

1.45 Lakh Visit Cave Shrine So Far Chhari Mubarak Reaches Pahalgam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Undeterred by intermittent rain in the Valley, the Amarnath Yatra continues smoothly, with the total number of pilgrims crossing the 1.45 lakh mark.

According to official data, 17,022 pilgrims performed darshan at the holy cave shrine on Thursday via the twin routes of Baltal and Pahalgam. Of these, 12,471 were men, 4,000 women, 182 children, 108 sadhus, 5 sadhvis and 3 transgender devotees. Additionally, 253 security personnel availed darshan.

With this, the cumulative total of pilgrims who have visited the cave shrine since the Yatra began now stands at 1,45,716.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of 7,307 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu early Thursday morning amid tight security. The convoy, comprising 284 vehicles, | [More on P10](#)

Stop Peddling Dangerous Narratives, Warns LG Sinha

» Says Those Claiming ‘Cultural Invasion’ Echo TRF Line

» At Mega Outreach Event, Sinha Showcases New J&K of Growth, Peace, and Opportunity

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a sharp and unequivocal message, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday issued a stern warning to those whom he accused of spreading misinformation and communal narratives that threaten the hard-won peace in Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking at the inauguration of the ‘Bharat Sanrachna J&K 2025’ exhibition and public outreach initiative in



Srinagar, LG Sinha took aim at individuals making claims that “guests are spoiling the

culture” of J&K and alleging a “demographic invasion” and rise in alcoholism

— statements he said echo the narrative of terror outfit TRF. “This is the similar narrative

as of terror outfit TRF,” the Lieutenant Governor said, referring to ‘The Resistance Front’, a banned terror outfit. “I appeal to those making such statements to stop peddling such a narrative. We have already lost many innocent lives due to similar statements in the past,” he asserted, drawing a direct line between fear-mongering rhetoric and past acts of violence in the region.

The LG’s remarks come amid a | [More on P10](#)

‘Homegrown Weapons High in Demand Post Op Sindoor’

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that the success of ‘Operation Sindoor’ has triggered a sharp rise in demand for indigenous defence equipment, underscoring India’s growing self-reliance in military technology.

Speaking at the ‘Bharat Sanrachna J&K 2025’ exhibition in Srinagar, LG Sinha emphasized the importance of innovation, self-reliance, and grassroots empowerment in building a “New India.” Referring to the exhibits at the event, LG Sinha lauded the participation of DRDO and

praised the effectiveness of indigenous weapon systems showcased in the science exhibition. “Our homegrown weapons have hit the enemy hard. Operation Sindoor stands as proof of our strategic and technological might,” he said. “For a long time, Bharat used | [More on P10](#)

Contaminated Water? 200 Fall Ill In Kupwara

Agencies

Srinagar: At least 200 residents of Gammandar Nagri village in north Kashmir’s Kupwara district have fallen ill following a suspected outbreak of a waterborne disease, sparking concern among locals and prompting swift administrative action.

Officials said that those affected are experiencing symptoms such as diarrhoea, vomiting, dehydration and weakness, even as the local New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) has been converted into a 24x7 emergency facility.

Medical and Jal Shakti department teams were immediately deputed to the village, and water samples have been collected for testing, which awaits lab reports.

According to locals, the village has been using two sources for drinking water: a spring and a recently connected dug well. While many residents suspect the newly introduced source could be responsible, officials have yet to determine whether the contamination originated | [More on P10](#)

J&K Not Represented In Rajya Sabha For Over 4 Yrs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir has been without representation in the Rajya Sabha for more than four and a half years, with all four of its seats currently lying vacant.

The Union Territory has had no member in the Upper House of Parliament under its own quota since February 15, 2021, when the terms of former MPs Ghulam Nabi Azad and Nazir Ahmad Laway came to an end.

Just days earlier, on February 10, 2021, the six-year terms of Mir Muhammad Fayaz and Shamsher Singh Manhas had also concluded. Since then, all four Rajya Sabha seats allocated to Jammu & Kashmir have remained unfilled.

The Election Commission of India has not yet announced the schedule for elections to these vacant seats, despite the electoral college—comprising

elected MLAs of the J&K Legislative Assembly—being in place since October 8, 2014, when results of the last Assembly polls were declared.

Sources indicate that Rajya Sabha polls could possibly be held after by-elections are conducted for the Nagrota and Budgam Assembly constituencies. However, the Election Commission has not provided any official timeline for the process.

This is not the first time Jammu & Kashmir has faced such a scenario. During the 1990s, a similar situation arose when Assembly elections could not be held due to the prevailing security situation. Between 1994 and 1996, all four Rajya Sabha seats from the then-state remained vacant, as the members elected in 1988 completed their terms without successors being chosen.

It is noteworthy that in 2022, Ghulam | [More on P10](#)

2025 Not An Easy Year, But Tourism Returning To J&K: CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said there is a renewed sense of optimism surrounding the revival of tourism in the Union Territory, following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead.

Speaking at a travel and tourism event in Kolkata, Omar acknowledged that 2025 has been a challenging year so far but emphasized that signs of recovery are visible. “2025 is not an easy



year for us. The year can be divided into two parts – before and after the Pahalgam attack. We all see that

tourism is bouncing back in J&K. There is a message of hope,” he said.

The Chief Minister highlighted the strong ties between West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir, describing them as built on mutual trust and affection. “West Bengal stood with J&K both politically and economically. We offer adventure and destination tourism. On the ground, there is an air of hope of a new beginning,” he said.

Addressing safety concerns in the wake of the April 22 terror | [More on P10](#)

Need To Be Alert 24x7 After Pahalgam Attack: CM

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday underscored the need for heightened and continuous security vigilance across the region, after the deadly terror

attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a tourism promotion event, Omar said, “The Pahalgam incident has shown that | [More on P10](#)

‘Demanded Rs 20K, Settled For Rs 2.5K’

Ramban Patwari Falls In ACB Trap

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu & Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday trapped and arrested a Patwari in Ramban district for demanding and accepting a bribe of 2,500 to correct a name in official revenue records.

According to an official statement, Muzamil Salam, posted as Patwari of Patwar Halqa Pogal Paristan, was caught red-handed while receiving the bribe from a complainant who had applied for rectification of his father’s name in the land records maintained by the Tehsildar’s office in Ukhral.

“The complainant had approached the ACB, stating that despite directions from the Tehsildar, the concerned Patwari demanded | [More on P10](#)

Mamata Urges Centre To Ensure J&K Security

Calls For Stronger Tourism, Cultural Ties
KO Web Desk

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday urged the Centre to take immediate steps to ensure the safety and security of Jammu and Kashmir, stating that such measures were crucial for reviving tourism in the region.

Banerjee made the remarks after meeting Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the state secretariat in Kolkata. This was the first interaction between the two leaders since the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.

“The Centre must take steps to ensure safety and security so that more and more tourists visit Kashmir. It must also strengthen



border security in the region,” Banerjee told reporters.

She said Kashmir is a land of rich cultural and natural beauty and must not be feared.

“Our tourists should visit Kashmir; there is no reason to fear. The Government of India must also take steps to ensure

more people can travel there. Border security lies with the Centre, so they should take necessary action. If needed, they should speak to Omar Abdullah and make proper arrangements,” she said.

Banerjee expressed solidarity with | [More on P10](#)

‘Harass With Permission?’

Omar Pokes Fun At NC Circular

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A circular issued by the National Conference’s Kishtwar unit has gone viral online, drawing sharp reactions and some humor, including a tongue-in-cheek response from former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The circular, signed by Tanvir Ahmed Kichloo, District President NC Kishtwar, states that “no one is authorized to harass any government employees of District Kishtwar without any proof”—unless they have the consent of the district president.

Dated July 9, 2025, the circular adds, “Hope all officials

will adhere to the circular,” and appears to be an internal communication aimed at NC functionaries in the district.

Reacting to the document, Omar Abdullah, Vice President of the National Conference, tweeted: “Who says we are an indisciplined party? We ensure our party rank & file don’t ‘harass government employees’ without permission from our senior office bearers.”

The wording of the circular — particularly its implication that harassment could be permissible with approval — has triggered criticism, memes, and confusion on social media. Many users questioned | [More on P10](#)

Axiom-4 Astronauts To Return To Earth On July 14

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three other crew members of the Axiom-4 mission are set to return to earth from the International Space Station on July 14, NASA said on Thursday.

“We are working with the station program, watching the Axiom-4 progress carefully. I think we need to undo that mission and the current target to undo is July 14,” Steve Stich, Manager, NASA Commercial Crew Program, told a press conference.

The Axiom-4 mission was launched from the Kennedy Space Centre at Florida on June 25 and the Dragon spacecraft docked at the International Space Station on June 26 after a 28-hour journey. The Axiom-4 crew, comprising Shukla, Peggy Whitson, | [More on P10](#)

‘Delayed Sanction Doesn’t Void Bribery Probe’

HC Refuses To Quash FIR Against ARTO Officials

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh at Srinagar has dismissed a petition seeking quashing of an FIR registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) against four Motor Vehicles Department officials posted at the ARTO Office, Anantnag, in a corruption case.

Justice Sanjay Dhar, in a detailed 24-page judgment,



held that while the investigating agency initially proceeded in contravention of Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, the subsequent compliance with the statutory requirement rendered the investigation

legally sustainable.

The petitioners—Asif Amin Chalkoo and others—had challenged FIR No. 04/2021 registered under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act read with Section 120-B of the IPC. They contended that the investigation was conducted without obtaining prior sanction as required under Section 17A, thereby vitiating the entire proceedings.

The FIR emanated from a joint | [More on P10](#)

J&K’s Big Tech Pitch

Govt Looks To Replicate India’s Top IT Parks

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a decisive step towards building a digital and innovation-driven economy, the Jammu & Kashmir government has launched a comprehensive study to explore models for developing state-of-the-art IT/ITES Parks across the Union Territory, as outlined in the J&K IT Policy 2020.

A high-level meeting chaired by Dr. Piyush Singla, Secretary of the IT Department, brought together key stakeholders from the government,

academia, and planning bodies. The group includes representatives from IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu, JaKeGA, SeMT and the Planning Department — tasked with identifying scalable models that could transform J&K’s tech infrastructure.

Dr. Singla emphasized that the UT must “adopt best practices from leading IT Parks in India” to ensure both sustainability and long-term impact. The ambitious plan envisions replicating the success of renowned ecosystems like Hyderabad’s | [More on P10](#)

2017 Anantnag Murder Case:

3 Convicted, Sentencing On July 16

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Court of Additional Sessions Judge Anantnag has convicted all three accused in the 2017 murder of Mushtaq Ahmad Ganie, whose body was recovered under suspicious circumstances in the Hutmara forests of Mattan.

Javid Ahmad Poswal, Mohammad Ashraf Kaloo Khel, and Mohammad Imran Poswal alias Manoo were held guilty in FIR No. 63/2017 registered at Police Station Mattan under

Sections 302 and 109 of the Ranbir Penal Code. The verdict was pronounced by Judge Masarat Roohi, who listed July 16 as the date for arguments on the quantum of punishment.

The prosecution was conducted by Senior Prosecuting Officer Mohammad Yaseen Najar, Additional Public Prosecutor, who represented the State during the trial.

According to case details, Mushtaq Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Galwanpora in Budgam district, went missing on June 29, 2017, | [More on P10](#)



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'Matching Workout With Personality Could Yield Better Results'

Press Trust Of India

A workout in tune with one's personality -- being social or introverted -- could make exercising more enjoyable and yield better results, according to a new study. Extroverted individuals tend to enjoy high-intensity activities that require significant energy and effort, while those with neuroticism--the tendency to worry--may find less satisfaction in activities demanding sustained effort. Instead, the latter might prefer short bursts of activity and aerobic training, which are known

to relieve stress, according to the study published in the journal Frontiers in Psychology. Researchers from University College London, UK, assessed 132 volunteers' personality traits according to the Big 5 model, which categorises an individual on the basis of their dominant trait -- are they extroverted, agreeable, conscientious, neurotic or open to experiences. "We know that the global population is becoming increasingly sedentary. You often hear about people trying to become more active, but struggling to make lasting changes," first author Flaminia Ronca, from the University Col-

lege London, said.

"We found some clear links between personality traits and the type of exercise the participants enjoyed most, which I think is important because we could potentially use this knowledge to tailor physical activity recommendations to the individual -- and hopefully help them to become and remain more active," Ronca said. Personality has been shown to influence one's choice of which organised sport to pursue. For example, athletes in individual sports tend to score high on conscientiousness and auton-

omy, while those in team sports tend to score high on agreeableness and sociotropy, which is an excessive focus on social acceptance. This study discovered that personality traits significantly predict participants' fitness levels and their enjoyment of exercises with different intensities. Conscientious people were expected to have greater fitness and be more likely to clock in more hours of physical activity in a week. Additionally, extraversion was associated with higher fitness levels, while neuroticism was linked to slower heart recovery. Interestingly,

participants with high levels of neuroticism appeared to benefit the most from the stress-relieving effects of aerobic training. "Of the five personality traits, only extraversion was predictive of having a higher (fitness), anaerobic threshold, and peak power output," the authors wrote. "Conscientiousness predicted press-up completion, longer plank times, more weekly hours of physical activity, and lower body fat percentage," they added. Further, "those who scored high on neuroticism benefited the most from potential stress-reducing effects of aerobic training," the authors noted.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No.26/EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl of 2025-26 under Endorsement No.:2973-78

Dated: 08-07-2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders (In Double Cover) are being invited on a Percentage basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Construction Cost	Maintenance Cost	Total Cost	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (in rupees)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1.	Upgradation of Inner link roads of Treesa Safapora including link roads at Check Yangoora at Lar Ganderbal under NABARD RIDF-XXX (Length=3.50Kms)	260.59	26.06		286.65	5500	5,73,300	03-years	AAY
2.	Widening/Upgradation of road from DakBanglowGadoora Bridge along Govt. Physical Education College Ganderbal under NABARD RIDF-XXX (Length=2.30 Kms)	495.85	49.58		545.43	8500	10,90,860	03-years	AAY

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded
Major Head: NABARD RIDF-XXX
Project Authority: R&B Department

1. 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	09-07-2025 from 12:00 PM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	09-07-2025 from 02.00 PM.
4.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	19-07-2025 at 02.00 P.M in the Office of Superintending Engineer PW R&B Circle Ganderbal
5.	Bid Submission End Date	29-07-2025 from 04.00PM.
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	30-07-2025 from 11:00 AM in the office of Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document. (The name of the Work along with NIT No. and Serial No. must be written on the Treasury Challan).

3. 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/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal (Dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date).

4. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Allotted Cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal within 15 days after the date of receipt of Letter of Acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP and the 2% EMD shall be released in favour of successful bidder only after the receipt of 5% Performance Security. (Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Central Kashmir's Circular No.-: CE-CK/WS/6458-79 of 2024-25 Dated: 19-08-2024).

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Ganderbal

DIPK-3495/25

dated: 10-07-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION PAHALGAM.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (Short term)

eNIT NO 36 OF RnB/Pahalgam/2025-26 DATED 08-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on percentage basis basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Time of Completion (Days)	Class of Contractor
01.	Stage contract for Division Pahalgam	As per availability/authorization	1000	30000	TILL COMPLETION OF FY 2025-26	ALL

PROJECT AUTHORITY:- PWD (R&B)
Authorization accorded :- Accorded.
MAJOR HEAD:- 2059 (023-M&R)
The NIT/Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08-07-2025
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 09-07-2025 (10:00AM) To 15-07-2025 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 09-07-2025 (10:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 15-07-2025 (04:00PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	To 16-07-2025 (11:00 AM)

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD in favor of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Pahalgam (Tender inviting Authority) (NIT No. and Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) For single No of work in NIT, Name of work/Item No is not mandatory) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Pahalgam (Tender receiving Authority). (The Date of EMD(CDR/FDR) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date.

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pahalgam (Tender receiving authority) within 03 days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

52. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

PWD(R&B) Division Pahalgam

DIPK-3488/25

dated: 10-07-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) SOPORE

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Fresh NIT No 31 /R&B /Sopore of 2025-26 Dated:08-07-2025(3rd time)

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on percentage basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) incl. cost of tar & GST	Position of Funds available for current year 2025-26 (Rs in Lacs) incl Contingencies	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Macadamization of upper Ashpeer inner links by way of Providing and laying 75 mm thick Wet Mix Macadam, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick Semidense incld 6mm thick seal coat.	5.83	5.00	300/-	11660/-	180 days	C&T	DEE / CEE

Project Authority:- Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) North Kashmir.
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded
Position of funds: Partially available.

1. 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
3.	Bid submission Start Date	08-07-2025
4.	Bid Submission End Date	14-07-2025 4:00PM
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	14-07-2025 4:30AM

Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and Serial No. 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.

Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photographs before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x 21 cm to be provided.

2. 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/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) otherwise the tender will be rejected. 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 contract cost, in single CDR/FDR/BG which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

No:3260-69

Dated: 10-07-2024

Executive Engineer

R&B Division Sopore

DIPK-3502/25

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla

Fax No: 01952-234426 e-mail, id, xenmhdbla@gmail.com

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIT No: MDB/TS/2025-26/09/761-66

Date: 09-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on percentage wise basis from Authorized service providers of OEMs / Registered / Listed Contractors for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Modification/ Repairs/ Replacement works to the Saluting Gypsy of Worthy DC Baramulla in connection with the Celebration of Independence Day 2025.	0.418	200.00	836/-	03 days	M&HED/K/ Acctt /35 of 2025-26 Dt - 08-05-2025	AEE/M&HSD-1st/Bla/01 of 2025 Dt - 08-07-2025

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 09-07-2025 (18:15 HRS)

2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 09-07-2025 (18:30 HRS) to 23-07-2025 (18:55 HRS) in two covers.

3. Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 24-07-2025 (13:00 HRS) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

4. The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:
01. Tender Fee Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement including m-Pay Delight+, to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender ID to be written also on the voucher.
Bank: J&K Bank.
Branch: T.P Baramulla.
IFSC Code: JAKA0TEHSIL
Account No.: 0213010200000051.

02. EMD Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of 5% Performance Guarantee from (LI) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2020.

03. Terms & Conditions Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.

04. Tax Clearance Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.

05. GST Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.

06. Undertaking Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt. / Semi Govt. Department.

07. Contractor Registration Scanned copy of valid Contractor Registration on JKPWDOMS of PWD J&K.

Note:- Successful Bidder (LI) needs to furnish original EMD and Fee Receipt to this Division / Department for obtaining Letter of Acceptance / L.O.I from this Division / Department.

Cover II shall contain the price bid as per BOQ which shall be inclusive of all taxes under GST. The price bid is to be uploaded only.

5. The complete bidding process will be online.

6. The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla after evaluation of the technical bid.

7. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) content. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

8. The cost of tender document is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.

9. Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the Department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.

10. The Department shall not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons, whatsoever.

11. The Department reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in part or in full without assigning any reason thereof.

12. The successful bidder has to carry out the repair jobs based on allotment order issued by the Department at the rates allotted under this contract from the date of issue of Allotment Order.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Mechanical & Hospitals Division

Baramulla

No: M&HDB/TS/e-tender-09/761-66

DIPK-3483/25

Dated: 10-07-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gh. Rasool Sofi S/o Gh. Nabi Sofi, wish to inform that I am applying for a name change in the electricity connection bearing Consumer ID:0204020005292. I request that the said connection be transferred to HARVARDIAN WONDERLAND. If anyone has any objection to this change, they may submit the same in writing to the Rainawari department within seven days from the date of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

Media Line Ads

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as MOHAMMAD ABASS while his actual name is MOHAMMAD ABASS MIR. Now i want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.

ASHIQ HUSSAIN MIR

F/o MOHAMMAD ABASS MIR

R/o PATWAW BUDGAM

mcb

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No.: 121025031 Session: 2024-2025 Year 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/Board parent, against my Father's Name as Gulam Mohammad Khanday instead of Ghulam Mohammad Khanday Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Furqan Ahmad Khanday

F/N: Gulam Mohamad Khanday

M/N: Haseena Begum

DOB : 06-10-2009

Residence: Utikoo Bangil Kawarhama

mobile: 6006499535

F ko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my daughter in her adhaar card has been wrongly written as Arwaa while her correct name is Iram Gulzar . 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 concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gulzar Ahmad Dar

F/o Iram Gulzar (DOB 27-03-2017)

R/o Budran Magam

BMG

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Submitted... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Death..

Public Notice

The registrar death EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to death of Dilshada Begum w/o Gh amohd Ganie R/o Mian mohalla pattan with verified date of death 30/03/2014 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained..

SD

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

Public Notice

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Numan Hameed Yattoo s/o Abdul Hameed Yattoo R/o Yadipora palhallan with verified date of birth 17/03/2022 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

SD

Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

Tanvir Sadiq Releases Funds For Major Development Works

Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant move aimed at boosting infrastructure and civic amenities, MLA Zadibal and Chief Spokesperson of the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference, Tanvir Sadiq, today released Rs 300 lakh from his Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for key development works across Zadibal.

"This marks the beginning of a new era of growth and upliftment in Zadibal. Every area, every section will benefit — no one will be left behind," said Tanvir Sadiq.

The funds will cover the upgradation of major chowks like Alamgiri Bazar, Rainawari, Soura, and MK Chowk, renovation of community halls, development of sports facilities, and improvement of basic infrastructure like lanes, drains, and water supply. Special fo-



cus has also been laid on the beautification of religious and heritage sites, and support for economically weaker sections.

He also thanked CM Omar Abdullah for enhancing the CDF to Rs 4 crore and ensuring timely release, and welcomed the new digital system that makes development work approvals faster and more efficient.

Tanvir Sadiq reaffirmed his commitment to phased, inclusive, and transparent development that delivers real impact on the ground.

"Drains Aren't Failing — We Are: Waste Disposal Habits Blamed"

Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: In a glaring example of public irresponsibility, residents and civic workers in Safakadal area of old Srinagar city were left shocked after recovering hundreds of plastic bottles from the clogged drains during a clean-up operation on Tuesday. The operation followed a recent spell of rainfall that inundated several lanes and bylanes in the locality.

While civic authorities are often blamed for poor drainage and flooding, the grim reality from Safakadal tells a different story. Plastic waste, mostly bottles, dumped directly into the drains by people, has emerged as the root cause of choking and overflow.

An official from the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) who was part of the clean-up, told KNT that the city's drainage system, especially in old Srinagar, has ample capacity to handle rainwater. But the real problem is the indiscriminate dumping of plastic waste. These bottles completely block the water flow."

The clean-up was conducted jointly by UEED workers and concerned citizens, who

decided to take matters into their own hands after rain water flooded roads, homes, and shops. What they discovered in the drains was a disturbing mix of mud, solid waste, and an astonishing quantity of plastic bottles.

"This is not about Smart City or the government. This is about people being careless and indifferent to the environment they live in," said a local resident who participated in the clean-up. "We often shout about bad drainage, but look at what we are doing to our own neighbourhoods."

"The image from Safakadal speaks volumes, plastic bottles covered in filth, mixed with other waste, piled up in what should have been a free-flowing water channel. The scene is a stark reminder that civic sense is as important as civic infrastructure," said a shopkeeper.

Authorities have urged the public to act responsibly and refrain from dumping solid waste into drains. "Awareness is key. People must understand that these systems can only work if we cooperate. Otherwise, we will keep facing the same problem after every rain," the UEED official added.

Tourist Revival Sparks New Life In Kashmir's Mughal Gardens



FILE PHOTO/ABID BHAT

Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: With over 79 days after the Pahalgam terrorist attack, signs of tourism revival are evident in Kashmir's iconic Mughal Gardens, with visitors once again flocking to Nishat, Shalimar, Harwan, and Chashme Shahi and other famed green spaces in Srinagar city.

Officials from the Department of Floriculture and those managing the Mughal Gardens told KNO that a strong revival is underway, particularly noticeable over weekends.

"There has been a clear revival. Tourists have started returning in large numbers, and our gardens are witnessing footfall similar to pre-incident days," said an official from the Floriculture Department.

He said the larger gardens like Nishat Bagh in Srinagar are hosting significant footfall. "On weekends, these gardens see anywhere be-



ON WEEKENDS, THESE GARDENS SEE ANYWHERE BETWEEN 5,000 to 8,000 visitors. Even on weekdays, the numbers are encouraging,"

tween 5,000 to 8,000 visitors. Even on weekdays, the numbers are encouraging," he said.

Meanwhile, this wave of return is also visible along Srinagar's once-quiet Boulevard Road and Foreshore Road, where tourists are again lining up for shikara rides, sampling Kashmiri cuisine, and taking photographs on the beautiful Dal Lake Srinagar shores.

Abdul Gani, a shikara operator near Dal Lake, Srinagar, said that for weeks they waited without hope. "Now, the scene is different and there is movement, laughter, and people once again," he said, adding, "As of now, there is a little movement, but we are hopeful that it will

soon change into a full revival of the tourism sector."

The Floriculture Department officials said they are maintaining garden infrastructure, seasonal flower beds, and fountains to enhance the visitor experience. "We are committed to making the gardens a highlight of every tourist's Kashmir itinerary," said the in-charge of Mughal Gardens.

Local people dependent on tourism said the revival brings both relief and hope after a prolonged period of fear and uncertainty. With summer tourism gaining pace, officials remain hopeful that the numbers will continue to rise in the coming weeks.

SKUAST-K Commercializes Lactobacillus-Based Probiotic Poultry Feed



Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant leap for animal biotechnology and agricultural innovation, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir today officially licensed its groundbreaking technology — a genetically modified Lactobacillus plantarum NC8 construct designed as a probiotic additive in poultry feed — to Kolkata-based Invati Creations Private Limited.

The innovative and patented product is set to be commercialised across the country under the brand name 'Salnil.'

The 'Technology License Agreement Signing Ceremony' was conducted virtually via video-conferencing. It was the first of its kind digital signing ceremony held by SKUAST-K, where Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K; Dr Jitendra Kumar, MD, BIRAC; and Mukesh Agarwal, CEO, Invati Creations Pvt Ltd, formally appended their signatures digitally to the commercialization agreement.

Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who was the chief guest at the occasion, said this is a great day for SKUAST-K as the university is transferring a ground breaking technology to an industry partner for commercialization. He said universities and other R&D institutions in the country de-

velop a large number of technologies but only a few are transferred for public use.

Prof Ganai thanked DBT and BIRAC for the unwavering support and funding to SKUAST-K for its various innovative projects. He said SKUAST-K is the No.1 among the 75 SAUs in the country in innovation with 85 patents and 75 startups registered in the last few years.

Earlier, Dr Vinita Jindal, DGM & Head of Intellectual Property and Technology Management at the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), highlighted the strategic importance of such technology transfers in driving innovation and economic growth.

Mukesh Agarwal, Director & CEO of Invati Creations Pvt Ltd, shared his company's vision for the technology, announcing the product's brand name as 'Salnil.' He expressed Invati Creations' firm commitment to leveraging their expertise in nanotechnology bioscience to ensure the widespread production and distribution of this advanced probiotic under its new brand. The initial 20-year agreement solidifies a long-term partnership aimed at revolutionising the poultry feed industry, he said.

Prof Haroon R Naik, Director Research, SKUAST-K, in his remarks, underscored the significance of this technology transfer for the food industry.

Managing Director of BIRAC, Dr Jitendra Kumar in his address highlighted BIRAC's vital role in bridging the gap between scientific discovery and industrial application thereby accelerating the impact of academic research.

Prof Syed Mudasir Andrabi, Head of Animal Biotechnology at SKUAST-K and the lead innovator, provided a technical overview of the technology. He detailed the intensive 7-8 year journey of research and development, underscoring the pivotal contribution of his PhD scholar, Dr Junaid Nazir, in engineering this unique Lactobacillus construct.

Prof. Andrabi explained that this innovative probiotic, designed as a feed additive, targets crucial aspects of poultry health, aiming to bolster gut health, optimize nutrient absorption, and improve overall resilience in poultry.

This commercialisation represents a monumental stride for animal biotechnology. SKUAST-K's Lactobacillus-based probiotic, now to be known as 'Salnil,' holds immense potential to transform poultry production by fostering healthier birds, potentially reducing the reliance on antibiotics, and championing sustainable agricultural practices. With an Indian patent secured and global intellectual property rights pursued, this indigenous innovation is poised to make a significant impact on food safety and economic sustainability.

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



PRAYERS

FAJR	3:45
ZUHR	12: 36
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:48
ISHA	9:27

This Day In History

- 1991 - Total solar eclipse is seen in Hawaii
- 2001 - Iraq resumes oil exports, ending a 5-week halt in protest of a US and British-sponsored UN Security Council resolution
- 2006 - 209 people are killed in a series of bomb attacks in Mumbai, India
- 2007 - "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix", the 5th film based on the books by J. K. Rowling is released
- 2010 - FIFA World Cup Final: Andrés Iniesta scores an extra time winner as Spain beats the Netherlands 1-0 in Johannesburg, South Africa for 1st WC title)
- 2011 - Neptune completes its first orbit since its discovery on September 23, 1846
- 2012 - Police academy suicide bombing kills 20 in Sana'a, Yemen
- 2012 - S/2012 P 1, the fifth moon of Pluto is discovered
- 2013 - 30 people are killed in a wave of bomb and gun attacks across Iraq
- 2014 - The UN Security Council calls for a special meeting to discuss the current Israel-Palestinian conflict; Israel continue attacks on Gaza
- 2015 - Wimbledon Women's Tennis: Serena Williams becomes oldest winner in Open era (33) beating Garbiñe Muguruza 6-4, 6-4

From KO Archives

Cong Unlikely To Extend Mufti's Tenure

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI - As the date draws nearer for Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to hand over the baton to a leader from alliance partner Congress, the party today sought to put an end to all speculation by indicating that the PDP leader would not be asked to continue.

Virtually putting at rest speculation that Congress might not be willing to take over the reins of the government after three years in November as per an agreement between the two coalition partners, a senior leader said the party would suffer if it did it.

"It will not go down well in the party," the leader close to J&K affairs said when asked whether the Congress would let Sayeed continue for remaining three years of six year term as has been suggested by some reports.

When the two parties forged post-poll alliance to form government in November 2002, they had agreed that one party would lead the coalition for three years and the other for rest of the term.

Congress, with 20 MLAs in the 87-member Assembly, had then allowed junior partner PDP, with 17 MLAs, to lead the alliance in the first phase. The Deputy Chief Minister was from Congress for the first three years and from PDP for the remaining tenure.

Although some sections in the Congress are believed to be inclined to allow Sayeed to continue, the state unit of the Congress strongly disfavours any reunification move.

The state unit feels it was the much-awaited opportunity for the Congress to have its own Chief Minister and it should not be allowed to fizzle away.

On the question of whether the Congress had an appropriate leader to become Chief Minister, the party leader said there would be no problem on this count. The Congress leader, however dismissed possibility of Mohammad Shafi Qureshi or Saifuddin Soz be given the charge as has been reported in some sections of media.

The disadvantage with Soz's candidature is that he has joined the Congress only three years back after being expelled from National Conference. Qureshi also has been out of the party for a long time.

(Kashmir Observer, 11 July, 2005)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice Inviting Tender

Sr.DEE/TR/JAT acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under: Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date **01.08.2025 at 15:00 Hrs.** only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No. : 753-TRD-JAT-2025-26

Name of work : Improvement of Sectioning arrangement of major Stations and Sections to enhance the reliability of OHE in the jurisdiction of DEE/TRD/JAT and DEE/Cord/BDGM over Jammu Division.

App. Cost (Rs.) : 2,65,47,633.39

Cost of Tender form (Rs.) : NIL

Date & time for submission of tender : Up to 01.08.2025, 15:00 Hrs.

Earnest Money # (Rs.) : 2,82,700/-

Completion Period : Six (06) Months

Opening of tender : 01.08.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.

Website Particulars : www.ireps.gov.in

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

No.: 753-TRD-JAT-2025-26 Dated: 09.07.2025 2088/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN-IV/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 31.07.2025 upto 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
09.07.2025	17.07.2025	31.07.2025 15:00

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender		
1.	11-2025-26-BDGM-DRM-JAT	Ordinary repair and Maintenance works including flooring, plastering, painting, plumbing, sewerage & other allied works for residential & service buildings at BAHL station under ADEN/BDGM		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of offer	Period of completion
	7499977.34	150000.00	60 Days	12 Months
	Similar nature of work - "Any civil work other than track work"			
2.	12-2025-26-BDGM-DRM-JAT	Ordinary repair and Maintenance works for Residential quarters, Station buildings, platform structures, Drainage works from Pampore to Banihal (Excl.) in the section of SSEW/BAHL under ADEN/BDGM		
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of offer	Period of completion
	7387075.23	147800.00	60 Days	12 Months
	Similar nature of work - "Any civil work other than track work"			

Note. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against the tender. No.: -11,12-2025-26-BDGM-DRM-JAT Date: 10.07.2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2087/25

US Sanctions UN Investigator Probing Gaza War Crimes

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS: The Trump administration announced it is issuing sanctions Wednesday against an independent investigator tasked with probing human rights abuses in the Pales-



Francesca Albanese

tinian territories, the latest effort by the United States to punish critics of Israel's 21-month war in Gaza.

The State Department's decision to sanction Francesca Albanese, the UN special rapporteur for the West Bank and Gaza, comes after a recent US pressure campaign to force the international body to remove her from her post failed.

Albanese, a human rights lawyer, has been vocal about what she has described as the "genocide" that Israel is waging against Palestinians in Gaza. Both Israel and the US, which provides military support, have strongly denied that accusation.

In recent weeks, Albanese has issued a series of letters, urging other countries to pressure Israel, including through sanctions, to end its

deadly bombardment of the Gaza Strip.

The Italian national has also been a strong supporter of the International Criminal Court's indictment against Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, for war crimes. She most recently issued a report naming several US giants among companies aiding what she described as Israel's occupation and war on Gaza.

"Albanese's campaign of political and economic warfare against the United States and Israel will no longer be tolerated," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio posted on social media. "We will always stand by our partners in their right to self-defense."

Albanese has been the target of criticism from pro-Israel officials and groups in the US and in the Middle East.

Last week, the US mission to the UN issued a scathing statement, calling for her removal for "a years-long pattern of virulent anti-Semitism and unrelenting anti-Israel bias." The statement said that Albanese's allegations of Israel committing genocide or apartheid are "false and offensive."

It is all a culmination of an extraordinary and sprawling campaign of nearly six months by the Trump administration to quell criticism of Israel's handling of the deadly war in Gaza, which is closing in on two years.

