

'Who Decides For Our Kids?' Parents Decry New School Timings, Online Classes

Farzana Nisar

Srinagar: As schools across the Kashmir Division re-open on Monday, the Education Department's revised schedule, combining early morning classes with mandatory afternoon online sessions, has sparked a wave of concern and criticism from parents, who are calling the decision



"impractical" and "poorly thought-out." In a formal statement

issued Monday, Minister Sakina Itoo confirmed that there will be no

extension to the summer break. "The schools will re-open on Tuesday. All teaching and learning activities will resume as per the new time schedule," she said.

According to the order, schools within municipal limits, including Srinagar, will function from 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM, while those in rural areas or outside municipal limits will operate

from 8:00 AM to 12 Noon.

Parents say the revised timings are not just harsh, but unrealistic for children, particularly those aged 4 to 8 years.

"If school starts at 7:30, my child has to be up by 5 AM. When is he supposed to eat and get ready? He's only 5," said Dr. Rabia Noor, a parent from Srinagar. "It affects their | [More on P6](#)

Angry, Sarcastic SM Posts Target Education Dept

The backlash over the government's decision to not extend the summer vacation and implement new school timings hasn't remained confined to private conversations. A flood of sharp reactions has poured in on social media, criticising both the timing and the logic behind the Education Department's move. | [More on P6](#)

'IRRITABILITY, FATIGUE, POOR FOCUS'

Why Doctors Worry About New School Plan

As Kashmir reels under a punishing heatwave, health professionals have raised serious concerns over the Education Department's revised school schedule, which requires students to report as early as | [More on P6](#)

Kashmir Gets Much-Needed Downpour

Srinagar Records Steep Temp Fall; Roads Submerged



Observer News Service

Srinagar: A spell of heavy rainfall swept across Srinagar and several other parts of Kashmir on Monday, ending a prolonged and punishing heatwave that saw the Valley record its hottest July day in over 70 years just two days ago.

The downpour began late Monday afternoon, with

Srinagar witnessing a sharp temperature drop from 34.3°C at 3:30 PM to 20°C by 7:30 PM, offering immediate respite to residents who had been reeling under intense heat and humidity.

According to the Meteorological Department, moderate to heavy showers were reported from most districts, especially | [More on P6](#)

Heavy Rains, Hailstorm Disrupt Life

Intense rainfall and hailstorm on Monday evening brought parts of Srinagar and several other areas in the Kashmir Valley to a standstill, disrupting normal life, damaging property, and triggering traffic chaos. According to reports, Srinagar localities including Natipora, Chanpora, Rambagh, Jehangir Chowk, Lal Chowk, and Sarmoli, including parts of Baramulla's Sopore and other parts of valley witnessed | [More on P6](#)

SEC Appointment Delay Stalls Local Poll Preparations

Agencies

Srinagar: In a matter of concern the post of Jammu & Kashmir State Election Commissioner (SEC)—an authority responsible for overseeing local body elections—remains vacant for over two months now.

Official sources said that the position fell vacant on April 27 when former SEC, BR Sharma, completed his tenure upon reaching the statutory retirement age of 65 years.

According to the Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the SEC is appointed for a term of five years or until the age of 65, whichever comes earlier. With Sharma's departure, the absence of a successor has effectively stalled preparatory work for conducting local polls.

The delay in appointment has sparked concerns about holding crucial Panchayat and municipal elections in the Union Territory. As per the Act, the State Election | [More on P6](#)

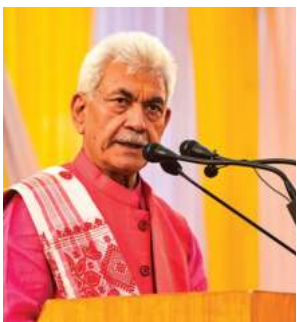
Pak Wants To Disrupt J&K's Development: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday accused Pakistan of trying to derail the Union Territory's development journey and fuel communal discord.

Speaking at a religious event in Aishmuqam, LG Sinha referred to Pakistan as a "terrorist country" determined to undo the gains made in the past five years.

"Pakistan wants to destroy the development achieved in Jammu and Kashmir over the last five years. It wants to break our unity. We must not



allow its nefarious designs to succeed," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed that unity and collective resolve are key to defeating such agendas.

"We all must stand together against the ill designs of this terrorist nation. Our police and security forces are doing their part. But public cooperation is just as vital," he said.

Sinha reiterated that the administration is committed to peace and prosperity, but that these goals cannot be achieved without the people's support.

"We must assist our security forces with timely information so that this menace is uprooted entirely."

While lauding the role of police and armed forces, the LG also praised | [More on P6](#)



LG Reviews Arrangements At Nunwan Base Camp

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday reviewed arrangements for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra at the Nunwan base camp in Pahalgam, officials said. He interacted with the pilgrims, service providers, langar sevadars, | [More on P6](#)

Peace Time Is Nothing But 'Illusion': Rajnath

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Peace time is nothing but an "illusion", and India must remain prepared for uncertainty even during periods of relative calm, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said while hailing the armed forces for the valour they displayed during Operation Sindoor.

In an address at an event, Singh said the performance of the indigenously built equipment and platforms in the operation increased the global demand for India-built military products.

"The world is looking at our defence sector with new respect. A single delay or error in financial processes can directly affect operational preparedness," he said.

"Most of the equipment we once imported is now being made in India. Our reforms are succeeding because of the clarity of vision and commitment at the highest level," he said.

The defence minister was



addressing the Controllers' Conference of the Defence Accounts Department (DAD).

"A single delay or error in financial processes can directly affect operational preparedness," he said, and called on the DAD to evolve from a "controller" to a "facilitator" in sync with increasing participation of the private sector in defence.

Delving into the larger geopolitical situation, the defence minister cited an analysis by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which said the global military

expenditure reached USD 2.7 trillion in 2024.

This opens up tremendous opportunities for India's indigenous defence industries, he said.

The defence minister praised the DAD's new motto "Alert, Agile, Adaptive" and noted that these are not mere words, but a reflection of the work culture required in today's rapidly evolving defence environment.

He urged officials to undertake internal reform through self-introspection, rather than relying | [More on P6](#)

PM Advisor Reviews Key J&K Projects

Stresses Timely Completion and Coordination

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Prime Minister's Advisor Tarun Kapoor on Monday chaired a high-level review meeting in Srinagar to assess the progress of ongoing development projects across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting covered critical sectors including power, health, infrastructure, transport, digital connectivity, and urban development.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and administrative secretaries from key departments, along with officials from central agencies implementing major projects in the region, attended the session.

The review began with a detailed briefing on hydroelectric projects, including Pakal Dul (1000 MW), Kiru (624 MW), Kwar (540 MW), and Ratle (850 MW). Officials said that while Pakal Dul is targeted for

completion by December 2026, others are at varying stages of physical progress. Projects like Sawalkote, Uri Phase-II, and Tulbul Storage were also discussed.

Railway projects such as the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) and new proposed lines including Baramulla-Uri and Anantnag-Pahalgam were reviewed. The Advisor also took stock of road infrastructure under NHAI, NHIDCL, and BRO, where officials flagged issues like permit delays and material availability.

Progress on health infrastructure was also part of the agenda. The AIIMS Jammu campus is operational, and the Srinagar counterpart is expected to be completed by November this year. Discussions were held on faculty recruitment and procurement of essential equipment.

Urban development initiatives under Smart City, AMRUT, and PM eBus Sewa were reviewed, as were measures to improve Dal Lake's water quality through upgraded sewage treatment.

In the energy sector, rooftop solar projects | [More on P6](#)

How Kashmiri Farmers Are Fighting To Save This Year's Crops

From heat-stressed paddy to sunburnt apples, Kashmir's growers are in a race against time. The agri-university's crisis manual could be their only shield.

Hirra Azmat

Srinagar: What began as concern over a snowless winter has now turned into a bigger challenge for Kashmir's farmers and orchardists—an intense heatwave that's threatening crops and disrupting the growing season. In 2025, climate change is

redefining what summer feels like in Kashmir, with record-breaking temperatures scorching the valley. Just two days ago, Srinagar recorded its second hottest day of the season, with the mercury soaring to 35.3 degrees Celsius.

In response to soaring temperatures and a prolonged dry spell affecting the valley, the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST)-Kashmir has issued a detailed advisory urging farmers to take immediate precautions to safeguard crops, livestock, and livelihoods.

The advisory highlights need to minimize stress and prevent potential yield and productivity losses. Farmers have been advised to schedule field operations during the cooler parts



of the day—early mornings or late evenings—and adopt crop-specific measures to combat the harsh weather conditions.

For paddy cultivators, the university recommends early morning or evening irrigation and monitoring for blast disease.



MULCHING IS RECOMMENDED FOR MOISTURE RETENTION, and growers should remain alert for "scab and mite" outbreaks, which are more likely in high temperatures."

In case of crop failure in rainfed fields, farmers are encouraged to consider 'moong' as a contingency crop.

Maize and pulse growers are advised to mulch fields and provide protective irrigation

to preserve soil moisture. "Similarly, vegetable growers should irrigate during cooler hours and avoid transplanting in dry soil. Mulching and manual weeding are also recommended to prevent moisture loss," the official document stated.

Apple orchardists are advised to irrigate regularly and whitewash tree trunks to protect against sunburn. "Mulching is recommended for moisture retention, and growers should remain alert for "scab and mite" outbreaks, which are more likely in high temperatures."

In the floriculture sector, maintaining soil moisture through mulching is advised.

For livestock, the advisory recommended the farmers to provide clean and cool drinking water,

ensure shaded and clean shelters, and restrict grazing to cooler hours to prevent heat stress and bloat. "Lush green fodder should be avoided during peak heat, and regular deworming is advised," the document reads.

Poultry farmers are urged to maintain proper ventilation and shade, while also adding glucose or vitamin supplements to drinking water to reduce heat stress.

For beekeepers, SKUAST recommended placing wet gunny bags over hives and ensuring access to clean water to regulate hive temperatures.

Silkworm rearers have been advised to avoid feeding wet leaves, disinfect rearing rooms, and maintain hygiene and environmental controls to prevent cocoon | [More on P6](#)



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

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 Suheib 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 Suheib Bhat
R/O :- Udipora .Tehsil :- Langate
Distt : Kupwara .Pin Cod.193302

FKO_R

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Agriculture Production Department Civil Secretariat, Jammu /Srinagar.

NOTICE

Subject:- Compassionate appointment case of Mr Sarfaraz Ahmad Shah S/O Manzoor Ahmad Shah (Ex-Helper) R/O Anantnag ,under RAS-2022.

It is hereby informed through the medium of this notice that the Competent Authority has approved the Compassionate appointment under Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme 2022 in favour of **Mr Sarfaraz Ahmad Shah S/O Manzoor Ahmad Shah (Ex-Helper) R/O Anantnag against the post of MTS(Class-IV) lying vacant in Agriculture Department Kashmir (District Anantnag).**

Before the issuance of formal appointment order in favour of the applicant, it is mandatory to seek the Character and Antecedents verification report of the applicant from Criminal Investigation Department in terms of Clause 12 (vii) of Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme. As such, the applicant is hereby advised to provide his particulars, Contact, Mobile number and email ID to Dr. Sahil Jandyal, JKAS, Additional Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu, Mobile No. 9419234144 on email ID (sahiljandyal.kas@jk.gov.in) within **twenty one (21) days** from the issuance of this notice, for uploading the same on the Employees Verification system on the following format:

Name of the candidate	
Parentage	
Permanent Address as per Domicile Certificate	
Mobile No.	
E-mail ID	

(Fayaz Ahmad Bhat)
Under Secretary To The Government.

