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Rain Brings Respite To Kashmir, Finally

Srinagar Cools By 15°C After Record-Breaking Heat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The intense heatwave that gripped Jammu and Kashmir over the past few weeks has come to an abrupt end, as widespread rainfall over the last three days has led to a significant drop in temperatures across the region.

According to data, Srinagar, which recently recorded a historic high of 37.4°C on July 5breaking a 72-year-old record saw the maximum temperature fall to 22.7°C on Wednesday, marking a sharp 15-degree drop. This is 8°C below the normal for this time of year.

Other parts of the Valley also witnessed cooler conditions. Qazigund recorded a maximum of 23.1°C, 5.5 degrees below normal; Pahalgam stood at 20.5°C,

Srinagar: 22.7°C Qazigund: 23.1°C Pahalgam: 20.5°C Gulmarg: 15.6°C Kupwara: 23.8°C

MET FORECAST:



July 11-13: Hot, humid, light rain likely



July 14-16: Moderate rain, thundershowers expected

5.7 degrees below normal; Kokernag recorded 23.9°C, 3.4 degrees below normal; Kupwara settled at 23.8°C, | More on P10

Govt May Revisit School Timings: Itoo

mid public criticism over the early school timing schedule in Kashmir, Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Wednesday said the government may reconsider its decision in light of improved weather conditions and parental feedback. Speaking to reporters in Baramulla, Itoo said the | More on P10

A FEW AREAS IN BOTH KASHMIR and Jammu divisions may witness intense showers and torrential rain. Heavy rainfall is also likely at isolated locations in Jammu division."

J&K Tourism Bouncing Back, Pilgrims Happy With Situation: CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Abdullah Wednesday said that the tourism sector in the Union Territory is witnessing a revival, with the number of tourists increasing with each passing day.

Speaking to reporters in West Bengal, where he is scheduled to attend a Tourism Fair, Omar said the situation in I&K is improving and visitors are returning in encouraging numbers.

'Things are not as bad as you are describing. A good

Rs 75 Lakh Refunded To

Job Scam Victims

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a landmark

implementation of the

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha

Sanhita (BNSS), Jammu

and Kashmir Police on

Wednesday executed the

first successful property at-

tachment in a 2.39 crore

iob scam, leading to the re-

covery and distribution of

75 lakh among 17 fraud

Senior Superintendent of

Police (SSP) Jammu, Joginder



number of tourists are returning to the region. The Amarnath Yatra has also commenced a few days back, and a good number of

Singh, said the case reflects a

victim-centric shift in crimi-

nal justice reform under the

BNSS. "This marks the first

time in J&K that defrauded

money has been returned to

victims through legal recov-

ery, ensuring accountability

The scam was orches-

trated by Harpreet Singh,

a resident of Pallanwala,

who posed as a Lieutenant

Colonel in the Indian Army

and defrauded multiple in-

dividuals I More on P10

and justice," he said.

devotees are visiting the holy cave shrine via both routes. They are happy with the situ-

ation there," he said Omar added that he was

Appoint Group A Officers

in Kolkata to promote J&K tourism. "We want a good number of people from West Bengal to visit Jammu and Kashmir," he said. Notably, tourism activity

has picked up pace alongside the ongoing Amarnath Yatra. Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Yasha Mudgal, also noted on Tuesday that the sector is on track to match last year's figures. She was speaking to reporters during the two-day National Secretaries Conference held at SKICC, which saw participation from tourism secretaries across | More on P10

Ladakh LG Empowered to First BNSS-Based Property Attachment

Agencies

Srinagar: In a significant move, the President of India has granted the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh the power to make appointments to all Group 'A' posts of General Civil Services within the territory.

In a notification, the President has directed that all appointments to all Group 'A' posts of General Civil Services in the administration of Union territory of Ladakh, shall be made by the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh, appointed under article 239 of the Constitution.

However, the notification stipulates that appointments to two key positions—the Chief Secretary of Ladakh and the Director General of Police-will continue to require approval of the Central Government.

"Provided that, no appointment to the post of Chief Secretary, Ladakh and Director General of Police, Union territory Ladakh shall be made | More on P10

Fulfilling the dreams of tribal communities, providing them new opportunities, and

reducing the difficulties in their lives is top

priority for our government.

J&K Gets ₹4,224 Cr For 316 Rural Roads

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Ministry of Rural Development has approved ₹4,224 crore for the construction of 316 rural roads across 19 districts of Jammu and Kashmir under Phase 4 of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-4), covering a total length of 1,781 kilometers. According to official sources, Rajouri district has received the highest allocation of ₹588.12 crore for 41 road projects in areas including Manjakot, Darhal, Kalakot, Dhangri, Nowshera, and Budhal.

Poonch follows with 40 sanctioned roads at a cost of ₹484.92 crore, covering Bufliaz, Lasana, Mankot, Surankot, Mendhar, and Poonch town. Doda will get 31 roads with an allocation of ₹661 crore for areas like Chirala, Bhaderwah, Changa, and Udaipur.

Ramban district has 26 approved roads with ₹416.10 crore sanctioned, including projects in Ramban, Banihal, Rajgarh, Ramsu, and Ukhral. Reasi will get 21 roads with 3400.53 crore, covering Katra, Thakurkot, Anras, and Mahore.

Udhampur has been allotted ₹304.18 crore for 20 roads in Udhampur town, Sevna, Chenani, Panchari, and Khoon.

The district-wise details of other allocations are as follows: Kishtwar: 20 roads, ₹250.32 crore (Bunjwah, Marwah, Mughal Maidan) Kathua: 15 roads, ₹323.89 crore (Kathua, Barnori, Duggan) Kupwara: 14 roads, ₹89.68 crore

(Hayma, Machil, Qadirabad) Budgam: 14 roads, ₹88.45 crore (Pukherpora, Khan Sahib) Baramulla: | More on P10

Strengthen Nakas, Verify Vendors: Police Directive For Yatra Safety

Observer News Service

Jammu: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Shiv Kumar Sharma on Wednesday conducted a thorough security review of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra and emphasised the importance of maintaining high vigilance throughout the

pilgrimage. The 38-day yatra to the 3,880-metre-high shrine began on July 3 via two routes — the traditional 48-kilometre Nunwan-Pahalgam path in Anantnag district and the shorter but



steeper 14-kilometre Baltal route in Ganderbal district pilgrimage will

conclude on August 9. So far, over one lakh pil-

grims have paid obeisance

at the holy cave shrine. DIG Sharma, who oversees operations in Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts, reviewed the security and other arrangements by conducting ground-level inspections and chairing a high-level meeting with officers, according to a police spokesperson.

During the visit, he inspected lodgement centres and Langar sites in all three districts, highlighting the need for coordinated efforts among stakeholders to ensure the safety of pilgrims. | More on P10

17,000 More Visit Cave Shrine

early 17,000 pilgrims paid obeisance at the Amarnath shrine on Wednesday in south Kashmir Himalayas, taking the total number of pilgrims this year to 128,000 in the first week, officials said here. A total of 16,720 pilgrims paid obeisance at the 3,880-metre high holy cave shrine in the Himalayas in south Kashmir on Wednesday, the officials said. The pilgrims included around 12000 men, 3800 women, four hundred security forces personnel and dozens of Sadhus and Sadhvis.

'He Should Have Been Ashamed'

HC Pulls Up J&K SHO For **Mocking SC Judgment**

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday came down heavily on a police officer for making a remark that implied noncompliance with the Supreme Court's guidelines could result in departmental action against almost all police officers.

The officer, SHO of Gandhi Nagar Jammu station, had objected to a petition filed by a 69-year-old man alleging noncompliance with the Supreme Court's 2014 judgment in Arnesh Kumar vs. State of Bihar & Others, which laid down clear guidelines for avoiding unnecessary arrests under Section 41 Cr.PC.

Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul directed the SHO to appear in person and show cause why he should not be punished for contempt of court. The bench strongly asserted that the executive, including all government

and non-government functionaries, is legally, constitutionally, and statutorily bound to comply with court orders.

"Shorn off further deliberation, it is made clear here that the Executive, including government/non-government functionaries and the police department, is no exception to that obligation," the court

said. "Judicial orders are binding on the executive to uphold the rule of law.' The court took

serious note of an objection filed by the SHO, in which he stated: "That if the judgment of

the Hon'ble Court is to be followed in strict sense, then almost all the officers of the state would be held liable under clause 11.5 of the judgment." Responding sharply, the

'The above words do not need rocket science to understand. They show that the officer is least | More on P10

court observed:

Itoo Blames Past Govts For J&K Doctor Shortage

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakina Itoo, on Wednesday said the shortage of doctors in remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir is a longstanding issue inherited from previous administrations - not a recent failure. She said that around 500 new doctor appointments have been made to strengthen healthcare delivery, especially in underserved regions.

"The shortage of doctors is something we inherited. You can't expect issues built up over six years — with no doctors, no medical staff, and poor infrastructure to be resolved in just one," Itoo told reporters.

The Minister said the Omar Abdullahled government has taken several measures to address these gaps, particularly by bolstering human resources. "We issued 309 appointment orders to medical graduates for deployment in remote areas. Recently, 111 more appointments were made to further bridge the healthcare gap," she said.

On specialist recruitment, she added that consultant-level appointments via the Services Selection Board (SSB) have progressed, and | More on P10



DHARTI AABA JANBHAGIDARI ABHIYAN

15th June - 15th July 2025

India's Largest Tribal Empowerment Campaign

The month-long nationwide campaign is bringing enrollment services for Aadhaar, Ayushman Bharat, PM Jan Dhan bank accounts, PM-Kisan, and all major government schemes directly to tribal communities.

More than 1.15 Cr + tribal brothers and sisters across 517+ districts in 31 States/UTs have already participated in 48,000+ camps to avail benefits, including:

Aadhaar Enrolments



Ayushman Cards



3.51 lakh+ PM-Kisan Registrations



3.12 lakh+ Jan Dhan **Accounts Opened**



1.71 lakh+ Ujjwala Beneficiaries

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Name of The Teachers

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Tilgam

Executive Magistrate 1st Class Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of

Public Notice

The registar Births and deaths (Block Development Officer Khaipora) has submitted a case file pertaining to death of Ab Gani Teli S/o Ahmad Teli R/o Chanderseer Tehsil pattan District Baramulla with vertified date of event (death) as 29-12-2007 occurred at Home In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days. after which no objections shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class Naih Tehsildar Tilgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son has been wrongly written in his adhaar card as Arsalan Bashir while his correct name is Mohammad Yawar Rather. Now I want to correct the same If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Bashir Ahmad Rather F/o Mohammad Yawar Rather

R/o Tilgam Kreeri Baramulla

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan..

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

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Rizwan Firdous S/o Firdous Ahmad Ganie R/o Sheerpora Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 08/03/2023 occurred . at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan..

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

Public Notice.. The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Junaid Bilal Ganie s/o Bilal Ahmad Ganie R/o Sheerpora Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 01/12/2023 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04

days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name and DOB of my daughter has been wrongly written in her adhaar card as Shazia Akhter . DOB 05-01-2013 while her correct name is Shahnaza Akhter. Correct DOB is 08-01-2015 . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concern aadhar centre Jammu Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shabir Ahmad Kalas F/O Shahnaza Akhter R/O Nasserpora Keller

No: T-1/EEA/ 2181-85

Dated 02/07/2025

DIPK-3477/25

dated: 09-07-2025

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name & Style "M/S VAKIL VILLA STAYS (V.V.S) **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas I MEHRAJ UD DIN TANKI S/O late abdul Rehman tanki R/O baghi sunder kaka Sarai karanagar Pin 190010 intends to apply in the offie of the prescribed authority of Directorate of Tourism kashmir for Registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name and style "M/S VAKIL VILLA under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections , if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or

not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card. Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Pubic/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. Objection received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be proceeded under rules as per merit.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name and Parentage has been wrongly written in my adhaar card as Siada Ahmad Naikoo S/o Abdul Rashid Naikoo while my correct name is Saiad Ahmad Navak S/o Ab Rashid Nayak . Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concern aadhar centre Jammu Srinagar within seven days After that no objection shall be entertained.

Saiad Ahmad Navak S/O Ab Rashid Nayak R/O Rakhama Shopian FKO

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE **1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI**

No: 201/B&D/TZ/2025 Date: 09/07/25

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

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Shameem Ahmad Peer S/o Peer Jalal Ud Din R/o Tujjar Pehlihar, Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of self Born on -- and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days.

After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this

Naib Tehsildar fko **Executive Magistrate** Bomai

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

No: 200/B&D/TZ/2025

Date: 09/07/25

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

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Shadab imtivaz Lone S/o, Imtivaz Ahmad Lone R/o, Yemberzalwari , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of self

Born on -- and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

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

Naib Tehsildar

fko **Executive Magistrate**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE KHURIBATPORA

Email id:itikbpora1@gmail.com **SELECTION LIST**

All those applicants who are falling in the selection list (Round 1st) 2025-26 (available at website itiadmissions.jkdsd.in, at Institute, Official Face book page of ITI Khuribatpora, office notice board) are hereby informed to complete their admission formalities by or before 24th July 2025 as per the Directorate order No:DSD/401/Trgs/2025/2448-2536, Dated:03/07/2025. They are further advised to report the training section of the institute along with the following documents in original &

Xerox. Matriculation/Eight class marks sheet (Original)

2. D.O.B certificate (Xerox) PRC/Domicile certificate(Xerox) 3.

Aadhaar card (Xerox)

4. 5. 6. Two photographs (Passport Size) Discharge certificate of institution/college last attended.(Original)

Note: Selection is purely provisional & is subject to verification of original documents. In case of any left-out seats in any trade after 24th July 2025, subsequent selection lists (Round 2nd) in order of merit will be issued as per reservation order. (Enclosed)

For further information contact (during office hours only): 7006379283

No: ITI/KBP/Trg/2025/115-117

DIPK-3464/25 Dated: 9-07-2025

Sd/-Superintendent Govt ITI Khuribatpora 01. Shah Imriyaz B.Tech, M.Tech Physics 02. Zahoor Ah. Mir Physics MSC, Bed 03. Ajaz Ah.Mir CHEMISTRY MSC 04. Shakeel Ah. Ahanger Chemistry MSC 05. JAVID KAREEM BSC Zoology 06. MSC, Bid UMAR FAROOD Вотому 07. MSC INAVAT ZARGAR Zoology 08 MSC Bed REYAZ Alimad DAR MATHEMATICS mcb

HELP CLASSES BUDGAM

FACULTY MEMBERS FOR CLASS 11TH,12TH, NEET/JEE SESSION 2025-26

Subject

Qualification

HELP CLASSES BUDGAM

FEE STRUCTURE FOR THE SESSION 2025-26

CLASS 11th

PCB = 35000PCBM = 40000PCM = 35000

CLASS 12th

PCB = 35000

PCBM = 40000

PCM = 35000

NEET / JEE

PCB = 35000PCBM = 40000

PCM = 35000

عنوان: درخواست منجانب مدر احمد دُارولدرياض احمد دُارسا كنه برون بمراداجرائي ليكل ہیر اڈیینپڈنٹ سرٹفیکیٹ مجق خود

اشتهار هرخاص وعام

معاملہ مندر حیعنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض لیگل ہیرسرٹفنیکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کاوالد ریاض احمد ڈار مورخہ 2002-05-27 کوفوت ہوا ہے اور متوفی کےوارثان جائز بذیل ہے

مد تراحمد دُارولدریاض احمد دُار ہے روزگار 24سال پسرمتوفی اس کےعلاوہ اورکوئی افراد کنبہ نہیں ہے نیز متوفی مذکورہ کی زوج محبودہ نے دوسری نکاح کی ہےاور نکے شوہر کے گھر آباد اپنے شوہر کے ساتھ ہے اب سائل مدثر احمد ڈار ولدریاض احمد ڈار

ر نفیکیپ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر سمشخص کو کوئی عزریاا عتراض ہوتووہ بعد مشتہرا خیار سات دن کے اندرا ندرآ پنے عذر یاعتراض عدالت هذا کو دفتری ادقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گز رےمیعاد کو پی عذریاعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Awantipora

Dated. 07//07/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No- 30 of RnB-Sopore of 2025-2026 e-tendering DATED 07.07.2025

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

Email: rbdlvisionawantipora@gmail.com

CANCELLATION NOTICE

Subject: Construction of of double lane truss girder bridge over River Jehelum at Dogripora Pulwama

It is for the information of all registered contractors/ Firms/ Agencies that the above subjected work

advertised vide this office above referred NIT is hereby cancelled due to administrative reasons.

Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) circle pulwama/shopian Letter No: SE/PS/2308-09

Reference:- 1. This office e-NIT No. 22/EEA/R&B/of 2025-26/1999-2009 Dated: 30/06/2025

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

S. No.	Name of Work	(Rs. In		Money	Time for completion of work	Time &Date of Opening of Bid	 M.H of Account
	Construction of Additional Class room at Girls Middle School Botingoo	20.73	41460/-	800	90 days	26.07. 2025	PAB Samagra Shiksha 2025-26

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

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

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	07.07.2025					
2	Period of downloading of bidding	07.07.2025	25.07.2025(upto 4.PM)				
	documents						
3	Bid Submission start date	07.07.2025					
4	Bid submission End date	25.07.2025 (4.00 PM)					
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	26.07.2025(12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer					
		R&B Division. Sopore					

Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan and CDR(dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore . Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the quoted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period

3(b) Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.

All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per e-NITNo.01of2025-26 If the contractor /HMPO quotesratefor anyitemofworkinhistenderasfreeofcostatthetimeof tendering process, his tender shall be rejected out rightly.

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

No: 3213-22 DIPK-3451/25

Dated: 09.07.2025

Executive Engineer, **R&B Division Sopore**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER **R&B DIVISION KRALPORA**

Fresh E tendering NIT No.13/RnB/Kralpora of 2025-26Dated: - 08-07-2025

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor Jammu & Kashmir(UT), e-tenders are being invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K UT Government. CPWD. Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In				Class of Contrac-	,
No		,	Doc. (In Rupees)	(in Ru- pees)	completion	tor	Head
1.	tion of Kachama	14.57(incl C/o	600/-		, .	Cee/Dee Civil having MOU with registered HMPO	Cities & Towns
2.	Macadamization of Mir Mohalla Bakhipora Guzri- val link road	Bitumen and		29140	, .	Cee/Dee Civil having MOU with registered HMPO	

Position of AAA/TS: Accorded Position of funds: Available No:Div-KRLP/1166-80 Date: 08-07-2025

The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:

1_	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08.07.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08.07.2025(2:00 PM) to 14.07.2025
		(4:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	Ò8.07.2025 (2:00PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	14.07.2025 (4:00PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	15.07.2025 (12:00Noon) In the Office of
L		Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora.

Bids must be accompanied with Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora (tender inviting authority). Treasury Challan must be writtenboldly and clearly with Name of Work, Name of the Contractor along with Contact No, NIT No and Serial No of Work on NIT (if any).

At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% of the allotted Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

Sd/-DIPK-3445/25 **Executive Engineer** dated: 9-07-2025 R&B Division Kralpora

نوان: _ درخواست منجانب عبدل حميد نجار ولد سناولله نجار ساكنه سگی يوره بمراد وطائگی OBC تحت SRO 176 بحق پسرعام رحمید نجار

اشتهار هرخاص وعام

معامله مندرجة عنوان الصدر مين سائله نے ايك درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹفيكيٹ بذمره نجار پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے بس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی چویان ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائل سگی یورہ میں بائش پذیر ہے اور بھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے عبدل حميد نجار ولدسنا وللذنجار مزدورى 60سال 8000 حميده بيَّم زوجه عبدل حميد زيرتعليم 18-سال JL-16 --

سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹفیکیٹ حاصل کرنے کاخواں ہے اور کنبہ کی مہوار آمدنی 8000رویے تک ہے ۔ سر ٹفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزریا ا متراض ہوتو وہ بعدمشتہراخبارسات دن کےاندراندرآ پنے عذریاعتراض عدالت ھذاکودفتریاوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔بعد گزرے میعاد کو بی عذر یاعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

اطلاععام

ہرخاص وعام کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کی جا تاہے کہ مجھے اپنے بجلی ایگر بینٹ زیر کنزیوم نمبر 0206010004787 جو کہ میرے والد کے نام پر یعنی غلام مجمد بڈو کے نام پر ہے۔اباسکومیر ہے نام یعنی غلام قادر بڈو کے نام پر کروا نامطلوب اس بارے میں اگر کشی مخص کوکوئی اعتراض ہوتو وہ سات دن کے اندرا ندرا یکزیکٹیو تحییر پی ڈی ڈی ڈی ٹر گام کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔میعاد گذرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی

> غلام قادر بدرولدغلام محدبدوساكن بدباغ چيون بدگام_ فون MBC_ 6005650338

Rana Inaugurates Officer's **Block At Deers HQ Bemina**



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana inaugurated the newly constructed Officer's Block at Deers Headquarters in Bemina, marking a significant step towards enhancing the department's infrastructure and operational efficiency.

The ceremony was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta and other senior officers.

The building has been constructed by PWD/R&B Division Srinagar with an expenditure amounting Rs

During the inauguration, the Minister emphasized that the new facility would streamline administrative operations and provide a modern and efficient work environment for officers.

highlighted Omar Abdullah- led Government's commitment towards improving the infrastructure, leading to better conservation and management of forests.

The Minister appreciated the Deers HQ for setting up an office suited to current times besides improving the

(SOCACON-2025)

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Department of

Anatomy at Government

Medical College (GMC) Sri-

nagar is set to host the pres-

tigious 13th International

Conference of the Society

of Clinical Anatomists (SO-

CACON 2025) from July 10th

anatomists, surgeons, medi-

cal educators, researchers,

and clinicians from across In-

dia and abroad, marking a sig-

nificant academic milestone

The conference will fea-

ture cutting-edge knowl-

edge and innovations in

Clinical and Applied Anat-

omy, with a special focus

on emerging technologies.

Pre-conference workshops

on July 10th, 2025, will of-

fer hands-on training in

areas such as 3D anatomy

visualization and artificial

intelligence in anatomical

diagnostics. Over 500 del-

egates from premier medical

institutions are expected to

attend, with oral and poster

presentations, panel discus-

sions, and plenary lectures.

for Jammu and Kashmir.

This landmark event will

to 12th, 2025.

GMC To Host Conference On

Society Of Clinical Anatomists

overall administrative efficiency of the department.

Later, the Minister reviewed the functioning of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing and inspected the Geographical Information System (GIS) lab.

Rana underscored the importance of GIS in leveraging technology for efficient and precise tracking and management of forest resources. He noted that GIS plays a crucial role in safeguarding J&K's rich biodiversity and fostering sustainable development.

The GIS system captures and analyzes a range of geographical data to help departments and organizations make long-term plans regarding biodiversity richness, flood-prone areas, climate change issues and forest fire-prone areas.

The Minister was briefed about the department's working including the completed and ongoing projects besides the future expansion plans. He appreciated the department's performance on some of the pressing issues related to ecology and environment.

The officers also highlighted their issues and concerns hampering the department's functioning and sought the Minister's intervention.

inaugurated by eminent

dignitaries from higher

learning institutions, medi-

cal education, research, and

health administration. Re-

nowned faculty and experts

will share their insights and

experiences, fostering a rich

academic environment. SO-

CACON 2025 aims to revital-

ize anatomical sciences as a

clinically relevant discipline,

promoting curriculum inno-

vation and interdisciplinary

This is the first time SO-

CACON is being held in the

Kashmir valley, making it a

moment of pride for the re-

gion and an opportunity to

showcase Srinagar's cultural

and academic vibrance on an

The organising committee

has expressed enthusiasm

about the conference, stat-

ing, "SOCACON 25 is not just

an academic event; it is a cel-

ebration of anatomical ex-

cellence, collaborative spirit,

and the rich academic tradi-

tion of Kashmir." The confer-

ence is poised to generate

meaningful dialogue and

foster collaboration among

participants, contributing to

the future of anatomy in the

international stage.

research.

UIDAI Joins "Bharat Sanrachna Jammu & Kashmir 2025" THIS NATIONAL-

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Regional Office Chandigarh, announces its participation in "Bharat Sanrachna – Jammu & Kashmir 2025," being held from 10th to 12th July 2025 at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar. The event is being organised under the guidance of Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Er. Gulam Ali Khatana.

This national-level exhibition is part of the "Amritkaal" vision-India's 25-year roadmap leading up to its centenary of independence, which aims to highlight infrastructure, inclusion, and innovation. As a key pillar of the Digital India mission, UIDAI is contributing to this transformative journey by offering Aadhaar services on-ground and spreading awareness among citizens, particularly those in remote and underserved areas.

At the UIDAI Pavilion, citizens will be able to update their Aadhaar de-

LEVEL EXHIBITION IS PART OF THE "AMRITKAAL" VISION-India's 25year roadmap leading up to its centenary of independence, which aims to highlight infrastructure, inclusion, and innovation.

tails instantly and receive guidance on the mandatory biometric updates required at the ages of 5 and 15. Officials will also provide information about the M-Aadhaar mobile app, My-Aadhaar online portal, and the Bhuvan Aadhaar Seva Kendra locator. Visitors can learn how to apply for the secure PVC Aadhaar card and also access services related to Bal Aadhaar (Child Aadhaar).

This outreach effort presents a

unique opportunity for residents of Jammu & Kashmir to experience firsthand the convenience and efficiency that Aadhaar is bringing to digital service delivery across India. UIDAI's participation reflects its unwavering commitment to building a digitally inclusive society, ensuring that no citizen is left behind in accessing essential identity infrastructure.

Officials from UIDAI Chandigarh reiterated that the Authority remains dedicated to enhancing the ease of living for every Indian through Aadhaar-enabled services. Citizens, especially students, youth, and families from across Srinagar and neighbouring districts, are encouraged to visit the UIDAI Pavilion during the exhibition and interact with the team for any Aadhaar-related queries or assistance.

UIDAI's presence at "Bharat Sanrachna – Jammu & Kashmir 2025" stands as a strong symbol of its mission to extend the benefits of a secure and inclusive digital identity system to every corner of the country.

NIT Hosts Workshop On Official **Language Programme 2025**

National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday organized a workshop to deliberate on the Annual Programme 2025–2026 issued by the Department of Official Language and to discuss challenges and solutions related to the implementation of of-

The workshop, aimed at promoting effective use of Hindi in official work, was primarily attended by ministerial staff of the institute. Mr. Prakash Chandra Mishra, Hindi Officer at MNNIT Allahabad, presided over the session as the main re-

In his address, Mr. Mishra elaborated on the key points of the Annual Programme 2025-2026 and discussed various issues and practical solutions related to the implementation of Hindi in central government

The workshop was primarily attended by the non-teaching ministerial staff of NIT Srinagar online and aimed at sensitizing the employees about the importance of using Hindi

In his message, Director of NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, appreciated the efforts of Rajbhasha for organizing the workshop



will continue to provide support to such programs.

Speaking on the occasion, Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, lauded the efforts of the Rajbhasha Cell in consistently promoting the official language within the campus. He said Rajbhasha plays a vital role in ensuring efficient communication and inclusivity across government institutions.

Prof. Rehman encouraged the staff to actively participate in such programs and assured full administrative support in facilitating Hindirelated training and examinations. "Promoting Hindi in official work is not just a policy matter; it is a step towards cultural and administrative cohesion," he said.

Earlier, Incharge Hindi Officer Dr. R.P. Shukla (Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering Department) briefed

ties of the Rajbhasha Cell. He said that significant efforts have been made in recent years to promote the use of Rajbhasha (Hindi) on the campus, and that many initiatives have been successfully implemented.

Dr. Shukla also expressed his gratitude to Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, Incharge Director Prof. Roohi Naaz, and Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman for supporting

such initiatives on the campus.
Hindi Anuvadak, Dr. Sabzar Gani
(Coordinator of the workshop), delivered a vote of thanks to the resource person and expressed his gratitude to the Hindi Officer, participants, coordinators, and staff members who contributed to the success of the event.

The workshop concluded with an interactive Q&A session, during which participants raised several practical questions about the use of Hindi in drafting official letters, note-taking and documentation processes, and how to overcome nesitation in using the language.

The resource person addressed each concern patiently and shared useful resources, techniques, and examples to encourage better and more confident usage of Hindi.

Participants lauded the initiative, describing the workshop as informative, motivating, and highly rel

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Rajbhasha Cell of the ficial language policies.

source person.

institutions

in official work.



and stated that NIT administration attendees about the various activi-**Book On "Insights To Wildlife Health" Released**



Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: In a momentous event underscoring the deepening commitment to wildlife conservation in Jammu and Kashmir, the book "Insights to Wildlife Health" authored by Dr. Mohsin Ali Gazi, a noted Veterinary Officer with the Department of Wildlife Protection (Kashmir Region), was formally released in Srinagar.

The release ceremony was graced by Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest & Tribal Affairs, Jenab Javed Ahmed Rana Sahib, MLA Hazratbal, Jinab Salman Ali Sagar Sahib, and Sheetal Nanda (IAS), Commissioner/Secretary of the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department. Also in attendance were Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) & Head of Forest Force (HOFF), and Sarvesh Rai, Chief Wildlife Warden, Jammu and Kashmir.

Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir, Tawheed Ahmad Deva, and Regional Wildlife Warden Headquarters, Rashid Yahya Naqash, also participated in the release function, reflecting the strong institutional support for this scientific and educational initiative.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Dr. Mohsin Gazi expressed his motivation behind writing the book, saying, "Wild animals are sentinels of our ecosystem. If we neglect their health, we risk the health of the entire environment. This book is my humble contribution to ensure we don't lose sight of that interconnection."

Titled "Insights to Wildlife Health," the book delves into a wide array of critical issues in wild animal care and management-from anaesthesia and ultrasonography to the complex world of wildlife dentistry, ophthalmology, haematology, and forensic techniques. The author brings together not only the latest scientific knowledge but also years of field experience in handling wild animals in Kashmir's diverse ecosystems.

'This is more than a book—it's a field guide, a memory bank, and

a call to action," Dr. Gazi added. "Wildlife veterinarians, forest officers, researchers, and conservationists often work under challenging conditions. With this book, I hope to offer them a reliable companion they can return to in times of need."

The book pays special attention

to the endangered Hangul (Kashmiri Stag), offering insights into its ecology, stress-related factors, and post-mortem considerations. It also covers rescue operations, surgical interventions in rodents, wildlife resurgence, and modern DNA and blood sampling techniques-tools critical for modernday wildlife protection.

Commissioner/Secretary Sheetal Nanda praised the effort, calling it "a much-needed initiative that bridges the gap between field experience and academic research." She added, "Books like these are essential if we want to equip our next generation of conservationists with practical tools and real-world context."

With its reader-friendly structure and numerous illustrations, the book has been designed to be accessible not just to experts, but also to students, early-career researchers, and anyone with a passion for wildlife.

As Dr. Gazi notes in the preface, 'The motive is simple: to ensure that vital information doesn't fade with memory but stays alive in the pages of this book, ready to guide whenever needed.'

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: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

RAILWAYS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

PRAYERS

3:44

12:36

5:35

7:48

9:27

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)



This Day In History

FAJR

ZUHR

ASR

Magrib

ISHA

- 1568 Battle on Eems: Dutch Water garrison beats Spanish
- 1652 England declares war on The Netherlands -
- beginning of the 1st Anglo-Dutch war
- 1778 American Revolution: Louis XVI of France declares war on the Kingdom of Great Britain
- 1780 The Comte de Rochambeau and his French force of 7,000 land at Newport, Rhode Island, to join the American Revolutionary War
- 1796 Carl Friedrich Gauss discovers that every positive integer is representable as a sum of at most three triangular numbers
- 1861 Lincoln writes to Kentucky's militia and says Union troops will not enter that state
- 1863 Battle of Charleston, South Carolina (Morris
- 1863 Battle of Jackson, Mississippi captured by federals
- 1913 Romania declares war on Bulgaria

From KO Archives

J&K Next To Bihar In Corruption. **TII, CMS Blow Whistle**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - Jammu and Kashmir is in the news for yet another wrong reason, that it is India's second most corrupt state, next only to Bihar, while Kerala has emerged as die least corrupt state. The startling revelation follows a recent survey titled "The India Corruption Study 2005," conducted jointly by the Transparency International India (TII) and die Centre for Media Studies (CMS) The study sampled about 14,500 respondents from over 150 cities and 300 villages across 20 Indian states and covered about a dozen services, including police, judiciary, education and public distribution system. It has placed the state very low at 19th position, just a shade ahead of Bihar.

Apparently, die services surveyed may not have included various engineering disciplines, industries and allied sectors, revenue, agriculture and allied fields, education, healthcare, transport and traffic control. In case they were, Jammu and Kashmir should have had die dubious distinction of being die most corrupt state ahead of Bihar. While die alarming report may not have disturbed die sleep of those at die helm, die revelations must certainly not be music "to die state people's

ears. By any stretch of imagination, the scenario is greatly disturbing for a place otherwise groaning under the debilitating impact of numerous other misfortunes, natural as well as manmade. Given the tall promises held out by successive rulers to root it out. the disclosure is all die more amazing.