Earlier this year, the Trump administration began arresting and deporting faculty and students of American universities who participated in pro-Palestinian demonstrations and other political activities.

Punjab CM Seeks 'Legitimate' Share of Indus Water

Says state has no surplus water for others

Press Trust Of India

Chandigarh: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann has asserted that the state has no surplus water for others and demanded its legitimate share in the Indus waters.

He also mooted the idea of



Bhagwant Singh Mann

a Yamuna Sutlej Link (YSL) canal instead of the Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) canal, according to a statement from the chief minister's office on Wednesday.

Participating in a meeting held at Shram Shakti Bhawan here on the SYL canal issue, Mann said Punjab has no surplus water to share with others and asserted that a reassessment of the availability of water in the state is needed according to international norms.

The groundwater situation in Punjab is very grim, he

said, adding that since most of the river resources of the state have dried up, it needs more water to cater to its irrigation needs.

The scant amount of water Punjab has is being provided to farmers, and in such a scenario, there is no question of sharing even a drop of water with any other state, the chief minister said.

He said the opportunity that has opened up with the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan must be duly utilised to fulfil the water needs of the state. Efforts should be made to bring water from the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) to meet the growing demand, Mann added.

He pointed out that India's decision to suspend the water treaty with Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attack opens up the possibility of greater utilisation of water from the western rivers.

Mann went on to stress that Punjab, which is currently facing groundwater depletion, must be prioritised in any future strategies for the usage, diversion, or allocation of river waters.



Yemeni Forces Sink Israel-Bound Ship in Red Sea Escalation

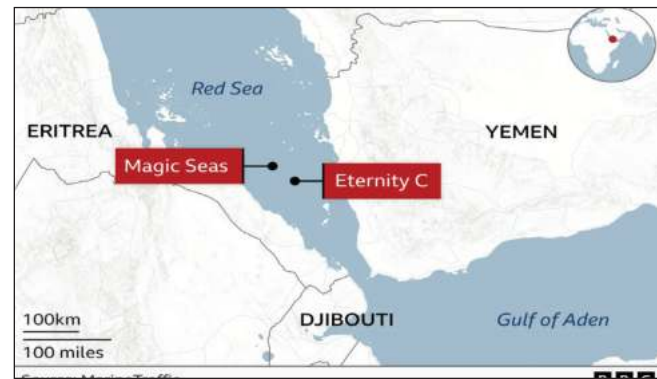
Trans Asia News

Beirut: In a dramatic escalation of maritime attacks in the Red Sea, Yemen's armed forces announced the successful targeting and sinking of the cargo vessel Eternity C, which they claim was en route to the Israeli port of Eilat, known in Arabic as Umm al-Rashrash. The strike was reportedly carried out in retaliation for Israel's ongoing military campaign in Gaza, which the Houthis dominated Ansarallah movement describe as genocide.

According to a statement released Thursday by the Yemeni military, the Eternity C was hit by an unmanned surface vehicle and six cruise and ballistic missiles after its crew allegedly ignored repeated warnings from Yemeni naval forces. Footage released by the Ansarallah shows the ship ablaze and taking on water, with the bridge severely damaged and oil leaking into the sea.

Maritime security officials confirmed that four out of 25 crew members were killed in the attack. The remaining sailors reportedly abandoned the ship before it sank early Wednesday morning.

The vessel, flying a Liberian flag and operated by a Greek firm, was accused by Yemen's armed forces of violating a ban on ships linked to Israel. The ban, enforced by the Houthis



controlled government in Sana'a since late 2023, targets vessels associated with Israeli trade or ports. Shipping data confirms that other ships in Eternity C's wider fleet have docked at Israeli ports within the past year.

In a related incident earlier this week, Yemen released video footage of an assault on another Liberian-flagged bulk carrier, Magic Seas, which they claim was also tied to Israeli trade. That vessel was similarly boarded and ultimately scuttled. The crew was rescued without fatalities.

In a televised address, Ansarallah military spokesman Yahya Saree said the Red Sea operations would continue "until the aggression on Gaza stops and the siege is lifted." He emphasized that any company or country engaging in maritime activity with Israel would

be considered a legitimate target.

The attacks are part of a broader campaign launched by the Iranian-aligned government in Sana'a in November 2023, a month after Israel's war on Gaza began. Since then, Yemeni forces have targeted over 100 ships using drones and missiles. Although a temporary ceasefire brought the maritime campaign to a halt, hostilities resumed soon after Israel's broke the truce.

In a related development, Yemeni forces claimed responsibility for launching a Zulfikar ballistic missile at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport early Thursday morning. The Israeli military reported that its air defenses intercepted the missile, though the attack triggered air raid sirens across more than 300 towns and disrupted air traffic briefly.

Sheikh Hasina Chraged With 'Crimes Against Humanity'

Press Trust Of India

Dhaka: Bangladesh's deposed premier Sheikh Hasina was on Thursday formally indicted in absentia in a crimes against humanity case by the country's International Crimes Tribunal.

The special tribunal has set August 3 as the start date for the trial. "The International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh (ICT-BD) has framed the charge against her (Hasina) alongside the home minister of her regime Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and (the then) inspector general of police (IGP) Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun," a prosecution lawyer told a media briefing.

The three were indicted for their attempts to suppress the student-led July-August protests last year.

The prosecutors said Hasina was also accused of mass killings, murder, and torture in a bid to suppress the uprising.

Mamun, the sole accused appearing in person, pleaded guilty when produced before the tribunal from custody, prosecutors added.

Hasina's Awami League regime was ousted in the vio-



The International Crimes Tribunal of Bangladesh (ICT-BD) has framed the charge against her (Hasina) alongside the home minister of her regime Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and (the then) inspector general of police (IGP) Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun

lent movement led by Students Against Discrimination (SAD) on August 5, 2024, following which she fled to India on a military aircraft.

Trump Praises Liberian Leader On English - His Native Tongue



AFFP

Washington- US President Donald Trump complimented the president of Liberia on Wednesday on his English-speaking skills -- despite English being the official language of the West African nation.

Trump was hosting a White House lunch with African leaders Wednesday, and -- after brief remarks from President Joseph Boakai -- asked the business graduate where he had picked up his linguistic know-how.

"Thank you, and such good English... Where did you learn to speak so beautifully? Where were you educated?" Trump said.

Boakai -- who, like most Liberians, speaks English as a first language -- indicated he had been educated in his native country.

He was facing away from the media, making his countenance hard to gauge -- but his laconic, mumbled response

hinted at awkwardness.

Trump, who was surrounded by French-speaking presidents from other West African nations, kept digging.

"It's beautiful English. I have people at this table can't speak nearly as well," he said.

US engagement in Liberia began in the 1820s when the Congress- and slaveholder-funded American Colonization Society began sending freed slaves to its shores.

Thousands of "Americo-Liberian" settlers followed, declaring themselves independent in 1847 and setting up a government to rule over a native African majority.

The country has a diverse array of indigenous languages and a number of creolized dialects, while Kpelle-speakers are the largest single linguistic group.

Boakai himself can read and write in Mendi and Kissi but converses in Liberia's official tongue and lingua franca -- English.

ED Books 29 Actors, Influencers, YouTubers In Online Betting Linked PMLA Case

Press Trust Of India

Hyderabad- The Enforcement Directorate has filed a money laundering case to look into the role of more than two dozen celebrities,

including actors like Vijay Deverakonda, Rana Daggubati and Prakash Raj, apart from some social media influencers and YouTubers in Telangana as part of a money laundering probe against certain online betting platforms, official sources said on Thursday.

These outlets are alleged to have generated "illicit" funds worth crores of rupees through illegal betting and gambling, the sources said.

The federal probe agency

has taken cognisance of as many as five state police FIRs to book its case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

About 29 celebrities, including Deverakonda, Daggubati, Manchu Lakshmi, Raj, Nidhi Agarwal, Pranitha Subhash, Ananya Nagalla, TV host Srimukhi apart from local social media influencers and YouTubers have been booked in the ED case.

These celebrities are suspected to have "endorsed" online betting apps like Junglee Rummy, JeetWin, Lotus365 etc. in lieu of getting celebrity or endorsement fee, the sources said.

Some of these "well known" persons, the sources said, have

earlier stated that they did not know the exact functioning of the apps and products dished out by them and claimed they did not associate themselves with these platforms for any wrongdoing or illegal activity like betting.

The ED is expected to record their statements in the coming days even as it is collecting more FIRs and looking for more complainants who were duped or cheated by these betting platforms.

A comprehensive investigation is underway to find the estimated amount of the "proceeds of crime" generated by these apps and the exact role of the celebrities. Their guilt will be decided following recording of their statements and version, the sources said.

China's Interest In The Next Dalai Lama Is Also About Control Of Tibet's Water Supply

The Conversation

As the 14th Dalai Lama celebrates his 90th birthday with thousands of Tibetan Buddhists, there's already tension over how the next spiritual leader will be selected. Controversially, the Chinese government has suggested it wants more power over who is chosen.

Traditionally, Tibetan leaders and aides seek a young boy who is seen as the chosen reincarnation of the Dalai Lama. It is possible that after they do this, this time Beijing will try to appoint a rival figure.

However, the current Dalai Lama, who lives in exile in India, insists that the process of succession will be led by the Swiss-based Gaden Phodrang Trust, which manages his affairs. He said no one else had authority "to interfere in this matter" and that statement is being seen as a

strong signal to China.

Throughout the 20th century, Tibetans struggled to create an independent state, as their homeland was fought over by Russia, the UK and China. In 1951, Tibetan leaders signed a treaty with China allowing a Chinese military presence on their land.

China established the Tibetan Autonomous Region in 1965, in name this means that Tibet is an autonomous region within China, but in effect it is tightly controlled. Tibet has a government in exile, based in India, that still wants Tibet to become an independent state.

This is a continuing source of tension between the two countries. India also claims part of Tibet as its own territory.

Beijing sees having more power over the selection of the Dalai Lama as an opportunity to stamp more authority on Tibet. Tibet's strategic position and its resources are extremely valuable to China, and play

a part in Beijing's wider plans for regional dominance, and in its aim of pushing back against India, its powerful rival in south Asia.

Tibet provides China with a naturally defensive border with the rest of southern Asia, with its mountainous terrain providing a buffer against India. The brief Sino-Indian war of 1962 when the two countries battled for control of the region, still has implications for India and China today, where they continue to dispute border lands.

As with many powerful nations, China has always been concerned about threats, or rival power bases, within its neighbourhood. This is similar to how the US has used the Monroe Doctrine to ensure its dominance over Latin America, and how Russia seeks to maintain its influence over former Soviet states.

Beijing views western criticism of its control of Tibet as inter-



Traditionally, Tibetan leaders and aides seek a young boy who is seen as the chosen reincarnation of the Dalai Lama. It is possible that after they do this, this time Beijing will try to appoint a rival figure. (File Photo | AP)

ference in its sphere of influence. Another source of contention

is that Beijing traditionally views boundaries such as the McMahon

line defining the China-India border as lacking legitimacy, a border drawn up when China was at its weakest in the 19th century. Known in China as the "century of humiliation", this was characterised by a series of unequal treaties, which saw the loss of territory to stronger European powers.

This continues to be a source of political tensions in China's border regions including Tibet. This is a controversial part of China's historical memory and continues to influence its ongoing relationship with the west.

Demand for natural resources Tibet's importance to Beijing also comes from its vast water resources. Access to more water is seen as increasingly important for China's wider push towards self-sufficiency which has become imperative in the face of climate change. This also provides China with a significant geopolitical tool.

MP Khatana Urges Reopening Of Trekking Routes

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Member of Parliament (MP) Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Ali Khatana, on Thursday said Jammu and Kashmir is on the path of prosperity under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Addressing a gathering at the inaugural ceremony of 'Bharat Sanrachna J&K-2025' at SKICC, Khatana, as per KNO, praised the LG Sinha for doing a "tremendous" job, leading to the progress and prosperity of the region.

"In the last 30 years, the people across Jammu and Kashmir have faced distress. But, you have managed to change the scenario by ensuring the students attend their schools," he said, adding that under LG Sinha's leadership, an event like G20 took place here, while the free and fair elections too are appreciable.

"We are happy to witness the progress under your leadership. The elected government should also work on the ground," he said in the presence of the Lieu-

tenant Governor.

The MP appealed to the LG to reopen the trekking spots for the well-being of the people. "As the Law & Order falls under your (LG) jurisdiction, the trekking routes should be reopened again for the people, who have started homestays and other things. We expect the reopening of these routes from you," he said.

About the event, he said that on the first day, a large number of students from different schools participated. "This event was scheduled earlier, but was delayed due to the Pahalgam terror attack," he said. Khatana further said that Kashmir is an integral part of India, so the youth of J&K should not lag behind. "Therefore, this event was a must for creating awareness among them with an aim to make them employment generators," he said.

Responding to a query on National Conference's (NC) demand on July 13—Martyrs' Day, Khatana said there are many schools in the name of martyrs who belong to the whole nation.



DSEK, SCERT-JK Launch Induction Training For School Heads

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), in collaboration with the SCERT-JK, launched a three-day 'Induction Training Programme' for newly promoted Headmasters from Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, and Pulwama districts.

Hosted at the SCERT-JK campus, the training aims to equip school heads with the knowledge and leadership skills necessary to implement effective and coherent institutional planning.

Organized under the aegis of the DSEK and School Leadership Academy (SLA), SCERT-JK – Kashmir Division, the programme seeks to strengthen instructional and administrative leadership in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. G.N. Itoo, Director School Education Kashmir, as chief guest, and was hosted by Syed Shabir Ahmad, Joint Director, SCERT-JK.

A significant highlight of the

programme was the official release of the training module titled 'Developing Institutional Plan' by Director Dr. G.N. Itoo. Commending the School Leadership Academy for designing a comprehensive and actionable framework, Dr. Itoo urged the participating Heads of Institutions (HOI's) to adopt structured and goal-oriented approaches to school planning and development.

Director also interacted with the trainees, encouraging them to lead with integrity, inclusivity, and innovation. Stressing their dual role as instructional and administrative leaders, he called on school heads to foster learner-centric environments, drive data-informed decision-making, and implement Institutional Development Plans with accountability and vision.

In his address, Syed Shabir Ahmad, JD SCERT, emphasized the phased rollout of the programme across all ten districts of Kashmir, and applauded the coordinators for curating a module that fosters leadership excellence and school improvement.

Budgam Cop Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: A police constable from Central Kashmir's Budgam district died of cardiac arrest on Wednesday during a transformer blast incident near Police Station Budgam.

Officials as per KNO said that the cop suffered a sudden cardiac arrest. He was immediately rushed to District Hospital Budgam, where doctors declared him dead.

The deceased has been identified as Constable Altaf Ahmad, a resident of Wadipora Chadoora. He was posted at PS Budgam at the time of the incident.

The body was later shifted for legal and medical formalities before being handed over to the family for last rites.

Meanwhile, police officials and colleagues have expressed their grief over the sudden demise of the constable, remembering him as a dedicated officer.

Free Medical Camp Held At Kripal Pora Payeen



Attaulah Hussain

BARAMULLA: In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening grassroots healthcare access, PAYAAM INTERNATIONAL, in collaboration with the Department of AYUSH (District Baramulla) and the Medical Department (Block Pattan), organized a free medical camp at Kripal Pora Payeen on Wednesday.

The camp witnessed an encouraging response from the local population, with 412 patients registered for free medical consultations, check-ups, and medicine distribution. A team of qualified doctors, comprising both BUMS and MBBS practitioners, extended professional healthcare services to patients throughout the day.

Organizers said the event was aimed at providing accessible and affordable healthcare to underserved communities. The camp featured general health check-ups, screenings, and on-the-spot medicine distribution, all free of charge.

Speaking on the occasion, Malik Zahoor, Chairman of PAYAAM INTERNATIONAL, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Akhtar Hussain Naik, District Nodal Officer (AYUSH & Trainings, Baramulla), and Dr. Mohammad Taha Khan, Block Medical Officer (Pattan), for their continuous support and on-ground coordination.

"Their collaboration played a pivotal role in making this camp a success and ensuring quality healthcare reached those who need it the most," said Zahoor.

CS Reviews Preparations For 79th Independence Day Celebration



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Thursday held a high level meeting of senior functionaries of civil administration and Police Department to take stock of the arrangements being made for this year's Independence Day celebration across the UT.

The meeting besides Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, ADGPs, JGPs was attended by Deputy Commissioners; SSPs; Director, Information; Director, School Education, Kashmir/Jammu; Director Health, Kashmir/Jammu and representatives from other security agencies.

The Chief Secretary took appraisal from those concerned about the selection of venues at Srinagar and Jammu besides the districts.

Dulloo enquired about the cultural performances to be depicted on the occasion. He asked for selection of high impact cultural items by the respective divisional committees, preferring the students for their encouragement.

The Chief Secretary also stressed on meticulous management of traffic on roads

along with ensuring foolproof security arrangements so that the participants reach venues without facing any difficulty.

He also sensitized the concerned divisional and district administrations to take adequate measures for ensuring arrangements for the public in view of the intense heat wave this year. He impressed upon them to take safety measures especially for the student participants.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned to ensure better sanitation, power supply and availability of drinking water facilities at all the locations. He asked for sending invitations to all the invitees including the prominent citizens beforehand for their convenience.

He also enjoined upon the concerned divisional/district authorities to take stock of arrangements in their respective jurisdictions to ensure that the events right upto Panchayat level are held in a befitting manner.