No: Agri-NG/109/2024(7580133)
DIPK-3407/25 DATED: 07-07-2025

IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SESSIONS JUDGE BARAMULLA

UT of J&K Through P/S Pattan
FIR No 258/2013
u/s: 420,467,468,471,120-B RPC

Vs

Showkat Ahmad Malik and orths

Proclamation under section 82_of..CrPc,

Name of Accused
Manzoor ahmad Khan S/O Gh Rasool Khan
R/O Braripora Bandipora

Whereas a warrant of arrest has been issued by this court againgt the above named accused person,and it has been returned with a report that he said accused person cannot be found and is absconding or is concealing himself to avoid execution of the said warrant.

Now therefore, proclamation is hereby made and published that the said accused person is required to appear at this court within 30 days .falling which proceedings under section 83 CrPc may be initiated for the attachment of the property belonging to the accused ,and he may also be declared a proclaimed offender under the law.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on this day 20th day of May, 2025.

DIPK-3353/25 DATED: 7-7-2025

PRINCIPAL SESSIONS
JUDGE BARAMULLA

Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited(JPDCL)

CIN No:-U40300JK2013SGC003898

**Office of The Executive Engineer,
Sub-Transmission Division-IV Kalakote.**
Phone/Fax No. 01964-275046/Email ID:- xen.stdkkt@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e- NIT No:-STD-IV/JPDCL/ 11 OF 2025-26 Dated:-04-07-2025

1. INVITATION:-
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer, Sub-Transmission Division-IV (JPDCL) Kalakote hereinafter referred as 'Employer', invites on-line e-bids from reputed Companies or Class 'A' registered contractors for
"CONSTRUCTION OF 3.15MVA,33/11KV RECEIVING STATION AT MANGLAMATAUNDER THE JURISDICTION SUB-TRANSMISSION DIVISION (JPDCL) KALAKOTE UNDER UT CAPEX"
1.Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.

A	Tender Document Sale/Download Start Date	05-07-2025 10:00 Hours
B	Tender Document Sale/Download End Date	19-07-2025 14:00 Hours
C	e-Bid submission (start) date & time	05-07-2025 10:00 Hours
D	e-Bid submission (end) date & time	19-07-2025 14:00 Hours
E	Submission of Hard Copy of Tender Fee & EMD Instrument (End) date & time	21-07-2025 13:00 Hours
F	Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time	21-07-2025 14:00 Hours
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified Bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualifying Bidders.
H	Venue of opening of techno-commercial Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer STD-IV, JPDCL Kalakote.
I	Tender value	62.16Lacs
J	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 2000/- (Non-Refundable)
K	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 124320/-

3. The bidders need to submit the proof for purchase of e-Bid document as stated through Treasury Challan/demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer, Sub Transmission Division-IV(JPDCL), Kalakote. The scanned copy of the Treasury Challan/demand draft must be enclosed along with the e-Bid. For States other than UT of J&K, the Bidders shall have to pay the e-Bid document fee in the shape of Demand Draft (Non-refundable) payable in favour of the Executive Engineer STD-IV JPDCL Kalakote of any Nationalized Bank bankpayable at Kalakote. The original demand draft shall be submitted in a separate envelope to the Office of the Executive Engineer, Sub-Transmission Division-IV (JPDCL) Kalakote and should reach at least one day before opening of commercial and technical e-Bid. The scanned copy of the Demand Draft must be uploaded along with the eBids.

4. Bidders must quote for all the particulars of the item in the Technical Bid and in the price schedule/BOQ of financial bid. The bids of Bidders who will not quote for all the particulars for any item in technical and financial bids are liable to be rejected at the discretion of the Employer keeping in view the interest of the JPDCL.

5. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee only from any Nationalized/Scheduled bank only pledged to Executive Engineer, Sub-Transmission Division-IV (JPDCL) Kalakote No Interest shall be Payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

a. Hard Copy of original instrument of EMD shall be demanded from the successful bidder(s) after the opening of the financial e-Bids.

b. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://jk-tenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the technically qualified Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same Web Site.

6. The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table. An authority letter of Bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be produced.

7. The JPDCL reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof if any major lapse/deviation is found. The decision of the JPDCL, will be final and binding.

8. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for JPDCL office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.

9. All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidders electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.

10. To participate in e-bidding process, Bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding. Hard Copy of Cost of Tender Document must be delivered to the Office of the Executive Engineer, Sub-Transmission Division-IV (JPDCL) Kalakote in sealed cover at least one day before the scheduled date of opening of the commercial and technical e-Bids. The sealed cover shall be super scribed as "COST OF TENDER DOCUMENTS AGAINST e-NIT NO: STD-IV/JPDCL/ 010 of 2025-26, Dated: 04-07-2025

No: STDK/Tech/112-115
DIPK-NB-1054/25
Date: 07-07-2025

s/d
Executive Engineer,
STD-IV (JPDCL),
Kalakote

PUBLIC NOTICE

The correction in the name of my two wards and their mother's name namely; Anaya Sameer D/O Sameer Mehraj and mother's name: Humaira, are students of First and 5th grade of Iqra Educational Institute, Bemina, Srinagar needs to be changed from (1) Anaya Sameer D/O Sameer Mehraj and mother's name: Humaira (2) Aaqil Sameer S/O Sameer Mehraj and mother's name: Humaira, to (1) Anaya Sumeer D/O Sumeer Ahmad and mother's name: Humaira Mushtaq (2) Aaqil Sumeer S/O Sumeer Ahmad, mother's name: Humaira Mushtaq.

Before making necessary correction in the same, objection, if any be, communicated to the Principal of Iqra Educational Institute, Bemina, Srinagar within seven days of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Sumeer Ahmad
F/O Anaya Sumeer and Aaqil Sumeer
R/O Nund Reshi Colony B, Bemina, Srinagar

hko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my Daughter has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Munaza Gani while his correct name is Amreena Gani which needs to be updated. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concern aadhar centre Jammu Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Abdul Gani Dar
F/O Amreena Gani
R/O Woyen Imamsahib
Tehsil Imamsahib and District Shopian

fkco

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my passport, bearing no: 01174327 issued on 16-11-2007, between Mill Stop to Khanbagh Lal Bazar. If anybody has found the same he/she is requested to contact on below given Contact Number.

Mathew Onampallil Jacob
Father Name: Jacob Jacob
Contact Number: 9832063603

FKO

From Office of the Advocate Tawseef Gani And Associates

In the case of
Bar Association Pattan
Through its President
1. Advocate Ishfaq Ahmad Bhat
2. Vice President Advocate Mohammad Afzal Najar.
3. Treasurer, Advocate Irshad Ahmad Dar.
Secretary , Advocate Rayees Ahmad Tantray.

(Caveator)

V/s
Public at large

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.

fkco

Sd/advocate



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

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

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

VISIT

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

OR SCAN



OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE

INKISHAF

VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

On Ashura, SKIMS Holds Lifesaving Medical & Blood Donation Camp

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In observance of Ashura, the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, organized a large-scale Medical and Blood Donation Camp today at the Auqaf Building, Alamgiri Bazar, Srinagar, reaffirming its commitment to community health outreach and humanitarian service.

The day-long camp, held from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM, provided essential healthcare services to approximately 650 patients from the local population. The medical team included experienced specialists and super-specialists from General Medicine, General Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pediatrics, and Hospital Administration, who offered on-the-spot consultations and treatment.

A key highlight of the event was the blood donation drive, which saw enthusiastic participation from Azadars and community volunteers. A total of 35 blood units were donated during the camp, and more than 450 individuals registered as prospective

donors for future drives—demonstrating strong public spirit and commitment to saving lives.

In addition to clinical evaluations, the camp featured a fully equipped pharmacy for the free distribution of medications, along with an IV drug and fluid infusion facility for patients requiring urgent intervention. Point-of-care treatments and emergency resuscitation support were provided where necessary, ensuring that patients received comprehensive medical attention under one roof. Patients requiring further evaluation or specialized care were enrolled for follow-up at SKIMS.

The camp's success was driven by a coordinated multidisciplinary team, with key clinical responsibilities handled by the following doctors:

Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, Dr. Saqib Mehdi, Dr. Iflah Rafiq, Dr. Mogisur Rahman, Dr. Adil Mir, Dr. Mehraj Ud Din, Dr. Tahir Mohidin, Dr. Shahaan Iqbal, Dr. Nazima Ashraf, Dr. Rukiya Rashid, Dr. Romana Rashid, Dr. Daksh Bhandari.

‘Srinagar’s Muharram Procession Was An Exhibition Of Love’

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On Sunday, the 10th day of Muharram, Srinagar's Zadibal witnessed a deeply moving scene as thousands of Muslims gathered to commemorate the sacrifices of Imam Hussain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (saw), in the historic Battle of Karbala. The day was marked by a striking atmosphere of devotion, unity, and selfless service.

According to KNO, black flags adorned with intricately inscribed eulogies honoring the martyrs of Karbala fluttered in the heat, while water sprinklers provided much-needed relief to the mourners and onlookers lining the procession route. The procession began early in the morning, drawing crowds that filled the narrow lanes of Alamgari Bazar and its surroundings.

Along the route, Sabeels—tents offering water to passersby—stood in orderly rows, tended by volunteers ranging from children to elderly men. Some held glasses of milk; others carried packaged water bottles, all contributing to the spirit of service that defined the day. Residents of the area opened their

gates wide, warmly inviting every visitor to rest, have tea, or shelter their vehicles, transcending sectarian lines. There was no visible distinction between a Shia and a Sunni—everyone was a guest.

Despite the consumption of thousands of water bottles and disposable cups, the streets remained remarkably clean. Volunteers swiftly collected any waste found along the roadsides. Importantly, there was no presence of enforcement personnel welding sticks; instead, the participants maintained order through mutual respect and personal responsibility. This was the most self-disciplined crowd seen in Kashmir's recent memory.

Amid the crowd, a young man in his early twenties was seen carrying waste bins, moving from one Sabeel to another to collect used paper cups and bottles. “I am a Sunni, and we have a Sabeel here with 72 members—70 Sunnis and 2 Shias. But this has nothing to do with whether you are Shia or Sunni. This is an exhibition of love for Imam Hussain. Love that makes us human and teaches us good things.”



Rains lash Srinagar, causing waterlogging and traffic disruption. KO Photo By Faisal Khan

Massive Rainfall Triggers Flood-Like Situation Across City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An intense rainfall and hailstorm wreaked havoc across Srinagar on Monday, inundating dozens of localities and causing widespread damage to property, vehicles, and infrastructure. The downpour, though offering brief relief from the sweltering heat, threw life out of gear in many parts of the city.

Localities including Safakadal, Nawakadal, Noorbagh, Barzulla, Jawahar Nagar, and others witnessed heavy waterlogging, with flood-like scenes reported as rainwater entered

homes, shops, and low-lying lanes. The drainage systems appeared overwhelmed by the volume of water, with residents and traders expressing concern over recurring flooding during even short spells of rain.

In Barzulla, a massive Chinar tree fell near the old CRPF camp, causing significant damage to several parked vehicles. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.