For the only Muslim majority state mat Jammu and Kashmir continues to be in spite of die sustained, and in some degree successful, government-inspired attempts to change its

demographic complexion, die revelations are all the more shocking. One is reminded of the story that an old women refused to believe that a Muslim had lied on something "I can't believe that a Muslim can ever tell a lie", she told her informer. It must have entailed a. relentless effort by that known enemy, satan, and his countless visible and invisible followers to erase die most effective deterrent from die Muslim mind i.e. a firm belief in the Day of Judgement, even if its indicators are visible to die naked eye all over. The custodians of religion would need to ponder over die grim situation.

Pertinently, it is die government which is squarely responsible for die situation taking a turn for die worse in spite of the pledges die successive rulers made while seeking people's mandate. The incumbent regime is particularly answerable because its promises were much louder not only to eradicate the canker but even to bring the earlier swindlers and scamsters to justice. The

Peoples Democratic Party, which wrested power from National Conference on die main plank of eradicating corruption, took about three years to identify a presiding officer for die Accountability Commission even as making it visibly functional may take another three years for its major coalition partner, Congress, to make the high-profile body discernibly functional.

By now, the chief minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, must have forgotten what he told die people on assuming die high office: that nobody should approach him in matters of recruitment as die process would be made absolutely transparent. 'Not only that he and several of his ministerial colleagues are accused of making backdoor appointments, the coalition partners certainly have a mischief Up their sleeves for the ensuing recruitment to over 20,000 vacancies in government departments. This is not the occasion to enumerate all the scandals that surfaced over the recent years in which the government's Conduct has been suspect, even to the extent of overt and covert complicity. Instances are galore to suggest the present rulers are worse than their predecessors.

(Kashmir Observer, 10 July, 2005)

DC Inspects Progress Of Works On S R Gunj PHC

The conference will be digital age.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo conducted a comprehensive onsite inspection of the ongoing construction works on Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) S R Gunj (Maharaj Gunj) in Shahre-Khaas area of the City.

During the comprehensive site visit, DC reviewed each construction component, assessed the current progress of the health facility being constructed. He also took stock of the pace and quality of the work.

While reviewing the progress, DC was apprised that over 50 percent of the works including brickwork, internal plastering, door & window framework and tile work stands almost completed with the remaining works being carried out at a fast pace.

On the occasion, DC directed the concerned executing agency to ensure accelerating the pace of works on each component of the prestigious project so that the local population is benefitted.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and or behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.

Catalogue No.: EAFZR-SLR25-89 Auction Start: 24/07/2025 at 11:00 Hrs Name of work: Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLF compartment: 19614/F1, 14028/F1, 14505/F1, 14028/F2, 14618/F1, 14616/F1 14622/F1 & 14626/F1.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2061/2025

E-AUCTION NOTICE

Saudi's Considers Syria-Israel Talks to Normalize Ties

Trans Asia News

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia is eyeing the US-brokered talks between Israel and Syria as a potential step toward a future normalization agreement between Riyadh and the Israeli regime, according to a report.

A senior royal source told the Israeli TV channel (KAN) that Riyadh is closely monitoring Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to the US, and believes that recent developments, particularly those involving Syria, could open the door to a trilateral arrangement between the Tel Aviv regime, Washington, and the Palestinian Authority, but without the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas.

The source added that the kingdom has been unhappy with repeated Israeli air raids on Syria, which, he said, had "undermined governance" in Damascus.

The HTS, a former branch of al-Qaeda, along with other militants, seized control of Damascus on December 8, 2024, forcing President Bashar al-Assad to leave the country.

Since Assad was toppled, Israel has conducted hundreds of airstrikes against Syria and occupied large swathes of territory beyond the Golan Heights.

The new Syrian regime has been signaling a willing-

The HTS, a former branch of al-Qaeda, along with other militants, seized control of Damascus on December 8, 2024, forcing President Bashar al-Assad to leave the country.

ness to normalize ties with Tel Aviv.

The two sides are reportedly engaged in negotiations to reach a normalization agreement by 2026.

The Israeli military's chief of staff has "conducted a field tour" of the occupied Syrian territory amid reports the HTS-led administration in Damascus is in direct negotiations with Tel Aviv for normalization.

Amid the thaw with Israel, the United States revoked the foreign terrorist organization designation for the HTS, and US President Donald Trump signed an executive order to ease unilateral US sanctions against Syria.

The sanctions on Syria have been in place since 1979 in response to Damascus's foreign policy toward Israel.

UAE Denies 'Lifetime Golden Visa' Claims, Warns of Scam

Trans Asia News

Abu Dhabi – The United Arab Emirates has officially refuted widespread media claims about a so-called "lifetime" Golden Visa available to certain nationalities, including Indians, through consultancy channels. The Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Port Security (ICP) confirmed that such reports are false and legally unfounded.

A press release from a consultancy firm, Rayad Group, recently circulated misinformation suggesting that Indians and Bangladesh is could secure lifetime UAE residency and even citizenship by paying AED 100,000 (approximately 23.3 lakh) without the traditional investment in property or business. The release also falsely listed visa services firm VFS Global as a partner and claimed China and other CEPA countries would soon be included.

In response, the ICP clarified that all Golden Visa categories, conditions, and

application procedures are governed strictly by official laws and must be processed only through UAE government portals. No consultancy or commercial firm, domestic or foreign, is authorized to handle such applications.

Reaffirming its commitment to transparency and security in the visa process, the Authority warned the public against falling for fraudulent schemes exploiting hopes of long-term residency. It also stated that legal action will be taken against entities or individuals propagating false claims and collecting money under false pretenses.

The ICP urged everyone seeking to visit, invest in, or move to the UAE to consult only official government sources — either via their website or the 24/7 helpline at 600522222 — to verify any visarelated information.

This warning serves as a strong reminder to avoid misinformation, protect personal data, and ensure all visa applications are made through verified government platforms.

Reaffirming its commitment to transparency and security in the visa process, the Authority warned the public against falling for fraudulent schemes exploiting hopes of long-term residency



Trump Threatens 'Un-American' BRICS With 10% Tariff

Trans Asia News

London– U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday confirmed a forthcoming 10% tariff on all BRICS nations, including India, citing the bloc's alleged aim to "hurt America" and undermine the U.S. dollar's global dominance.

"Anybody that's in BRICS is getting a 10 percent charge pretty soon," Trump declared at the White House, doubling down on claims that the alliance—comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, and new members—is working to replace the dollar as the global standard.

The statement follows a BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro, where member na-

tions condemned recent military strikes on Iran and criticized trade-distorting tariffs. Trump interpreted the summit's tone and the group's financial ambitions as a direct threat to U.S. interests.

"This bloc wants to destroy the dollar," Trump warned, adding, "If you have a stupid president, you lose the standard. We can't let that happen."

The new tariff threat, part of a broader protectionist push, adds pressure on India, which is negotiating a vital trade deal with Washington. India has not responded publicly to Trump's remarks but is believed to be quietly recalibrating its BRICS position, emphasizing

its neutrality on the bloc's currency ambitions.

With India poised to chair BRICS in 2026, it may seek to distance itself from more confrontational members like China and Russia. Delhi hopes its strategic importance and non-alignment on currency issues will earn it leniency from the U.S.

Trump's announcement also follows a separate threat of 25% tariffs on key U.S. trading partners—including Japan and South Korea—set to begin August 1 unless new trade deals are reached.

The tariffs risk disrupting global trade and raising costs, with ripple effects for both U.S. consumers and major exporters.

UN Expert Slams States Allowing Netanyahu Airspace Access

Agencies

Francesca Albanese, the United Nations special rapporteur on the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, has hit out at countries that allowed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to fly over their airspace en route to the United States, suggesting that they may have flouted their obligations under international law.

Albanese said on Wednesday that the governments of Italy, France and Greece needed to explain why they provided "safe passage" to Netanyahu, who they were theoretically "obligated to arrest" as an internationally wanted suspect when he flew over their territory on his way to meet United States President Donald Trump on Sunday for talks.

All three countries are signatories of the Rome Statute, the treaty that established The Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2002, which last year issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and former Is-

Italian, French and Greek citizens

and Greek citizens deserve to know that every political action violating the int'l legal order, weakens and endangers all of them. And all of us,"

raeli defence minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated during Israel's war on Gaza.

"Italian, French and Greek citizens deserve to know that every political action violating the int'l legal order, weakens and endangers all of them. And all of us," Albanese wrote on X.

Albanese was responding to a post by human rights lawyer Craig Mokhiber, who had said the previous day that the countries had "breached their legal obligations under the treaty [Rome Statute], have declared their disdain

MAKER

for the victims of genocide, and have demonstrated their contempt for the rule of law".

Netanyahu's visit to the US, during which he and Trump discussed the forced displacement of Palestinians amid his country's ongoing ceasefire negotiations with Hamas, was not his first sortie since the ICC issued the warrant for his arrest.

In February, Netanyahu travelled to the US, which is not party to the Rome Statute, becoming the first foreign leader to meet Trump after his January inauguration.

That flight took a longer path, flying over US bases and avoiding countries that might arrest the Israeli leader, according to Israeli Ambassador to the US Yechiel Leiter, cited by the Times of Israel in an article published the following month.

Then, in April, Netanyahu visited Hungary's leader Viktor Orban in Budapest, the latter having extended his invitation just one day after the ICC issued the arrest warrant, withdrawing the country's ICC membership ahead of the Israeli leader's arrival.

40 Palestinians Killed In Gaza As Netanyahu And Trump Meet Over A Ceasefire

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH: At least 40 Palestinians were killed in Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip, hospital officials said Wednesday, as international mediators raced to complete a ceasefire deal.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had a second meeting in two days with US President Donald Trump at the White House on Tuesday evening. Trump has been pushing for a ceasefire that might lead to an end to the 21-month war in Gaza. Israel and Hamas are considering a new US-backed ceasefire proposal that would pause the war, free Israeli hostages and send much-needed aid into Gaza.

Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis said the dead included included 17 women and 10 children. It said one strike killed 10 people from the same family, including three children.

The Israeli military did not comment on specific strikes, but said it had struck more than 100 targets across Gaza over the past day, including militants, booby-trapped structures, weapons storage facilities, missile launchers and tunnels. Israel accuses Hamas of hiding weapons and fighters among civilians.

Struggle to secure food and water

Many Palestinians are watching the ceasefire negotiations with trepidation, desperate for an end to the war.

In the sprawling coastal Muwasi area, where many live in ad-hoc tents after being displaced from their homes, Abeer Al-Najjar said she had struggled during the constant bombardments to secure sufficient food and water for her family. "I pray to God that there would be a pause, and not just a pause where they would lie to us with a month or two, then start doing what they're doing to us again. We want a full ceasefire."

Her husband, Ali Al-Najjar, said life has been especially tough in the summer, with no access to drinking water in a crowded tent in the Middle Eastern heat. "We hope this would be the end of our suffering and we can rebuild our country again," he said, before running through a crowd with two buckets to fill them from a water truck.

Bridge Collapses in Gujarat; 10 Dead in River Plunge



Press Trust Of India

Vadodara: Ten persons, including two siblings, were killed and nine others rescued after multiple vehicles plunged into the Mahisagar river when a portion of a four-decade-old bridge collapsed in Gujarat's Vadodara district on Wednesday morning, officials said.

A slab of the Gambhira bridge, located on the Mahisagar river, which connects central Gujarat to the Saurashtra region of the state, collapsed, killing ten persons, Superintendent of Police (Vadodara rural) Rohan Anand said.

Visuals from the site showed the entire chunk of the slab of the bridge between two piers has collapsed. The slab collapse caused the vehicles, which were passing through the bridge, to plunge into the river.

Five out of nine rescued persons were getting treated at state-run SSG Hospital in Vadodara city, Anand said, adding none of them is in a critical condition.

The SP said the 10- to 15-metre long slab of the bridge came crashing down at around 7.30 am. The rescue operation, involving fire brigade personnel, local residents as well as a team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), was still under way at the site, officials said.

At least half a dozen vehicles—two trucks, two vans, an autorickshaw and a two-wheeler—fell into the river after the bridge collapsed, Vadodara Collector Anil Dhameliya said.

Two other vehicles that came dangerously close to falling in the river were dragged away to a safer location, the collector said. Three persons on a two-wheeler, which fell into the river, managed to swim to safety, he added.

According to the police, two out of ten persons who lost their lives were siblings—a two-year-old boy and his four-year-old sister. Most of the deceased were residents of Vadodara and Anand districts, and all except a child were male.

PM Modi Conferred With Namibia's Highest Civilian Award During First Visit

Press Trust of India

M Modi Conferred With Namibia's Highest Civilian Award During First Visit

This is the third-ever prime ministerial visit from India to Namibia. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Wednesday conferred with Namibia's highest civilian award, 'Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis'.

The award was presented by Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Modi is in Namibia on the last leg of his five-nation visit.

This is the first visit of Prime Minis-

ter Modi to Namibia and the third-ever prime ministerial visit from India to the country.

This is the 27th international hon-

This is the 27th international honour bestowed upon Prime Minister Modi by a foreign government since he assumed office in May 2014.



Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Nandi-Ndaitwah held bilateral talks, following which the two countries signed four agreements to bolster bilateral cooperation in several areas, including energy and healthcare

Adultery Suspicion Not Ground for Child's DNA Test: HC

Press Trust of India

N E W S

erely because a man suspects his wife of adultery does not become a ground to make their minor child undergo a DNA test to determine paternity, the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court has said.

Quashing a family court's order directing a DNA test on a minor boy, Justice R M Joshi said that such a genetic examination is ordered only in exceptional cases.

In his July 1 order, a copy of which was made available on Wednesday, Justice Joshi said that merely because a man claims he is entitled to divorce on the ground of adultery does not make it an eminent case for passing an order



directing a DNA test.

"A question arises as to whether this is an eminent case for passing the order of DNA test. The candid answer to the same would be an emphatic no," the HC said.

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either because the server or network failed or because the format is not supported.

The court said that if there is an allegation against the wife that she had committed adultery, then the same can be proved by any other evidence instead of calling upon the child

to undergo a paternity test.

The order was passed in

a petition filed by a man's estranged wife and her 12-year-old son, challenging a February 2020 order passed by a family court directing the child to undergo a DNA profiling test to decide paternity.

The high court noted that the family court had erred in passing such an order and quashed it.

It was "absolutely obligatory" for the family court to consider the best interest of the child, Justice Joshi said in

the order.

Referring to a Supreme Court order, the bench said that no one can be compelled to undergo a blood test, especially a minor child, when he or she is not even capable of taking a decision to agree or refuse the test.

Dar Chairs Reviews Meeting Of Irrigation Facilities In **Rain-Fed Areas**



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar chaired a meeting to review the irrigation facilities and identify areas for improvement in rainfed areas of J&K at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting assessed the current situation and explored the strategies to further enhance irrigation infrastructure and water management practices to benefit the farmers community.

Director Command Areas Development, Kashmir; CEO IWMP; Chief Engineer PHE Kashmir; Superintendent Engineer, PHE Mechanical Circle North; Executive Engineer PHE, Ground Water Division Kash-

mir; Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to work out potential solutions like implementing modern irrigation technologies, improving water storage and distribution networks and promoting the water conservation practices.

Dar emphasized the government's commitment towards bolstering the agricultural sector, with a particular focus on enhancing the irrigation facilities in rain-dependent areas, to support the farmers and improve crop productivity.

The Minister directed the concerned to identify the suitable site in solely rain-fed areas of the districts where borewells can be taken up under

Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway:

DC Samba Holds Land **Compensation Disbursement Camp**

Observer News Service

SAMBA: In a significant move towards infrastructural development, the District Administration Samba today disbursed compensation amounting to ₹2,96,87,143 among 40 beneficiaries from five villages under the land acquisition for the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway project.

A special compensation dis-bursement camp was organized at Vijaypur, where the compensation was handed over to the rightful landowners. The event was held under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma.

Also present during the camp were Additional Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Samba, SDM Vijaypur and other concerned officials who ensured a smooth and transparent process.

The DC reiterated the commitment of the district administration to ensure timely disbursal of compensation and emphasized the importance of the expressway in enhancing regional connectivity, economic growth and citizen convenience.