Dulloo also impressed upon the Information Department to install the Public Address System (PAS) and check its functionality well ahead of

the full dress rehearsal day. He asked them to keep proper back-ups available as well to be used in case of any unforeseen eventuality.

Moreover, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the HoDs, Divisional heads and DCs to illuminate the major public infrastructure including their offices, major bridges and other iconic places for this national event.

On the occasion, it was revealed that contingents from JK Police, Armed Police, CRPF, BSF, Lady Police, IRP, F&ES, NCC and Schools are going to participate in the two main events at Srinagar and Jammu.

Additionally, details of preparations being made by the concerned regarding sanitation, medical, water and power arrangements were discussed in detail. It was informed that the concerned authorities would ascertain the arrangements for the celebration in the coming days.

It was revealed that the full-dress rehearsals have been scheduled to be held on 13th of August for the 79th Independence Day celebrations to be held across the UT on 15th of August this year.

Buried Under Silt, Wular Lake's Lotus Returns After Decades

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: After a gap of nearly 30 years, lotus flowers have reappeared in Wular Lake in north Kashmir, renewing hope for communities that once depended on the lake for their livelihood.

The flowers, locally known for their edible stems called nadru, had disappeared after the devastating floods of 1992 deposited thick layers of silt across the lakebed.

The revival of the lotus is being attributed to an ongoing desilting and restoration project by the Wular Lake Management Authority.

The initiative, which started in 2020, aimed to restore the lake's original depth and improve water flow by removing silt and waste carried by the Jhelum River and its tributaries.

Mohammad Yaqoob, a local farmer from Watlab village, stood by the water's edge watching the blooms. "We thought this would never return," he shared with KNO. "My father used to harvest lotus stems here. I used to help him when I was young. Then the flood came and everything changed."

The lake, spread over nearly 200 square kilometres and located between the towns of Bandipora and Sopore, was once a major source of income for hundreds of families.

The lotus stem is a popular



ingredient in traditional Kashmiri dishes, and its harvesting provided seasonal employment, especially during the winter months when other work was scarce.

An official associated with the restoration project explained that while lotus stems hadn't been seen for decades, the plant's root structures remained buried beneath the silt. "Once we began removing the silt in targeted areas, lotus began to appear again," he said. "This year, we introduced lotus seeds in areas where dredging had been completed."

The desilting work has so far removed over 7.9 million cubic meters of silt from the lake.

The official added that in the coming months, they plan to install retention basins along major streams to stop future silt and waste from entering the lake.

"It belongs to the people, and they have every right to it," he said. "But the department has worked consistently with specialists and taken

steps over the years to make sure lotus stem cultivation becomes possible again in Wular. Now, it's no longer just an idea; production is happening on the ground."

Speaking about licensing, he said that earlier, only fishermen and those gathering chestnuts were given permission to operate in the lake. "With the return of nadru, we will now review how to move forward, whether to introduce a permit system for harvesters or keep it accessible to everyone," he said.

Zahoor Ahmad, a resident of Laharwalpora, said local families had tried to reintroduce the lotus on their own. "We threw seeds into the lake many times, but nothing grew," he said. "It's only now, after the silt was cleared, that we see the flowers again."

Ahmad said the return of the lotus is not only a sign of ecological improvement but also a source of renewed economic activity for many households around the lake.

guide the festival's aesthetics and programming, and roping in students and professionals from institutions like IITs and IIMs for innovative ideas to help the festival grow every year.

He also stressed the promotion of homestays and encouragement of local vendors to boost tourist interaction and economic activity.

The Divisional Commissioner assured full administrative support to make Basohli Utsav a grand annual event that resonates with showcasing rich ancient culture, traditions, art & crafts, community spirit and tourism promotion. He said that through combined efforts, Basohli can emerge as a vibrant destination

Poor Mobile Network Irk Remote Areas Of Bani Tehsil

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Several remote and hilly areas of Bani Tehsil in Kathua district remain cut off from mobile network and internet connectivity, causing immense hardship to residents, particularly patients, students and small business owners.

Speaking to KNO, locals said that despite the government's push for a "Digital India," many villages in Bani are still struggling with weak or completely absent mobile signals due to the lack of mobile towers.

Where a network is available, the signal is often too weak to support even basic communication, they said.

They added that the poor network has serious implications during medical emergencies as times of accidents or sudden health issues; they are unable to call ambulances or contact doctors in time. This communication gap has endangered lives in several instances.

Students from these areas are unable to attend online classes, fill out competitive examination forms, or download study materials.

Online education has become a distant dream for them, pushing them further behind their urban counterparts, locals said.

Local shopkeepers and small-scale businessmen are also suffering due to weak connectivity. Digital payments and UPI transactions have become nearly impossible in many areas. In an age where everything from banking to grocery shopping has gone online, Bani's residents feel digitally excluded.

Residents point out that mobile connectivity and internet access are no longer luxuries—they are basic needs. People are forced to climb to higher altitudes or walk long distances just to make a phone call. Popular tools like WhatsApp, UPI, and Google Pay are practically non-functional in these areas.

Except for central Bani town where the internet works rela-



tively well, most surrounding areas face serious connectivity issues. The worst-hit areas include Lowang (Badhyal), Sarthal (tourist destination), Bharmota, Sandroon, Sitti, Chandayar, Dhaggar, Dhaman, Duggan and many other pockets across the tehsil.

In Lowang and surrounding villages alone, over 10,000 people are living without reliable and proper mobile connectivity. The absence of a BSNL mobile tower in Lowang is one of the primary reasons for this communication blackout.

They said that there is a need for strengthening both private networks and BSNL towers.

Social activists and youth leaders are calling on the government to take immediate steps to install mobile towers and enhance signal strength across the region.

Mudasar Ali, a local social activist, said, "We are not asking for luxuries; we are asking for our basic right to communicate. The lack of connectivity is hurting our health, education, business and administration."

Ankush Thakur, Jafar Fareed and Mohd Urfan echoed similar sentiments, urging the administration to address the issue without delay.

"If this issue is not resolved soon, the entire region will continue to suffer across all sectors—education, commerce, healthcare, and governance," they added. Locals have sought immediate intervention of higher authorities including concerned MLA and SDM so that they won't have to suffer more.

Nizamuddin Bhat Visits Sharda Temple In Bandipora

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: MLA Bandipora, Nizamuddin Bhat Thursday visited the historic Sharda Temple in Kaloosa Bandipora, where he interacted with the Pandit brethren and inspected the ongoing construction of the pilgrim tourism hostel near the temple.

During his visit, Bhat assured the Pandit community of full support to facilitate pilgrims and to ensure the timely completion of the hostel for visiting devotees. He appreciated the communal harmony in Jammu and Kashmir, recalling

the days when Hindu and Muslim communities lived together in peace and brotherhood and expressed hope that this spirit will continue in the future.

Bhat stated that preserving communal harmony is essential for the progress of the Union Territory and reiterated his commitment to supporting initiatives that strengthen bonds between communities.

Representatives of local Pandit community expressed gratitude to the MLA for his visit and for taking steps to promote pilgrim tourism while addressing the concerns of the minority community in the area.

RTI Portal Fully Functional: IT Deptt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Information Technology department has rebutted a news item titled "Technical glitch renders J&K RTI portal defunct, chokes information" published in a local daily, saying that the contents of the article are factually incorrect.

The department has claimed that the RTI portal (<https://rtionline.jk.gov.in/>) is fully functional and operating without any technical disruption as confirmed by NIC (National Informatics Centre), which manages the backend operations of the portal.

"The official usage data clear-

ly indicates that the portal is fully operational and effectively serving its purpose" it said in a statement adding, since its launch on January 10, 2025 the portal has received over 15,800 RTI applications, with 11,631 already disposed of and 4,260 were currently under process.

The department further said that the portal is accessible round the clock to deliver its services to applicants and if any applicant is facing difficulties, a dedicated help desk is available, and queries can be directed to gadit6648@gmail.com. The information regarding helpdesk is already mentioned in RTI Portal.

Div Com Jammu Reviews Preparations For Annual Basohli Utsav

Observer News Service

KATHUA: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Thursday visited Basohli to hold a comprehensive interaction with stakeholders and review the roadmap for the Annual Basohli Festival to be organised in coming months for celebrating and reviving the region's rich cultural and artistic heritage.

While interacting with the participants, the Divisional Commissioner underlined the importance of reviving Basohli's pristine glory through the Basohli Utsav.

He said that Basohli holds immense cultural and historical significance with its world-

famous paintings, fine Pashmina, traditional food, and iconic heritage sites like Atal Setu, Basohli Fort and Chanchlo Mata Mandir.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasized that coordinated efforts are required to put and promote Basohli on the tourism map of the country. He added that the need of the hour is enhanced local involvement and scaled production of indigenous crafts like Basohli paintings and pashmina shawls to enhance their reach and market value.

To enhance the vibrancy of the festival, the Divisional Commissioner suggested community-led beautification of homes and surroundings, bringing in renowned artists and experts to curate and

reflecting its traditional richness and artistic excellence.

Earlier, Director ACB (DIG), Shakti Pathak informed that fifteen committees have been constituted to manage different aspects of the festival. He described Basohli Utsav as a meaningful initiative to reconnect people with their roots and instill pride in local traditions. He added that this year's events will be spread across multiple locations including the traditional Rameela Ground, TRC, Basohli Fort, Janjghar and Purtheru.

Regional Director IGNCA Jammu Shruti Avasthi informed that contests based on local folklore will be a highlight of this year's festival. Besides, academic

and technical sessions will be held to bring educational value and deeper understanding of Basohli's rich heritage to visitors and participants.

Prominent citizens and stakeholders shared their valuable suggestions to make the Basohli festival successful and vibrant.

The meeting was held at the Office of the Ram-leela Club, Basohli, and was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr. Rakesh Minhas, Director ACB (DIG), Shakti Pathak, Additional Deputy Commissioner Basohli Pankaj Bhagotra, Regional Director IGNCA Jammu Shruti Awasthi, along with representatives from NGOs, social organizations and a large number of locals.

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KO VIEW

Schools Need Reinvention

In recent years, schooling in Kashmir has undergone a quiet transformation, one that is now too visible to ignore. With NEET and JEE fever reaching new heights, students have all but disappeared from classrooms, taking admission instead in private coaching centres or in online tutorials. And as a story in this paper has highlighted, formal schools, once a pillar of education, now function largely as certificate shops, necessary only for board registration, internal marks, and bureaucratic compliance.

However, this is not an isolated phenomenon in Kashmir but across India, millions of students do the same: opt for coaching institutes over schools. This trend has hollowed out the school system to an alarming degree. According to reports, in many institutions, over 90% of science students are “dummy admissions.” These students hardly attend class, and instead choose to attend private coaching institutes to prepare for various competitive examinations.

The issue here is not that many students prefer to attend coaching centres and online platforms after enrolling in government and private schools but why haven't the schools adapted to this reality. Why can't they also offer what what coaching institutes offer: prepare them for the competitive examinations, which open up doors to a bright career. They also need to teach problem-solving skills, general knowledge, maths and English in a way that helps students to perform well in competitive tests. As things stand, schools are unequipped to do so. So, the dire need is to reform schooling and bring them up to date with new requirements. Until this happens we can't blame students for dummy admissions.

There is another dimension to this issue. A student who chooses to attend school is at a disadvantage. Their attendance is real. In contrast, those in pricey full-time coaching, often far from home or online, pursue more lucrative careers. They join the coaching institutes because they can afford them. This creates inequality in the society, enabled by the government policy to confine schooling to basic education only.

We must also recognize a new layer to this crisis: technological disruption. Many students now study from YouTube channels, mobile apps, and online test series. Education has moved beyond physical classrooms, and our system hasn't caught up. To pretend that schools alone can meet all educational needs in the digital age is naive. The new reality demands a hybrid approach.

What's urgently needed is not a rejection of coaching or technology, but a redefinition of schooling. Schools must be made competitive and relevant.

FINANCIAL FIX

The Property Trap

Fraudsters in Kashmir use faith and loopholes to steal land. Communities must stop enabling it and uphold the law.

Irshad Mushtaq

Land in Kashmir is more than real estate. It's memory, legacy, and pride. That's why it's also a soft target. For years, property scams have hollowed out trust. One piece of land has multiple buyers. Legal battles stretch for decades. Families abroad, especially Kashmiri NRIs, are the worst hit. They return home to settle matters, only to find strangers living on their land, paperwork missing, and brokers nowhere to be found.

Today's fraudsters are smarter. And more dangerous. A new trick is on the rise: wrapping land grabs in religious sentiment. They promise a prayer site or a shrine. That's the bait. Only a small patch gets used for devotion. The rest, often state or grazing land, is swallowed up for private gain.

These aren't isolated acts. Retired officials lend their names. Communities are emotionally nudged into silence. The fraud is dressed in piety, and people hesitate to question it.

Kashmir has clear land laws. But the rulebook is useless when no one reads it, or worse, when people choose to ignore it. The law says occupying government land is illegal. That doesn't change if the motive looks noble.

Investors must verify every inch before they buy. Don't fall for sweet talk or religious pretext. Ask for documents. Ask hard questions.

This isn't just about real estate. It's about protecting public land, trust, and the rule of law. If we keep letting feelings override facts, we'll wake up one day and have nothing left to stand on.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial advisor.

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

I wasn't planning to stop at Nengroo Basti that day. It was 2022, and my team and I were in Darwan village, Budgam, to document delays in a rural road project. As we drove back, a small cluster of houses tucked below a slope caught my eye.

Mud walls, tin roofs, and a wire fence encircled the entire settlement. It looked less like a village and more like a low-security prison.

We pulled over and walked uphill. The moment we entered, something felt wrong.

This was not just poverty. It was abandonment. The fencing was real. Barbed wire cut across the landscape. There was no road into the village, no signs of governance, and no basic facilities.

What startled me most was not just what was missing, but what I was told.

"These fences," said Akram Nengroo, one of the elders, "are not to protect us. They're to contain us."

The 17 families living in Nengroo Basti had not migrated there on their own. They were moved in by the government in 2007 after a landslide destroyed their ancestral homes in nearby Sani Darwan. Each family was given a 7 marla plot, just over 1,900 square feet.

The government sanctioned land for a mosque and a school but forgot one basic, universal need: a graveyard.

Since then, three people have

died. With no land to bury them, the community dug graves inside the mosque compound. The same small patch of land that offers spiritual refuge now holds the dead, too.

"We don't even have space to grieve properly," one woman told me. "We bury our loved ones where we pray."

This isn't just a local administrative lapse. It's a breach of law, dignity, and the rights guaranteed under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

The FRA was extended to Jammu and Kashmir in October 2019 after Article 370 was revoked. It was supposed to bring long-denied protections to traditional forest dwellers - land rights, community ownership, access to common spaces, and freedom from arbitrary eviction.

But in places like Nengroo Basti, the law has been an illusion.

I've worked in these forest belts for years. My team and I have conducted awareness drives, filed petitions, and held protests across tribal villages. We pushed hard for the implementation of FRA. When it was finally rolled out in January 2021, it felt like a breakthrough. The state's top bureaucrats promised action. Village Forest Rights Committees were formed. Claim forms were distributed.

And then... nothing. In Nengroo Basti, no one was ever informed about their entitlements. They didn't know they could claim land for a graveyard under the Community Forest Rights provision. They didn't know they had a legal right to

Bring Schools Back to Life

In response to Dr. Zainabi's sharp critique of Kashmir's growing reliance on coaching centers, a civic official offers a reform blueprint to reclaim the purpose, integrity, and relevance of school education, before it becomes a mere formality.

Mir Iqbal

If coaching centers have become the primary academic space for science students, let's acknowledge this and adapt. Integrate mandatory practical work into their weekly schedules.

At least three hours per week of hands-on biology, chemistry, and physics labs should be enforced. Schools can partner with coaching institutes to ensure students meet these core requirements in meaningful, supervised ways.

But academic excellence alone is not enough. We must also nurture responsible, empathetic citizens. Coaching institutes should dedicate at least one hour a week to humanities, covering ethics, language skills, civic engagement, critical thinking, or public speaking. The doctors and engineers of tomorrow must not be strangers to society's human side.

Not every student can afford private coaching, nor should they

have to. The government must scale up online learning platforms that offer free or subsidized access to recorded lectures, mock tests, and interactive sessions with expert faculty. This will help ensure underprivileged or rural students are not left behind in this competitive race.

Libraries in both government and private schools need to be revived and reimagined. Updated books, digital resources, and flexible access hours can help students reconnect with independent thinking, reading, and self-directed learning. These skills are essential beyond any single exam.

We must also establish random audits and joint monitoring cells between schools and coaching centers to ensure that necessary academic facilities are being provided, especially for students from economically marginalized backgrounds.

ghost law - present in name, invisible in function.

What makes this even more shameful is the central government's rhetoric. The budget of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has ballooned from 4,295 crore in 2014 to nearly 15,000 crore today.

The Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan boasts an outlay of 80,000 crore across five years. We hear slogans about tribal upliftment. But here in Kashmir, the tribal poor are still struggling for the right to die with dignity.

In November 2023, I had a rare chance to speak directly with Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Raj Bhavan in Srinagar. I raised the issue of FRA implementation, along with the RTE, RTI, Land Acquisition Act, and SC/ST protections. He listened, and gave clear instructions to senior officers, assuring me that these laws would be enforced.