High-velocity winds and hail accompanied the rain in some areas, adding to the chaos. Roofs of several under-construction houses were reportedly damaged in Ram Bagh, Noorbagh and adja-


cent localities. In yet another incident, a tree collapsed near Badamibagh, falling directly onto an auto rickshaw (JK01A-1587). The vehicle was extensively damaged, and traffic along the stretch came to a halt until authorities cleared the road.

According to KNT, rain also lashed several other areas of the Valley, including Natipora, Chanpora, Rambagh, Jehangir Chowk, Lal Chowk, and Sonawar.


Parts of Baramulla, especially Sopore, also experienced heavy downpours, resulting in waterlogging and fresh worries about poor drainage readiness.

FORM NO.14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1)
2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh
DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.
RC/576/2023 02-07-2025
(PUBLICATION NOTICE)
JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
Versus
M/S THE ART CENTRE SKUSAT
To
(CD 1) M/S THE ART CENTRE SKUSAT
SHALIMAR SRINAGAR THROUGH ITS PROP. KHAZIR MOHAMMAD TUNDA S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD TUNDA R/O QAMARWARI SRINAGAR
Srinagar, JAMMU AND KASHMIR-(CD 2) GHULAM AHMED NAJAR SO MOHAMMAD RAMZAN NAGAR RIO REEPORA, GANDERBAL
(CD 3) MOHAMMAD AYOUB BEIGH
S/O ABDUL SAMAD BEIGH R/O KAKA SARI, KARAN NAGAR, SRINAGAR
(CD 4) HAYAT TUNDA S/O KHAZIR MOHAMMAD TUNDA R/O CHANDAPORAHARVAN, SRINAGAR
(CD 5) HAMID MUZAFFAR MALLA S/O MOHAMMAD MUZAFFAR MALLA RIO CHATTABAL SRINAGAR
This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL NAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1) in TA/137/2023 an amount of Rs 3156820.67 Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Fifty Six Thousands Eight Hundred Twenty And Paise Sixty Seven Only) along with pendentelite and future interest 13.25% Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. 01/12/2014 till realization and costs of Rs 42600 (Rupees Forty Two Thousands Six Hundred Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/Fully/Limited).
2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 11/08/2025 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 02/07/2025
Recovery Officer-II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1)

Form No 3
[See Regulation -15 (1) (a)/16(3)]
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT I)
2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35
Sector-17 A, Chandigarh
Case No. OA/2040/2024
Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure)Rules,1993
Exh. No: 28051
JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED VS BILAL AHMAD MIR
To.
(1) Mr. Khursheed Ahmad Mir
Son of Mr Ghulam Qadir Mir R/o: Jawahar Nagar Near Municipal Park Srinagar
Jammu and Kashmir-190008
SUMMONS
Whereas , OA/2040/ 2024 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 18.09.2024
Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons / notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 4451526.18/- (application along with copies of documents etc, annexed).
In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you. the defendants are directed as under:-
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 14.07.2025 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date :03.05.2025
Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons
Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable





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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311


RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 12 Muharram 1447	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	3: 41
	ZUHR	12:35
	ASR	5: 35
	Magrib	7:49
	ISHA	9: 29

This Day In History

- 1709 - Battle of Poltava; Russians defeat Swedes, end of Swedish empire as a major power
- 1716 - Great Northern War: Battle of Dynekilen, a Danish-Norwegian force under Peter Tordenskjold trapped and defeated a similar Swedish force.
- 1792 - France declares war on Prussia
- 1796 - US State Department issues 1st US passport
- 1862 - Theodore R Timby is granted a US patent for discharging guns in a revolving turret, using electricity.
- 1943 - 4th day of battle at Kursk: Gen Model uses last tank reserve
- 1943 - British air raid sinks U-232
- 1943 - US invasion fleet passes Bizerta Tunisia
- 1944 -British troops march into Caen, Normandy
- 1950 - Gen Douglas MacArthur named commander-in-chief, UN forces in Korea
- 1963 - US bans all monetary transactions with Cuba
- 1966 - US airline strike (until Aug 19th)
- 1968 - Israeli-Egyptian artillery duel along Suez Canal
- 1969 -US troop withdrawal begins in Vietnam
- 1972 - US sells grain to USSR for \$750 million
- 1975 - US President Gerald Ford announced he'll seek Republican presidential nomination
- 1975 - Quake damages over 2,000 temples in Pagan Burma, 20-foot-high seated Buddha of Thandawgya decapitated
- 1978 - Pioneer-Venus 2 Multi-probe launched to Venus
- 1979 - Voyager 2 takes 1st ever photo of Jupiter's satellite Adrastea (J14)
- 1986 - NASA establishes Safety, Reliability Maintain & Quality Assurance
- 1989 - Carlos Saul Menum becomes President of Argentina
- 1989 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1994 - Space shuttle STS-65 (Columbia 17), launches
- 1997 - NATO invites Poland, Hungary & Czech Republic to join
- 2003 - Sudan Airways Flight 39, with 116 people on board, crashes in Sudan; the only survivor is a two-year-old boy who subsequently dies as a result of his injuries.
- 2011 - Space Shuttle Atlantis is launched in the final mission of the U.S. Space Shuttle program.
- 2012 - Roadside car bomb kills 14 civilians in Afghanistan's Kandahar Province
- 2013 - 42 people have been killed and hundreds injured after the Egyptian army raids a sit in protest in Cairo
- 2013 - A dozen people are killed and injured after a hotel collapses in Hyderabad, India
- 2014 - FIFA World Cup: Germany defeat Brazil by a record 7-1 in the semi-finals to make it to the final; Miroslav Klose of Germany breaks the World Cup goal scoring record with 16 goals.
- 2014 - Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu instructs his defence forces to "take their gloves off" against Hamas and to take any means necessary to "restore peace" to Israeli citizens
- 2015 - The New York Stock Exchange stops trading for nearly four hours due to a technical error
- 2016- Italian designer Maria Grazia Chiuri is the first woman to be appointed artistic director at French fashion house Christian Dior
- 2017- British Lions tie 15-15 with New Zealand All Blacks in their 3rd rugby match to tie the series
- 2017- Unesco declares Asmara, capital of Eritrea, a world heritage site for its Art Deco buildings
- 2018- British Brexit Secretary David Davis resigns in a stand against Theresa May's new softer Brexit policy
- 2018- Eritrea and Ethiopia announce re-establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries after almost 20 years in Asmara, Eritrea
- 2019- Congolese general and rebel leader Bosco Ntaganda convicted of war crimes and crimes against humanity by the International Criminal Court in the Hague

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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

KO VIEW

Why The Rush To Reopen Schools?

Despite a blazing heatwave that has paralyzed daily life in the Kashmir Valley, the government has taken the baffling decision to reopen schools from Tuesday, July 8. Education Minister Sakina Itoo's announcement comes in the face of widespread public concern, with parents, educators, and health professionals urging an extension of holidays. But those appeals have been brushed aside.

Let's be clear: this is not just about discomfort. It's about endangering our school-going children. With temperatures soaring above 37°C, among the highest ever recorded in Kashmir's July history, the government is forcing children, including nursery and kindergarten students, to travel in the heat, sit in stifling classrooms with no ACs, and then attend online classes at home after barely a one-hour break. That's not what serves the purpose of education.

The summer break could have been extended. The administration had that option. And if not, it could have directed schools to start virtual classes. More so, when there is a precedent for this. The option was exercised sensibly during the COVID-19 years, when online learning became the norm. Why couldn't a similar strategy be adopted now, at least until temperatures dropped to tolerable levels? What was the urgency?

Instead, the government chose to disregard a clear groundswell of opinion. Parents flooded social media with appeals, WhatsApp groups were abuzz, and several school associations informally supported the call to delay reopening. Yet the government maintained a stony silence, that is, until Monday's sudden announcement left families scrambling to prepare their children for a punishing routine.

The revised school timings from 7:30 AM in cities and 8:00 AM in rural areas do little to reduce the risk for children. Early mornings may seem cooler, but young children still have to commute in crowded vans following an inadequate sleep. And even if the journey is bearable, classrooms offer no real refuge as most of them are without fans, let alone air-conditioning.

The hybrid model, where students resume studies online after returning home, only adds insult to injury. How can exhausted children meaningfully participate in digital lessons after braving a morning of heat, dehydration, and fatigue? This looks less like a plan to improve learning and more like a government's self-important attempt to be seen to not take education lightly.

At its core, this is a failure of consultation and common sense. A government that has been elected cannot ignore parents in moments like this. It cannot impose top-down decisions that disregard both science and sentiment. Kashmir's children deserve better. Learning must go on, but not at the cost of health, safety, or sanity. It is not too late for the government to reconsider. A delayed reopening, with daily online classes, would have been the wiser, more humane path.

FINANCIAL FIX

It's Time to Outgrow Land

Kashmir's love for real estate could be blinding investors to better, faster ways to grow wealth.

Irshad Mushtaq

Buying land is expected in Kashmir. Families pour savings into property, believing it's the safest, smartest way to build wealth. But this trust in real estate may be locking them out of faster, stronger returns.

Take a simple example. If you invest 1 crore in a mutual fund that grows 14 to 15 percent a year, your money can double in five years, quadruple in ten, and reach 32 crore in twenty-five years. This is compounding: money that earns more money as time passes. Real estate in Kashmir rarely grows that fast. For a property to turn 1 crore into 32 crore in the same time, it would need to double every five years. That's hard in a region shaped by political risks, long sales processes, and uneven market demand.

Land also comes with hidden costs—maintenance, taxes, and the challenge of selling quickly when you need cash. Still, many Kashmiris don't look beyond property. Few know how mutual funds work. Families pass down stories about land and gold, but almost never about compounding and financial markets. This gap is costing people real growth.

Across India, investment habits are changing. More people are trusting long-term financial products over physical assets. They're learning that time, not just land, can build wealth.

Real estate will always have cultural and emotional weight in Kashmir. But smart investing is about more than tradition. It's about knowing where your money can grow the most. In many cases, that growth is happening in places Kashmiris aren't looking.

Sometimes, the smartest move is to let your money work with time, not walls.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Kashmir's Craft Revival

In the Valley's silent workshops, a cultural revival is bringing dignity, confidence, and global reach to Kashmiri craftsmanship.

Mohammad Amin Mir

In a small, sunlit room in Srinagar, Zahida Begum bends over a fine Pashmina shawl, guiding her needle through delicate threads. Her fingers move with practiced ease, but this time, the shawl is not for a local trader. It's headed to a customer in Stockholm, a connection made with the tap of her son's smartphone.

For years, Zahida's craft was treated as just another piece of heritage slipping into the past. Demand was falling, brokers were taking the lion's share, and artisans like Zahida were earning barely enough to continue.

But something is shifting in Kashmir. The intricate art of the Valley is finding new life. Kashmiri crafts, once struggling to survive, are now reaching the world. Not through chance, but through deliberate support that is changing the lives of the people who make them.

Part of this change can be traced to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's growing focus on Kashmir's artisans. His recent diplomatic gifts of Kashmiri handicrafts to world leaders have quietly raised the status of these art forms.

But beyond the symbolism, the transformation is unfolding in workshops, markets, and households across the Valley.

For the first time in years, many Kashmiri artisans are seeing real possibilities.

When Zahida's son told her that the shawl she was working on would be purchased directly by a customer in Europe, she was skeptical. "We always sold to middlemen," she said. "How can someone so far buy from me?"

