

Playing his first game of the series, Akash Deep struck twice in as many balls to cap off a

perfect day for his team before Mohammed Siraj made it even better by having Zak Crawley caught at first slip.

Akash got the ball to seam away on both the occasions, resulting in dismissals of the dangerous Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope in his second over.

But the day was truly ruled by Gill, who collected 30 fours and three sixes on way to a record shattering double ton, making him the highest individual scorer for India in England ahead of Sunil Gavaskar and Rahul Dravid.

He also became the first Asian captain to amass a double hundred on these shores.

For someone who had expressed his desire to be the best batter of the series, he is well on course to meet his target.

In a matter of three innings in England, the 25-year-old has managed to improve his average to 40 from mid 30s at the start of the series.

At the break, England had run out of ideas to stop Gill, who

forged a 144-run alliance with Washington Sundar (42 off 103) to prop up India to 564 for seven.

Having hardly put a foot wrong with the bat, Gill also ensured that India did not cede the advantage to England from a strong position like they had done in Leeds in the series opener.

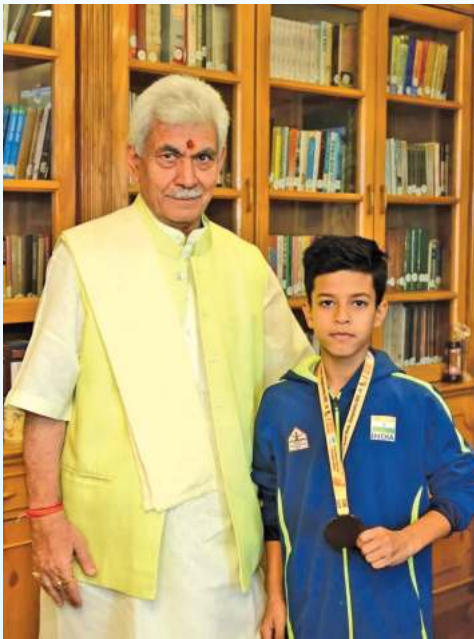
With England short ball ploy not working and Shoaib Bashir being taken to the cleaners by Gill, England brought part timers Brook and Root in a desperate attempt to fetch wickets.

In the morning session, England pacers were not able extract much from the surface as Gill and Ravindra Jadeja (89 off 137) made the most of the ideal batting conditions with a 203-run stand off 279 balls.

India added 109 runs to the total in 25 overs after resuming the day at 310 for five.

England had resorted to the short ball plan against Gill and Jadeja but that did not work the major part of the morning session.

LG Sinha Meets Wushu Player Amaan Khan



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha met Master Amaan Khan, a young National-level Wushu player, at Raj Bhawan on Thursday.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the 12-year-old athlete, who hails from Baramulla, on winning the Bronze medal at the 25th Sub-Junior National Wushu Championship held recently in Tamil Nadu and extended best wishes for his upcoming tournaments. (Observer News Service)

U19 ODI: Suryavanshi Helps India Beat England

Teenage sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi continued his rich vein of form by smashing a record nine sixes as India defeated England by four wickets in the rain-truncated third U19 Youth ODI to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series here.

The 14-year-old Suryavanshi, who had come close to striking half-centuries in the previous two games before getting dismissed in his 40s, finally made his innings count as he clobbered the home team bowling on way to 86 off just 31 deliveries as India chased England's 268/6 in 34.3 overs on Wednesday.

Suryavanshi's knock was studded with six boundaries and nine maximums.

In fact, nine sixes by Suryavanshi is the highest number of maximums hit by an Indian batter in an U-19 ODI eclipsing the previous record of eight sixes by Mandeep Singh.

India suffered a slump in the middle overs with the team reduced to 199 for 6 in the 24th over.

But bowling all-rounder Kanishk Chouhan (3/30), who had taken three England wickets earlier, hit an unbeaten 43 (42 balls) and shared an unbroken 75-run stand with RS Ambrish (31 not out) to guide the team to victory. (PTI)

Pakistan Hockey Yet To Get Govt Clearance For India Events

Senior officials of the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) and Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) said they are yet to receive clearance from the government to take part in two major hockey events in India this year.

An Indian sports ministry source said on Thursday that Pakistan's hockey teams will not be stopped from competing in next month's Asia Cup and the subsequent Junior World Cup in India, as any move to block them from multilateral competitions would violate the Olympic Charter.

The Asia Cup is scheduled to be held in Rajgir, Bihar from August 27 to September 7, while the Junior World Cup will take place in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 to December 10.

PHF Secretary General Rana Mujahid said they had sent an official inquiry to the PSB seeking clearance to send teams to India.

"But the PSB has forwarded the official query to the concerned Ministries and they are yet to respond," he said.

PSB spokesperson Khurram Shahzad also clarified: "Participation as of now remains unconfirmed until the government conveys its policy on sending sports teams to India for any event." (PTI)

Novak Djokovic Sets Another Record At Wimbledon

Novak Djokovic added another record to his name by reaching Wimbledon's third round for a 19th time with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-0 win over Dan Evans on Centre Court on Wednesday.

It was Djokovic's 99th match win at Wimbledon overall, and the 19 third-round appearances put him one ahead of Roger Federer for most by any man in the Open Era.

It's hardly the most prestigious record for Djokovic, whose 24 Grand Slam titles — including seven at Wimbledon — are the most by a male player. But he could at least use it to poke fun at his new, and much younger, main rivals.

"Nineteen times, that's a great stat," said the 38-year-old Djokovic. "That's probably almost as much as Sinner and Alcaraz have years in their lives."

Well, not quite.