Almost three years have passed since that meeting. Nothing has moved. The claim forms lie forgotten - some in village cupboards, others in SDM drawers. Promises hang in the air like mist that never turns into rain.

Back in Nengroo Basti, nothing has changed. The fences still stand. The mosque still doubles as a graveyard. The people still wait.

The author is an Acumen Fellow and Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement. He can be reached at bhatrajamuzaffar@gmail.com

Let's also widen the horizon. Kashmir's brightest minds should not be funneled into just two careers: medicine and engineering. Vocational education, civil services preparation, research, entrepreneurship, liberal arts, and skilled trades must be equally respected, mentored, and institutionally supported.

Board examinations also need reform. As long as school curricula continue to diverge from what NEET and JEE demand, the formal education system will remain irrelevant to many. Aligning content, structure, and difficulty levels can help restore credibility to school education.

Dr. Zainabi is right to warn that we are producing "candidates, not characters." That is the crux of the crisis.

Coaching centers emerged out of necessity. But they must not replace schools. They should exist within a regulated, student-centric system that values not just marks, but meaning.

It's time for the government, schools, coaching institutes, and civil society to act in partnership. We must stop pretending and start rebuilding public trust in education as a whole.

Yes, Kashmir deserves better. And the course correction must begin now.

The author is a Public Engagement Officer at Srinagar Municipal Corporation and can be reached at miriqbalkmr@gmail.com.



Letter to Editor

Kashmir's Lakes Are Dying and We're Still Debating

We, the Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC), lately met with the J&K Assembly's House Committee on Environment with one message: the region is dangerously close to ecological collapse. And it's not just climate change doing the damage. Much of this destruction is local, preventable, and rooted in policy neglect.

Unregulated construction, deforestation, and soaring vehicular emissions are accelerating the damage.

At 23 percent, Jammu and Kashmir ranks third in household vehicle ownership in India. That number alone should ring alarm bells. Urban air quality is steadily worsening. We proposed an odd-even vehicle policy in major cities and a serious push toward electric public transport. If we don't act now, our lungs will

pay the price.

Our rivers and lakes are in no better shape. Dal Lake is dying. Wular remains underfunded. Anchar and Manasbal are nearly forgotten. Rivers like the Jhelum and Tawi are being swallowed by encroachments and sewage. We need dedicated clean-up drives, just like the ones for the Ganga and Yamuna, and we need them led by local bodies and NGOs. The revival of Khushalsar and Gilsar lakes by the NGO Ehsaas proves this can work.

We also raised concerns over big-ticket projects being pushed through without proper Environmental Impact Assessments. Whether it's tunnels on the Srinagar-Jammu highway or the Panjarni-Amarnath route, skipping environmental checks is a recipe for disaster. Landslides, soil erosion, and instability are already on the rise. We asked for an immedi-

ate audit of key projects to ensure EIA compliance and transparency.

Then there's the assault on our farmland. Since changes to land laws, agricultural land is being swallowed by unchecked real estate. This isn't just about land use. It's about long-term food security. We urged the Committee to limit conversions and encourage vertical housing development instead.

The Achan dumping site in Srinagar is another ticking bomb. Toxic emissions from the site are reportedly linked to cancer, infertility, and respiratory diseases. We asked for immediate testing and public health advisories. The existing ban on single-use plastics is poorly enforced. We need strict implementation of the polluter-pays principle and widespread promotion of biodegradable alternatives.

Lastly, our wetlands and wild-

life sanctuaries, especially Ramsar sites like Hokersar, are deteriorating fast. Encroachments, pollution, and mismanagement threaten both habitat and biodiversity.

We asked the Committee to conduct on-ground assessments and verify data independently.

To his credit, Committee Chairman M.Y. Tarigami acknowledged the urgency and promised action. But time is not on our side. We urge the government to pass a Water Bodies Conservation Bill and a Glacier Protection Bill, publish a real Climate Action Plan, and bring experts and citizens into the fold.

Kashmir's environment is not just a heritage. It is our future. And that future is slipping away.

Sincerely,
Group of Concerned Citizens
Srinagar

In Kashmir, a Son's Grief Becomes a Village's Hope

With a cow shed, a tractor, and a stubborn will, this Kashmiri youth turned personal tragedy into community strength.

Gowher Bhat

When the call came, Owais Ahmad Bhat was sitting with a textbook open on his lap.

It was about cell biology, part of his preparation for a medical entrance exam. His father had collapsed at work. By the time Owais reached the hospital, it was too late.

That winter evening in Pulwama's Chewakhurd village would mark the end of one life and the beginning of another.

At just 20, Owais stepped into a void no teenager is prepared for: the sudden responsibility of keeping a household from falling apart.

"There was no choice," he said, recalling the moment his future changed. "I had to close the books and open my eyes."

In the months that followed, the boy sold vegetables in the local market, dug fields for neighbouring farmers, and took up any work that offered even a few hundred rupees. A dream of wearing a white coat gave way to mud-stained hands and sleepless nights.

Pulwama, known more for its farms and flashpoints than its success stories, has long witnessed the struggle of youth against unemployment, political instability, and migration.

But in this stretch of south Kashmir, Owais's journey is being told with a different tone: one of possibility.

He used his early earnings to buy a cow, then another. With no background in animal husbandry, he relied on his science lessons to spot infections and maintain hygiene. The cowshed doubled as a classroom.

"I learned to rotate crops, identify early signs of illness in cattle, and use basic chemistry for cleaning," he said. "Textbooks didn't go to waste. They just got repurposed."

The family survived the first year on milk sales and vegetables from their



tiny farm. Some weeks, there was barely enough for dinner. Still, Owais pressed forward. His motivation: his mother, who sank into depression after her husband's death, and his younger sister, whose education he refused to interrupt.

She is now pursuing a nursing degree. "My father wanted me to become a doctor," he said. "Now I want her to fulfill that wish in her own way. I'll carry the cost, whatever it takes."

Owais's decision to buy a tiller tractor last year was both a business move and a social one. He began offering ploughing

services to farmers in Chewakhurd and surrounding areas. Many paid a fee. Those who couldn't, received the help for free.

"I know what it means to feel helpless," he said. "If I have the means, I won't say no."

In a region where many young men migrate or fall into despair, Owais stayed, and grew. His advice is sought by other village youth who want to start farms, raise poultry, or sell produce. At least six small ventures in Chewakhurd bear the trace of his guidance.

"He's changed how boys think here," said Arwaa, his cousin and neighbour. "He

showed that you don't need government connections or city jobs to build something. You just need to begin."

Government data estimates youth unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir at over 18 percent, a figure that doesn't reflect the deeper anxieties of rural life — the absence of stable income, the shrinking of agricultural land, the weight of expectations.

Owais's answer has been simple and stubborn: to work with what's left.

He now juggles his farm duties with distance education. Every morning before dawn, he reads for an hour. Then the day



He doesn't speak in methods or moral lessons. But his actions have made him a symbol of resilience in a place often portrayed in extremes. He doesn't chase big goals, and yet his name is spoken with respect in local lanes and tea stalls.

unfolds: feeding cows, inspecting fields, helping neighbours, mentoring youth.

He doesn't speak in methods or moral lessons. But his actions have made him a symbol of resilience in a place often portrayed in extremes. He doesn't chase big goals, and yet his name is spoken with respect in local lanes and tea stalls.

"When my father died, I wanted to collapse too," he said. "But I had a mother and sister who needed someone to stand. So I stood."

In a valley where grief often silences ambition, Owais found a way to turn his loss into fuel. Not for fame, not even for fortune, but to make sure that no one around him had to fall as hard as he did.

His message to other young Kashmiris is direct: "Start with what you have. Don't wait for a perfect time. Life doesn't wait."

In Chewakhurd, it is not the tractors or the cows that define Owais Ahmad Bhat. It is the choice he made when everything fell apart.

The author is a Pulwama-based writer and educator.

Badamwari Broke Me Open

A brief scene in Srinagar's Badamwari Garden brought a flood of memories and painful truths about love, loyalty, and what we lose in the pursuit of material gain.

Syed Majid Gilani

The sun was already high that June morning, its heat thick and suffocating. I sat in my old Alto 800, engine off, sweat beading on my skin, clothes sticking to me.

Outside the gate of Badamwari Garden in Srinagar, the air felt almost oppressive, but I was used to it. This was my Sunday ritual: waiting for my children, watching the road, thinking about the old days.

But that morning, something happened. Something small and simple, yet it shook me to my core.

A young couple arrived, gliding into the spot on a scooter. The man was dressed neatly in a shirt and pants, polished shoes, a pair of glasses perched on his nose. His wife sat behind him, holding a baby, no more than two years old.

What caught me wasn't their clothes or how they looked, but the way they moved together.

They looked like any other couple, but the way he steadied her hand, the tenderness in their eyes — it was love in its purest form. The kind I had long forgotten existed.

He bought ice creams for them both, from a small kulfis stall by the gate. Then they stopped at a roadside vendor for chips, a bottle of water, some chewing gum. Each exchange was simple. She smiled at him when he insisted she take something, and he persisted, his voice soft, his care evident. The way he held their baby in his arms with such tenderness — it was as if I could feel it too.

At a nearby food truck, they looked at the biryani, kebabs, and fried rice spread out in the open air. He asked if she wanted some. She smiled and shook her head, saying they'd already eaten. But he asked again, gently. She declined again, her smile warm but final. There was no rush, no impatience, just a tacit understanding between them that spoke volumes.



I couldn't look away. And as I watched them, something inside me cracked open. It wasn't just nostalgia for days long gone. It was the recognition of how far I had drifted from that kind of connection.

Years ago, I had been that man. I had walked these same roads, bought kulfis, stopped at stalls, carried my children in my arms. It was simple, but it was everything. It was a life lived with love and effort, a commitment to family that felt like the most natural thing in the world.

But today, watching that young couple, I saw how easily love can be overshadowed by something else — something cold,

something greedy.

I remembered the women I had known, some of whom had started as loving, loyal partners, but had gradually turned bitter, indifferent, and demanding. I saw it all too often — the outside voices creeping in, telling them to ask for more, to demand more, to never settle.

In the name of ambition or misguided advice, they began to treat their husbands not as partners, but as sources of income.

And then came the real heartbreak: When these women, unable to carve out their own futures, turned their marriages into business transactions.

They used their husbands, the very men who had once given them everything — love, care, security — as a stepping stone to something more.

Some began to chase maintenance payments, exploiting their relationships, forgetting that love is never transactional. It was a sickness, a moral rot that I saw growing in society.

But I also know that not every woman is like that. I've known women who stood by their husbands through thick and thin. Women who didn't need money or materialism to feel secure in their marriages. These women still exist. They may be rare,

but they are priceless.

I've also seen men who did everything right. Husbands who gave, cared, and never stopped trying. These men are out there too. They're the ones who hold their families together, who sacrifice without expecting anything in return.

And I've learned one thing over the years: Good men never go unnoticed. Allah sees them, and so does everyone else.

But the truth is, when greed enters the picture, it blinds everything. Some people forget the true value of companionship. They see marriage as a transaction, as a way to gain financial stability, forgetting that love and loyalty are far more precious than anything money can buy. They forget that no amount of money can hold a hand when it trembles, or wipe away the tears in the dark.

And when the years pass, when time catches up, when loneliness creeps in, they will look back and realize what they traded away. But by then, it will be too late.

Sitting in my Alto 800 that morning, watching the young couple walk toward the garden gate, with their child giggling between them, I felt the weight of those old memories pressing on my chest.

The garden, the same one where I had once walked hand in hand with my own family, had seen so much. So many stories of love, loyalty, betrayal, and loss.

In that moment, I realized something profound: What the world saw as a simple scene — an ordinary exchange of affection, a silent Sunday morning — was, for me, a reminder of everything I had lost.

But it was also a wake-up call. Some moments, however small, stay with you forever. And sometimes, the most ordinary scenes change you in ways you never saw coming.

The author is a government officer by profession and a storyteller by passion. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.

Meet chef Aiman: AI To Curate Menus At Dubai’s Futuristic Restaurant

Reuters

In Dubai, your dinner might soon come with a side of source code. WOOHOO, a restaurant that bills itself as "dining in the future", is set to open in September in central Dubai, a stone's throw from the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa. Food at WOOHOO will be assembled by humans, for now, but everything else - from the menu to ambience to service - will be designed by a culinary large-language-model called "Chef Aiman."

Aiman - a portmanteau of "AI" and "man" - is trained on decades of food science research, molecular composition data and over a thousand recipes

from cooking traditions around the world, said Ahmet Oytun Cakir, one of WOOHOO's founders.

While Chef Aiman can't taste, smell or interact with his dishes like a chef normally would, the model works by breaking cuisine down to its component parts like texture, acidity and umami, and reassembling them into unusual flavour and ingredient combinations, according to Aiman's developers.

These prototypes are then refined by human cooks who taste the combinations and provide direction, in an effort led by renowned Dubai-based chef Reif Othman.

"Their responses to my suggestions help refine my understanding of what works beyond pure data," Aiman ex-

plained, in an interview with the inter-active AI model.

The goal, Aiman's creators say, is not to supplant the human element of cooking but to complement it.

"Human cooking will not be replaced, but we believe (Aiman) will elevate the ideas, creativity," said Oytun Cakir, who is also chief executive of hospitality company Gastronom.

Aiman is designed to develop recipes that re-use ingredients often discarded by restaurants, like meat trimmings or fat, he said.

Longer term, WOOHOO's founders believe Aiman could be licensed to restaurants across the globe, reducing kitchen waste and improving sustainability.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER
MINI-SECRETARIAT KULGAM
Tel: 01931-467195 email: ceokulgam-accts@jk.gov.in, ceokulgamaccts@gmail.com, web: www.ceokulgam.in

Subject: Publishing of Final Seniority List of Lab. Assistants of District Kulgam.

NOTICE

This office Vide No: CEO/K/Estt-NT/3447-50/2025, Dated: 30.06.2025 published the Tentative Seniority List of Lab. Assistants of this District in daily News Paper (Daily Aftab Kashmir) on 2nd of July 2025. After receiving updated particulars from concerned DDOs, the Updated Final Seniority List of Lab. Assistants is hereby issued for information to all Lab. Assistants and DDOs. The list has been updated strictly as per particulars and documents furnished by the Concerned DDOs. The Final Seniority list of Lab. Assistants is available on official website of this office (www.ceokulgam.in).

(Mohd Shabir)
Chief Education Officer
Kulgam

No: CEO/K/Estt-NT/3642-45/25
DIPK-3542/25
Dated: 10/07/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Bilal Ahmad Mir, S/O Bashir Ahmad Mir, R/O Sultanpora Pattan, have misplaced my cheque book of my bank account bearing number 304210836290 held at Cooperative Bank, Branch Naidkhai, on 2nd July. I request the bank authorities to kindly treat the said cheque book as cancelled/closed with immediate effect.
Bilal Ahmad Mir
Account Number : 304210836290

fko

OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE WASEEM RASOOL MIR
Sub-Judge Court Complex Chadoora 191113
Private Chamber at: Sheikh Shopping Complex Chadoora.

In the case of:
1. Ali Mohammad Wani S/o Mohammad Ramzan Wani R/o Bugam Bata Pora, Tehsil Chadoora, District Budgam.
2. Khurshid Ahmad Sheikh S/o Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh R/o Bugam, Tehsil Chadoora
3. Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh S/o Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh R/o Bugam, Tehsil Chadoora
4. Kaiser Ashraf S/o Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh R/o Bugam, Tehsil Chadoora

V/S(Caveators)

Public At large(Non-caveators)

In the matter of: - Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148-A of CPC on behalf of the Caveators.

The Caveators are not in a position to identify who may file a frivolous suit or application against them with regard to land measuring 36 Marlas falling within survey khasra Nos. (1411-1412-1413-1416-1420-) situated within Mouza Bugam Batpora District: Budgam where the caveators are constructing a residential house and are having reasons to believe/ reason to apprehend that any person/s, Caveator/s may file a suit or any motion before the hon'ble court on the basis of distorted facts, mis-representation or suppression and may succeed in obtaining some ex-parte relief/ Order at their back against the Caveators and in such eventuality the caveators would be put to an irreparable loss. It would be proper that Caveators are given opportunity of being heard by the hon'ble court as and when any suit or application is filed by anyone against the caveator/s before passing any Ex-parte order.

Sd.
Advocate Waseem Rasool Meer

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, ANANTNAG, J&K
(Main Campus Dialgam, Anantnag)

Phone No. 01932-227624 e-mail: gmcanantnag2018@gmail.com

e-Tender Notice No: 08/GMCA of 2025
Dated: 09-07-2025

DISCOUNT OFFER NOTICE

Subject: Notice inviting online Discount Offers for supply/procurement of Print version of Journals/Periodicals (International and National) for the calendar year 2025.

On behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Principal Govt. Medical College, Anantnag invites online discount offers (in two cover system: Technical Bid and Financial Bid) from Registered Distributors/Suppliers at National Level for supply/procurement of print version Journals/Periodicals (International and National) for the calendar year 2025 as per following details and as per the Annexure "A" with this Tender Notice: -

Tender Schedule:

Sr.No	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & Time of floating of bid	09-07-2025 03:30 PM
2.	Date & time of online bid submission. (Any query to clear can be done through e-mail Id on gmcanantnag2018@gmail.com from 09-07-2025 to 10-07-2025	Start Date & Time 09-07-2025 03:30 PM End Date & Time 25-07-2025 03:30 PM
3.	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	26-07-2025 2:00 PM
4.	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 50,000/= (Rupees fifty thousand only)
5.	Cost of tender document	Rs. 1000/= (Rupees one thousand only)

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including Schedule of Requirement and terms and Conditions can be downloaded from our official website: www.gmcanantnag.net and www.jktenders.gov.in
The interested bidders are advised to register themselves with e-procurement portal (jktenders.gov.in) in order to participate in e-tender.
The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof.