But they can now. Government programs have opened digital platforms to artisan cooperatives in Kashmir. Today, a craftsman in Anantnag can sell a hand-carved walnut wood box to a buyer in Berlin or Mumbai. Local marketplaces are no longer the only option. And the story doesn't stop there.

Kashmir's signature crafts—Pashmina, Kani shawls, Sozni embroidery, walnut wood carving, papier-mâché—have all been awarded Geographical Indication (GI) tags, giving them legal protection against imitation and ensuring that the people who make them are properly recognized.

The fight against cheap machine-made knock-offs has finally found a meaningful line of defense.



When a Pashmina shawl from Kashmir is draped over the shoulders of a world leader, or when a finely carved wooden box is displayed in a foreign embassy, the artisan's work travels further than they ever imagined.

Under the "One District One Product" initiative, Kashmir's handicraft hubs, such as Pashmina weaving in Srinagar and Namda rugs in Pulwama, have been singled out for targeted support. They are now being promoted for national and international exports, with help in marketing, packaging, and direct e-commerce onboarding.

Artisans like Zahida have also benefited from training programs, easier access to credit, and raw material subsidies.

Small loans under government schemes have helped many craftspeople upgrade their tools, rent better workshop spaces, and even hire apprentices.

More importantly, the perception of craft-work itself is changing.

For years, young Kashmiris distanced themselves from their parents' and grandparents' trades, believing that embroidery or wood carving had no future. Today, some are returning. They see that these crafts can earn, can travel, can matter.

Artisan families that once encouraged their children to leave these skills behind are now proudly passing them on.

Fifty-five-year-old Bashir Ahmad, a walnut wood carver from Budgam, said his youngest son had left the workshop years ago, choosing a sales job in the city. "But now he's back," Bashir said, shaping a delicate flower pattern on a jewelry box. "When he saw our work online, and

how buyers now look for the original, he realized this is no longer a dying art."

Stories like Bashir's are becoming more common.

Handicrafts are no longer just seasonal work for a shrinking market. They are now entering the global conversation, carried across borders as gifts, luxury items, and symbols of India's living heritage.

When a Pashmina shawl from Kashmir is draped over the shoulders of a world leader, or when a finely carved wooden box is displayed in a foreign embassy, the artisan's work travels further than they ever imagined.

For many in the Valley, this growing global recognition brings a sense of dignity that policies alone cannot provide.

But this revival is still fragile.

Middlemen continue to squeeze profits. Many artisans remain outside formal systems, lacking proper identification, business training, or bank access.

And despite the government's push, not all craft clusters have caught up with the pace of change. There is still a gap between the artisan on the ground and the final customer abroad.

To truly sustain this cultural revival, more needs to be done.

There is a growing call for artisan schools in every district of Kashmir, spaces where young people can learn these ancient skills with the support of modern technology. Local cooperatives, especially women-led ones, need stronger backing.

Kashmir-specific handicraft stores at international airports could create direct visibility and eliminate the long chain of middlemen.

And a dedicated visa system could allow artisans to personally attend exhibitions abroad, carrying their stories and craft directly to global audiences.

If these steps take root, the impact could be lasting. More than sales, it's about pride, belonging, and giving young Kashmiris a reason to stay.

This isn't just trade. It's revival. And Zahida and Bashir aren't outliers. Across the Valley, new hope is being stitched and carved, not promised.

Kashmir's artisans always knew their worth. Now, the world is catching up.

And here's the shift: they're not stitching the past anymore. They're weaving what's next.

The author is a legal researcher and writer based in Anantnag.

Poverty Beneath The Feast

From Egypt to Japan, global communities are embracing smaller celebrations to escape debt. In Kashmir, the shift could be life-changing.

Nusrat Hassan

debt traps so deep they sometimes lose their homes.

Around the world, poverty is not always fed by lack of money. It is often fed by the wrong use of money.

The solution is not complicated. It lies in simplicity.

Simple living has long been treated like a moral footnote. Something preached, rarely practiced. But simplicity, when genuinely embraced, is not just a lifestyle. It is an act of defiance against a system that thrives on waste.

When a Kashmiri family chooses to host a modest wedding with home-cooked food, they dismantle a culture that glorifies empty spending. They create space for wealth to be used to build homes, educate children, and lift another family out of poverty.

The other half of this story sits

on Kashmir's street corners: people with outstretched hands, waiting for coins.

In a place where unemployment hovers near 18 percent, begging has become a normal part. From the gates of shrines to the sidewalks of Srinagar, people beg because work feels out of reach.

But the harsh truth remains: begging robs people of something far greater than coins. It robs them of their will to try.

It's easy to say that poverty is about broken economies and failed governments. It is harder to admit that sometimes, poverty is about the choices we make when we stop believing in ourselves.

I once met a man in Srinagar who sold socks from a wooden cart. He had spent years begging outside the city's Jamia Masjid. But one

day, something changed. He saw another street vendor counting his day's earnings, and he realized he still had two working hands, two feet, a mind capable of effort. "I didn't want to live from the charity of strangers anymore," he told me. His cart doesn't make him rich, but it makes him free.

Freedom from poverty is not always delivered by governments. Sometimes it arrives on the day a person chooses to stand instead of sitting, to work instead of waiting.

The global story is clear. Across continents, people are rethinking what matters. The minimalist living movement in Europe, the shift towards small weddings in Japan, the rise of microbusinesses in sub-Saharan Africa are signs that simplicity is not a poor man's choice. It is a wise person's decision.

Kashmir is no different. It can either continue to drown in debt-driven celebrations and self-imposed helplessness, or it can choose a path where simple living and honest work become the pillars of dignity.

We don't need global conferences to tell us this. The solution is already in our homes, in our markets, and in our decisions to spend less and build more.

Poverty will not vanish overnight. But it will begin to shrink when we dare to live differently.

The author is an undergraduate student at GDC, Ganderbal.

Letter to Editor

Why Societies Like Kashmir Keep Falling Behind

Across the world, countries are racing ahead. Building smarter cities, developing cleaner energy, and creating classrooms that nurture curiosity instead of crushing it.

Yet in places like Kashmir, the story feels stubbornly familiar: the same old debates, the same slow progress, the same wasted potential.

The problem isn't a lack of talent. Kashmir has produced scientists, artists, and thinkers who thrive across the globe. The region's young people are capable of shaping industries and rewriting stories. But instead of building an environment where this talent is valued, society

often teaches them to play safe, stay silent, and follow a narrow path.

Education shows this gap painfully well. In Finland and Japan, learning is about questioning, discovering, and growing. In Kashmir, it still revolves around memorising outdated lessons, chasing government jobs, and avoiding risk. When students dare to dream beyond these limits, they are often told to stop wasting time and choose a 'real' career.

Corruption quietly chokes everyday life. It's not just a political issue, it seeps into the smallest spaces, from bribed approvals to favours exchanged behind closed doors. People

blame the system, but the system is a reflection of collective habits. The shortcuts, the broken queues, the casual dishonesty all add up.

There is also a damaging culture of pulling each other down. In many thriving societies, success is shared. In places like Kashmir, it's too often met with suspicion. When a business grows, people wonder what backdoor was used. When a student excels, the story of favouritism follows. Competition shifts from self-improvement to making sure no one else climbs too high.

The deep mistrust of local products and local people feeds this cycle. Anything foreign is treated as premi-

um. Anything local is second-class. This thinking leaves behind craftsmen, farmers, and entrepreneurs whose work is dismissed until it is validated elsewhere.

Yet the solution isn't hidden. It begins with simple steps: valuing all kinds of work, creating classrooms that welcome questions, respecting those who build from the ground up.

Change won't arrive overnight. But it can begin the moment a society decides to believe in its own people.

Sincerely
Suwaid Sajad
suwaidssajad0x@gmail.com

The Long Game of Mehrajuddin Wadoo

His playing days are over, but Mehrajuddin Wadoo's fight for fairness, contracts, and dignity has just begun.

Sajid Bhat

When Mehrajuddin Wadoo walked onto the sunlit grounds of Srinagar as a boy, football was just a way to outrun the weight of life. He wasn't chasing records then. He was chasing freedom.

Now, decades later, that burly boy is the new President of the Football Players Association of India (FPAI), the country's most powerful footballers' body. Sunil Chhetri, India's most celebrated striker, sits beside him as Vice President.

For Wadoo, this is no ceremonial badge. This is another fight. This time, not for minutes on the pitch, but for the rights and future of players across the country.

His story has always been about chasing what seemed distant.

Born in Srinagar to Mohammad Sultan Wadoo, a former Santosh Trophy player, football was stitched into his life early. His father handed him a football when most kids in the neighbourhood clung to cricket bats. The ball never left his side after that. Wadoo spent hours training under his father's watch, sometimes kicking against walls, sometimes racing against no one.

Kashmir, in the 1990s, was a place of uncertain mornings. Football, for Wadoo, became both an escape and an anchor. His talent outgrew the rough playgrounds quickly, but opportunities were rare.

Still, he kept showing up: training harder, running longer, hitting the ball with more purpose.

By the time he reached the national circuit, Wadoo was hard to



miss. He started as a striker but later became a fierce right-back: a defender who could read the game before it unfolded.

He turned out for clubs that shaped Indian football: Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, Salgaocar. His sharp positioning and calm under pressure made him one of the most trusted men at the back.

In the national jersey, Wadoo's defining moment came in 2005. His goal in the SAFF Championship final against Bangladesh in Karachi not only won India the title. It also

He returned to lead his home state in the Santosh Trophy, taking them to the quarter-finals, a campaign that reignited dreams in the valley's young players.

stamped his name on the country's football map.

He went on to lift two Nehru Cups

and the 2008 AFC Challenge Cup.

For Kashmiris, every time he walked onto the field, it meant

something more. It meant one of their own had made it.

But Wadoo's game was never just about defending. It was about building.

When his playing career ended, Wadoo didn't drift into comfortable distance. He moved straight into coaching, hungry to build players the way he had built himself.

He worked with Pune City's academy, assisted Hyderabad FC in the Indian Super League, and took charge of Sudeva Delhi in the I-League.

Most recently, he steered Real Kashmir FC and managed Moham-medan Sporting, one of India's oldest football clubs, helping them escape relegation and push back into serious competition.

Wadoo's coaching is deeply personal. He focuses on building character, not just technical skill. Players who've worked under him often say he makes them believe in football as a life, not a pastime. He rarely raises his voice, but his expectations are clear: you give everything.

His decision to coach Nepal's FC Chitwan this year marked his first international role. It came after years of turning down smaller assignments in India. Wadoo wanted something meaningful, something where he could challenge himself and grow.

But even as his coaching career took him across cities and now borders, Wadoo always circled back to Kashmir.

He returned to lead his home state in the Santosh Trophy, taking them to the quarter-finals, a campaign that reignited dreams in the

valley's young players.

In the playgrounds where he once kicked with makeshift shoes, there are now full academies. Parents now push their children toward the game, not away from it. His shadow is long on those fields.

His election as FPAI President is, in many ways, a full circle. The boy who had to fight to be seen is now at the head table. He knows what it's like to come from the outside, to walk into dressing rooms where accents, backgrounds, and names don't always match.

And now, he wants to make sure no player feels like an outsider again.

There's something enduring about Wadoo's journey. It's not spectacular in the way of overnight stardom. It's built, step by hard step, across dusty grounds, crowded leagues, long train rides, and silent grind.

His rise is stitched with small victories, making the starting eleven, winning respect in Kolkata, scoring when it mattered, and later, lifting clubs from the edge.