The beneficiaries appreciated the prompt action taken by the administration and expressed satisfaction over the hassle-free and transparent compensation process

DC Rajouri Chairs Meeting Ahead Of Budha Amarnath Yatra

Observer News Service

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissionchaired a comprehensive meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) in the VC Room of the DC Office Complex.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the steps taken so far to enhance road safety and issued a series of directions to further streamline efforts. He stressed the urgent need to install road safety devices, strip markings, speed limit signages and conduct safety audits of identified accident-prone hot spots across the district.

In view of the upcoming Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra, the DC asked the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to visit all black spots in coordination with the Transport, Traffic and PWD Departments. He emphasized immediate identification and rectification of such black spots to ensure the safety of yatris, army convoys and the general public.

To address traffic congestion

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Secretary, Dis-

trict Legal Services Authority

(DLSA) Ganderbal, Sheikh Babar

Hussain, convened a monthly

review meeting to assess the performance of Legal Aid De-

fence Counsels (LADCs) in the

The meeting aimed to ensure

standards of service delivery,

identifying challenges faced by

LADCs, and discuss strategies

All LADCs of DLSA Ganderbal

During the meeting, Deputy

LADC Ganderbal, presented

the status of cases assigned to

them, including 31 cases, com-

prising 11 Sessions Trials and 20

Secretary reviewed case

for improvement.

Magisterial Trials.

attended the meeting.

Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal Holds

and parking-related issues, the DC called for the regularization and proper documentation as designated parking zones. He also instructed the identification of land for bus and taxi stands. The officers were directed to identify and notify zones for street vending to streamline roadside activities and avoid encroachments.

Further, the DC instructed concerned departments to issue notices to illegal occupants who have encroached upon departmental roads through constructions like stairs or drains. He emphasized the need for visible and standardized road signage near CHCs, PHCs and critical points with details such as contact numbers of nearby police stations to aid in emergency response.

The installation of crash barriers at vulnerable stretches was also stressed to prevent mishaps. The DC underlined the importance of raising awareness regarding the Cashless Treatment Scheme for road accident victims, ensuring timely and free medical care in emergencies.

Review Meeting Of LADCs files and registers maintained by LADCs, observing their dili-

> maintaining records. LADCs highlighted several issues confronting them, which hampers office work and record maintenance.

gence in attending cases and

Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, reviewed the performance of LADCs, including their attendance, case management, and

compliance as per job profiles. He stressed LADCs to ensure punctuality in attending court proceedings and refrain from seeking unnecessary adjournments. He also emphasized LADCs to provide comprehensive legal services, including visits to jails and police stations and to raise awareness among the general public, especially in backward and far-flung areas.

AMARNATH YATRA 2025

CS Inspects Nunwan, Chandanwadi Yatra Camps

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday visited the Nunwan Base Camp at Pahalgam to review the arrangements made for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra 2025. He chaired a high-level

meeting with senior officers of the civil administration, police, security forces, Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) and other line departments to assess the facilities being provided to the pilgrims for ensuring their yatra in a seamless manner.

During the review meeting, the Chief Secretary was given a comprehensive briefing on various aspects of Yatra management including accommodation facilities, tent arrangements, water supply, power supply, health care services, sanitation measures and other essential logistics. It was informed that round-the-clock monitoring mechanisms have been established to ensure uninterrupted services and promptly address any emergent issues faced by the pilgrims.

The Chief Secretary took a detailed review of the security protocols, including the deployment of personnel, surveillance measures and technology-based interventions such as facial recognition systems, CCTV surveillance and integrated control rooms for real-time coordination. He laid



emphasis on multi-tier security arrangements for safety of the

Following the review, Dulloo conducted an extensive inspection of the Nunwan Base Camp. He interacted with a cross-section of stakeholders including pilgrims, medical and paramedical staff, officials from various departments, service providers and langar sevadars. He took firsthand stock of the facilities on the ground and expressed satisfaction over the arrangements.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the collective efforts of all the departments and agencies and urged them to continue working with the same commitment to ensure the safe, smooth and successful conduct of the Yatra.

The pilgrims also expressed their satisfaction with the overall arrangements and commended the administration for its dedicated and proactive approach in facilitating the sacred pilgrimage.

Later, the Chief Secretary visited the Chandanwadi Camp, where he inspected the medical facilities, availability of emergency response systems and preparedness for highaltitude health emergencies. He interacted with the health officials and directed them to ensure adequate deployment of medical staff, ambulances and medicines to cater to the needs of pilgrims traversing this critical point of the Yatra route.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by the District Magistrate, Anantnag, S. F. Hamid; Senior Superintendent of Police, Amrit Pal Singh; Camp Directors and senior officers of Civil Administration, Police Department, SASB and others

THE CS TOOK A DETAILED REVIEW OF THE SECURITY PROTOCOLS,

including the deployment of personnel, surveillance measures and technology-based interventions such as facial recognition systems, CCTV surveillance and integrated control rooms for real-time coordination.

Sakeena Reviews Hospital Infrastructure At GMC Baramulla

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla and chaired a meeting to review the status of healthcare delivery, patient care services and hospital infrastructure at the facility

Baramulla, MLA Javed Hasan Baig; MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar; MLA Wagoora Kreeri; Advocate Irfan Hafeez Lone; MLA Uri, Dr. Sajjad Shafi; Director Health Services Kashmir, Principal GMC Baramulla, Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla and other senior officers of district administration attended the meeting.

Addressing the officers in the meeting, the Minister emphasized on the need for enhancing the patient care facilities, streamlining service delivery and strengthening coordination among the departments to ensure that quality healthcare services reach every citizen. "Health is a fundamental right and remains a top priority of the government. There is no room for compromise in this important sector of society", she stated.

The Minister called for an enhanced patient-centric approach in healthcare service delivery. She urged the medical fraternity to adopt a friendly and compassionate attitude while treating the patients. She said that ensuring transparency and dedication in service delivery should be the top priority, adding that government doctors must prioritize their official duties over private practice.

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 the current financial year. She added that these facilities will enhance the diagnostic and interventional care for the residents of North Kashmir and its adjoining areas.

The Minister said that around 50 kanal of land has been transferred to GMC for

Inaugurates Main Building Of GDC Boniyar



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Minister for Health and Medical Education. Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, inaugurated the State of Art main building of Government Degree College (GDC) Boniyar here.

MLA Uri Dr. Sajjad Shafi; MLA Baramulla Javed Hassan Baig; Director Colleges Dr. Firdous Ahmad Giri; Principal GDC Boniyar, Professor Parveen Kousar; faculty members of college; students and locals were present during the inaugural ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized the government's commitment towards providing equitable access to quality education in remote and rural areas. "This new infrastructure is not just a building, it is a symbol of the government's vision to empower the youth of Boniyar with knowledge, opportunity and a bright future", she stated.

Highlighting various initiatives of the government regarding development of the education sector, Sakeena outlined that this upgraded infrastructure would significantly enhance the academic environment in the college and attract more students from the surrounding areas.

The Minister further said that the education sector, particularly in remote and underserved areas, is being upgraded so as to provide best and quality education to students near their vicinity.

On the occasion, the Minister also interacted with the students, encouraging them to make full use of the facilities for excellence in academics as well as community development.

Pertinently, the newly inaugurated infrastructure features modern classrooms, smart laboratories, a well-equipped library, computer room, auditorium, museum and ample washroom facilities.

establishment of separate OPD block and Diagnostic Block 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 health centres of Baramulla. She also said that a digital X-Ray facility will be established at GMC Baramulla in a few months for enhanced patient care.

During the meeting, the MLAs raised several critical issues including the duty rosters and round-the-clock presence of doctors, shortage of human resources in the health sector and the need for improved sanitation across the healthcare institutions.

Earlier, the GMC representatives presented a detailed presentation, highlighting various aspects of healthcare delivery at GMC Baramulla, including patient footfall, staff deployment, infrastructure setup and ongoing development works.

DC Kupwara Inspects Ongoing Works In Machil

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan conducted an extensive tour of border area Machill to inspect various ongoing developmental projects.

During the visit, DC inspected ongoing construction of Ring Payeen-Ring Bala road coming up at a cost of Rs.2.69 crore. She impressed upon the officers of R&B to ensure completion of the road within the stipulated time frame so that the local people can benefit with better road connectivity.
She also inspected the 400

feet Road Wall constructed by the Rural Development department at Ring Payeen.

DC also paid a visit to Primary Health Centre Dudi and inspected the functioning of the hospital. She stressed upon the Doctors and hospital staff to work with added zeal and dedication to cater to the needs of this far flung border sector so that the people may not face any inconvenience in getting proper healthcare.

She directed the concerned for installation of the solar system already sanctioned for providing hassle free power back up to the health centre.

DC also visited Government Higher Secondary School Ring Payeen and HSS Dudi and interacted with the school Principals and staff of these schools. She inspected the classrooms, Library, Laboratory and other facilities of the schools. She also enquired about the board results, subject specific faculty and use of Library, Laboratory and other equipment by the students.

During the day-long tour, DC met several public delegations who apprised her about their developmental issues pertaining to road connectivity, water supply, power etc. She heard them patiently and resolved various issues on the spot.

SKUAST-K, KVK Budgam Host **Animal Health Camp**

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Under the visionary leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam, through its extension outreach organized an Animal Clinical Camp today at Buzgoo (Block Nagam).

The event was graced by Prof Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, as the chief guest, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from local farmers and livestock owners.

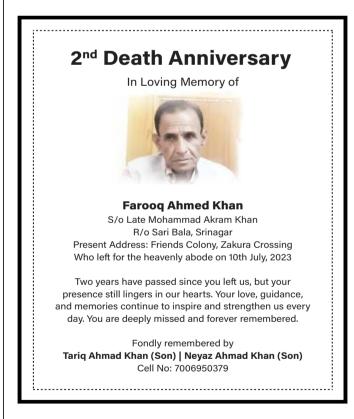
A dedicated team of veterinarians from KVK Budgam, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Shuhama (SKUAST-K) and officials from Animal Husbandry Department provided on-spot veterinary care including health check-ups, treatment, deworming, vaccination, and mineral supplements. Over 70 livestock including cattle, sheep received treatment and preventive care free of cost.

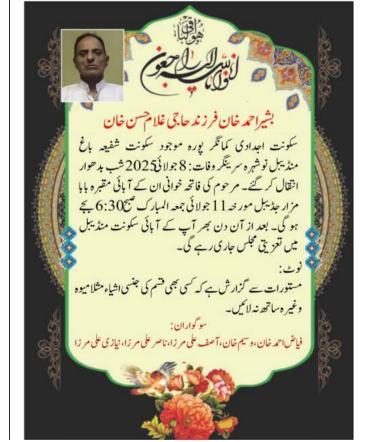
Prof. Raihana, in her address, reiterated SKUAST-K's commitment to empowering rural communities through timely veterinary interventions, disease prevention, and scientific livestock management.

She appreciated the efforts of KVK Budgam in delivering needbased animal health services to the doorsteps of farmers and emphasized the critical role of regular health check-ups and vaccination in preventing disease outbreaks and enhancing farm income.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone, Prof. & Head, KVK Budgam, elaborated on the objectives of the camp. He highlighted the importance of livestock health in ensuring sustainable rural livelihoods and encouraged farmers to adopt scientific animal husbandry practices.

As part of the World Zoonosis Day observance, special awareness sessions were conducted by veterinary experts on the transmission and prevention of zoonotic diseases such as brucellosis and rabies. Farmers were sensitized about disease risks, nutritional management, and general hygiene practices to safeguard both animal and human health.





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📏 KO VIEW

Farmers Need A Helping Hand

'n the apple orchards of Shopian and the paddy fields of Bandipora, farmers are staring helplessly at dry soil and sunburnt leaves due to the prevailing extreme temperatures. While there is hope that ongoing rains might dampen the earth, likely return of the heatwave will make things worse.

Temperatures have soared well above seasonal norms, with Srinagar recording its hottest day of the year at 37.4°C. The problem isn't just the heat, it's the pattern. A snowless winter, a dry spring, and now a punishing summer bode ill for not just Kashmir's agriculture, but also for the very nature of the weath-

For farmers who rely on predictability in seasons and soil, the disruption has huge economic consequences. Crops are wilting, water sources are drying up, and livestock too is feeling the heat, as story in this newspaper has underlined.

In this context, the advisory issued by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) is timely. The university's detailed guidelines span a wide range of sectors: cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetables, floriculture, livestock, poultry, beekeeping, and even fisheries

Paddy cultivators have been advised to irrigate during cooler hours and watch for blast disease. Apple growers are urged to whitewash tree trunks and remain alert to scab and mite outbreaks. Livestock owners are being told to avoid grazing during peak heat, while beekeepers are advised to use wet gunny bags to regulate hive temperatures. Sadly, these have become our new survival strategies.

Perhaps, we need to do more. We need to plan pro-actively for our agriculture in view of the heatwaves going to be a pattern in future. Erratic climate is no longer a forecast, it has become a lived reality. Kashmir must now invest in sustainable farming practices, encourage climate-resilient crops, and expand training programs on adaptive agriculture. We can't delay this anymore. More so, when there is little that we can do about climate change, a worldwide phenomenon. While Kashmir has been battling heatwave this summer, so has been the rest of the country and the large parts of the world. According to an analysis of the data from the European Drought Observatory (EDO), more than half, or 53 percent of land in Europe and the Mediterranean basin were hit by drought in mid-May. The European Central Bank has already warned in May of up to 15 percent of agricultural production loss in the eurozone due to increasing extreme weather caused by climate change.

These are developed countries and have ample resources at their command to deal with the crisis. But in our part of the world, a weather emergency can really hem us in. It can cost us dearly in terms of the reduction in agricultural production, and also in terms of the potential decline in tourist inflows. So, the government has to act to ensure we prepare ahead and find ways and means to protect both, as at stake is the likelihood of hundreds of thousands of our people.

FINANCIAL FIX

Rethink the Big House

Kashmiris invest in big homes but forget to secure their own future with financial independence.

Irshad Mushtaq

rive through Kashmir and you'll see grand homes with carved woodwork, marble floors, and sprawling lawns Built with years of sacrifice, these houses are meant for children. But those children often live in other cities or countries. The rooms stay locked. The parents stay behind, hoping their investment will one day feel worth it.

This is a growing pattern in Kashmiri families: building for others while forgetting to build financial independence.

The priority must shift. Parents should first secure their own future. That means keeping savings in their own name, investing in health insurance, and creating steady income sources. A big house cannot pay for medicine. It cannot replace a pension.

Children deserve support, especially in education. But funding their adult lives is not a parent's responsibility. It's more helpful to teach children how to manage money, save wisely, and live within their means. Financial maturity must be taught, not assumed.

In many homes, parents hand over property too early. Inheri tance disputes, family breakdowns, and growing distances turn these gifts into burdens. Parents are left without control or security. This is not just about money. It's about dignity and choice

A house, no matter how beautiful, loses meaning if it is built on sacrifice without return. Assets without emotional connection become cold and heavy.

Kashmiri families need a new plan. Build smaller if needed Invest smarter. Save first, then give. Respect grows where there is clarity, not confusion.

The real legacy is not marble floors or high gates. It is a secure

parent and a self-reliant child. That is the wealth that lasts. The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor

editpage.ko@gmail.com

The Dummy School Scam

As Kashmir's NEET and JEE aspirants vanish from classrooms and flood coaching centers, schools are reduced to paperwork and proxy marks. The crisis is real, and everyone's complicit.

Dr. Ashraf Zainabi

hen the Education Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Sakina Itto, felicitated NEET and JEE toppers recently, it made for a heartwarming photo-op.

These students had worked hard, cleared one of the country's toughest exams, and made Kashmir proud.

But beneath the applause was a question no one asked: Did these students ever really attend school during Classes 11 and 12?

The uncomfortable truth: they didn't. And they're not alone.

Across India, more than 37 lakh students appeared in NEET and JEE in 2025. It's safe to say that at least 35 lakh of them were attending coaching centers instead of schools. Some enrolled in these centers for a year, others for two or even three.

Their schedules often run 9 to 5, six days a week. Their focus is unwavering. Their allegiance lies not with the school system, but with the coaching industry. That's where their time, effort, and identity now reside.

In Kashmir, where NEET and JEE fever has reached new heights, this shift is no longer an exception.

In cities like Srinagar, students enroll in private or government higher secondary schools only to fulfill eligibility criteria. These institutions provide the official address, but the real schooling happens in glass buildings labeled academy, institute, or mission.