No:- GMCA/Pur/224(A)/1182-86
DIPK-3517/25
dated: 10-07-2025

Sd/-
Principal,
Govt. Medical College, Anantnag

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Entrepreneurship, Startup Meet Held At JKEDI Pampore

Govt focuses on innovative policies, youth empowerment: Dy CM

Observer News Service

PAMPORE- The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Thursday hosted a successful Entrepreneurship and Startup meet at its Pampore campus, drawing significant participation from the government officials, startup founders, innovators and trainees.

The event commenced with the registration and inauguration of 20 exhibition stalls, which showcased innovative products and services by startups, RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) trainees and units supported by JKEDI.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary graced the occasion as chief guest. He visited the stalls, engaging directly with the young entrepreneurs and commending their spirit of innovation.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasised the government's unwavering commitment towards fostering a vibrant startup ecosystem in J&K. He underscored that JKEDI continues to serve as a vital institution for entrepreneurship development in the region, committed to enable the youth through training, mentorship and strategic policy interventions.

Emphasizing on creating startup ecosystem and new initiative enterprises, the Dy CM called for setting up cross sectoral business support ecosystem for growth of entrepreneurship at all levels along with generation of mass employment opportunities.

Surinder Choudhary reiterated government's commitment to establish J&K as a thriving hub of enterprises and holistic employment by fostering entrepreneurship and transitioning towards sustainable economy, livelihood and empowered youth.

A key highlight of the event was the address by the MLA Pampore Hasnain Masoodi during which multiple important initiatives were launched including, procedural guidelines for Startup Policy 2024-27, Startup Idea Challenge, DPR Portal and Certificate distribution among the trainees of MDP/ESDP under the RAMP initiative.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Department, Vikramjit Singh, highlighted the importance of institutional support for entrepreneurial growth in the region.

CM Omar Abdullah inaugurates Travel & Tourism Fair Kolkata-2025

Mutual Tourism Growth Possible Between J&K And West Bengal: CM



Observer News Service

KOLKATA- Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday inaugurated the Travel & Tourism Fair, TTF Kolkata-2025, India's oldest and most trusted B2B travel trade show, at Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan, Kolkata.

Addressing a distinguished gathering of travel professionals, industry stakeholders, and dignitaries, the Chief Minister described TTF Kolkata as a vital platform to explore avenues for collaboration between Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal and promote mutual growth in the tourism sector.

He emphasized that the fair would encourage all stakeholders to contribute meaningfully towards strengthening the cultural and economic ties between the two regions.

The inaugural ceremony was also attended by several dignitaries, including Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Speaker of the

Sikkim Legislative Committee Rajkumari Thapa, MLA (Soreng-Chakung) Aditya Gole, Chairman of Chhat-tisgarh Tourism Board Neelu Sharma, Counsel General of Thailand Siriporn Tantipanyathep, and Convenor of Association for Conservation & Tourism (ACT) Raj Basu.

The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation from various tour and travel operators, tourism officers, and media representatives, highlighting the growing significance of the eastern Indian market in national and global tourism circuits.

In his address, the Chief Minister, who was the chief guest at the event, highlighted Jammu & Kashmir's transformation into a year-round, all-segment tourist destination, with significant strides made in infrastructure, accessibility, and investor-friendly policies.

He spoke of the deep cultural and emotional connect between J&K and West Bengal, inviting travellers from the state to rediscover the time-

less charm, natural beauty, and evolving experiences of Jammu & Kashmir.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed his privilege in being part of the country's premier travel trade platform. "It is indeed a privilege to be here at TTF Kolkata 2025," he said. "I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the organizers for creating this vital platform that promotes tourism across the country. Jammu & Kashmir is proud to participate as a key stakeholder in India's tourism growth story."

The Chief Minister elaborated on the remarkable transformation witnessed in Jammu & Kashmir's tourism sector. "J&K has evolved into a year-round, all-segment tourism destination," he noted. "We are not only focusing on traditional sites but have also identified and developed off-beat locations such as Gurez, Bangus, Bhaderwah, Sanasar, Doodhpathri, and Basohli. These destinations have seen significant growth and offer unique experiences to travellers."



I EXTEND MY HEARTFELT APPRECIATION TO THE ORGANIZERS for creating this vital platform that promotes tourism across the country. Jammu & Kashmir is proud to participate as a key stakeholder in India

New Launches, Best Deals Of The Year At Fastest Delivery Speeds This Amazon Prime Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Amazon India is all set to kick off its most awaited shopping extravaganza of the year- Prime Day 2025 for Prime members. From 12:00 AM on July 12th to 11:59 PM on July 14th, get ready for 72 hours of non-stop shopping with the widest selection at fastest speed, unbeatable deals, and blockbuster entertainment. Whether you are looking to upgrade your tech, refresh your wardrobe, or revamp your home, Prime Day brings fantastic savings across categories including Smartphones, Electronics, TVs, Appliances, Amazon Devices, Fashion, Beauty, Home & Kitchen, Furniture, Grocery, Everyday Essentials, and much more.

Akshay Sahi, Director - Prime, Deliveries & Returns, India & Emerging Markets, Amazon said "Prime Day is a celebration of our customers, and this year we're going bigger than ever with 72 hours of shopping, unmatched savings and blockbuster entertainment. With thousands of deals across categories, Prime Day promises to bring the best of



Amazon to Prime members across the country. Customers can also use Rufus, our generative AI-powered shopping assistant to simplify their buying journey and helping them compare products, get tailored recommendations, and discover the best options with ease. This year, Rufus gets even better with expanded access on desktop, just in time to help Prime members find the perfect deals for their needs.

The company also recently invested INR 2000 crore as a part of its commitment to building and operating India's fastest, safest and most reliable operations network.

"Our pan-India logistics network is the foundation for delivering convenience with speed to customers, and we're committed to providing fast, reliable service across the en-

tire country," said Abhinav Singh, Vice President - Operations, Amazon India and Australia. "Today, we announced the launch of over 30 new delivery stations, in tier-two and tier-three cities including Nagpur, Panchkula, Hubli, Mohali, Howrah, and Indore among others. This is in addition to the company's existing delivery network of 2,000 Amazon and partner-owned delivery stations and over 28,000 'I Have Space' stores located across the country. By expanding our delivery network, we're not only meeting current customer demand but also building capacity for future growth. As we approach Prime Day 2025, these new stations, along with our widely spread existing network will ensure customers throughout India experience seamless and on-time deliveries."

Markets Wilt Under Selling Pressure; Sensex Drops 345 Points

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty buckled under selling pressure on Thursday due to weakness in IT and telecom stocks as investors turned cautious ahead of the start of earnings season, with tech major TCS scheduled to announce its Q1 numbers later in the day.

Tariff-related uncertainty also dampened investor sentiment in the market, traders said. Sliding for the second straight session, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 345.80 points or 0.41 per cent to settle at 83,190.28. During the day, it declined 401.11 points or 0.48 per cent to 83,134.97.

As many as 2,064 stocks declined, while 1,959 advanced and 138 remained unchanged on the BSE. On similar lines, the 50-share NSE Nifty declined 120.85 points or 0.47 per cent to 25,355.25.

A positive momentum in global equities, however, restricted the loss in the domestic markets. "Indian equities concluded the day in the red, weighed down by weakness in IT stocks ahead of TCS' Q1 results. Investor sentiment remains cautious ahead of the Q1 results in anticipation of a muted start to the season from the IT and finance sectors. However, the recent consolidation in the IT stocks largely factors in the muted outlook, limiting further worries," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

From the Sensex pack, Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, Infosys, Bharat Electronics, Tech Mahindra and Eternal were major laggards.

However, Maruti, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Trent and Tata Consultancy Services were among the gainers.

"Dalal Street ended in the red on Thursday, as investors remained cautious ahead of two key events -- US President Donald Trump's upcoming tariff announcement and the start of India's Q1FY26 earnings season, with TCS scheduled to report results post market hours," Gaurav Garg, Analyst, Lemonn Markets Desk, said.

The BSE midcap gauge dipped 0.28 per cent while the small-cap index inched higher by 0.12 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, tech dropped 1.17 per cent, telecommunication (1.11 per cent), BSE Focused IT (0.77 per cent), IT (0.71 per cent) and consumer durables (0.44 per cent).

Realty, metal, oil & gas and utilities were the gainers. "On the sectoral front, profit booking in IT majors ahead of TCS results weighed on the index, followed closely by weakness in FMCG and pharma stocks. However, the realty and metal sectors bucked the trend and closed in the green. The broader indices also ended with modest losses, continuing their profit-taking phase," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Govt To Sell Minority Stake In LIC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The government is working on further stake sale in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and the disinvestment department would work out finer details of the transaction, sources said.

The government currently holds 96.5 per cent stake in LIC. It had sold 3.5 per cent through an initial public offering (IPO) in May 2022 at a price band of Rs 902-949 a share. The share sale fetched the government around Rs 21,000 crore.

Sources said the government has given its approval for further share sale in LIC through the OFS route and the discussions are still in the nascent stage.

"It is up to the disinvestment department to look at the market condition and conclude the stake sale," a source said. The government needs to offload another 6.5 per cent stake in the public sector life insurer to meet the mandated 10 per cent public shareholding requirement by May 16, 2027.

The quantum of stake sale, price and timing would be decided in due course, the source added. LIC's current market capitalisation stands at Rs 5.85 lakh crore.

Shares of LIC were trading at Rs 924.40 apiece, down 2.27 per cent over the previous close on the BSE.

‘Indian Team To Soon Visit Washington Again For Trade Talks With US’

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- An Indian commerce ministry team will soon visit Washington for another round of talks on the proposed trade agreement with the US to iron out differences in sectors, like agriculture and automobiles, a government official said on Thursday.

"We are not differentiating between an interim or the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement. We are negotiating a complete deal. Whatever will be finished, we can package it as an interim deal and for the rest, talks will continue," the official said.

The dates for the US visit have not been finalised

yet. However, according to sources, the team is expected to visit Washington next week.

"We are engaged both physically and virtually with the US on the pact," the official, who did not wish to be named, said.

On the timeline of the proposed interim deal, the official said: "One does not know."

Earlier this month, an Indian team led by chief negotiator Rajesh Agrawal returned from Washington after holding talks on the pact between June 26 and July 2.

Agrawal is the special secretary in the Department of Commerce.

India has hardened its po-

sition on the US demand for duty concessions on agri and dairy products. New Delhi has, so far, not given any duty concessions to any of its trading partners in a free trade agreement in the dairy sector.

This visit is significant as the US has further extended the imposition of additional import duties (in the case of India, it is 26 per cent) till August 1. India is seeking the removal of this additional tariff.

India is also seeking the easing of tariffs on steel and aluminium (50 per cent) and the auto (25 per cent) sectors. Against these, India has reserved its right under the WTO (World Trade Organization) norms to impose retaliatory duties.

Last week, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said India does not enter into any trade agreement based on deadlines and will accept the proposed trade deal with the US only when it is fully finalised, properly concluded and in the national interest.

FTAs are possible only when both sides benefit, and it should be a win-win agreement, he has said when asked about the proposed interim trade agreement with the US.

US President Donald Trump announced heavy tariffs on a number of countries, including India, on April 2. However, it was soon postponed for 90 days until July 9 and later to August 1.

India Now Makes Faster Payments Than Any Other Country, Courtesy UPI: IMF Note

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India now makes faster payments than any other country with the quick growth of UPI, and the usage of other instruments, including debit and credit cards, is on the decline, according to an IMF note.

Unified Payments Interface is an instant and real-time payment system developed by NPCI to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phones.

IMF's Fintech Note titled 'Growing Retail Digital Payments: The Value of Interoperability' said that since its launch in 2016, UPI has grown quickly, while some proxies for cash usage have begun to decline.

UPI now processes more than 18 billion transactions per month and dominates other electronic retail payments in India. "India now makes faster payments than any other country. At the same time, proxies for cash usage have fallen," the note said.

The note presents evidence consistent with this framework using granular data covering the universe of transactions on India's UPI, an interoperable platform that has become the world's largest retail fast payment system by volume.

"Since its launch in 2016, UPI has grown quickly, while some proxies for cash usage have begun to decline. UPI now processes more than 18 billion transactions per month and dominates other electronic retail payments in India," the fintech note said.

Fintech Notes offer practical advice from IMF staff members to policymakers on important issues.

It said that interoperable payment systems, such as UPI, are alternatives to closed-loop systems that could also foster the adoption of digital payments. Such systems allow for seamless



payments between users of different payment providers.

"Importantly, total digital payments also rise relative to a proxy for cash usage," it said.

The note further said that estimating cash usage is difficult because cash transactions can occur anonymously and may not be recorded in any ledger, especially in the informal sector.

"However, we can approximate cash usage with the value of automated teller machine (ATM) withdrawals in each district. When we measure the impact of integration on transaction values relative to cash withdrawals, we find a very similar picture," it said.

The note said that total digital payments relative to cash withdrawals rise substantially and persistently more after integration in districts that face greater increases in de facto interoperability.

This evidence suggests that interoperability can indeed support the adoption of digital payments and encourage a transition away from cash, it added.

The fintech note has been prepared by Alexander Copestake, Divya Kirti, and Maria Soledad Martinez Peria.

The authors further said that as the interoperable platform matures and more providers join, policymakers should watch for the emergence of dominant private providers and be prepared to take action to maintain a fully open, interoperable and competitive system.

Gold Rises ₹250 To ₹98,670/10 G; Silver Trades Flat

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices rose by Rs 250 to Rs 98,670 per 10 grams in the national capital on Thursday due to renewed buying interest by investors and stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at Rs 98,420 per 10 grams on Wednesday.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by Rs 200 to Rs 98,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). The yellow metal had closed at Rs 98,000 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

Meanwhile, silver prices traded flat at Rs 1,04,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Thursday.

"Gold traded higher on Thursday, buoyed by renewed demand for safe-haven assets.

"Ongoing uncertainties surrounding US President Donald Trump's trade policies and their potential impact on the global economy supported gold prices," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the international markets, spot gold went up marginally to USD 3,324.40 per ounce.



On Wednesday, President Trump announced that the US would impose a 50 per cent tariff on Brazilian goods starting from August 1.

According to Abans Financial Services' Chief Executive Officer Chintan Mehta, the latest US Federal Reserve's FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting minutes showed that officials remain cautious and divided on the economic outlook, preferring to wait for more data before committing to interest rate cuts.

At the same time, higher-than-expected crude oil inventories have kept energy prices in check, easing inflation concerns. This combination of a patient Fed and cooling inflation supports the case for eventual interest rate cuts, which continues to favour gold by reducing the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets, Mehta said.

Trump Sends Out Tariff Letters To 7 More Countries But Avoids Major US Trade Partners

Associated Press

WASHINGTON- President Donald Trump sent out tariff letters to seven smaller US trading partners on Wednesday with a pledge to announce import taxes on other countries later in the day.

None of the countries targeted in the first batch of letters — the Philippines, Brunei, Moldova, Algeria, Libya, Iraq and Sri Lanka — is a major industrial rival to the United States. It's a sign that a president who has openly expressed his love for the word "tariff" is still infatuated with the idea that taxing trade will create prosperity for America. Most economic analyses say the tariffs will worsen inflationary pressures and subtract from economic growth, but Trump has used the taxes as a way to assert the diplomatic and financial power of the US on both rivals and allies.

His administration is promising that the taxes on imports will lower trade imbalances, offset some of the cost of the tax cuts he signed into law on Friday and cause factory jobs to return to the United States.

Trump, during a White House meeting with African leaders talked up trade as a diplomatic tool. Trade, he said, "seems to be a foundation" for him to settle disputes between India and Pakistan, as well as Kosovo and Serbia.

J&K Media Studies Forum Visits DSEK Pitches For introduction Of Media Studies At +2 Level

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A delegation from the Jammu and Kashmir Media Studies Forum (JKMSF) on Wednesday visited the Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) to follow up on the proposal seeking the introduction of Media Studies and other additional subjects at the senior secondary (+2) level in schools across Jammu and Kashmir.

According to officials, the proposal is currently under active consideration and a key review meeting to assess the progress of the initiative is scheduled for Thursday at DSEK, as part of a series of internal discussions.

During the visit, the JKMSF delegation was informed that over 30 subject representations—ranging from various academic and professional fields including Mass Communication—have been received by the department

and are presently under scrutiny.

Personal Officer at DSEK, Iqbal Hussain Mir, assured the delegation that the department is working earnestly to complete the evaluation process and forward the final proposal to the higher authorities for approval.

The JKMSF delegation also submitted a fresh memorandum underscoring the growing relevance of Media Studies in today's information-driven

world and urged the inclusion of the subject in the final list.

Mir gave a patient hearing to the delegation and expressed hope for a positive outcome once the internal review process concludes.

The JKMSF has been advocating for the integration of media literacy and communication studies into the school curriculum to equip students with critical thinking, digital awareness, and media production skills.