Wadoo may no longer sprint down the flanks, but his game is far from over. His fight now is for better contracts, fairer systems, and stronger player support.

And as he steps into this new role, his story remains the same: show up, put in the work, and never forget where you started.

The author is a football fan from Srinagar who's seen Wadoo's rise since his boyhood days.

The Meadow Beyond Maps

Some meadows are found on maps. This one is found in stories, in footsteps, in the way the breeze carries your name.



Sahil Manzoor

It began as a story passed to me like a folded note. A roadside fruit seller, with dust on his sleeves and sunlight on his face, told me there was a meadow where the streams still speak and the grass remembers every footprint.

"Go to Haijjan Branwar," he said, as if I already knew the way.

The road to Haijjan wasn't smooth. It twisted, crumbled, and demanded patience. Villages flickered past like worn pages in an old book. Children chased rolling tyres along the roadside, farmers guided slow cattle through fields, and the air shifted with every turn.

The broken path from Jabbad seemed to test me, but somehow, the road was part of the story. It held me back just enough to make me arrive ready.

And then, without noise, there it was. Haijjan Branwar. A hidden Budgam meadow so wide, so soft underfoot, it felt like stepping into a place that had been waiting.

The streams ran clear, carving silver ribbons across the green, and the breeze lifted the scent of pine and wild grass. There were no signboards, fences, footprints to follow, just the land as it has always been.

I wandered without a plan, guided by the sound of water and the gentle pull of open space. Mud huts rose like earth-grown shelters, simple kothas built by nomadic hands, their doors open to the meadow and the sky.

I watched boys playing cricket in the distance, their laughter rising

and falling like a song stitched into the breeze.

There was no one telling me where to go, no path demanding my steps. Haijjan asked nothing. It simply unfolded, one soft turn after another.

The Doodh Ganga River flowed nearby, its waters cold, its rhythm

THE DOODH GANGA RIVER FLOWED NEARBY, its waters cold, its rhythm steady. I crossed it, my feet pressing into the wet stones, and on the other side, the meadow stretched wider, as if it had been waiting to show me more.

steady. I crossed it, my feet pressing into the wet stones, and on the other side, the meadow stretched wider, as if it had been waiting to show me more.

I later learned that a longer trek could lead me to Yousmarg, the famous meadow I had known from photographs.

Yet the path from Haijjan to Yous-

marg isn't marked on most maps. It exists in the footsteps of herders, in the worn trails that belong to those who carry their stories on their backs.

But Haijjan isn't only a place to wander. Its streams feed the Branwar Hydroelectric Power Project. Water flows from these meadows to light homes, to power villages beyond the hills. The same soft streams that catch sunlight here carry energy to places I would not see.

Beneath its beauty, Haijjan quietly keeps the valley alive.

Locals told me the road keeps many visitors away. Some wish it would be fixed. Some believe the roughness protects the meadow, keeps it safe in its rawness.

For now, Haijjan remains a place for those who know how to find it: the herders, the village children, the students who come to sit on the grass and share their lunch under the open sky.

I thought of how perfect this meadow would be for learning. A classroom without walls, where students could touch the grass they sketch in their books, where rivers are not just lines on maps, but cold, moving threads of life.

When I finally sat by the stream, I let the silence settle. I had come to see a meadow, but what I found was something else.

Haijjan had not called me. It had simply been there, waiting to be seen, waiting to stay with me long after I had gone.

The author can be reached at sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Life Without Applause

In a place where women are always asked to endure, inspire, and overcome, what if a woman chooses a smaller, gentler life?

Khurram Rasool

In Srinagar, where summers press gently against the walls and the days slide past like slow water, a woman sits on her verandah, her fingers resting on a chipped teacup.

The air carries the scent of distant bakeries and warm dust. The garden hums, unbothered. She watches the afternoon soften into gold as the breeze lifts and falls, as though the world itself has forgotten to hurry.

But the phone on her lap buzzes with a cascade of updates.

Her hometown girl has outpaced her circumstances, her school walls, her city. Another woman has fought and won, gathering the pieces of a life scattered by grief. Somewhere, a mother stands alone at the edge of her home, raising children with arms heavier than we can see.

Their stories come dressed in medals, trophies, garlands of admiration.

They are stories stitched tightly into Kashmir's memory. Here, women have always been the sturdy hands holding the sky in place. They are the ones who stay, who mend, who walk the longest roads to the smallest schools. They are spoken of in the language of survival. They are gathered, one by one, into parables of strength.

But some women do not wish to be parables.

Some women do not want to be the stories passed from podium to podium. Some women do not want to be monuments, heavy with meaning. Some women would like to slip away from the loud telling.

What of the woman who puts the weight down, not from defeat, but from choice? What of the woman who trades ambition for smaller, silent days? What of the woman who does not wish to carry the proud banners of resilience?

Does her life grow dim because it was not lit by fire?

The streets in this place have learned to celebrate women only when their backs are bent by survival. Only when their silence is loud enough to echo. Even rest must now earn its applause. Even softness must be translated into strength.

A woman may sit by her window, but the world will not let her sit just so. They will search for meaning in the tilt of her head, in the stillness of her breath.

But perhaps not every life is waiting to be read.

Perhaps there is beauty in a woman who simply chooses the sunlit verandah, the half-read book, the cup of tea that goes cold by accident.

There is something significant in a woman who changes her mind, leaves things unfinished, and does not feel the need to make it noble.

There's definitely rhythm in a woman who does not wake each day to win, to fight, to become a symbol.

There is a courage, too, in stepping away from the race that never promised rest.

There is a poetry in living without the need to be remarkable.

Let her rise late, let her days be soft and uneventful, let her laugh in rooms no one will write about. Let her want less. Let her life pass without the sound of drums. Let her be ordinary, and still whole.

Because sometimes, the most tender revolt is to live without reaching. To exist without asking for applause. To sip her tea, untouched by the expectation to be more.

And in that life, a life that is hers, and hers alone, there is enough. There has always been enough.

The author is a senior scribe based in Srinagar.



Iran Gets Significant Diplomatic Boost

Trans Asia News

Rio de Janeiro: Iran received a significant diplomatic endorsement at the BRICS summit here, as the bloc of emerging powers issued its strongest condemnation yet of military strikes on Iranian territory.

In a joint statement, BRICS denounced "the military strikes against the Islamic Republic of Iran," calling it a "reckless violation of Iran's sovereignty".

The summit, held in Brazil under the leadership of Russia and China, marked Iran's first participation as a full BRICS member, underscoring its growing alignment with non-Western powers. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi represented Tehran and declared at a time when the "tectonic economic and political shifts" have become more apparent, "Iran welcomes and is delighted to be part of the dawn of a new era."

BRICS on its part condemned the US-Israeli aggression against Iran terming it flagrant violation of International law. "We condemn the military strikes against the Islamic Republic of Iran since June 13, 2025, which constitute a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations," the BRICS communiqué stated. It also called the attacks "a reckless violation of sovereignty" and demanded Israel withdraw from Gaza.

China and Russia Lead Support



Both China and Russia—founding BRICS members—voiced strong backing for Iran. Moscow described the strikes as "unprovoked," and Beijing echoed the call for respect for international legal norms. The joint statement emphasized that "attacks on critical infrastructure and nuclear facilities are unacceptable under international law."

Araghchi used his speech to urge global accountability, accusing Washington and Tel Aviv of human rights violations. "The fallout from this war will not be limited to Iran," he warned. Posting on X (formerly

Twitter) after the summit, Araghchi said Iran was "grateful for the strong and unequivocal condemnation" from BRICS comprising 40% of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and nearly half of the world's population.

Iranian FM also shared images from high-level meetings, including one with David Weiss, a Jewish-American affiliated with the anti-Zionist Neturei Karta sect.

The reported meeting drew immediate backlash in Israel. On Monday, Israel's Interior Minister revoked Weiss's entry permit and declared him

persona non grata, citing his engagement with Iranian officials as an act of betrayal and undermining of national interests.

U.S. Responds with Tariff Threats

In a swift and scathing response, U.S. President Donald Trump took to social media Monday morning, threatening to impose 10% tariffs on any BRICS member that supports what he called "anti-American economic or diplomatic activity."

"Any country supporting BRICS' anti-Western agenda will pay a price. That price is 10%," Trump posted, intensifying the geopolitical fallout from the summit.

Why This Matters

The summit marks yet another step in Iran's campaign to gain legitimacy and protection under the umbrella of rising non-Western alliances. The backing of BRICS provides Tehran with a stronger platform in global forums like the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Tehran is expected to press the U.N. Security Council for a formal investigation into the June airstrikes and may seek new security guarantees from Russia and China. With BRICS increasingly coordinated on political messaging, Iran's full integration could reshape how the international community responds to future regional conflicts involving Western powers.

Tourism In Kashmir Bounces Back After Pahalgam Attack: Union Minister



Agencies

Srinagar: Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Monday said that Kashmir's tourism sector is gradually recovering after the recent Pahalgam attack and thanks to coordinated efforts by the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

Speaking at a two-day tourism conclave in Srinagar, Shekhawat said the situation is improving and urged all states to promote Kashmir as a safe and vibrant travel destination.

"Tourism had slowed after the Pahalgam incident, but it is now reviving. The

UT administration, with the Centre's support, has taken strong confidence-building measures which will be fruitful in the coming days," Shekhawat said.

He said the conclave was aimed at boosting domestic tourism and conveying a clear message that Kashmir is safe. "Tourism secretaries from across the country are here to see the real picture and carry the message of peace and revival back to their states," he added.

The Minister also said Kashmir has seen steady growth in tourism over the past three years, and recent efforts

would help regain the earlier momentum. "We must work with fresh ideas to improve infrastructure, hospitality and overall experience for tourists," he said.

Shekhawat also highlighted the Centre's goal of developing 50 world-class tourist destinations under the Prime Minister's vision. He said Kashmir holds great potential in this regard.

Meanwhile, the conclave witnessed brainstorming sessions among tourism professionals and government officials to exchange ideas and explore new avenues for growth. (KNO)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'Who Decides For

focus, mood, and overall wellbeing. This decision completely ignores the age and needs of children."

Several parents pointed out that this schedule also affects them directly, as they will now have to wake up earlier to help prepare for their children's school. "We're not asking for vacations and no study, just a routine that makes sense for a child," said Zeeshan Ahmad, a parent from Kulgam. "At young age, kids need more rest, not less. Waking them up in the dark and rushing through breakfast just to reach school on time isn't normal." "And it's not just about kids. Parents are struggling too. Many of us have jobs to go to after this morning chaos," he added. "There's no breathing space left for families." What has unsettled parents even more is the new blended learning model, under which students from Class 6 onwards, after reaching home, are required to attend two online classes following a one-hour rest. Teachers have been directed to stay available till 2 PM, and Heads of Institutions (HoIs) have been instructed to ensure these online classes are conducted "without exception."

But for many, the decisions seem far removed from ground realities.

Many questioned the feasibility of holding online classes soon after children return home, particularly when commute times can take an hour or more.

"Students will reach home by 12:30 PM and need to rest and eat, how are they expected to start online classes right after?" a parent asked.

"This isn't COVID time that parents will be at home to support their kids. Most parents are working," Chasfeeda Shah, another parent said. "During COVID, online classes were an option. Now they are being made compulsory without taking into account home situations."