Carlos Alcaraz, who beat Djokovic in the last two Wimbledon finals, is 22, while No. 1-ranked Jannik Sinner — who was playing later on Centre Court — is 23.

But Djokovic is too focused on proving he can still win another Slam to sit back and reflect on everything he has accomplished at Wimbledon. (AP)

YSS Set To Host Four National School Games Disciplines

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a boost to youth sports in J&K, the Department of Youth Services and Sports has been allotted four National School Games disciplines by the School Games Federation of India (SGFI). The decision was finalized during the SGFI meeting held on June 14 at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Jatinder Mishra, Deputy Director Central of YSS, and Shivnandan Singh Mankotia, Section Officer.

The prestigious events will feature competitions in football, wushu, taekwondo and table tennis, with two games scheduled to be held in Srinagar and the remaining two in Jammu. The department is gearing up to organise these tournaments.

Director General DYSS, has expressed gratitude to SGFI for entrusting J&K with this responsibility.

"We are honored that SGFI has chosen J&K to host these prestigious School National Games. This is a viable example to our UT's growing reputation as a hub for sporting excellence. These events will not only provide a platform for young athletes to showcase their talent but also inspire a new generation to embrace sports as a way of life," she said.

"The hosting of these games is expected to bring together young athletes from across the country, fostering camaraderie and healthy competition while highlighting J&K's potential as a premier destination for national sporting events," the department said in a statement.



Srinagar To Host 1st Khelo India Water Sports Festival In August



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Srinagar will host the inaugural Khelo India Water Sports Festival at its iconic Dal Lake where more than 400 athletes from all over the country will compete in disciplines like kayaking and canoeing, water skiing and rowing from August 21 to 23.

Sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced this in an interaction with the media here and said it would add to the government's push for expansion of the Khelo India movement that recently added the first ever Beach Games in Diu to its roster.

The festival is scheduled to be held

under the vertical of Sports Competition and Talent Development of Khelo India Scheme.

"This initiative aims to promote water sports and enhance the reach and popularity of water sports," Mandaviya said.

Apart from Kayaking and Canoeing, Rowing, and Water Skiing, Shikara and Dragon Boat races will also be held.

The ministry is expecting more than 400 athletes from 36 States and Union Territories to participate in this first of its kind event.

The nomination of athletes will be done by the National Sports Federation from their National Championships or other suitable events.

Diogo Jota Rose To Football Stardom Before His Death At 28

AP

LONDON: As a child Diogo Jota idolized Cristiano Ronaldo. In a career that took him to the heights of soccer stardom, he would go on to call the Portugal great a teammate and win some of the sport's biggest trophies.

Jota, the Liverpool forward who in May celebrated winning the Premier League title, has died. He was 28.

Police said Jota died along with his brother Andre Silva, also a soccer player, in a car accident near the northwestern city of Zamora, Spain.

He had just completed the most successful season of his career — helping Liverpool to a record-equaling 20th English league title and then winning the UEFA Nations League with Portugal alongside his childhood hero Ronaldo.

"Doesn't make any sense. Just now we were together in the National Team," Ronaldo posted on social media. Diogo Jose Teixeira Da Silva was born Dec. 4, 1996 in Porto, Portugal.

A clinical goal-scorer, his talent took him from humble beginnings with his local team Gondomar to soccer's biggest stages with Liverpool and Portugal.

As a child he dreamed of becoming a professional soccer player. But his route to the top was not straight-



forward — having to prove himself at lower levels and facing setbacks before securing a move to Liverpool in 2020. He went on to win English soccer's three major trophies during his time at Anfield.

His passion for soccer was developed at an early age. As a boy he would cry when pleading with his father to let him play, rather than attend swimming classes, which clashed with practice sessions.

From Gondomar he joined Paços de Ferreira — an unheralded Portuguese team — before a move to Spanish giant Atletico Madrid

looked like being his big break.

In a way it was, but the transfer did not work out as expected.

Jota never played a competitive match for Atletico, but was sent on loan to Porto and then Wolverhampton Wanderers, where he would make his mark in England and eventually earn the attention of Liverpool.

Wolves was a second tier team when Jota arrived on a season-long loan in 2017 and reunited with Nuno Espirito Santo, who coached him during his stint at Porto the previous season.

Jota had clearly made an impression on Espirito Santo — scoring nine goals at Porto — and he repaid the coach's faith by doubling that figure as Wolves topped the second tier Championship and won promotion to the Premier League in his first year.

The goals kept coming. Ten after making the step up to England's top flight — the most popular league in the world — and 16 the season after.

Soon Liverpool, which had just won the title, came calling.

Jota said it was "impossible to say no" to the move worth 41 million pounds (\$56 million).

With an established forward line of Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino in front him, Jota had his work cut out just to get time on the field in the 2020-21 season.

He made an almost immediate impression — scoring eight minutes after coming on for his Premier League debut for Liverpool in a 3-1 win against Arsenal. There was a hat trick away to Atalanta in the Champions League and further goals against big rivals Arsenal and Manchester United.

A total of 13 goals in his first season was a creditable return — even if Liverpool surrendered its title.

He bettered that with 21 the following year as Liverpool won the FA Cup and English League Cup and finished runner up in the Premier League and Champions League.

The Premier League title eventually came last season and Jota's winning goal against Everton in April — his last for the club — was a crucial one in pushing Liverpool towards the title.

In all Jota scored 65 goals in 182 games for Liverpool.

He followed the Premier League title with triumph in the Nations League with Ronaldo in June — the second time he won the trophy, having previously lifted it in 2019.

He was capped 49 times by his country and scored 14 goals.