A Class 12 student preparing for NEET may not even remember the school principal's name. Many wouldn't be able to name a single teacher from their English or biology

driven by information. But instead

of stepping into jobs, most of them

they remain unemployed, under-

employed, or drifting toward unre-

lated fields. Their expertise, built

is neither

It's the result of an education system

that continues to churn out students

in a subject that is being slowly erased

from public institutions, classrooms,

mester registrations for Statistics

It's at the heart of medical research,

economic planning, policy design,

agriculture forecasting, social me-

dia algorithms, sports analytics,

and insurance modeling. It informs

everything from election predic-

ligence and data science, the

demand for statistical thinking

should be rising. Instead, in Kash-

In the age of artificial intel-

tions to public health trends.

The irony is hard to miss.

In some colleges, recent se-

Statistics is used everywhere.

This is not an accidental outcome.

Despite their qualifications,

step into uncertainty.

and recruitment rosters.

showed zero enrolments.

nor absorbed.

classes. They've never attended one. What we have now is a parallel schooling system - one official, the

other functional The official school serves bureaucratic needs: enrollment, board registration, internal marks,

lab practicals. It exists on paper. The functional school, coaching, does the actual teaching, testing, disciplining.

And this parallel system has normalized what should raise alarm: students who are technically enrolled but never show up. Their attendance is managed through loopholes. Lab files are fabricated. Internal assessments are filled in without ever setting foot in class.

This isn't a hidden scandal. It's a widely accepted collusion. Schools, parents, coaching centers are all complicit. Everyone plays their part in this theatre of education.

In many government schools in Kashmir, insiders admit that up to 90% of students in science streams are "dummy admissions." The students are never there, yet their files are complete. Practical exams, essential to biology and chemistry, are either staged or skipped altogether.

This trend has created a culture where school is no longer a place of learning, but a rubber stamp - a stamp that confirms a student's eligibility to write board exams, even when they've done nothing that resembles formal schooling.

It also breeds inequality. A student who wants to attend school and also prepare for NEET ends up torn between two demands. Their time is stretched. Their focus is divided. Meanwhile, dummy students attend full-time coaching and still receive internal marks, attendance records, and certificates, without lifting a pen in a class-

room. The system punishes sincerity and rewards manipulation.

There's also a legal farce. The CBSE and most state boards, including J&K's, mandate 75% attendance to be eligible for board exams.

But when students are hundreds of kilometers away, attending coaching in Kota or Delhi, this rule is either forged or bypassed using creative excuses—chronic illness, personal circumstances, or simply administrative favors.

A poor child who misses ten days of school might be threatened with expulsion. But a NEET topper who hasn't shown up in a year gets processed smoothly. Is this not institutional hypocrisy?

Let's not be mistaken: coaching centers didn't create this crisis. They filled a void. They emerged because students and parents lost faith in formal schooling.

NEET and JEE demand a type of learning that schools rarely offer: deep clarity, rapid problem-solving, endless practice. Schools, stuck in outdated methods and crumbling infrastructure, couldn't keep up. So families turned elsewhere.

But instead of fixing schools, we adjusted our values. We called it ambition.

The deeper problem is philosophical.

When the smartest children in Kashmir abandon schools altogether, what message are we sending? That formal education has no value unless it leads to a rank? That ethics, law, and holistic learning are disposable if the goal is met? That a doctor need not be a thinker, a writer, or a speaker, just a rank-holder?

We are now raising a generation of brilliant minds in physics and chemistry who've never read

a novel, never delivered a speech, never participated in a debate, never truly interacted in a diverse classroom. Their lab work is fake. Their attendance is fiction. Their education is narrow. We are manufacturing success, not nurturing citizens

This system is unsustainable. It's also dangerous.

To change course, we must rebuild trust in schools. Start by making schools competitive. Appoint top teachers. Equip science labs. Align curricula with entrance exams so that learning feels relevant. Let schools formally partner with coaching institutes under transparent rules. Conduct surprise inspections to ensure actual student presence. Regulate dummy admissions with legal checks. Above all, expand career paths.

Not every child in Kashmir needs to be a doctor or engineer. Open up diverse streams and vocational routes with dignity, quality, and employment value.

We must also reform board exams. If they continue to diverge from entrance formats, students will keep choosing one over the other, and schools will keep losing.

Education is more than an entrance test. It's where values are taught, perspectives widened, and society shaped.

But right now, we're producing candidates, not characters. We're investing in ranks, not minds.

Kashmir deserves better. That's why we need to course-correct.

The author is a teacher and researcher based in Gowhar Pora, Chadoora, J&K. Views expressed in this article are author's own and don't necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy.

The Death of a Discipline ach year, universities across Jammu and Kashmir produce over a hun-As data-driven decisions reshape the world, dred postgraduates in Statistics. They come trained in data Kashmir is producing jobless statisticians, and pushing modeling, research methods, and other essential skills in a world a vital discipline out of its education system.

Rayees Yaseen

mir, the subject is being pushed are limited. Research funding is into irrelevance.

we introduce students to Mathematics. After Class 10, there's a sharp drop in those who opt for Math, and

by extension, Statistics. Most students move away without ever learning how to interpret data, read a graph, or calculate a basic average.

The subject is treated as technical, abstract, and detached from real life. By the time students realize its importance, it's often too late to turn back.

Universities and colleges don't help either. Statistics is rarely treated as a core discipline like Economics or Computer Science. It is bundled under general science or optional streams, offered inconsistently, and marketed poorly.

Even when students make it to the postgraduate level, they find no visible path ahead. Teaching jobs scarce. Private sector roles in data engineers and computer programmers over trained statisticians.

The picture is even bleaker in government recruitment.

Nationally, statistical posts like Junior Statistical Officer under the Staff Selection Commission are reserved for those with degrees in Statistics. But Jammu and Kashmir has no such clarity.

Departments that need statistical expertise-planning, health, rural development, education—often hire general graduates instead.

The result is that trained statisticians are locked out of roles they are best equipped to handle, while decision-making continues without the rigor that proper data analysis demands.

There is a deeper question here that universities and policymakers

If the job market for Statistics is stagnant, why continue admitting more and more students every year? What is the purpose of offering a degree that leads nowhere?

Students invest time, money, and effort in good faith. But what they find at the end is a subject with no support system, no clear prospects, and no institutional will Kashmir, more than most re-

gions, needs statistical thinking. In a place shaped by conflict, uncerdata can be a stabilizing force. Whether it's tracking drug ad-

diction trends, measuring learning outcomes in schools, or forecasting agricultural losses, smart governance depends on reliable numbers. And those numbers don't in-

terpret themselves. They need statisticians - people who understand patterns, probabilities, margins of error, and how to draw meaning from noise.

If the state continues to sideline this subject, we will lose a critical tool of development.

And we will lose a generation of students whose only mistake was choosing a field that their society no longer values

> The author is a Research Scholar in Statistics. Views expressed are author's own.

Letter to Editor

Why Kashmir's Early School Timings Make Sense

lassrooms across Kashmir now open with the sunrise, a response to a heatwave that's rewriting old routines. The valley, once known for its

soft sunlight and cool mornings, is now facing temperatures that regularly touch 35 to 37 degrees Celsius.

For a region that rarely crossed 30 degrees even in peak July, this heat feels foreign and fatal.

In response, the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department moved school timings earlier: 7:30 AM for urban areas, 8:00 AM for

The decision has stirred concern among parents, who say children are losing sleep and structure. But this shift is rooted in science, not whim. And in today's climate, it may be one of the most sensible decisions the department has taken in years. Kashmir's rising heat isn't a

passing phase. According to the Indian Meteorological Department, the region has warmed by 1.45 degrees over the past two decades. Districts like Anantnag and Pulwama, once buffered by altitude and greenery, now feel more like the northern plains.

This isn't just uncomfortable. It's dangerous. Children are especially vulnerable to heat stress. When school days stretch into the hot midday hours, cases of fatigue, dehydration and even heatstroke spike. And the impact doesn't end with health.

Research from Harvard shows that learning suffers, too. Even a 1-degree rise in classroom temperature can cut students' cognitive performance by 2 percent. In math and

reading, the dip is sharper. Mornings, when the air is cooler and minds are fresher, are simply better for learning.

Local data backs this. A survey by Kashmir's Directorate of School Education found improved attendance and fewer classroom disruptions under the early school schedule. Teachers report smoother lessons and fewer health complaints. And with temperatures often exceeding safe limits by 11:30 AM, earlier hours help schools avoid the worst of the day.

There are still challenges. Students in remote areas walk long distances. Earlier start times mean earlier wake-up calls. But the answer is not to undo the shift. It's to adapt: offer transportation, teach healthy sleep routines, ensure water and shade at schools.

This early start should be part of a broader climate response. Schools need passive cooling: ventilation, tree cover, reflective roofs. And they need plans for the next weather shock, whether that's more heat, snow or floods.

Kashmir is changing. The rhythms of life that once felt certain now bend to rising temperatures. Early school timings are not just a schedule tweak. They're a line of defense for learning, health, and childhood itself.

It's time we stop seeing this as a disruption and start seeing it for what it is: a necessary, sciencebacked shift to protect our future.

> Sincerely Dr. Rizwan Roomi rizwanroomi2012@gmail.com

Srinagar's Ghost Mall Could Be a Playground of Hope

Once envisioned as a modern cultural hub, Sangermaal now stands abandoned. But with vision and community will, it could become the vibrant heart Srinagar desperately needs.

Nazia Qureshi

n a prized stretch of land near Lal Chowk, stands a locked, underlit structure that was once the city's pride. When it was inaugurated in 2010, Sangermaal was billed as the future of urban Kashmir. A sleek, glass-fronted building meant to be a cultural and commercial hub.

It was a showcase of "modern Kashmir." But fifteen years later, it is neither cultural nor commercial.

Sangermaal is largely abandoned, its shops mostly shuttered, its footfall minimal. For many in Srinagar, it has become a punchline. "Sangermaal hasa chu failure," locals mutter. This Sangermaal is a failure.

What's less known is how hard Jammu lobbied for one just like it. When the project was unveiled, the then deputy chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir Tara Chand insisted that a similar complex must be built in winter capital too. Equal development, he argued. In hindsight, Srinagar got the structure,

but not the soul. Walk past the empty stairwells and you'll find a building that looks modern but

feels lifeless. A few elite stores still operate inside, but their high prices make them inaccessible to most families. There is no playground, no food court, no place for a schoolkid to laugh or a mother to sit with

What was meant to serve the people forgot the people entirely.

According to local estimates, less than 5 percent of Srinagar's residents ever visit the complex. Of those who do, most don't return, as the marketplace lacks atmosphere, utility, and life.

This wouldn't be such a sore point if the city were full of alternatives. But Srinagar

There are no permanent amusement parks for children. Few open-air spaces for families. No indoor play zones that work through the city's long, bitter winters. Trade fairs and melas come and go, often run by outsiders, but they vanish after a few weeks, leaving behind little but plastic wrappers and missed chances.

Meanwhile, children remain indoors, stuck behind screens or left to play in alleys beside traffic. Parents have nowhere to take them that feels safe, stimulating, or affordable.

But what if Sangermaal could be reimagined? Urban planners, civil society voices, and some young entrepreneurs have begun floating the idea. A reinvented Sangermaal, they argue, could become a mixed-use hub

for recreation, learning, and commerce. Picture this: a covered amusement park with ball pits and climbing walls for toddlers. A digital arcade for teens. A reading corner and puppet theater for young minds. Outdoor green spaces with jogging paths, bicycle rentals, and sensory play areas for children with special needs.

Add to that a buzzing food court offering local wazwan alongside affordable snacks. a community hall for music and book festivals, and stalls run by women and young entrepreneurs showcasing Kashmiri crafts and products.

Suddenly, the structure has meaning. It starts to breathe.

The potential doesn't stop at culture. There's economics too.

Repurposing the complex could generate hundreds of jobs - vendors, instructors, sanitation workers, musicians, cafe staff. Instead of hemorrhaging govern-

ment funds on maintenance and security, Sangermaal could become self-sustaining, even profitable.

It would also address one of Srinagar's growing concerns: the mental well-being of its youth.

Psychologists across the valley have noted a spike in stress, anxiety, and early signs of depression among children and teenagers. The lack of social spaces, physical play zones, and community programs only compounds the problem. Spaces like a revitalized Sangermaal wouldn't just entertain. They could heal.

In recent years, cities across India, from Indore to Kochi, have experimented with transforming underused spaces into vibrant community centers. Why should Srinagar be left behind?

And yet, Sangermaal remains untouched. Frozen in time. Perhaps it is the weight of its initial failure. Or the absence of political will. Or the fact that so many big ideas in Kashmir are announced with ribboncutting enthusiasm, only to dissolve into

But that doesn't mean the public has forgotten. "Why can't we have a place where my daughter can play and I can sit without worrying?" asked Rafiqa, a mother of two, who visited the mall once, and never went back. "We need places that feel made for

City leaders often talk of development in abstract terms: GDP, tourism revenue, urban renewal. But real development listens.

It listens to children who want to ride swings. To parents who want safer evenings. To young people who want more than job alerts and exams. It builds not just roads and malls, but memories.

Sangermaal may have been a failed project. But failure isn't final.

With political courage and community input, it could become something the city sorely needs: a space for joy, imagination, and belonging.

Srinagar doesn't need another monument to missed potential. It needs a reason to believe again.

And Sangermaal, if given that second chance, could be the place where belief

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Wayil Is More Than a Picnic Spot

A day by the Sindh in Kashmir becomes a passage through water, memory, and the fragile hush of beauty undone.

The road to Wayil always feels like it's leading somewhere bevond maps.

A short drive from Srinagar, past the fruit orchards of Ganderbal and the bends of the highway where schoolboys wave at passing cars, lies this small slice of river-land that locals hold close and visitors fall for instantly.

It isn't grand like Pahalgam, or postcard-perfect like Gulmarg. But it has a soul that lingers.

We reached around midday. The un was strong enough to crack silence, but the wind that came from the mountains carried with it the promise of relief.

The moment we stepped out of the car, we heard it. The rush of the Sindh, wild and urgent, folding over stones with a rhythm that's been beating long before us. It's the kind of sound that draws you in, even when you don't know you're listening.

Families had already taken their spots under the trees. Children were tugging their parents toward the water. The river, in all its glassy greenness, flowed like a slow ribbon, cold and clean against the heat.

My sister dipped her feet and gasped. A boy splashed through the

shallows chasing a floating slipper. The air was thick with the smell of pine, grilled meat, and riverbank soil warmed by sun.

We laid out our mat near the bend where the current slows just enough to rest. We unpacked the lunch we brought-rice, chicken, pickles, some tea in a flask-and settled into that halfsleepy calm that only arrives when you're somewhere you don't need to be anyone. But then, something caught my eye.

A plastic wrapper twisted itself around a rock, flapping in the water like a torn flag. Nearby, a group of teenagers speaker, the kind with blinking lights. Empty juice cartons floated past their feet. Behind a boulder, someone had left a trail of Styrofoam cups and chicken bones, as if the river was a bin that would empty itself by morning.

It felt like watching someone scribble over a painting with a blunt pen. Wayil, that river carved out of glacier and stone, was still stunning. But it was carrying more than just snowmelt now.

Kashmir is full of places like this. Natural, unguarded, and deeply loved. And yet, love alone doesn't keep a place clean.

Wayil is not just a picnic spot. It feeds farms, quenches villages, offers escape to city dwellers aching

According to recent data, water quality in streams like the Sindh is steadily declining, especially in highfootfall areas. What begins as a wrapper or a bottle ends up in our crops, our homes, our children's bodies.

Still, Wayil hasn't turned its back. It keeps flowing, forgiving more than it should.

I saw a boy, maybe ten years old, picking up someone else's trash. No one had told him to. He stuffed wrappers into a plastic bag without fuss. No one clapped, no one posted it online But that small act stayed with me.

It reminded me that fixing things doesn't always require campaigns or policies. Sometimes it's just a matter of noticing, then choosing not to look away. We left before sunset, the river

still singing behind us, softer now, almost like a whisper.

On the drive back, I kept thinking of that boy. And of the water he saved with his silent act. Wayil deserves that kind of care.

Not because it's a perfect place. But

because it still believes we're capable

of being gentler than we've been. The author is an undergraduate student at GDC Ganderbal.

Why Titles Still Matter

The education system in Jammu and Kashmir is struggling under a burden of titles that separate teachers by entry route, not merit. It's time for one cadre, one identity.

Irshad Ahmad Wani

staffrooms across Jammu and Kashmir, the divide doesn't begin with disagreement over pedagogy or curriculum. It begins with a label. "Direct Recruit," "SSRB Appointee," "ReT," "Grade II," "Third Teacher".

These titles were once administrative in nature, but they've now become badges of rank in a system where all teachers are supposed to serve the

same purpose: to educate. These designations were never meant to measure talent. But over time, they've become a shorthand for judgment.