Concerns were also raised about the timing mismatch between student commutes and teacher schedules.

"If school ends by 12 and it takes children over an hour to reach home, they'll still be in school vans or buses while teachers are expected to start online sessions. How does that even work?"

Teachers, too, are caught in a logistical bind. Many of them rely on the same school transport as students and are questioning how they are expected to remain available till 2 PM if the buses leave soon after school ends.

"Why should teachers remain in school when most of us travel by the school bus? Are we supposed to walk home or arrange separate transport just to stay back?" asked a teacher who did not wish to be named.

Amid the backlash, many are also questioning the decision-making process behind the move, asking who the Education Department or Minister consulted before implementing these changes.

"Voices from the ground, including families, school authorities, and child health experts, appear to have been completely overlooked," said a parent. Decisions are being announced by the Minister without a clear understanding of how they impact people on the ground. Orders may be issued easily, but it's families, students, and teachers who are left to deal with the consequences."

While the weather took a U-turn on Monday evening, with rains pouring across many parts of Kashmir, parents are watching closely to see whether the decision stands in changing conditions.

At the same time, some voices are urging the government to focus on long-term solutions instead of temporary fixes.

"It's time we move beyond the old model of just 'mid-day meals' and build truly weather-friendly, future-ready schools," said one parent. "The government must upgrade every school with modern gadgets and safe infrastructure

in a phased but determined manner. Debates and discussions should now focus on the state of schools."

Angry, Sarcastic

One parent wrote sarcastically, "Brilliant move! Let's drag half-conscious kids to school in 40°C heat at 7:30 AM and call it education reform!" Another commented, "Clearly, policies are now made by roasting brains in pressure cookers."

Others pointed out the contradictions in policy logic. "At 27°C: Too hot! Close schools! At 36°C: Perfect weather for learning! Let's clap for the visionary move," a post read, questioning how children from remote villages are expected to reach school at such early hours, attend four hours of class, and then go online after returning home.

Many users also flagged how the plan overlooks the digital divide. "Every government school student surely has high-speed internet, a smartphone, and power backup in their tin-roofed homes," a reply to Education Minister's post on X read

Others drew attention to logistical challenges, especially traffic and transportation. A widely shared comment read, "Tell these babus school buses don't have sirens. It takes over 30 minutes just to board kids and another 15 to cross the first traffic jam."

Concerns over unsupervised online classes were raised too: "With parents in offices, who's going to help kids attend these sessions? The administration needs to think this through."

A user named Rasekh Nehvi posted, "I will not send my kids to school. By 12, they'll be stuck in buses under peak sun. Apply your mind before making these decisions... RIP governance."

Another user, Samiya Latif, questioned whether those making the rules were even parents themselves: "Kids will leave schools at 12 when the sun is at its peak. Then go home to start online classes. Wow! Are none of these concerned officials parents to young kids? How difficult is it to come up with a balanced plan so that precious time is not lost & no harm is done to kids also?"

Some posts also directly addressed the Education Minister. "Sakina ji, come out of your AC office and give some heat to your senses. How on earth did you come up with these timings?" one user wrote. "And just out of curiosity, what time do you wake up?"

Why Doctors Worry

7:30 AM and later attend online classes from home.

Doctors say the abrupt shift in routine, particularly for younger children, could trigger a range of mental and physical health issues.

"Sudden changes in any environment, especially for children, can lead to stress and anxiety," said Dr Mohd Abrar Guroo, Consultant Psychiatrist. "This may show up as irritability, fatigue, poor concentration, mood swings, and tantrums."

He warned that the new timings risk depriving children of essential sleep, which plays a critical role in their emotional regulation, memory, and attention span. "Adolescents naturally tend to sleep later. Forcing them to wake up at 5 AM could lead to chronic sleep loss and long-term mental health effects," Dr Guroo said.

Dr Bilal Najar, Assistant Professor of Paediatrics at GMC Anantnag, echoed the concern, citing age-specific sleep requirements that the new school schedule overlooks:

Toddlers (1–2 yrs): 11–14 hours
Pre-schoolers (3–5 yrs): 10–13 hours
Grade-schoolers (6–12 yrs): 9–11 hours
Teens (13–18 yrs): 8–10 hours
"Inadequate sleep can impact learning, focus, and even physical coordination. Over time,

this can lead to developmental delays or emotional burnout," Dr Najar said.

Dr Showkat Teeli, Head of Paediatrics at GMC Anantnag, added that transitions like these need time. "A one-week extension of the summer break could have helped families adjust gradually," he suggested. "Younger children especially require more time to adapt to a new schedule."

While acknowledging that the intent behind early reopening may have been well-meaning, Dr Teeli believes that a more flexible, age-sensitive plan could have prevented unnecessary stress. "Blended learning could work if applied selectively — for senior students who can manage it. But for smaller kids, it adds to the burden." (With inputs from KNO)

Kashmir Gets

in the northern parts of the Valley. Srinagar received torrential rainfall, while southern areas, including Anantnag and Shopian, were expected to receive showers till midnight.

The shift in weather comes just two days after Srinagar touched 37.4°C — the highest July temperature recorded in the city since 1953. Similar record-breaking highs were reported from other districts as well.

Independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif had earlier in the day warned of possible thunderstorms, brief heavy downpours, and flash floods. "There is a possibility of thunderstorms in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir during the next six hours. Flash floods can't be ruled out in some areas," he said.

The Met Department has forecast generally cloudy conditions with intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershowers over the next 48 hours. It has also issued an advisory for flash floods, landslides, and waterlogging in low-lying areas across the Union Territory.

Disruption Across City

While the rainfall brought much-needed relief, it also disrupted normal life in parts of the Valley. Gusty winds that preceded the showers uprooted trees in several areas including Batwara and Khanyar. A tree fell on an e-rickshaw near Pandrethan, briefly blocking the main road.

In parts of Downtown Srinagar, water entered homes and shops, with Khanqah-e-Moula among the most affected. Residents waded through knee-deep water as drainage systems overflowed.

Traffic snarls were reported across the city, and power supply was snapped in several localities due to uprooted poles and tripped lines. Authorities said restoration efforts were underway but warned that continued rainfall could delay repairs.

Despite the disruption, many residents welcomed the rain as a "blessing," bringing much-needed relief from the searing heat that had gripped the Valley for over a week.

Heavy Rains, Hailstorm

heavy rainfall around 5:00 PM, accompanied by hailstorm in places like Magam and surrounding areas. Videos circulating on social media showed roads blanketed in white as hail pelted the region with force.

In one incident, a tree uprooted between Batwara and Pandrethan fell on an e-rickshaw (Reg. No. JK01AV-1587), causing damage to the vehicle and triggering a massive traffic jam along both sides of the road. Police and local authorities were seen trying to clear the obstruction.

Elsewhere, Sopore also reported heavy rainfall, leading to waterlogging in several low-lying areas and raising concerns over drainage preparedness.

Meanwhile, the long dry spell in Drass and Kargil came to an end, with moderate rainfall reported on Sunday, bringing much-needed relief to the region.

According to Kashmir Weather, cloud clusters developed over several parts of Jammu and Kashmir between 2:00 PM and 4:45 PM. The forecast predicts more thundershowers and brief heavy spells over the next six hours.

"There is also a risk of flash floods in some vulnerable spots due to localized intense downpours," the update warned.

Pak Wants To

the people's resilience.

"Despite repeated provocations, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have shown remarkable patience and unity. We will not allow anyone to divide us," he added.

Amarnath Yatra Set

Since its commencement on July 3, the pilgrimage has steadily gained momentum. The daily figures show a consistent upward trend: 12,348 on Day 1, 14,515 on Day 2, 21,109 on Day 3, 21,512 on Day 4, and 23,857 on Day 5.

The yatra continues to run smoothly along both the Baltal and Pahalgam routes under a multi-layered security cover, with all essential services including medical and rescue teams on alert.

Meanwhile, the sixth batch of 8,605 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu early Monday morning — the largest batch so far. The group included 6,486 men, 1,826 women, 42 children, 216 sadhus, and 35 sadhvis. Of them, 3,486 pilgrims opted for the Baltal route, while 5,119 took the traditional Pahalgam path.

A total of 372 vehicles, including 179 buses, 81 MMVs, and 112 LMVs, were pressed into service for their movement.

Authorities said if the current trend and weather hold, the number of pilgrims paying obeisance at the holy cave is expected to cross one lakh on Tuesday.

Amid the surge, the on-the-spot registration counters are witnessing a huge rush in Jammu. To manage the flow, officials have increased the number of counters and raised the daily registration quota. Over 3,000 pilgrims arrived in Jammu on Monday alone for registration.

So far, more than 3.5 lakh pilgrims have registered online. Twelve counters have been set up for on-the-spot registration, while 34 accommodation centres are operational across Jammu. Over 50,000 yatis can be housed at various lodgement centres between Lakanpur and Banihal.

For security, 180 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) have been deployed across Jammu division — 30 more than last year — to ensure a safe and smooth yatra.

The 38-day Amarnath Yatra, which began on July 3, will conclude on August 9.

LG Reviews Arrangements

and sanitation workers, and took stock of the facilities for the devotees, they said.

According to officials, Sinha commended the significant contribution of all stakeholders in the smooth and successful conduct of the pilgrimage.

During his visit, the Lt Governor chaired a meeting with the administrative and security officials and discussed measures taken for the safe and hassle-free journey of the devotees.

NIA Custody Of 2

terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The federal agency alleged that Parvaiz and Bashir had knowingly harboured the terrorists at a seasonal 'dhok' (hut) in Hill Park in Pahalgam before the April 22 attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead and 16 others injured.

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

probe into the terror network behind the massacre in Kashmir's tourism hub.

Peace Time Is

solely on external audits or consultants. "Improvements made through internal evaluation create living organisations. These reforms are more organic, with fewer barriers.

"Peace time is nothing but an illusion. Even during periods of relative calm, we must prepare for uncertainty. Sudden developments can force a complete shift in our financial and operational posture," he said.

"Whether it's stepping up equipment production or adapting financial processes, we must be ready with innovative techniques and responsive systems at all times," he said. He urged the DAD to incorporate this mindset into their planning, budgeting and decision-making systems.

Highlighting the increasing strategic and economic significance of the defence sector, Singh called for a shift in perception from defence spending as mere expenditure to an economic investment with multiplier impact.

"Until recently, defence budgets were not seen as part of the national economy. Today, they are growth drivers," he added.

Singh said India, along with the rest of the world, is entering a new phase of re-armament, marked by capital-intensive investments in the defence sector.

The defence minister called upon the DAD to incorporate defence economics in their planning and assessments, including social impact analysis of R&D projects and dual-use technologies.

PM Advisor Reviews

under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana were discussed, with a focus on expanding coverage to domestic and government buildings.

The meeting also touched on employment generation efforts under Mission YUVA and ongoing telecom and internet connectivity expansion through BharatNet. Officials presented updates on IT reforms being undertaken with BISAG-N for better service delivery.

The Advisor underscored the importance of inter-agency coordination and timely completion of projects, while reiterating the Centre's continued focus on the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

SEC Appointment

Commissioner shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on the recommendation of a Committee headed by Chief Minister and comprising a senior minister to be nominated by the Chief Minister, Speaker of Legislative Assembly, Minister Incharge Panchayats and Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly.

Leader of opposition Sunil Sharma said that keeping such an important position vacant for a longer period shows non-seriousness on part of the government towards strengthening grassroots democracy.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference today said that the post of SEC has been vacant for too long.