Govt To Sell Minority Stake In LIC

Agencies

New Delhi: The government is working on further stake sale in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and the disinvestment department would work out finer details of the transaction, sources said.

The government currently holds 96.5 per cent stake in LIC. It had sold 3.5 per cent through an initial public offering (IPO) in May 2022 at a price band of Rs 902-949 a share. The share sale fetched the government around Rs 21,000 crore.

Sources said the government



has given its approval for further share sale in LIC through the OFS route and the discussions are still in the nascent stage.

“It is up to the disinvestment department to look at the market

condition and conclude the stake sale,” a source said. The government needs to offload another 6.5 per cent stake in the public sector life insurer to meet the mandated 10 per cent public shareholding requirement by May 16, 2027.

The quantum of stake sale, price and timing would be decided in due course, the source added.

LIC's current market capitalisation stands at Rs 5.85 lakh crore. Shares of LIC were trading at Rs 924.40 apiece, down 2.27 per cent over the previous close on the BSE.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

1.45 Lakh Visit Cave

was split into two groups for the Baltal and Pahalgam routes.

Officials said 5,534 men, 1,586 women, 25 children, and 162 sadhus and sadhvis were part of the latest batch. Since the Yatra was flagged off by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, 62,788 pilgrims have left from Jammu.

Authorities have deployed adequate security, medical, and logistical teams along the Yatra routes to ensure smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

Meanwhile, the sacred ‘Chhari Mubarak’ reached Pahalgam on Thursday, marking the start of key rituals. Led by Mahant Deependra Giri, the holy mace left Srinagar in the morning and reached Chhari Vishram Sthal, where Bhoomi Pujan, Navgrah Pujan, and flag hoisting were performed.

Over 4 lakh pilgrims have registered for this year's pilgrimage, which concludes on August 9. Last year, over 5.1 lakh devotees performed darshan during the 52-day Yatra.

Stop Peddling

renewed push by the administration to foster communal harmony, attract investment, and provide platforms for youth, entrepreneurs, and marginalized communities. Highlighting the damage such statements can do, LG Sinha reminded the gathering of the importance of truth, accountability, and civic responsibility.

Reiterating his commitment to justice for victims of terror, he noted the misuse of SRO-43—a government employment scheme meant for families affected by militancy. “Instead of those who were entitled, the killers were granted jobs under SRO-43. This injustice will not go unpunished,” he said, assuring action against those who manipulated the scheme for personal or political gain.

Celebrating a Transforming J&K

The ‘Bharat Sanrachna J&K 2025’ initiative, inaugurated at a grand event in Srinagar, aims to build bridges between citizens and the administration by showcasing achievements in governance, innovation, and welfare schemes. Calling it a celebration of India's growth and the transformation of Jammu & Kashmir, LG Sinha said, “Within 6 years, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has written a new history of J&K.”

He painted a vibrant picture of a region in transformation: from stone pelting to pens, from shutdowns to international conferences, from joblessness to startups and entrepreneurship. “It's a new J&K where our youth are achieving new heights in innovation and research. The slogans of separatism have been replaced with the hum of factories, the bustle of tourists, and the laughter of the people.”

LG outlined how J&K's economy has doubled in recent years and how institutions like J&K Bank have transitioned from deep losses to significant profits. He emphasized the government's commitment to inclusivity, noting progress in empowering women, farmers, marginalized communities, and youth.

“The next 22 years can be golden years for Jammu and Kashmir in the journey of Amrit Kaal, provided we give the new generation a chance to shape this development narrative,” LG Sinha stated. He expressed hope that youth from the region would soon participate in cutting-edge fields like space research.

The ongoing three-day mega event features interactive exhibitions, skill zones, live demonstrations, expert talks, and showcases of local success stories. Central government ministries and premier institutions like ISRO, ICMR, ICAR, and the Ministry of MSME are participating, offering hands-on exposure and learning to students, entrepreneurs, and the public.

He encouraged school and college students to visit in large numbers, stressing the role of youth in continuing the positive transformation of the region. “This event is not just an exhibition—it is a platform to inspire, educate, and unite,” he said.

The 3-day long event will feature interactive Exhibitions from central ministries, PSUs, institutions, and national boards; Live Demonstrations & Hands-on Experiences for students and visitors; Workshops, Seminars & Expert Talks on topics like innovation, sustainability, and government support; Skill Zones, career guidance sessions, and youth empowerment modules and showcase of local success stories and integration of local artisans and entrepreneurs.

Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana, DC Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Director, Tarmeh Events Tarun Jain, officials from Central departments and UT Administration, prominent citizens, innovators, entrepreneurs and youth in large numbers were present.

'Homegrown Weapons

to run on bhagya (destiny),” LG Sinha said. “But since 2014, the country has adopted a clear roadmap under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is now moving towards becoming a global superpower.”

Highlighting the massive transformation

India has undergone over the past 11 years, LG Sinha noted that every citizen is now actively participating in discussions around governance and development, particularly regarding the delivery of government schemes that have impacted all sections of society. “PM Modi has not only strengthened grassroots democracy in Jammu and Kashmir but also ensured that Kashmir is now connected to Kanyakumari through an integrated railway network,” he said.

The LG said that the separatist-issued protest calendars that once disrupted life in J&K are now history. “In Naya Jammu and Kashmir, it is our universities and JKBOSE that issue academic calendars, and young innovators are now leading from the front,” he remarked. “People who can't see what has changed in Naya Jammu and Kashmir need to open their eyes and wake up from deep slumber.”

“Within 6 years, PM Modi has written a new history of J&K. It is a new J&K where children carry pens instead of stones, where schools and colleges remain open throughout the year, and where calendars of international programmes are published instead of bandhs and strikes,” he added.

“It's a new J&K where our youth are reaching new heights in innovation and research, focusing on startups and launching business ventures. Now, in the new J&K, instead of slogans of separatism, we hear the noise of factories, tourists, and the laughter of people,” LG Sinha said.

He also praised the rise of women-led entrepreneurship in the region. “In J&K, 37% of startups are run by women. This is a testament to the talent and capability of our youth,” he said, adding that Jammu and Kashmir will play a pivotal role in the realization of Viksit Bharat.

Providing historical context, LG Sinha reminded the audience that in the 11th century, India contributed 33% to the world's GDP. “Due to foreign invasions and colonization, this dropped to just 4% after independence in 1947,” he noted. “But today, due to the visionary leadership of PM Modi, India has become the fourth-largest economy in the world, contributing 16% to the global GDP.”

Looking ahead, LG Sinha expressed confidence that by 2047, when India celebrates 100 years of independence, the country will be on par with global economic giants like the United States and Europe.

He said J&K will not only contribute but also lead in key sectors. “I hope J&K will one day produce astronauts. India has already made its mark in space, and there's no reason why our youth can't be part of that journey,” he said.

LG Sinha urged the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to rise as job creators and innovators. “You are as talented as any youth in the country. The future of Viksit Bharat runs through your dreams and determination,” he concluded.

Contaminated Water?

from the well or the spring.

Doctors attending to patients have advised calm, stating that the situation is under control. “There is no need to panic. Most patients are stable and recovering with timely treatment. The water sample reports will guide the next course of action,” said a visiting health official.

Residents, however, expressed anger over what they described as negligence on the part of the authorities. They allege that the water supply, sourced from the well, was never tested before.

Locals have appealed to the administration to ensure an immediate supply of clean, filtered drinking water and take strict measures to prevent such incidents in the future. They called for accountability and regular quality checks on water sources.

Meanwhile, health officials have urged residents to avoid consuming water from any uncertain sources and instead use boiled water for drinking and cooking. People have been asked to maintain hygiene and report any symptoms like diarrhoea or vomiting to the health centre, which is now operating 24x7. (KNO)

J&K Not Represented

Ali Khatana, a resident of Jammu, was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the President of India. However, his nomination came under the President's quota and was not from J&K's allocated share of seats in the Upper House.

As of now, the absence of any elected representative from J&K in the Rajya Sabha continues to raise concerns over the lack of regional voice and legislative participation at the national level. (inputs from KNO)

2025 Not An

attack, Omar assured that the government has taken all necessary measures to protect visitors. “I understand everyone's concern after the Pahalgam incident. But please be assured that all necessary steps have been taken. Please listen to the people who have returned from Pahalgam recently,” he said.

Omar added that tourist movement to Pahalgam has resumed and security audits are being conducted in certain areas to ensure safety. “There are some places where we are

conducting security audits. We are working to give tourists a safe and secure destination,” he said.

He also noted a rise in the number of direct flights to J&K and confirmed that the annual Amarnath Yatra is underway.

“Tourism is bouncing back. I am here in the city (Kolkata) to boost that,” Omar said, exuding confidence in the sector's resilience and ability to recover.

NC Seeks Permission

tradition, we have formally written to the District Magistrate, Srinagar, seeking permission to peacefully assemble and pay floral tributes at Mazar-e-Shuhada,” she said.

“We sincerely hope that this time, our democratic and peaceful request will be respected, and that the National Conference will be allowed to mark this day in accordance with tradition and sentiment,” she added.

July 13 used to be a public holiday in Jammu and Kashmir before reorganisation of the erstwhile state into two Union territories in August 2019. A state function would be held every year to honour the “martyrs” who fell to the bullets of forces of the Maharaja.

After the reorganisation of J&K, the July 13 holiday was scrapped along with December 5 holiday which used to mark the birthday of NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

The lieutenant governor administration has since declared September 23, birthday of Maharaja Hari Singh, as a public holiday in Jammu and Kashmir.

Need To Be Alert

we need to be alert 24x7 to prevent such incidents from recurring.”

Addressing concerns over the delay in arrests, he said investigations take time and cannot be bound by deadlines. “Arrests do not depend on any time frame. I am confident that one day the perpetrators of the attack will be apprehended,” he asserted.

The April 22 attack in Pahalgam had sent shockwaves across the country, raising serious concerns about the security preparedness in the region, especially ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra.

Despite the tragedy, the Chief Minister remained hopeful about the revival of the tourism sector. “Tourism has started reviving in Jammu and Kashmir. Maybe hotel rates are lower than they were before the Pahalgam attack, but people have surely started coming, including for the Amarnath Yatra,” he noted.

Commenting on the Supreme Court's recent order allowing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, Omar said the verdict should be respected. The SIR has triggered political tensions in Bihar, with the opposition INDIA bloc alleging that the move would benefit the ruling NDA — a claim denied by the Election Commission.

On the INDIA bloc and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's recent comments, Omar avoided personal remarks but hinted that it is the responsibility of the bloc's largest party to hold the alliance together. “It is not about me or Mamata Banerjee, but the main responsibility is that of the biggest stakeholder to make it a success,” he said, in an apparent reference to the Congress party.

Responding to BJP leaders comparing West Bengal under Banerjee to Jammu and Kashmir, Omar called such remarks “misleading and ironic.”

He also reiterated his longstanding demand for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. “This is the first time in the history of the country that a state has been broken into Union Territories. We are seeking an early transition back to statehood,” he said.

Lip Service, Not

December 5, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said the “exercise looks more like a lip service than any serious effort”.

“Omar Abdullah government's proposal sent to the LG about declaring July 13 and December 5 as public holidays would have carried weight if the speaker had supported the PDP's resolution for the same in the assembly,” said Mufti in a press release issued by the PDP.

“The speaker's outright rejection of the resolution was unexpected and disappointing. Today's exercise looks more like a lip service than any serious effort,” she added.

The PDP chief said the National Conference's double speak on the issue has been exposed by dropping the resolution.

“By dropping the PDP's July 13 Martyrs' Day resolution, the J&K Assembly has exposed the NC's double-speak on Kashmir's history. Their silence proves complicity, not commitment,” said Mufti.

“The outright rejection of the resolution by the speaker in the assembly was both unexpected and deeply disappointing, undermining any credibility the subsequent move by the NC-led government might claim,” the PDP said.

“As it stands, this entire exercise looks more like a symbolic gesture and political lip service than a serious, sincere effort to preserve the

historical and democratic identity of Jammu & Kashmir,” the party added.

The PDP further said it believes that July 13, 1931 marks the beginning of Kashmir's political awakening and resistance to autocracy, and “the martyrdom of 22 brave individuals must be formally honoured, not just in words but through institutional recognition”.

“PDP reiterates its unwavering commitment to preserving the dignity and memory of the 1931 martyrs and safeguarding the democratic foundations they laid. We will continue to resist all attempts, either covert or overt to erase or dilute Kashmir's past to suit present-day political conveniences,” the party added. (PTI)

Ramban Patwari

20,000 to make the correction. After negotiations, the amount was reduced to 2,500,” the ACB said in its statement.

Acting on the complaint, ACB Doda registered FIR No. 03/2025 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018), and launched an investigation.

A trap team led by a Gazetted Rank Officer was constituted. During the operation, Muzamil Salam—son of Salam Ud Din Shah and a resident of Kaskoot, Tehsil Banihal—was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe from the complainant, in the presence of independent witnesses.

He was arrested on the spot following proper legal procedure, and the bribe money was recovered from his possession.

The ACB said further investigation into the matter is ongoing.

Mamata Urges

the “brothers and sisters” of Kashmir.

“He (Omar) came here after the unfortunate incident in Pahalgam and invited me. I have accepted the invitation. I will try to visit (Jammu and Kashmir) after Puja,” she added.

Omar, who addressed the media alongside Banerjee, thanked the West Bengal government for extending support after the terror attacks.

“After the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor, Didi (Banerjee) had sent a team to Poonch and Rajouri to meet the affected families and provide necessary help. I am thankful to her,” he said.

He reiterated his desire for stronger ties between the two states.

“I want to extend an invitation to Didi to visit Jammu and Kashmir. In future, I want Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir to work together for the betterment of trade, tourism, and relations. It is our duty to provide all necessary support and safety to tourists from Bengal,” Omar said.

During the meeting, the chief ministers discussed strengthening cooperation between the two states in sectors such as industry, tourism, and cultural exchange.

“Kashmir is rich with spices, dry fruits, and other unique offerings. I am a great admirer of Kashmir; I love the place. Our tourism department will work together with them. There should be an MoU to facilitate visits in both directions and promote cultural exchange. The people of Kashmir are gifted in music, dance and art,” Banerjee said.

She also stated that the West Bengal government would encourage film producers from the state to consider Kashmir as a filming location.

“They (people of J&K) should come here during Puja. We will also invite them for Republic Day celebrations,” the West Bengal chief minister said.

The meeting comes as Jammu and Kashmir seeks to revive its tourism sector amid ongoing security concerns, with the Omar government making outreach efforts to other states for co-operation and investment.

Omar Pokes

the intent, while others pointed to the tone-deaf language of the communication.

While no clarification has yet been issued by NC Kishtwar, the circular has already become a subject of political embarrassment and ridicule, even from within the party's top brass.

Axiom-4 Astronauts

Slawosz Uzanski-Wisniewski and Tibor Kapu, have witnessed 230 sunrises onboard the International Space Station (ISS) and travelled nearly 100 lakh kms in space at the end of two weeks on the orbital laboratory.

3 Convicted, Sentencing

after receiving a phone call from the prime accused, Javid Poswal. His body was discovered a few days later in the Hutmara forest with his hands tied behind his back, prompting a full-scale investigation.

The court found that the accused lured the victim under the pretext of a livestock deal. They then strangled him and stole a large amount of cash he had carried for the transaction. The judgment was based on multiple witness testimonies, forensic evidence, and confessional statements by the accused. During the course of the trial, 16 prosecution witnesses were examined, and key recoveries, including

cash and the deceased's vehicle, were made on the basis of disclosures from the accused.

The case, initially registered in 2017, was transferred to the Additional Sessions Court in 2018. After years of legal proceedings, Thursday's conviction has brought some relief to the victim's family.

Sentencing will be announced after the next hearing scheduled for July 16.

Govt Looks To

HITEC City and T-Hub, Kerala's Technopark, and the IIT Madras Research Park.

A detailed presentation by MT Arvind, Chief Innovation Officer at IIT Jammu, highlighted critical lessons from these Indian tech clusters — including investment strategies, governance frameworks, and ecosystem enablers that support startups and Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

The discussions went beyond infrastructure. Deliberations focused on differentiating between research parks, incubation centres and full-scale IT Parks, with a strong push for embedding emerging technologies, innovation culture and industry-academia partnerships at the core.

JaKeGA CEO Mahima Madaan cited the “IT Infrastructure Development Private Limited,” created in 2019, as a potential implementation vehicle for these projects.

Adding to the policy depth, Dr. Guneet Soodan from the University of Jammu advocated for a collaborative ecosystem that ensures skilled manpower and attracts global players. The meeting also discussed how institutions like the Center for Innovation, Transformation and Governance (C-TAG), set up with IIM Jammu, could guide the initiative forward.

As a key takeaway, the Study Group has resolved to conduct field visits to India's most successful IT hubs, including T-Hub and Cyberabad in Hyderabad, and the IIT Madras Research Park in Chennai. These visits aim to offer hands-on insights into operational design, innovation models, and policy alignment.

“This initiative reflects our commitment to transform Jammu & Kashmir into a digital and innovation-driven economy,” said Dr. Singla. “By learning from India's best, we will create a sustainable, future-ready IT/ITES framework. These parks will not only create jobs and attract investments but position J&K as a serious player in the national tech landscape.”