A teacher hired through a part lar exam is seen as more competent than one recruited through a government scheme, even if both stand before the same blackboard, teach the same syllabus, and bring the same qualifications.

In the corridors of the education department, this has taken on a deeper meaning.

Teachers who began their journey as Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT), a now-regularized group that has served in some of the hardest-to-reach corners of the region, still find themselves defined by that original tag.

Despite having upgraded their qualifications, served with distinction, and led key training and curriculum

initiatives, they are often dismissed as lesser simply because of how they entered the system.

Some of these very teachers now design state-level content, serve as resource persons at SCERT and DIETs, and mentor others in teacher training

They have guided students from underserved regions who have gone on to clear national exams and secure prestigious jobs.

Yet the stigma lingers. Not because

of performance, but because of a label. This fractured identity has spawned fragmented teacher unions, each aligned with a specific recruitment category. Rather than one collective voice advocating for educational reforms, there are competing interests, sometimes working at odds with one another.

The result is a fractured teaching force, burdened with mistrust, where morale suffers and collaboration is

The long-term damage isn't just internal. Students, too, are affected. A teacher who feels alienated or unfairly judged is less likely to feel empowered. The classroom absorbs this strain.

It doesn't have to be this way. Once a teacher is appointed and regularised, they should be considered part of one unified cadre. The focus

should shift to what actually matters: how they teach, what they bring to the classroom, and how well they continue to learn and grow.

We need to retire the outdated tags and move toward a merit-driven system. Departmental exams can offer a fair and transparent way forward, making sure promotions are tied to knowledge, leadership, and ability, not old hierarchies.

From teachers to masters, headmasters to principals, every level should be earned through performance, not

The National Education Policy 2020 points in this direction. It calls for systems rooted in equity, quality, and ac countability.

To align with that vision, we must dismantle the internal caste system that our teacher designations have become.

At the heart of this is something simple: no matter how they entered the system, a teacher's real title should be earned through their passion, not their paperwork.

And the only thing that should matter in a classroom is the learning taking place inside it.

The author is a teacher in the School Education Department of Jammu and

Kashmir Misses Class

From Gurez to Pahalgam, students deserve schools that don't freeze, flood, or fall.

Mohammad Amin Mir

ducation in Kashmir is still at the mercy of

the sky.
When it snows, schools shut down.
When the cold seeps through the tin roofs, students stay home. When the sun turns classrooms into ovens in the summer, teachers cut lessons short

Rain floods the footpaths. Wind breaks the windows. And in every season, learning bends before the weather.

This isn't about a few stormy days. In Kashmir, it means months of lost time - an entire generation whose school years are stitched with long, avoidable gaps.

The phrase "all-weather school" might sound like a fancy policy buzzword. But here in the Valley, it's the difference between learning and being left behind.

Across districts like Kupwara, Gurez, Kulgam, and Shopian, school buildings were never made to handle the climate they exist in. Most are single-storey government structures with tin sheets for roofs and walls built from low-grade

In winter, they freeze. In summer, they roast.

In the rain, they leak. Insulation is unheard of. Heating is rare. Windows rattle loose in the wind, and broken glass stays taped for weeks.

It's no surprise that come December, schools shut their gates. But it doesn't end there. In March, many remain shut because the buildings are still damp or damaged. In July, classes are cancelled because the rooms are unbearably hot. In September, floods wash away roads. The school calendar in Kashmir is not driven

by pedagogy. It's driven by weather reports.

And when schools are technically open, many aren't functional. In villages like Zaloora or Keller, students sit hunched in unlit rooms, their fingers too stiff to write, their minds too tired to focus. Teachers wrap themselves in shawls, hoping the students won't notice their own discomfort. In some places, classes are held inside abandoned ration stores or half-built Panchayat

This is not how a country educates its children.

We talk of digital India, smart classrooms, AI in education. But in large parts of Kashmir, children still learn in structures that cannot even keep out the wind.

Contrast this with countries where winter is

longer and harsher: Finland, Canada, Norway. They have schools that function year-round, come snow or storm. Their buildings are insulated. Their heating systems work. Their students wear thermal uniforms and get to class on snow-cleared roads. The difference isn't climate. It's design, and intent.

That same intent was visible in a small corner of Kashmir in a recent past.

In 2023, the district administration in Bandipora ran a pilot in Gurez. Three schools were kept open through a 45-day winter window. They provided basic heating, thermal uniforms, snow learance, and medical kits.

Over a hundred students showed up, daily. Attendance was steady. Learning outcomes remained stable. It didn't take much. Just care, coordination, and a few room heaters. If Gurez, one of Kashmir's coldest and most

cut-off regions, can keep schools open with minimal resources, what's stopping the rest of the Valley? The problem is not the weather. It's that our

schools were never built to resist it.

We need a statewide push for all-weather schooling in Kashmir. That means retrofitting existing buildings with insulation panels, replacing tin roofs with heat-retaining structures, and installing affordable solar or electric heat-

It means switching to double-glazed PVC windows, distributing proper winter uniformsfleece jackets, gloves, boots-and redesigning school calendars so learning doesn't halt for three months straight.

Relying on online classes during closures is a fantasy. Most rural schools don't have reliable internet. Many families don't have smartphones. But preloaded tablets, solar teaching kits, and TV or radio content in local dialects can bridge the gap, if we plan ahead.

Even more critical is access. In many hill villages, children have to cross iced-over bridges or hike slippery paths to get to school. During heavy snowfall, they simply can't.

In these areas, the government must provide alternate solutions: heated hostels, emergency transport, or smaller community classrooms closer to home.

Teachers need support, too. A winter hardship allowance could keep more qualified staff posted in remote areas. Rotational postings and short-term incentives would ensure schools stay staffed, even in extreme months.

And then there's the biggest challenge: trust. Many parents in Kashmir keep children home out of fear: illness, injury, exposure. That won't change unless schools offer safe, warm, reliable spaces. Awareness campaigns, community inspections, and real-time grievance systems can rebuild that trust.

None of this is out of reach. What it requires is political will, and a shift in priorities. We spend crores on road beautification and flyovers. The cost of properly winterizing a school is less than a district collector's annual travel budget.

If India wants to build a knowledge economy, it must start with the roof and walls of its classrooms. Not in New Delhi, but in the border villages of Karnah. Not in Bangalore's tech schools,

but in the primary schools of Doda and Pulwama. A child in Srinagar deserves the same chance to learn, every day of the year, as one in Surat or Chennai. Geography must not dictate literacy.

Weather must not cancel curiosity. All-weather schools aren't a luxury. In Kashmir, they're the foundation of justice.

The author is a columnist and development writer focusing on education, rural governance, and institutional reform in Jammu & Kashmir.

New Tech Tracks Blood Sodium Without Needle: Study

ANI

cientists have developed a new method to monitor sodium levels in the blood without drawing a single drop.

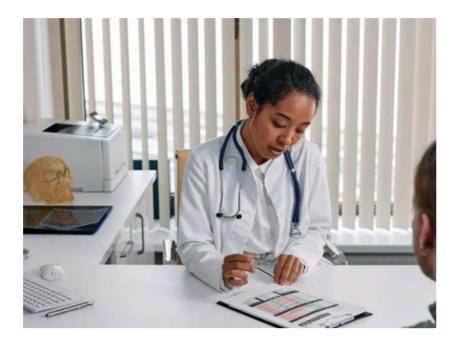
By combining terahertz radiation and optoacoustic detection, they created a non-invasive system that tracks sodium in real-time, even through the skin. The approach bypasses traditional barriers, such as water interference, and opens up the potential for fast and safe diagnostics in humans.

Accurate measurement of blood sodium is essential for diagnosing and managing conditions such as dehydration, kidney disease and certain neurological and endocrine disorders.

Terahertz radiation, which falls between microwaves and the mid-infrared region of the electromagnetic spectrum, is ideal for biological applications because it is low-energy and non-harmful to tissues, scatters less than near-infrared and visible light and is sensitive to structural and functional biological changes.

"For biomedical applications, terahertz spectroscopy still faces two key challenges: detecting molecules other than water in complex biological samples and penetrating thick tissue layers to enable detection inside the body," said research team leader Zhen Tian from Tianjin University in China.

"By adding optoacoustic detection, we were able to overcome these challenges and demonstrate



For biomedical applications, terahertz spectroscopy still faces two key challenges: detecting molecules other than water in complex biological samples and penetrating thick tissue layers to enable detection inside the body

the first in vivo detection of ions using terahertz waves. This is an important step toward making terahertz-based techniques practical for clinical use," added Zhen.

In Optica, the flagship journal of Optica Publishing Group for high-impact research, researchers describe their new multispectral terahertz optoacoustic system and demonstrate that it can be used for non-invasive, long-term monitoring of sodium concentration in live mice without the need for labels.

Preliminary tests performed with human volunteers were also promising.

"With further development, this technology could be used to monitor sodium levels in patients without the need for blood draws," said Tian.

"The real-time sodium measurements could be used to safely correct imbalances in critical patients while avoiding dangerous neurological complications that can occur when sodium levels rapidly change," added Tian.

To test their new system, the researchers showed that it could measure increases in blood sodium levels in blood vessels under the skin of living mice on the millisecond timescale for over 30 minutes. These measurements were taken from the ear, with the skin surface cooled to 8 °C to dampen the background optoacoustic signal from water.

The researchers also demonstrated that the terahertz optoacoustic system could quickly distinguish between high and low sodium levels in human blood samples.

Finally, they noninvasively measured sodium ion levels in the blood vessels of the hands of healthy volunteers.

They found that the detected optoacoustic signal from sodium was proportional to the amount of blood flow under the skin surface, even though measurements were collected without any skin cooling.

Although further work is required, these results suggest that the system may be helpful for non-invasive, real-time monitoring.

The researchers say that adapting the system for human use will require identifying suitable detection sites on the human body -- such as inside of the mouth -- that can tolerate rapid cooling and allow strong signal detection with minimal water background noise.

They are also exploring alternative signal processing methods that might make it possible to suppress water interference without the need for cooling, making the approach more practical for clinical diagnostics.

From Office of the Advocate Muneer

In the case of

Mohammad Yousuf Bhat S/o Ali Mohammad Bhat R/O, Om-Buran, Tehsil Pattan

(Caveator)

Sd/advocate

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.

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Tilgam

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed birth

Public Notice

The registar Births and deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Kishan Jeet Singh S/o Hari Singh R/O Dardpora Tehsil pattan District Baramulla with vertified date of event (birth) as 01-03-1968 occurred at Home In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained.

. Executive Magistrate 1st Class Naib Tehsildar Tilgam

Naid Tensildar Tilgam

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Sub: Application of Abida Begum Wd/o: Gh. Ahmad Chopan R/o: Reshipora, Athoora Tehsil: Kreeri for the issuance of Legal Heir certificate.

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, in this context, a detailed report was sought from the patwari halqa concerned which reveals that Gh. Ahmad Chopan S/o: Ab. Gani Chopan passed away on 17-06-2023. Moreover, the Death Certificate issued by the Competent Authority also depicts the same.

Furthermore, the report of Patwari Concerned points out that the deceased has left behind the following Legal Heirs, tabulated as below:

S. No	Name of Legal Heir	Relation with	Age
		Deceased	
1	Abida Begum	Wd/o	50
2	Wafa Jan	D/o	23
3	Kulsuma	D/o	21
/4	Puhi lan	D/o	12

The applicant has applied for the issuance of a Legal Heir certificate. As such the instant matter is published through the newspaper. If anyone has any kind of objection, He/She may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) of the publication of this notice. After passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), No objections will be entertained.

Road Naib Tehsildar



YouTube

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

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VOX POP

UNRAVEL KASHMIR

India Not In List Of Countries Named By Trump For Tariffs So Far



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India, which is negotiating a trade pact with the US, has not figured in the list of countries that have been issued tariff letters by the Trump administration on Wednesday so far.

The decision will provide relief to Indian exporters, as both countries are currently engaged in negotiations for a trade agreement.

The US has issued tariff letters to about 20 countries so far.

US President Donald Trump sent out tariff letters to six trading partners on Wednesday and pledged to announce import taxes on more countries

later in the night.

The Trump administration, on Monday, sent the first tranche of letters to 14 countries detailing the tariffs that the US will impose on products from those countries entering American markets from August 1

Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, South Africa, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Lao, Serbia and Tunisia are among the countries that received letters signed by US President Donald Trump.

On Wednesday, Libya, Iraq, Algeria (30 per cent), Moldova, Brunei (25 per cent), and the Philippines (20 per cent) have received tariff letters so far.

On April 2, the US imposed an additional 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods but suspended it for 90 days till July 9. Now it has been deferred to August 1.

However, the 10 per cent baseline tariff imposed by America remains in place.

The US is India's largest trading partner from 2021-22. During 2024-25, the bilateral trade in goods stood at USD 131.84 billion (USD 86.51 billion worth of exports, USD 45.33 billion of imports and USD 41.18 billion trade surplus).

Gold Declines ₹700 To ₹98,420/10 G Ahead Of US Fed's FOMC Minutes



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices declined by Rs 700 to Rs 98,420 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday in line with weak global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 99,120 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity depreciated by Rs 600 to Rs 98,000 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had settled at Rs 98,600 per 10 grams on Tuesday.

Additionally, silver prices plunged by Rs 800 to Rs 1,04,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) on Wednesday. The white metal had ended at Rs 1,04,800 per kg in the previous market close.

"Gold prices are experiencing selling pressure on Wednesday due to reduced expectations for a Federal Reserve rate cut in July and a strengthening US dollar.

"The US dollar remains strong, trading near a two-week high, as market participants anticipate that the Fed will maintain elevated interest rates considering expected worsening inflation driven by higher import taxes and a resilient US labour market," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said. On the global front, spot gold went lower by USD 11.66 or 0.35 per cent to USD 3 280 81 per cent.

cent to USD 3,289.81 per ounce.
"Gold prices dropped below
USD 3,300 per ounce as markets
balanced US interest rate cut prospects with new trade risks," Rahul
Kalantri, Vice-President of Commodities, Mehta Equities, said.

President Donald Trump on Tuesday ruled out extending the August 1 tariff deadline and unveiled sweeping new measures, including a 50 per cent tariff on copper and possible 200 per cent duties on pharmaceuticals.

The tariffs are expected to stoke US inflation, trimming the likelihood of more aggressive Federal Reserve easing. Investors will be awaiting the June FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) minutes later in the day for further clues on the Fed's interest path, Kalantri added.

Don't Aggressively Push Loans, Keep Interest Rates Reasonable: FM To NBFCs

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday asked NBFCs not to aggressively market or push loans to customers and said financial inclusion cannot be used as a pretext for "financial exploitation".

She also asked non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to adhere to the Reserve Bank of India's loan recovery norms strictly, and keep interest rates at reasonable levels.

Addressing an NBFC Symposium 2025 here, Sitharaman said there should be deep collaboration between NBFCs and banks, especially through co-lending arrangements for providing loans to the priority sector.

"Financial inclusion cannot be used as a pretext for financial exploitation," she said, adding that the lending should be based on the genuine needs and repayment capacity of customers.

Loans should not be aggressively marketed or pushed onto individuals, the minister said, stressing that the recovery process should be fair, empathetic and in a respectful manner, in strict accordance with the RBI's Fair Practices Code.

"...it (loan recovery) is part of your duty, but it's not part of your duty to be heartless... So the same message is that the push for growth should not come at the expense of customer wellbeing. Let's be clear on that," she told NBFCs, which are about 9,000 in numbers.

The minister further said as the NBFC model matures,



the focus on risk management should increase.

Risk-taking, Sitharaman told NBFCs, must be well-planned and data-driven, and never beyond the absorption capacity of the entity concerned.

Sitharaman emphasised that liquidity and credit risks must be rigorously assessed and managed, while robust internal controls should ensure oversight on asset-liability mismatches, nature and tenor of the funding sources, and concentration risks.

A sustainable business model must be the cornerstone of the sector's growth, and at the heart of a sustainable credit landscape lies a financially aware and literate customer, she said.

Loan book of NBFCs has doubled to Rs 48 lakh crore in March 2025 in the past four years from Rs 24 lakh crore.

They currently account for about 24 per cent of the volume of credit disbursed by commercial banks and the aim should be to reach 50 per cent, she said.

"NBFCs are no longer 'shadow banks' -- their stronger

regulation and oversight is the best testimony of their importance in the financial system and the broader economy," Sitharaman added.