The JKPC said the delay in appointment has stopped the democratic process at the grassroots level.(KNO)

How Kashmiri Farmers

deformities and silkworm stress. "In the fisheries sector, the advisory stressed the use of aerators and maintaining water depth. Farmers should apply lime and monitor dissolved oxygen levels to prevent fish mortality, and reduce feeding during extreme temperatures."

The advisory also recommended agroforestry practitioners to delay fertilizer application and pruning, conserve soil moisture using organic mulching, and clear dry material to prevent forest fires.



Delegation Of Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee Calls On LG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A delegation of Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, District Baramulla led by its President S. Paramjit Singh called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday.

The members of the delegation put forth various issues pertaining to welfare and empowerment of Sikh Community in the UT of J&K including extension of benefits under SRO 425 to non-migrant Sikh community members, grant of ST Status based on Language & Ethnicity, political representa-

tion of Sikh Community, constitution of J&K Sikh Development Board and special recruitment drive for Sikh Youth.

The delegation also requested for the grant of lease for Guru Nanak School, run by District Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee in Baramulla and allocation of land for a memorial in honour of Sikh community members martyred during the tribal raids by Pakistan in 1947.

The Lieutenant Governor assured the members of DGPC Baramulla that appropriate action will be taken to address the issues projected by them.

Reshwari Gains Popularity As Serene Eco-Tourism Destination



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With temperatures soaring across the valley, an increasing number of people are flocking to Reshwari in north Kashmir's Handwara, a hidden gem now emerging as a popular getaway.

The spot, around 30 kilometres from Handwara town, is drawing large crowds for its crystal-clear waters, cold breezes and lush deodar forests lining the banks of Nallah Mawer — many come to beat the heat with a quick dip in the stream, while others prefer fishing or simply enjoying the serene natural beauty.

"The water here is unbelievably fresh, and the surroundings are equally calming. You don't feel like leaving," Bilal Ahmad, a resident of Sopore, who visited the spot with his friends over the weekend, told KNO.

"We usually go to Gulmarg or Pahalgam, but this is something different. It's raw, peaceful and close to nature," he added.

Besides its scenic charm, Reshwari is also becoming known for its trout fish, which thrive in the cold waters of Nallah Mawer. Locals have established private trout farms, allowing visitors to relish fresh fish or carry some back home.

"The hospitality here is unmatched. I would recommend this place over some of the

crowded tourist spots we usually go to", Hinnu, a visitor from Srinagar, said.

For those en route to Bangus Valley via the Mawer route, Reshwari serves as a perfect pit-stop, offering homestay options as well as government rest houses equipped with all basic amenities.

The Forest Department has established a well-maintained rest house in Reshwari, located right by the riverbank. Visitors say it offers a perfect setting for spending peaceful evenings with family and friends.

"We had no idea such beauty existed in Kashmir's interiors," said a member of a family from Delhi, sipping on traditional Kashmiri Nun Chai. "Everyone talks about Gulmarg or Pahalgam, but Reshwari is a hidden paradise".

Locals say tourist footfall has increased significantly over the last few years, providing a boost to the local economy. However, they also appealed to the administration to develop better infrastructure and improve road connectivity, set up public toilets, waste management systems, and parking spaces to make the experience smoother for tourists.

"If the government promotes it well and ensures basic facilities, this place can become one of the top eco-tourism spots in north Kashmir," locals said.

Macadamization Work Begins On Tujjar Sharief To Zaingeer Road



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar kick started the macadamization work on the Tujjar Sharief to Zaingeer road via Larkipora, Baramulla, connected to the Kupwara National Highway. This project has addressed the long-standing demand of the local residents.

Javid Dar emphasized the government's commitment towards providing basic facilities to the public, highlighting the importance of infrastructure development in enhancing the quality of life for the residents. The Omar Abdullah Government's aim to improve road connectivity, a crucial aspect of rural development, facilitat-

ing easier access to markets, healthcare and other essential services, he added.

The Minister said the execution of works has been initiated and all the pending roads will be macadamized in a phased manner. There will be no compromise with the quality of works while ensuring time bound completion of all the vital projects.

The locals apprised the Minister of lack of other basic facilities, seeking his intervention in redress of the same.

The Minister assured the people that all their genuine demands would be fulfilled at the earliest.

Senior officers from different department and larger number of local residents were present on the occasion.

Govt To Establish MRI, Cath Lab In GMC Baramulla: Sakeena



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Monday chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat to review the healthcare infrastructure and other facilities across Baramulla district.

MLA Baramulla, Javid Hassan Beigh; MD NHM; Director Health Services Kashmir; Director Finance, Health and Medical Education Department; Director Coordination New GMCs; Principal GMC Baramulla; CMO and BMO Baramulla besides other concerned officers attended the meeting.

The Minister emphasized on the critical importance of strengthening the healthcare delivery system at grassroots level. She highlighted that health sector is an important sector for societal development and wellbeing, therefore there is no room for any compromise.

Highlighting that the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is ensuring prime focus on development of health sector,

Sakeena Itoo said that an MRI (3 Tesla) worth Rs. 25 crore and Cath Lab worth Rs. 12.50 crore will be established in GMC Baramulla during current financial year. She added that these facilities will revolutionize the healthcare outreach in the North Kashmir district and its adjoining areas.

She said that around 50 kanal of land has been transferred to GMC for establishment of separate OPD block and Diagnostic Block, mortuary, which will improve the quality of healthcare at this prestigious health facility of North Kashmir.

The Minister added that Dialysis facilities at SDHs and CHCs besides AI based X-Ray machines and other facilities will also be established in various hospitals and centres of Baramulla. During the meeting, Minister Sakeena also directed the officers to establish digital X-Ray facility at the GMC Baramulla. She also asked them to provide 104 Ambulance vehicle to the institute.

Expressing concern over certain gaps, Salina Itoo called for immediate redressal of issues

that hamper effective health service delivery. "Health is a fundamental right and remains top priority of present government. There is no scope for complacency or compromise in this vital sector," she stated.

The Minister urged the officers to expedite pending upgrades, ensure proper staffing and maintain transparency in resource utilization.

While reviewing other aspects related to healthcare sector, the Minister directed the Principal GMC and other officers that Hospital Development fund should also be used for upgrading basic amenities in the hospitals. She also directed the hospital administration and other district officers of health department that any issue related to non-functioning of medical equipments in health facilities should be raised with the concerned quarters immediately for prompt rectification.

During the meeting, Associate Professor, GMC Baramulla, Dr. Shumail Bashir gave a detailed presentation on different aspects of functioning of the hospital.

'Kashmir Himalayas See 11mm Annual Rainfall Drop Over 48 Years'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A recent study published has revealed notable changes in rainfall patterns across Kashmir, raising concerns about water management, agriculture, and flood preparedness. Researchers here have analyzed the rainfall data collected from six meteorological stations over a 48-year period, spanning from 1975 to 2023.

The study found a significant decline in annual rainfall at key locations such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam, and Qazigund. Among these, Gulmarg experienced the most pronounced decrease, with an average annual reduction of 11.058 millimeters per year. This downward trend poses challenges for water availability, which is critical for both agriculture and drinking needs in these rural areas.

Conversely, the urban center of Srinagar exhibited an increase in rainfall during January, a shift that has heightened concerns about the risk of urban flooding. The researchers attribute this change partly to climate change and emphasize the necessity of upgrading the



city's drainage infrastructure to better manage potential flood events.

According to KNO, seasonal variations were also observed, with spring rainfall showing a sharp decline in mountainous regions. This reduction could disrupt traditional crop cycles, potentially affecting agricultural productivity. Additionally, monsoon rainfall patterns appeared more erratic at some stations, complicating water resource planning.

To arrive at these conclusions, the research team employed advanced statistical methods including the Mann-Kendall test to detect trends and spatial interpolation techniques such as Kriging to map

rainfall distribution. Where data gaps existed, machine learning algorithms like Decision Trees and K-Nearest Neighbors were used to estimate missing values, achieving an accuracy rate of approximately 67 per cent.

The implications of these findings are far-reaching. Decreased spring rainfall may prompt farmers to adopt drought-resistant crops and more efficient irrigation methods. The overall decline in annual rainfall in rural parts of Kashmir highlights the importance of implementing rainwater harvesting systems to enhance water security. The study advocates for the development of localized climate adaptation strategies, emphasizing the need to strengthen flood defenses in urban areas like Srinagar while promoting water conservation in regions facing scarcity.

As per the study these changes mirror the global impacts of climate change and that the Himalayas serve as a critical indicator of environmental shifts. He stressed that regional responses must be timely and grounded in scientific evidence.

₹41 Cr Allocated Under DDC, BDC, PRI & Aspirational Grants In B'pora

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: Jammu and Kashmir Government has allocated over Rs. 41 crore for developmental works in Bandipora district under DDC, BDC, PRI, and Aspirational Grants for the financial year 2025-26.

This was given out in a meeting chaired by District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson Ab Gani Bhat on Monday.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairperson DDC Bandipora, Kowsar Shafeeq, all elected DDC members of the district, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri and all the other concerned officers of district administration to discuss the formulation of District Capex Plan for the financial year 2025-26.

The meeting threadbare discussed sector-wise proposals across all three constituencies of the district besides discussing the progress of ongoing

developmental works under the 2024-25 Capex Plan, taking stock of their financial and physical status.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner gave a detailed overview of the progress made under the District Capex Plan 2024-25, and also highlighted key focus areas for the District Capex Plan 2025-26.

The meeting was informed that Rs 10 crores have been reserved for works under DDC Grants, Rs 3 crore under BDC grants, Rs 25 Crore under PRI grants, Rs 2 Crore under Aspirational Block Development scheme and 1.2 Crores under Aspirational Panchayat Development scheme.

Giving details, Deputy Commissioner informed the meeting that 483 works will be carried out in DDC grants including 139 spill over works, 107 works under BDC Grants including 30 Spill over works, 1488 works under

PRI Grants including 579 spill over works.

In the regular district budget, it was given out that there are 12 ongoing works in the health sector with a total outlay of 1.86 Cr since last financial year while 8 works are under execution in elementary education infra development with an approved outlay of Rs 2.85 Cr.

The meeting also discussed the liability on account of ongoing works and the availability of funds for new works. Deputy Commissioner informed that Rs 1.04 Cr are available for new works under Aspirational Block Developmental scheme.

While deliberating on the Capex Plan for 2025-26, Chairperson DDC Bandipora emphasized prioritizing projects based on public demand. He stressed the need for effective implementation of schemes at the grassroots level in alignment with the actual needs and aspirations of the people.



Helping Hands & Ali Asgar Blood Bank Organize Blood Donation Camp

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, Helping Hands care Foundation J&K, A Non-Government Organization (NGO) organized a Blood Donation Camp on Sunday at Alamgari Bazar Srinagar where the procession was carried out on the eve of Youm-e-Ashoor marks the day of Mourning for the martyr Imam Hussain (a.s) grandson of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and his companions in Karbala.

A total of 215 blood points were collected throughout the day at the camp, which was organized in collaboration with Lal Ded Hospital Srinagar here.

While Addressing the Donors and volunteers, the Patron of the NGO Mr Ali Mohammad Kuthoo (Mohd Aliyas) congratulated them for coming forward to the noble cause of blood donation.