HC Refuses

surprise check conducted by the ACB South Kashmir, which prima facie revealed a nexus between touts and ARTO officials. The investigation found coded pencil markings on driving license applications linked to known touts identified by initials such as “A.F.”, “A.K.”, and “M.B.”. It was alleged that these touts, in connivance with ARTO officials, facilitated issuance of licenses, vehicle registrations, and fitness certificates in exchange for bribes.

Searches were carried out at the residences of the accused officials and touts, leading to the seizure of documents including blank fitness books, permit forms, insurance papers, and registration certificates. Further, call detail records reportedly established contact between the touts and officials, particularly on days of driving tests. Bank accounts of the accused and their family members were also placed under scrutiny.

While the petitioners argued that they were public servants discharging official duties and thus entitled to prior sanction under Section 17A before initiation of investigation, the prosecution countered that the FIR initially named no individuals. It was only upon identification of their roles during the course of the investigation that sanction was obtained from the General Administration Department on November 11, 2022.

Justice Dhar observed that although steps such as obtaining search warrants between August 2, 2021 and the date of sanction were technically in breach of Section 17A, such procedural lapses were not fatal to the investigation. Relying on precedents including Yashwant Sinha v. CBI and N. Chandrababu Naidu v. State of Andhra Pradesh, the Court held that a delayed sanction does not automatically vitiate an entire investigation.

“Merely because the respondent has undertaken investigation of the impugned FIR in violation of the mandate under Section 17A... cannot form a ground to quash the FIR or the entire investigation,” the Court held.

The Court further noted that the petitioners failed to demonstrate any prejudice or miscarriage of justice as a result of the delay in obtaining sanction. It also rejected the argument that the investigation must be halted because a prior investigating officer had opined against prosecution, clarifying that no final report had been filed, and the agency was well within its rights to reassess and proceed with the probe.

In conclusion, the Court dismissed the petition and vacated the interim stay on the investigation, allowing the ACB to proceed in accordance with law.

3RD TEST

England Show Unusual Patience To Reach 251/4 On Day 1

Press Trust of India

LONDON: Joe Root stitched together a dogged unbeaten 99 as England shed their usual aggressive ways, resorting to classical long format batting amid sustained pressure from the Indian bowlers to reach 251 for four on day one of the Lord's Test here on Thursday.

At stumps, Root was one run shy of his 37th Test hundred having negated 191 balls, and was batting alongside Ben Stokes (39 batting off 102).

They have put on 79 for the unfinished fifth wicket so far.

Opting to bat in a home game only for the second time in the Bazball era, England chose to bat with plenty of patience on a slow surface than being on the offensive — their usual mode of operation under Stokes.

The surface wore a greenish look on the eve of the game but looked flat before the toss as a sea of fans flocked to the iconic venue.

With the series locked at 1-1, the pitch had been a big talking point heading into the third Test.

India, having six bowling options, did not offer too many freebies though Edgbaston hero



Akash Deep struggled to find his rhythm in his debut game here.

After a wicketless afternoon session, Ravindra Jadeja had Ollie Pope (44 off 104) caught behind first ball after tea with a ball that turned away from length. Five overs later, Jasprit

Bumrah weaved his magic as he got one to nip back to pierce Harry Brook's defense.

In the afternoon session, Rishabh Pant had an injury scare as an angled down leg ball from Bumrah crashed into his left fingertip, forcing him to leave the

field.

Dhruv Jurel substituted in his absence and did a fine job. Pant's injury, however, is not serious and he is expected to resume wicketkeeping duties on Friday.

India kept England's run rate in check but Root and Pope

chugged along to take the hosts to 153 for two at tea.

England, known for their ultra-aggressive approach, had a rather subdued session by their standards with Root and Pope going back to classical Test match batting approach.

They were happy to leave balls outside the off-stump to ensure that no damage was done. A total of 70 runs were scored from 24 overs in the middle session.

Root brought up his fifty with a boundary in the fine-leg region.

In the morning, India all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy struck twice in an eventful over to leave England at 83 for two at lunch.

The trio of Bumrah, Akash Deep and Mohamed Siraj did ask a few questions but England opening duo of Ben Duckett (23 off 40) and Zak Crawley (18 off 43) survived the first hour of play, reaching 39 for no loss in 13 overs.

Test cricket may be struggling for regular attendance in some nations but a sell out crowd in this series so far has reaffirmed that the traditional format continues to thrive in this country.

DYSS Holds Meeting To Discuss Hosting 69th NSG



Director General, Department of Youth Services and Sports, Anuradha Gupta, on Thursday chaired a preliminary high-level meeting to discuss preparations for the 69th National School Games, set to be hosted in J&K.

The meeting, attended by Joint Directors Vinakshi Koul and Abdul Rashid Kohli, Deputy Director Jitender Mishra, District Youth Services and Sports Officers, and section heads, focused on crucial aspects including finalization of dates, venue identification, technical committee formation, equipment procurement, and boarding and lodging arrangements for athletes and officials.

Jammu and Kashmir will host four disciplines of the National School Games: Football (U-19 Boys) and Wushu (U-17 Boys and Girls) in Srinagar, while Taekwondo (U-19 Boys and Girls) and Table Tennis (U-19 Boys and Girls) will be conducted in Jammu.

Encouraging a professional and organized approach, DG Anuradha Gupta urged all stakeholders to set benchmarks in event execution, ensuring a seamless experience for participants from across the nation. She emphasized the importance of timely identification of venues and lodging centres to ensure readiness and smooth logistics, both for hosting and for team preparation. (Observer News Service)

Injured Pant Under Medical Supervision: BCCI

India wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant is "under the supervision of medical team" after he walked off the field during the second session's play on Day 1 of the third Test against England after suffering a blow to his left index finger, the BCCI said Thursday.

The Board said in a statement that Pant is being monitored by the medical team as he was replaced by Dhruv Jurel behind the wickets.

Pant was replaced by Jurel, who is not in the playing XI for the third Test, after on-field treatment did not help the India vice-captain recuperate sufficiently.

Pant was grimacing in pain after putting in a dive to stop a delivery on his left, which Jasprit Bumrah had sprayed down the leg side in the 34th over of the innings during the second session.

Pant had managed to get his hands on the ball but could not stop it entirely as England batters Joe Root and Ollie Pope scampered for a couple.

The play was then held up for a while as Pant received treatment on his hand from the Indian support staff, but the wicketkeeper kept shrugging his hands when the action resumed. (PTI)

Tennis Player Shot Dead By Father In Haryana's Gurugram

State-level tennis player Radhika Yadav was allegedly shot dead by her father at their double-storey home in upscale Sushant Lok here on Thursday, the police said.

The 25-year-old, who was shot in the back while cooking, died on the spot, officials said.

Her father, 49-year-old Deepak Yadav, has been arrested and his .32 bore licensed pistol recovered from his possession, they said. Why he did so is still unclear.

The father allegedly fired more than five bullets.

Her mother was on the ground floor, and Radhika, who played tennis for Haryana, was in the kitchen on the first floor when the crime took place, officials said.

A police team reached the house and took the body into custody.

"We are questioning the family members. A probe is underway and the picture will be clear soon," said Inspector Vinod Kumar, SHO, Sector 56 police station.

The family lives in Sushant Lok-Phase 2, Sector 57. The father is a resident of Wazirabad village, the police said. (PTI)

Kashmir Super League Kicks Off At TRC With Thrilling Game

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Super League 2025 kicked off on Thursday at TRC Ground in Srinagar with the opening matchup of the competition pitting Athwas India XI against Greenend Heroes FC.

The game was inaugurated by Tanvir Sadiq, MLA Zadibal, and Irfan Shahmiri, Chairman of Downtown Heroes FC and CHINAR International, in a vibrant opening ceremony that set the tone for the tournament.

Both teams displayed remarkable skill and intensity throughout the match, which kicked off at 7:00 PM under the floodlights. Athwas India XI entered half-

time 1-0 up, but Greenend Heroes FC mounted a strong comeback in the second half to clinch a 2-1 win.

Hyder Yousuf was the standout performer for Greenend Heroes FC, scoring a brilliant brace. Ateeb Dar was the scorer for Athwas India XI.

The post-match presentation ceremony honoured individual brilliance on the field. Hyder Yousuf received the Man of the Match & Game Changer of the Match awards. Greenend Heroes FC goalkeeper Umaid Husain received the Golden Save Award.

The awards were presented in the presence of dignitaries, including Anisa Nabi, Chief Sports Officer,

J&K Sports Council; Was-eem Khan from Khyber Cements; and Irfan Gujju from IA Multiventure.

The Kashmir Super League continues to serve as a powerful platform for local talent and a celebration of the region's love for football.

The Round 1 of Kashmir Super League 2025 will continue on Friday with Aqua Kashmir Avengers FC locking horns with United Elegant FC at TRC Ground. The game will kick off at 7:00 PM. On Saturday, New JK United FC will take on ARCO United FC at the same venue.

The six-team league is also being streamed live on YouTube.



DYSS Organises Sports Activities Across Zones In Kashmir



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports resumed its Inter-Zonal and Inter-School competitions across multiple districts in Jammu and Kashmir, marking an energetic return after the summer break.

In north Kashmir's Bandipora, the Baseball (Girls U-17 and U-19) event commenced at HSS Nadihal with enthusiastic participation from various zones.

Meanwhile, Anantnag witnessed a vibrant Fit India Run, flagged off from Mominabad Bypass Crossing and culminating at Donipawa Crossing. Students and staff from various institutions participated, promoting a message of health and unity. Medals were awarded to top performers in both student and staff categories. Additionally, district-level volleyball, kho-kho, kabaddi, and yoga events are ongoing, further strengthening the sports ecosystem in the region.

In district Ganderbal, the Inter-Zone District Level Chess Championship for Boys and Girls (U-19) was held at BHSS and GHSS Ganderbal, with Zone Ganderbal emerging victorious in the boys' category. The competition served as a selection trial for the upcoming Provincial Level Chess Championship. Simultane-

ously, Zone Kangan organized an Inter-School Cricket Competition for U-17 boys, witnessing enthusiastic participation.

Budgam saw the successful conduct of the Inter-Zonal District Level Football Tournament (U-17 Boys) at Sports Stadium Charar-i-Sharief and Open Ground Batpora. Selection trials for girls in handball, softball and baseball were also held to identify fresh talent for future competitions.

In Baramulla, Inter-School Zonal Level Handball and Football competitions resumed, with over 60 students participating in handball trials at HSS Kreeri and 120 students competing in football matches at High School Khawaja Bagh. These events aim to provide young athletes with a platform to showcase their skills.

Kupwara also marked the return of district-level competitions with Kho-Kho (AAG Boys) and Handball (Girls) events, witnessing spirited participation from all zones. The matches highlighted the athletes' determination and team spirit, setting the stage for upcoming inter-district contests.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports remains steadfast in its mission to promote sports, youth activities and fitness among the young blood, ensuring a vibrant and active future for J&K.

After Routing Real Madrid, PSG Eyes Chelsea & Historic Quadruple

AP

Wearing their blue, red and white jerseys, Paris Saint-Germain supporters were surrounded by white shirts.

Real Madrid fans were 95% of the crowd at MetLife Stadium for Wednesday's Club World Cup semifinal, the shirts of Los Blancos radiant in the harsh summer sun. Yet, it was PSG fans in a couple sections behind one goal who cheered virtually from start to finish as their team moved within one win of a historic quadruple.

A 4-0 rout of Real Madrid in a Club World Cup semifinal following a 5-0 wipeout of Inter Milan in the Champions League final reinforced that PSG may be the dominant soccer team of the mid-2020s.

PSG moved on to Sunday's final against Chelsea in the first expanded Club World Cup with a chance to win its fourth major title

of the season exactly 100 days after it clinched Ligue 1 on April 5. It added the Coupe de France by beating Reims 3-0 on May 24, then romped over Inter seven days later.

PSG's blue, red and white jerseys don't have glamorous names pressed across the back, and they may not be as ubiquitous as the red shirts of Manchester United, Liverpool and Arsenal, Manchester City's light blue or Chelsea's royal blue, but the team is filling up the trophy display at Parc des Princes, its cramped, outdated stadium not far from Roland-Garros and the Bois de Boulogne.

On May 31 at Munich, Achraf Hakimi got the first goal 12 minutes in, Désiré Doué scored the next two and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Senny Mayulu added one goal each.

This time, Ruiz scored in the sixth minute and Ousmane Dembélé in the ninth following glaring mistakes by defenders Raúl Asencio and Antonio Rüdiger, and Ruiz



made it 3-0 to cap a counter. Gonçalo Ramos added a goal in the 87th.

Dembélé, this year's Ligue 1 Golden Boot winner with 21 goals, started for the first time since straining his left quadriceps with France on June 5. He missed the Club World Cup group stage and was a substitute in PSG's first two

knockout matches, scoring in second-half injury time during Saturday's 2-0 quarterfinal win over Bayern Munich.

Real Madrid has 15 European and five world titles, a modern global superpower brand established two decades ago in the Galacticos era of David Beckham, Zinedine Zidane

and Luis Figo, then lifted loftier by Cristiano Ronaldo from 2009-18 and the rise of social media.

PSG hadn't won a Ligue 1 title since 1995 when Qatar Sports Investments took over in 2011. Paris has won 11 of 13 French championships since 2013 but until May failed to become Europe's best, despite emulating Madrid's star collection when its lineup included Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappé.

A group achieved more than the star system.

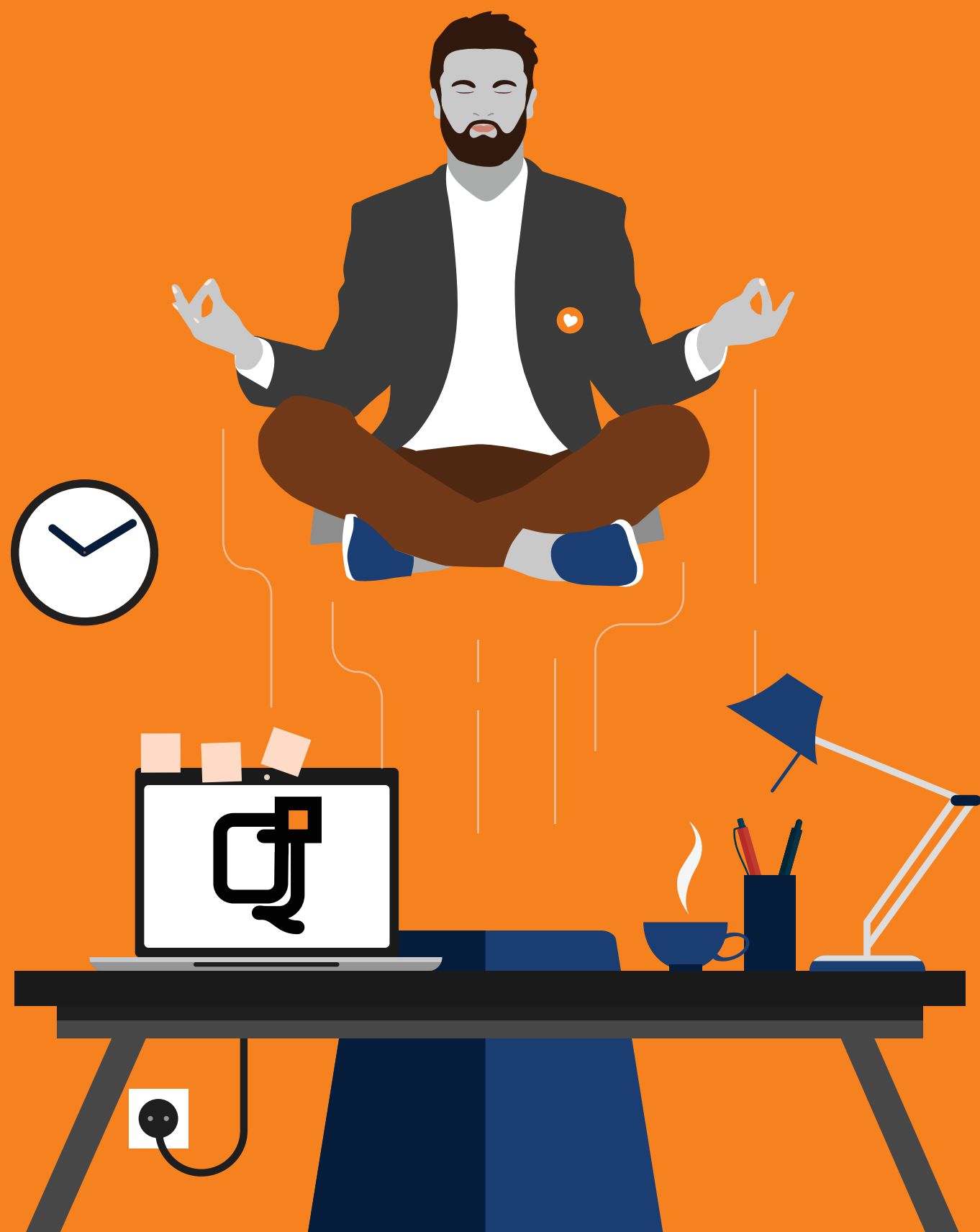
PSG dominated every aspect with a 631-255 advantage in completed passes and 67% possession, including 76.5% in the first half.

PSG has outscored opponents 16-1 in six matches, getting three goals from Ruiz, two each from Dembele, Hakimi and João Neves, and one apiece from Doué, Lee Kang-in, Kvaratskhelia, Mayulu, Ramos and Vitinha. It hasn't allowed a goal since a 1-0 loss to Botofogo in its second group-stage match.

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