Sitharman, who also holds the portfolio of Corporate Affairs Ministry, said as India moves forward, NBFCs will have a key role in meeting the credit needs of the future, including in areas like green initiatives, affordable housing, and MSMEs.

She said the reach of NBFCs is their biggest strength.

"By 2047, at least 50 per cent of NBFC credit should be directed towards high-growth, high-impact sectors," she said.

NBFCs' fundamentals have been underpinned by strong capital buffers, robust interest margins and earnings and low levels of impairment, Sitharaman said.

Recent regulatory measures such as the restoration of risk weights on bank lending and the easing of financial conditions are expected to further improve credit prospects, strengthening the overall funding environment for the sector, the finance minister said.



NBFCS ARE NO LONGER 'SHADOW BANKS' -- their

stronger regulation and oversight is the best testimony of their importance in the financial system and the broader economy,"

CBI Secures Extradition Of Fugitive Economic Offender From US

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The CBI successfully extradited alleged economic offender Monika Kapoor from the United States on Wednesday, bringing an end to her more than 25-year flight from justice, officials said.

Kapoor, who had an Interpol Red Notice against her, was taken into custody in the US by a CBI team which has boarded an American Airlines flight AA 292 expected to land here Wednesday night, they said.

This marks the second major success for the agency in recent days, following the arrest of Nehal Modi in the US through sustained cooperation with American authorities.

"This extradition marks a major breakthrough in the pursuit of justice and reiterates CBI's commitment to bringing fugitives to face the law in India, irrespective of international boundaries. The CBI team is returning to India with the fugitive. Monika will be produced before the court con-

cerned and she will now face the trial," CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

In total, the CBI has secured the return of more than 100 fugitives in recent years through mutual legal assistance or Interpol coordination, setting a record of sorts in cross-border enforcement.



Kapoor, the owner of Monika Overseas, in conspiracy with her brothers Rajan Khanna and Rajiv Khanna, allegedly forged export documents - shipping bills, invoices and bank certificates of export and realisation in 1998, the CBI spokesperson said here.

She, along with her two

brothers, allegedly forged documents to obtain six replenishment licences meant for importing duty-free materials for jewellery manufacturing and export, the agency said.

In furtherance of the criminal conspiracy, they sold the licences to Deep Exports, Ahmedabad on a premium, she said.

Deep Exports, Ahmedabad used the said licences and imported duty free gold which caused loss to the government exchequer to the extent of Rs 1.44 crore, the spokesperson said.

A charge sheet against her and her brothers was filed on March 31, 2004 for alleged criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, District Court Saket, New Delhi had convicted Rajan Khanna and Rajeev Khanna in 2017.

Kapoor did not join the investigation and trial, and she was declared a proclaimed offender by the court on February 13, 2006.

DRDO Boosts Indigenous Defence Manufacturing With Over 2,000 Tech Transfers In 2024: Official

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA- The DRDO has significantly advanced India's self-reliance in defence manufacturing, signing over 2,000 licensing agreements for technology transfer and issuing more than 200 production licenses in 2024, an official said on Wednesday.

The official also highlighted that over 130 industries have been identified as development partners or production agencies in the last five years, bolstering indigenous defence capabilities.

"Over 2000 agreeme

"Over 2000 agreements were signed for technology transfer licenses," Chandrika Kaushik, Director General (PC&SI) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said while speaking at the CII Manufacturing Conclave East in Kolkata.

Under the Technology De-

velopment Fund (TDF) scheme, private industries are actively contributing core technologies, with DRDO providing financial support of up to Rs 50 crore per system along with technical guidance.

Scientists from DRDO labs are closely mentoring these industries to ensure successful outcomes, she added.

The conclave also featured insights from industry leaders, including Sudhanshu Mani, considered the brain behind Vande Bharat, who stressed the need for manufacturing to

align with logistics, while Tata Steel's Ashish Anupam noted the eastern region's growth outpacing the national average.

CII's Market Facilitation Services (MFS) initiative was also discussed, aimed at helping Indian industries expand globally.

Stock Markets Close Lower Amid Caution Ahead Of Ql Earnings; IT, Oil Shares Drag



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Stock markets closed lower on Wednesday due to selling in IT and oil & gas shares as investors turned cautious ahead of the start of earnings season and mixed global trends.

Dragged by late selling, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 176.43 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 83,536.08. During the day, it lost 330.23 points or 0.39 per cent to 83,382.28.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 46.40 points or 0.18 per cent to end at 25,476.10.

From the Sensex firms, HCL Tech, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Bharat Electronics and ICICI Bank were among the laggards.

Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, UltraTech Cement and Power Grid were among the gainers.

"Indian key indices remained largely range-bound, while domestic consumption themes continued to anchor investor sentiment. Despite global trade tensions and commodity tariffs, investor focus is increasingly shifting toward domestic earnings and structural growth drivers, including a likely sequential recovery in urban demand and a pickup in infrastructure-led spending," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

The US has extended the suspension of its April 2 reciprocal tariffs until August 1.

Shares of mining giant Vo

Shares of mining giant Vedanta dropped 3.38 per cent to end at Rs 440.80 on the BSE after US short seller Viceroy Research released a report charging bil-

lionaire Anil Agarwal's mining conglomerate to be "financially unsustainable" and posing a severe risk to creditors.

Viceroy said it was shorting the debt stack of Vedanta Resources, the parent company and majority owner of Mumbailisted Vedanta Ltd, as it released the 85-page report.

the 85-page report.

Responding to the report, Vedanta in a statement said, "The report is a malicious combination of selective misinformation and baseless allegations to discredit the Group".

"Markets traded in a volatile but in a narrow range and ended marginally lower, extending the ongoing consolidation phase. While the tariff-related concerns linger, the focus now shifts to the earnings season, with IT major, TCS, scheduled to announce its results on Thursday, July 10," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

The BSE SmallCap gauge climbed 0.45 per cent while midcap index dipped 0.05 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, oil & gas dropped the most by 1.41 per cent. Metal (1.41 per cent), realty (1.40 per cent), BSE Focused IT (0.80 per cent), teck (0.71 per cent) and IT (0.67 per cent) were among the losers.

FMCG, auto, consumer durables, services, consumer discretionary and dinancial services were the gainers.

"Indian equity benchmarks ended lower on Wednesday as caution persisted amid uncertainty around the India-US trade deal and the kick-off of the Q1 earnings season," Gaurav Garg, Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

Samsung Launches 3 New Foldable Smartphones

Press Trust Of India

NEW YORK- Samsung Electronics on Wednesday announced the launch of three new models in its premium foldable Galaxy series, with enhanced features including a wider screen, reduced weight, a 200 megapixel wideangle camera and innovations in AI.

It has unveiled Galaxy Z Fold7 and Galaxy Z Flip7, along with Galaxy Z Flip7 FE, a new addition in the fold family series here at Brooklyn.

Fold7, which is now the seventh generation of the Galaxy Z Fold series, is the thinnest and lightest to date and is powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite processor, which can seamlessly process more AI experiences on-device without compromise.

With a weight of 215 grams, Galaxy Z Fold7 is even lighter than Galaxy S25 Ultra, said Samsung in a statement.

It is just 8.9 mm thick when folded and 4.2 mm thick when unfolded. Moreover, it has 8-inch 5 Dynamic AMOLED 2x main display, which is 11 per cent larger than the previous generation, providing more space for content editing and multitasking.

"Galaxy Z Fold7 combines Galaxy AI with powerful hardware to deliver our most advanced smartphone experience yet," said TM Roh, President and Acting Head of the Device eXperience (DX) Division at Samsung Electronics.

Delhi Airport Sees 6 Flight Diversions Due To Bad Weather



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- A total of six flights were diverted and scores of flights were delayed at the Delhi airport due to inclement weather conditions on Wednesday evening, according to a source.

Rains lashed parts of the national capital on Wednesday evening, and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said moderate to intense rainfall, accompanied by a moderate thunderstorm and lightning, is very likely to occur across Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).

Four flights were diverted to Jaipur and two flights were diverted to Lucknow, the source said.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) is the country's largest airport, handling around 1,300 flight movements daily.

Chipmaker Nvidia Becomes World's Most Valuable Company At \$4 Trillion

Associated Press

NEW YORK- Chipmaker Nvidia became the first public company to top \$4 trillion in value on Wednesday after two-year investor frenzy.

Nvidia shares rose 2.5%, or \$3.97, in early trading

Nvidia shares rose 2.5%, or \$3.97, in early trading Wednesday, topping \$164 each. At the beginning of 2023, Nvidia shares were around \$14 each.

The poster child of the AI boom, Nvidia has grown into largest company on Wall Street, surpassing Microsoft, Apple, Amazon and Google — it is now worth over \$3 trillion — and the stock's movement carries more weight on the S&P 500 and other indexes than every company except Apple.

Two years ago, Nvidia's market value was below \$600

Nvidia and other companies benefiting from the AI boom have been a major reason the S&P 500 has climbed to record after record recently, with the latest coming last week.

Their explosion of profits has helped to propel the market despite worries about stubbornly high inflation and possible pain coming for the US economy from tariffs and other policies of President Donald Trump.

Rupee Ends Flat Against US Dollar

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The rupee closed flat at 85.73 against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking a sluggish trend in the domestic equity market amid persistent foreign capital outflows. A firm US dollar in overseas markets and crude oil staying near USD 70 per barrel also impacted sentiments, forex dealers said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened weak at 85.84 against the US dollar, and traded in a range of 85.93 and 85.65 during the day. The local unit finally closed unchanged at 85.73. On Tuesday, the rupee rose by 21 paise to 85.73 against the US dollar.

"The rupee opened weak near 85.90 against the dollar but recovered slightly after initial losses. Ongoing trade deal negotiations and tariff delay extensions provided some relief, helping the rupee stabilise and limit further downside near the 86.00 mark. The rupee is expected to trade within a range of 85.30 to 86.20," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.33 per cent to USD 70.38 per barrel in futures trade.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, climbed 0.03 per cent to 97.02.

DGP Reviews Security Situation In North Kashmir



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director General of Police, J&K, Nalin Prabhat (IPS), conducted a comprehensive review of the security situation in North Kashmir on Wednesday.

Accompanied by Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, the DGP chaired a highlevel meeting with the Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) of North Kashmir districts to assess the prevailing law and order and operational preparedness.

Later, the DGP interacted with personnel from the Special Operations Group (SOG) and other ground forces deployed in the area. He commended their unwavering commitment, professionalism, and tireless efforts in upholding peace and stability

PM Conferred With Namibia's Highest Civilian Award

KO Web Desk

Srinagar:India and Namibia Wednesday signed MoUs in the field of Health and Medicine, and on setting Entrepreneurship Development Center in Namibia and on Cooperation. An announcement on launching of Digital Payments system in Namibia later this year also took place. Letters of acceptance for Namibia's joining of CDRI and Global Biofuels Alliance have also been presented. The MoUs have been signed after the delegationlevel talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah at the State House in the Namibian capital, Windhoek

Later, Prime Minister Modi was conferred with Namibia's highest civilian award, the Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis, in recognition of his contributions to



strengthening bilateral ties. The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the Namibian government and people. He said the honour is a testament to the everlasting friendship between India and Namibia. Modi noted that India and Namibia have stood by each other since the time of their respective freedom struggles. This marks the 27th award received by Prime Minister Modi and the 4th during his ongoing tour.

Prime Minister Modi also paid tribute to Sam Nujoma, the founding father of the Namibian nation, at the National Memorial Heroes' Acre in Windhoek.

Prime Minister Modi in a social media post said that he reviewed the full range of India-Namibia relations during the talks with Namibian President. He said, Cooperation in areas such as digital technology, defence, security, agriculture, healthcare, education and critical minerals figured prominently during discussions.

The Prime Minister will address the Parliament of

Namibia, marking a significant moment in the ongoing relationship between the two nations. This is the first visit of Modi to the resource-rich South African Country, and the third ever Prime Ministerial visit from India to Namibia, which is coming after nearly three decades. Earlier in the morning, Modi reached Windhoek in the final leg of his five-nation tour.

India and Namibia today signed two MoUs and and three major announcements were made. Addressing the media on the sidelines of the visit, Secretary Economic Relations of Ministry of External Affairs Dammu Ravi said Namibia is the first country in the world where NPCI has done a technology agreement with a central bank for the implementation of UPI like payment system in the country. Both the leaders also touched upon the multilateral issues like condemnation of terrorism and reforming of the multilateral institution. (PB/Shabd)

CONTD. FROM FRONT **PAGE**

Rain Brings

7.3 degrees below normal; and the famed ski resort of Gulmarg recorded just 15.6°C, 6.2 degrees below the seasonal average.

In the Jammu region, temperatures also dipped significantly. Jammu city recorded a maximum of 31.4°C, 4 degrees below normal. Banihal registered 25.5°C (3.8 degrees below normal), Batote 23.3°C (4.2 below normal), Katra 28.8°C (3.4 below normal), and Bhaderwah 25.4°C (5.6 below normal).

Director of the Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said generally cloudy skies are expected on Thursday with intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershowers likely at many places. "A few areas in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions may witness intense showers and torrential rain. Heavy rainfall is also likely at isolated locations in Jammu division," he said.

He further added that from July 11 to 13, the weather is expected to turn hot and humid again, though isolated spells of light rain and thundershowers may occur. Another round of light to moderate showers is likely from July 14

Meanwhile, the MeT department has issued an advisory warning of potential flash floods at vulnerable locations, along with the risk of landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones in hilly areas. A possible rise in the water levels of rivers, streams, and local nallahs, as well as waterlogging in low-lying areas, has also been

Farmers have been advised to suspend irrigation and other agricultural activities until Thursday in view of the prevailing weather

Govt May Revisit

recent shift to early morning school timings was a temporary measure taken in response to the intense heatwave that swept across the Valley earlier this month.

"The early morning schedule was imple mented to protect students from heat-related distress while keeping academics on track," she said. "We are grateful for the rains, and now that weather conditions are improving, we are open to reviewing school timings."

The Minister stressed that academic policies in Jammu & Kashmir must consider the region's unique climatic challenges. "This is not America; this is Jammu and Kashmir," she said, responding to questions on inadequate heating infrastructure during winter. "With nearly 28,000 schools in the UT, providing heating in each one is not practically possible. Decisions have to be grounded in local weather realities.'

She further said the health and safety of students remain the government's top priority. "You cannot cancel winter vacations and expect children to attend school in sub-zero temperatures. Terrain, snow, and cold must be factored into our decisions," she said.

Itoo acknowledged the concerns raised by parents and civil society groups over the early school timings. "We will do everything we can to ensure that students continue their education without discomfort or disruption," she

The School Education Department had recently announced early school timings — 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM within Srinagar municipal limits and 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM in other areas - which drew criticism from parents and educators citing safety and logistical issues, especially in rural and hilly belts.

The Minister's comments suggest that a revision of the schedule may soon be on the cards, as the administration weighs feedback and shifting weather patterns.

J&K Tourism Bouncing

During the same event, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, referred to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack — which claimed 26 civilian lives as an "Amavas ki kali raat" (a dark moonless night), and urged people to focus on the future with resilience and unity.

"We must not let one dark night define the future. We have to forget the Pahalgam terror attack as 'Amavas ki kali raat' and focus on building a brighter tomorrow," Shekhawat said while addressing the Tourism Secretaries' Meet of Union Territories.

Rs 75 Lakh Refunded

by promising them government jobs in exchange for money. The fraud came to light when Arun Sharma, a resident of Nagrota, filed a complaint on November 6, 2023. An FIR was subsequently registered under various sections of the BNS at Nagrota Police Station.

Following the investigation, police discovered a property transaction involving Harpreet Singh's mother, Paramjeet Kaur, and Kamaljeet Kaur, the wife of co-accused Surinder Singh. The transaction was for a double-storey duplex in Channi Bheja, Jammu, valued at 2.22 crore—money which police said came directly from the scam.

Records showed that 1.93 crore had been transferred to Surinder and Kamaljeet through a combination of cash and digital payments. Acting on this evidence, the Jammu Chief Judicial Magistrate passed an attachment order under Section 107(5) of BNSS on January 18, 2024. A 14-day show-cause notice was also served to justify the source of funds.

During court proceedings, Kamaljeet Kaur admitted to receiving 1.53 crore from Harpreet Singh and voluntarily agreed to return the money. The court upheld the property attachment until the admitted sum was repaid and prohibited the sale or transfer of the

Following court directions, a dedicated account was created to collect and distribute the recovered money among verified victims. On Wednesday, cheques amounting to 75 lakh were handed over to 17 victims.

SSP Joginder Singh said the action marks a paradigm shift in how fraud victims are treated. "The BNSS empowers police to not only bring criminals to justice but also ensure restitution to those who suffered," he said.