"Kuthoo also said that Every blood donor is a life saver and it brings self-satisfaction to the donor as he provides a lifesaving component to the people in need. Besides, the regular donor's health becomes good as well." He also spoke about the importance of making blood banks which turn out to be assets of utmost importance in times of need.

Nasir Hussain, president of

the NGO Helping Hands Care Foundation J&K and the organizer of this event said that as being a Human, we must Donate Blood to save others Life. Through Blood Donation, we can help various needy people and save their precious Life. Blood can be regenerated itself in the body and fulfil its amount and we appeals everyone to be a part of this Noble Cause as blood donation is a worthy cause, as it can save lives and make a difference in a community.

Nasir Hussain also said, that around 215 units of the Blood were collected so far and expressed gratitude to all the distinguished guests, Medical supritendent Lal Ded Hospital Dr Mohammad Muzaffar Jan, Deputy Medical supritendent Dr Maimoona Gul, Dr shadan akhter (Blood Bank officer & Transfusion specialist) and Masood Ahmad Bhat Incharge Blood Bank Lal Ded Hospital along with his dedicated staff members of Hospital, SHO Police Station Zadibal, All Jammu and Kashmir Shia Association, print and Electronic Media, Volunteers of the NGO and the generous Blood Donors for Donating the Blood and participation, emphasizing the profound impact their contributions would have on saving lives.

DC Kulgam Takes Review Of Mission YUVA

Observer News Service

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, on Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the DC Office Complex here to assess the implementation and progress of Mission YUVA in the district.

During the meeting, detailed information was given on the status of Mission YUVA including number of applications received, processed, sanctioned and disbursed under various schemes of Mission YUVA.

DC took a case-wise review and stressed the importance of strong on-ground implementation and coordination. He directed that monitoring of progress under Mission YUVA be conducted on a daily basis, and stressed the processing of cases including preparation of DPR's

at the BHD level to avoid delays in benefits reaching the youth.

To institutionalize regular performance monitoring and coordination, Business Help Desks (BHDs) were instructed to meet every Tuesday and Thursday while Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) were directed to meet every Friday.

It was also instructed that District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meetings shall be held every Saturday.

DC instructed concerned officers to ensure effective follow-up and mentorship to facilitate the success of youth-led enterprises.

The meeting concluded with a firm resolve to transform Mission YUVA into a vibrant platform for youth empowerment through sustainable self-employment and entrepreneurship.

Sheep Husbandry Deptt Organizes PMFME Workshop

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Sheep Husbandry deptt, Bandipora designated as the Nodal department for the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme in the district, successfully organized a workshop-cum-awareness programme at the Conference Hall, Dak Bungalow, Sumbal Bandipora.

On the occasion, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Bandipora, who is also the District Nodal Officer (DNO), PMFME, elaborated on the scheme's significance, highlighting its role in empowering individual entrepreneurs and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) through financial and technical support.

District Resource Person delivered a comprehensive presentation on the PMFME scheme, detailing its objectives, components, eligibility criteria

and the application process. He urged participants to make the most of the scheme's provisions to enhance their income and establish sustainable enterprises.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 50 farmers and aspiring entrepreneurs, who engaged actively during the session.

During the event, a special address was delivered by the Lead District Manager, J&K Bank, who shed light on various banking and insurance products available to the beneficiaries. He also highlighted the synergy between PMFME and financial institutions in fostering rural entrepreneurship and financial inclusion.

Officials and resource persons from various departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, NRIAM, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, and Fisheries were present to offer guidance and support to the aspiring entrepreneurs.

South Africa's Mulder Lets 'Legend' Lara Keep Record 400

AP
BULAWAYO: Wiaan Mulder sacrificed a shot at one of cricket's most hallowed records to start mopping up Zimbabwe in the second test at Queens Sports Club on Monday.
The first-time captain of South Africa was on 367, just 33 runs away from tying the highest individual test score, Brian Lara's 400 not out 21 years ago, when he stopped his epic innings and declared at lunch with South Africa on 626-5.
He then chipped in with two wickets in consecutive overs and a catch to bowl out Zimbabwe for 170, enforced the follow-on, and had Zimbabwe 51-1 in the second innings at stumps.
Already 1-0 up in the short

series, South Africa was 405 runs ahead and gearing toward wrapping up another three-day win on Tuesday.
"First, I thought we have enough and we need to bowl," Mulder said. "Secondly, Brian Lara is a legend, he got 400 against England and for someone of that stature to keep that record is pretty special. If I get the chance again I'd probably do the same thing."
"I was speaking to Shuks (Proteas coach Shukri Conrad) and he kind of said to me as well, 'Let the legends keep the really big scores,' and you never know what my fate is or what is destined for me. But Brian Lara keeping that record is exactly the way it should be."
Mulder achieved the fifth highest test score, and the highest by a South African.



He started day two on 264 and the second new ball only eight overs old. But he picked up where he left off on Sunday, plundering the Zimbabwe bowlers.
"I never even dreamt of getting a double hundred never mind a triple hundred but it's super special," Mulder said. "The most important thing is it put the team in a good position to hopefully win the test."
His 297 balls to the milestone were the second fastest to 300 after India's Virender Sehwag took 278 balls versus South Africa in 2008.
Mulder became the highest-scoring South African in tests when he eclipsed Hashim Amla's 311 not out against England in 2012.
Mulder's 334-ball knock in just under seven hours in-

cluded 49 boundaries and four sixes.
The only higher scores in test history were Lara's unbeaten 400 and 375, Matthew Hayden's 380 and Mahela Jayawardene's 374.
In the morning session, Mulder scored 103 of South Africa's 161 runs, which came at an average 6.1 per over. The only wicket to fall was Dewald Brevis, 15 overnight, for 30, giving Zimbabwe debutant Kundai Matigimu a second wicket.
After South Africa rested on its sixth highest total in history, and highest in nine years, Zimbabwe's first bat lasted only 43 overs.
Off-spinner Prenelan Subrayen, making his test debut at age 31, took 4-42 to leave Zimbabwe's Sean Williams stranded on 83.

Sqay Referee Seminar Concludes In Gulmarg

A two-day referee Seminar in the indigenous martial art discipline of Sqay, organised by the J&K Sqay Association, concluded Monday in Gulmarg. This intensive seminar, held from July 2, aimed to enhance the technical knowledge and officiating skills of referees across J&K.
The seminar provided a valuable platform for participants to deepen their understanding of Sqay rules and regulations and refine their officiating techniques under the guidance of experienced instructors. Adil Bashir Bhat, President of the J&K Sqay Association expressed his satisfaction with the seminar's outcome. The seminar was one of several initiatives planned by the association to strengthen the sport's infrastructure and prepare athletes for higher levels of competition. (Observer News Service)

Trekkers Demand Reopening Of Great Lakes

Local trekkers from Sonamarg area here have urged the J&K administration to reopen the Great Lakes trekking routes, including Gadsar, Krishansar, Vishansar, Satsar and Gangbal.
The trekkers say that the continued suspension of access to these popular spots has severely affected their livelihoods, especially as many of them have bank loans to repay.
The call for reopening comes in the wake of restrictions imposed after a recent incident in Pahalgam region, which led to temporary suspension of movement across several trekking routes. While some places have recently been reopened, many critical Great Lakes destinations remain out of bounds. The trekkers have appealed to the LG of J&K and the CM to personally intervene and resolve the matter. The Great Lakes trek is one of Kashmir's most scenic and economically significant trails, attracting hundreds of tourists and adventure enthusiasts every season. (KNO)

ICC Appoints Media Mogul Sanjog Gupta As Its New CEO

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Indian media mogul Sanjog Gupta was on Monday named the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Jay Shah-led International Cricket Council (ICC), replacing Australian Geoff Allardice, who stepped down before the Champions Trophy earlier this year citing personal reasons.
Gupta, who was serving as the CEO (Sports & Live Experiences) at JioStar, will be taking charge of his new role with immediate effect. He will be the seventh CEO of the ICC, which said it received more than 2,500 applications from 25 countries from which 12 candidates were shortlisted.
"Candidates ranged from leaders associated with sport's governing bodies to senior corporate executives from across sectors," the ICC said.
The names were for-



warded to the Nominations Committee comprising ICC deputy chairman Imran Khwaja, ECB chairman Richard Thompson, SLC president Shammi Silva and BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia.
They recommended Gupta for the role which was approved by ICC chairman Jay Shah.
"Sanjog Gupta has been a driving force behind the transformation of sports broadcasting in India and globally," the ICC said.
The governing body also noted Gupta's role in establishing and expanding other leagues such as the

Pro Kabaddi League and the Indian Super League (football) while promoting global events like Premier League and Wimbledon.
"Sanjog has played a pivotal role in shaping the continued growth of marquee Cricket properties such as ICC events & IPL, establishing domestic sports leagues like PKL and ISL, furthering the popularity of global sporting events such as Premier League and Wimbledon and scaling the business across consumer and commercial objectives," it said.
Shah said Gupta's experience in sports strategy and commercialisation will be vital for the ICC.
"Sanjog brings extensive experience in sports strategy and commercialisation, which will be invaluable for the ICC," he said.
Gupta succeeds Allardice who had quit in January this year after a four-year tenure.

Tempted To Play Kuldeep But Need Batting Depth: Gill

Press Trust of India

BIRMINGHAM: It is always tempting to have a wicket-taking spinner like Kuldeep Yadav in the playing eleven but Washington Sundar was preferred for the Edgbaston Test against England to add batting depth after two lower-order collapses at Leeds, India captain Shubman Gill has said.
The debatable decision to include Washington in the eleven paid off as the left-hander chipped in with both bat and ball in different stages of the game. India will go to the Lord's Test with the same approach.
"It's very tempting when you have a bowler like Kuldeep. One of the reasons why I wanted to play Washington was because he gives us the batting depth," said Gill after India levelled the series with an emphatic win.
"And the first thing is, I



think the partnership between me and Washington is very important. If there was no partnership, then I think our lead would have been 70-80-90 runs, which is psychologically very different from 180 run lead," he explained.
Gill feels the spinners give more control than pacers when the Dukes ball gets soft and unresponsive. "As much as we expected, even on the fifth day, the ball was not moving that much from the middle, it was just moving from the rough."

"We thought that... maybe on our fifth day, a spinner will give us more control if the ball is moving from the wicket. And especially on such (flat) wickets, sometimes spin gives you more control than fast bowling. So that was our mindset," he said explaining the rationale behind Sundar and Ravindra Jadeja's inclusion.
An England journalist had reminded Gill about India's winless record at Edgbaston in more than five decades.

Federer Back At Wimbledon, Watches Djokovic

Roger Federer is back at Wimbledon.
The eight-time champion at the All England Club was sitting in the Royal Box to watch Monday's fourth-round matches on Centre Court, starting with his former rival Novak Djokovic playing Alex de Minaur.
Federer was greeted by a loud round of applause as he entered the box together with his wife Mirka. He was wearing a blue suit featuring a circular purple badge on his lapel that former champions are given to denote them as members of the All England Club. The Swiss former No. 1 won his first title at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament in 2003 and his eighth in 2017. His last final was in 2019, when he lost an epic five-setter to Djokovic that was the longest title match in Wimbledon history. Also in the Royal Box on Monday was King Frederik X of Denmark, comedian Michael McIntyre and Michael and Carole Middleton — the parents of Kate, Princess of Wales, who is the patron of the All England Club. (AP)

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Achieve financial freedom

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



Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

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