The police also warned that strict action would continue against fraudsters, and urged the public to remain cautious against job scams and impersonators.

Ladakh LG Empowered

except with the previous approval of the Central Government," reads the notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

J&K Gets 4,224

13 roads, ₹95.45 crore (Baramulla, Bhijama,

63.29 crore (Frisal, Kulgam: 13 roads, Manzgam, DH Pora)

Pulwama: 12 roads, 97.60 crore (Aripal, Tral, Pampore)

Bandipora: 9 roads, 8.57 crore (Bandipora, Gurez, Hajin)

Ganderbal: 8 roads, 37.90 crore (Gund, Bracelet, Lar) Anantnag: 7 roads, 3.51 crore (Bring,

Pahalgam) Jammu: 6 roads, 84.31 crore (Nagrota, Bhalwal Brahmana)

Samba: 3 roads. 67.81 crore (Nud, Purmandal, Samba)

Sources said the Ministry had earlier sought detailed reports on roadless villages from the J&K government. Following field assessments by central officers, the project was formally sanctioned, and the final list of roads was shared with senior UT officials.

With Central Government approval in place, the Public Works Department (PWD) of Jammu and Kashmir has already initiated the tender-

The project is expected to significantly boost rural connectivity, improving access to healthcare, education, and markets for residents in remote and underdeveloped regions of the Union Territory.

Strengthen Nakas,

He stressed the importance of meticulous planning and execution of security measures to address any potential threats.

Officers were instructed to conduct regular reviews and mock drills to ensure effective implementation of all plans.

Sharma also directed thorough checking of vehicles and proper verification of vendors, with immediate action in case of any suspi-

He asked officers to pay special attention to the security of pilgrims en route, at lodgement centres, at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp, and "All officers were exhorted to implement

Operation Third Eye in their respective jurisdictions in coordination with other stakeholders for foolproof security of the vatris," he stated. The DIG also instructed officers and person-

nel deployed on yatra duty and highway routes to remain extra vigilant at their assigned posts. During the visit, Sharma interacted with

yatris, urging those in private vehicles to follow police instructions and preferably travel in

official convoys for a safe journey. He inspected joint checkposts, ambush

points, Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), Road Opening Parties (RoPs), and border posts, and met with Village Defence Guard members across Jammu, Samba, and Kathua.

He reminded them of the sensitivity of their roles and advised heightened alertness.

"All officers were also directed to strengthen nakas, especially in border areas and within city limits during night and early morning hours. They must also identify locations where additional nakas are required to ensure the safety of yatris," Sharma said.

He further instructed officers to maintain close coordination with Army, paramilitary, and other intelligence agencies in their respective areas and ensure real-time sharing of intelligence inputs.

HC Pulls Up

bothered about court orders. He should have been ashamed to say such words. If those words reflect the official stand of the department, it suggests a deeply problematic approach toward judicial authority.'

The bench noted that the officer seemed to believe he could act at his own discretion rather than in accordance with the court's

"Instead of initiating proceedings against the SHO, the department has permitted him to do whatever he would like to do," the court

It emphasized that no department or officer is permitted to interpret court directions based on personal whims. "All citizens, government or non-government bodies are under strict legal obligation to implement court orders word

by word, letter by letter." The court further stated:

"If the officer or his department is not willing to comply with court orders, the consequences - including contempt proceedings, disciplinary action, and payment of compensation must follow. If such disobedience is tolerated

the future of rule of law in this country is grim." The court concluded that the SHO had committed contempt by failing to comply with the Arnesh Kumar guidelines and held him guilty

of noncompliance. The SHO has been directed to personally appear before the court on July 14 to explain why he should not be punished for contempt.

The bench also instructed the police department to initiate departmental proceedings against the officer and noted that he is liable to pay compensation to the petitioner. The exact compensation amount will be decided on the next hearing date.

Itoo Blames Past

deployment plans are underway.

However, she admitted that staffing and equipment challenges remain despite improvements in infrastructure. "Buildings were constructed, but many still lack medical equipment and support staff. Now we need to consolidate," she said.

Itoo urged all stakeholders, including the media, civil society, and departments, to contribute to systemic improvements. "Healthcare reform needs collective effort. The administration is committed to bringing lasting change."

Speaking about GMC Baramulla, she said critical upgrades, including the sanctioning of a Cath Lab, MRI facility, and other equipment, have been approved through budgetary support facilitated by the Chief Minister. "Patients with heart-related ailments or those needing MRI scans should soon have access to these services locally," she said.

The Minister acknowledged governance lapses in the past, which she said led to a breakdown in work culture. "For 8-9 years, poor governance allowed doctors to skip duty and run private clinics. That's changed now. Accountability is being restored," she

Responding to concerns raised by journalists about selective media access during official visits. Itoo called for fairness and transparency. "If one media house is allowed, all should be. Either everyone gets in, or no one does. That's only fair," she said. "If exclusion happened today, I apologise. It won't happen again."

She emphasized the media's role in bridging he gap between governance and the public people don't know what the government is doing—its challenges or achievements—how can they evaluate its work?"

"While challenges persist, we are working steadily and sincerely to resolve them," she concluded.



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Tougher Batting Test Awaits India v Unsettled England

Press Trust of India

LONDON: The in-form Indian batters will back themselves to succeed on a potentially challenging surface while the bowling attack, which did not inspire confidence not so long ago, will pose a tougher test to an unsettled England with the return of Jasprit Bumrah at the Lord's Test beginning on Thursday.

With the series nicely poised at 1-1 going into the third Test, the narrative built around both the teams has changed significantly following India's 336-run

routing of England at Edgbaston.
If it wasn't for the dropped catches and lower-order collapses at Leeds, India would have been 2-0 up in the five-match

Considering the inexperience of the Indian squad under new captain Shubman Gill, the team has not only competed but has won majority of the sessions over the course of the two Tests.

England, on the other hand, were expected to steamroll the opposition following the retirements of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli but India's performance thus far has been a testament to their depth and rich talent.



The mountains of runs scored by Gill and Co. have forced Ben Stokes to depart from their original template: prepare flat tracks and bat the opposition out of the game.

The roaring success of the In-

dian batters on flat tracks has proved counter productive for the hosts who are now expected to dish out a surface offering a fair amount of seam movement. Add to that a rather unique challenge of a slope -- that runs up

and down -- at the iconic Lord's. The tourists have little to worry about in the batting department barring the form of Karun Nair, who has looked a tad uncomfortable against the ball that jumps from length. Trust England to pepper Yashasvi Jaiswal with short stuff into the body but like he often does, the Indian opener will find a way to score runs.

The only expected change in India's playing eleven will be Bumrah coming in place of Prasidh Krishna. Serious question marks were raised over the efficacy of the Indian pacers after Leeds but the trio of Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj and Bumrah gives a potent look to the attack.

The England bowling attack will be strengthened with the return of Jofra Archer, who re-

placed Josh Tongue.

On the batting front, pressure will be on opener Zak Crawley after twin failures at Edgbaston while more runs are expected from the bat of skipper Ben Stokes, who did not take much time to gain rhythm with the ball but the same can't be said about his batting.

Crowd turnout has been exceptional in the series thus far and Lord's will be another sellout, adding to the excitement built by the competitive nature of both teams.

Match Starts: 3:30pm IST.

Archer In As England Announce Playing XI



tar pacer Jofra Archer is set to feature in his first Test since 2021 as England included him in their playing XI for the third match

against India on a spicy surface at Lord's. The five-match series is locked 1-1 at the moment and heading into the third Test, England are hoping to add some spark to their bowling attack with the long-awaited comeback of Archer, who had been laid low by multiple injuries

Archer comes in place of Josh Tongue.
Archer has only played white-ball cricket for England since 2021 after elbow and back

The 30-year-old pacer has taken 42 wickets in 13 Tests at an average of 31.04 since making his debut against Australia in 2019.

England won the series opener at Leeds before India staged a remarkable comeback to restore

parity with a massive victory at Birmingham. England playing XI: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (capt), Jamie Smith (wk), Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse, Jofra Archer, Shoaib Bashir. (PTI)

Shubham Gill Storms Into Top-10 For First Time

ndia captain Shubman Gill on Wednesday broke into the top-10 of the ICC men's Test batting rankings for the first time in his career after a record-breaking performance

against England at Edgbaston.
Gill smashed 269 and 161 in the game -becoming only the second player in history to score more than 150 in both innings of a Test - as India thrashed England by 336 runs to level the five-match series 1-1.

This was also his first win as Test captain.
The 24-year-old, who was ranked 23rd before
the series, has jumped 15 places to a career-best No.6 in the world, as per the latest ICC Test batters' rankings released on Wednesday.

His match haul of 430 runs took his tally in the series to 585 with three Tests still to play. Gill's previous career-best rank was 14th, which he had achieved in September 2023.=

Among bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah remains the top-ranked player in Test cricket despite missing the Edgbaston game to manage his workload.

Meanwhile, England's Harry Brook has re-claimed the number 1 spot in the Test batters' rankings after scoring 158 in the first innings at

Joe Root slipped to second, 18 points behind Brook, while New Zealand's Kane Williamson is

India's Yashasvi Jaiswal is placed fourth, and Australia's Steve Smith is fifth. Gill is now only 79 rating points behind Brook. (PTI)

SA's Wiaan Mulder Panicked Under Pressure: Gayle

est Indies great Chris Gayle has criticised South Africa's stand-in skipper Wiaan Mulder for declaring the innings despite being within reach of Brian Lara's world record Test score of 400 not out, saying "he panicked and blundered, straight up".

Mulder was batting on 367, just 34 runs short of overhauling Lara's record of highest individual Test score but opted to declare South Africa's innings at 626 for five on the second day of the second Test against Zimbabwe out of respect for the West Indian legend.

"Come on, you're on 367, automatically you have to take a chance at the record. If you want to be a legend, how are you going to become a legend? Records come with being a legend," Gayle told talkSPORT.

"I think it was an error from his side, not to try and go to get it. We don't know if he would go on and get it or not. But he declared on 367, and he said what he had to say.

"But listen, it's a once in a lifetime opportunity to get 400 runs in a Test match. Come on, youngster, you've blown it big time!" (PTI)

Ancelotti Sentenced To 1-Year Jail Term In Spain

Spanish court on Wednesday sentenced Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti to a one-year prison term for tax fraud when he was Real Madrid manager in 2014. The Madrid court also fined Ancelotti

€386,000 (\$452,187). Ancelotti is the latest in a string of major

soccer profiles to face a crackdown by Spanish authorities over unpaid taxes, although none have actually been sent to prison so far. In Spain a judge can suspend a sentence of less

than two years for first-time offenders. Neither Brazil's soccer confederation nor Ancelotti's press officer responded to requests for comment from The Associated Press.

Ancelotti is one of soccer's most successful coaches. He is the only coach to have won the Champions League five times, three with Madrid and twice with AC Milan, and the only coach to have won domestic league titles in England, Spain, Italy, Germany and France. (AP)

J&K's Shaista & Farhana **Selected For India Softball Team**



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two promising women athletes from Jammu and Kashmir, Shaista Wani (Srinagar) and Farhana Rehman (Pulwama), have earned selection to represent India at the upcoming Asia Cup (Women) Championship, scheduled to be held Xi'an,

China, from July 14 to 20. Their inclusion in the Indian National Women's Softball Team underscores

competition. This championship represents a crucial opportunity for India's women's softball team to test its skills against the region's strongest sides. Shaista and Farhana both neys at an early age, dem-

Cup 2026, with the top two

teams from Asia advancing

to the prestigious global

began their sporting jouronstrating consistent performance at national events for J&K over the years. Their selection to the national team is not only a personal achievement but also an encouraging sign of the growng strength and depth o women athletes emerging from J&K.

Satish Sharma, Minister for Youth Services and Sports, J&K, congratulated the athletes, stating that the selection of Shaista Wani and Farhana Rehman to the Indian team is a proud moment for J&K and a strong testament to the rising stature of women in sports here.

Sarmad Hafeez, IAS Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department, and Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council, also lauded the two athletes.

Varmul Gindo 2025: Kabaddi & **Rugby Tournaments Conclude**



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: As part of the Varmul Gindo Sports Festival 2025, Kabaddi and Rugby tournaments concluded at Indoor Sports Stadium and Prof. Showkat Ali Stadium. Baramulla. The mega sporting event was held in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council and the Dagger Division.

In the Kabaddi girls' final, KIC Shadipora defeated KIC Handwara by a margin of 17 points. The Sub-Junior Boys Kabaddi title was secured by Khelo India Centre Shadipora, overcoming KIC Handwara by 12 points.

In the Boys' Rugby final, Nadihal Rugby Club triumphed over DJ Sports Rugby Club Tujjar Sopore with a 5-1 try scoreline, while in the Girls' final, Pattan Rugby Club claimed victory against GMET Sopore by 4-1 tries.

Zahoor Ahmad, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Baramulla, presided as the Chief Guest. Haji Khursheed Ahmad (ZPEO Baramulla) and Khazir Muhammad Ganie, Coordinator of Varmul Gindo 2025, were present as Guests of Honour.

The event was further graced by the presence of distinguished personalities such as, Umar Rashid (NIS Kabaddi Coach), Firdous Ahmed (Kabaddi Coach KIC Shadipora), Nahida Nabi (Kabaddi Coach KIC Handwara), Arshad Ahmad (Incharge Harmukh Sports Academy Bandipora), Faizan Qayoom (Founder of SPORTS J&K 24x7) and National Kabaddi stars Umar Nazir, Waseem Raja Bhat, Moin Hameed Wani, & Kabaddi Lala Tarzoo. Their presence added great value to the closing ceremony.

YSS Budgam Organises District Level Football Tournament

women's sports in J&K, re-

flecting the commitment

to developing disciplined,

competitive athletes ca-

pable of performing at in-

ternational standards. Both

players progressed through

rigorous national selection

trials and attended dedicat-

ed training camps in Indore

and New Delhi to secure

a qualifying event for the

Women's Softball World

The Asia Cup serves as

their places on the squad.

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam kick started Inter-Zonal District Level Football Tournament for Boys under 14 years of age on Wednewsday. The matches were played at two venues—Sports Stadium Charar-i-Sharief and Open Ground Batpora—witnessing enthusiastic participation from young footballers across the district.

At Sports Stadium Charar-i-Sharief, teams from six zones, including B.K. Pora, Nagam, Chadoora, Dreygam and others, displayed remarkable sporting spirit and teamwork. Simultaneously, at Open Ground Batpora, teams from Narbal, Beerwah, Magam, Soibugh and

other zones showcased their football skills,

making the event vibrant and competitive. In addition to football, selection trials for Handball, Softball and Baseball were also conducted at Sports Stadium Budgam, aiming to scout talented youth for higher-level competitions.

These events were held under the directions of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam, Ghulam Hassan Lone, as part of the department's ongoing efforts to promote sports and identify young talent in the district.

The department remains committed to providing more such opportunities to the youth of Budgam, nurturing their talents and promoting healthy competition across all zones.



YSS Anantnag Hosts Sports Events At Multiple Venues



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: After summer break, the District Youth Services and Sports Office Anantnag formally inaugurated the District Level Inter-Zonal Inter School Volleyball Tournament 2025 for Boys in the U-14, U-17 and U-19 categories on Wednesday. The grand opening ceremony was held at multiple venues including SRJ HSS Khanabal, HSS Brakpora and MS Bondailgam.

The tournament brings together promising volleyball players from across different educational zones and higher secondary schools of District Anantnag.

The opening day witnessed impressive performances across all age groups, with outstanding play by Sahil Shameem (Captain of 2023 J&K U-17 Boys Team), Suhaib Manzoor, Umer Gulzar and Afridi Khan.

Teams from HSS Dooru, HSS Dethu HSS Shangus, Brakpora, HSS Uttersoo, HSS Marhama, HSS Mattan, HSS Vessu, HSS Khanabal and HSS Wanpoh recorded victories in the U-19 category. In the U-17 group, Zones Mattan, Bidder, Achabal, and Vailoo emerged victorious, while Zones Ashmuqam, Srigufwara, Verinag and Achabal dominated in the U-14 category.

The tournament will continue over the coming days and is expected to further elevate the standard of volleyball in the district, while identifying potential players for state-level competitions.

In alignment with the district-level sporting initiatives, Zone Srigufwara organised Inter School Kabaddi and Kho Kho competitions for U-14 and U-17 boys at MS Budroo. Trophies were awarded to top performers, and the event saw participation from both government and private schools.







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^{**}Based on the variant opted in health plan