

'8,500 Troops, Drones, QRTs, Hospitals'

Yatra Gets Massive Army Security Cover



Observer News Service

Srinagar: To ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the 38-day annual Amarnath Yatra, the Indian Army has rolled out Operation SHIVA 2025, deploying over 8,500 troops alongside advanced surveillance and combat

technologies.

According to official sources, the large-scale operation is being carried out in coordination with the Civil Administration and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). The multi-layered security cover has been activated | [More on P10](#)

Over 18K Visit Cave Shrine On Friday

Over 18,000 pilgrims on Friday paid obeisance to Lord Shiva at the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said. A total of 18,010 pilgrims had darshan at the 3800-metre high holy cave shrine on Friday, they said. | [More on P10](#)

Hand Over J&K Security To Elected Govt: CM To Centre

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday reiterated his demand for the immediate restoration of statehood to J&K and called for the transfer of security control to the elected government, asserting that the region should no longer function as a Union Territory.

Speaking at a special interaction with tour operators in Kolkata, Omar said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have waited long enough for the return of their



democratic rights and administrative autonomy. "We don't want to remain as a Union Territory. We want the responsibility of security to be ours," Omar said.

The Chief Minister also revealed | [More on P10](#)

40-50 Terrorists Active South Of Pir Panjal: Report

Anti-Terror Operations Intensified, Security Stepped Up In Jammu Hills

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The security situation in the hinterland and along the borders of the Jammu region remains peaceful and under control, with the security forces maintaining a strong vigil and dominating the higher reaches of key areas through a series of operations aimed at tracking down 40 to 50 terrorists

active in the region, official sources said.

Multi-tier measures, including an anti-drone strategy, additional deployments and a focus on intensified night operations, have been put in place to keep the terrorists on their toes, they said.

According to the sources, around 40 to 50 terrorists operating in multiple groups | [More on P10](#)

Plug Grey Areas: DGP

J&K Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat Friday asked the security forces to plug grey areas and refine drills to deal dynamically with the evolving threats. DGP Prabhat conducted a focused security review in south Kashmir, a police | [More on P10](#)

OP SINDOOR

'Where's The Damage?': Doval Slams Foreign Media

Says India Hit 9 Terror Targets, Missed None

Observer News Service

Chennai: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Friday criticised sections of the foreign media for what he called biased reportage on India's Operation Sindoor, asserting that the successful military response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack demonstrated India's precision and growing indigenous defence capabilities.



Speaking at the 62nd Convocation of IIT Madras, Doval challenged the narrative put forth by international outlets, questioning the absence | [More on P10](#)

Cryptocurrency-Funded Terror Case

SIA Raids 3 Locations In J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday conducted raids at three locations across the Union Territory in connection with an ongoing probe into terror funding through cryptocurrency.

According to an official spokesperson, searches were carried out in Jammu, Doda, and Handwara as part of the investigation under FIR No. 12/2022, registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The raids were aimed at gathering key | [More on P10](#)

Gusty Winds, Heavy Rain Wreak Havoc In Kashmir Parts

KO Web Desk

Srinagar- Gusty winds and heavy rain caused widespread damage across parts of North and Central Kashmir on Friday evening, with reports of vehicles crushed by falling rooftops and power infrastructure left crippled.

Reports said that parts of north and central Kashmir are experiencing massive gusty winds and heavy rains including parts of Baramulla, Kupwara, Srinagar and other parts.

Reports said that several cars were damaged after rooftops and electric poles collapsed in



File Photo

Qaziabad and Kralgund Market areas of Kupwara district. Multiple electric cables and rooftops were torn apart, leading to a complete power outage

in the affected localities.

Director Meteorological Department, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, said, "A spell of light to | [More on P10](#)

J&K Sees 242 Lakh OPD Visits Since 2023

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir recorded over 242.75 lakh outpatient department (OPD) evaluations at government health facilities between 2023 and mid-2025, following the expansion of free diagnostic services under the National Health Mission (NHM).

The data was shared during a high-level review meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to assess the progress of NHM schemes and healthcare delivery across the Union Territory. Officials from the Health and Medical Education Department informed the meeting that the availability | [More on P10](#)



Yuva Shakti Strengthening the Resolve for Viksit Bharat

Distribution of Appointment Letters to over
51,000 Selected Candidates in
functions Organised at **47 Locations**
Across the Nation under

Rozgar Mela

by

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister



Saturday, 12th July, 2025



11:00 AM

(Through Video Conferencing)



Central Government, along with partner State Governments, continuously creating new employment opportunities



Provision for recruitment exams in 13 regional languages to ensure equal opportunities



Special benefits to women, Divyangjans and Aspirational candidates from various districts



More than 1.21 crore government employees are getting training from 2800 high quality courses available on i-GOT Karmayogi Portal



Continuous monitoring of vacancies and recruitment process through online system



Appointments through reputed agencies such as UPSC, SSC, Railway Recruitment Board and IBPS



Ensuring Transparent Recruitment Process; Strict Law implemented against paper leaks



Watch the Event
Live at DD News

For more information regarding training visit the website of Karmayogi Module <https://igotkarmayogi.gov.in/or> Scan the QR Code



Follow us on [f](#) [X](#) [v](#) [i](#) /Railminindia



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Srinagar | Saturday | 12-07-2025

2

‘Planned C-Section Births Linked To Higher Risk Of Leukaemia’



Press Trust Of India

Having a planned caesarean section during delivery could be related to an increased risk of leukaemia -- a blood cancer -- later in the child's life, compared with an emergency C-section, a study has found. A C-section delivery of a child involves making a surgical cut in the mother's abdomen and uterus. The need for delivering via a C-section can be planned or arise as an emergency during labour.

Researchers at Karolinska Institutet said that exposure of a baby to vaginal bacteria in an emergency C-section -- which usually begins as a vaginal delivery -- could be why planned C-sections carry an increased risk of certain diseases, compared to emergency ones.

"We don't want mothers to feel anxious about medically indicated C-sections. But when this result is combined with other study results showing that the risk of later asthma, allergies, or type 1 diabetes increases in children born by planned C-section, there is reason to discuss C-sections that are not medically indicated," lead

author Christina-Evmorfia Kampitsi, researcher at Karolinska Institutet, said. The study, published in The International Journal of Cancer, looked at nearly 25 lakh children born in Sweden during 1982-1989 and 1999-2015 from the Medical Birth Register. More than 3.75 lakh of these (15.5 per cent) were born by a C-section, of which 1,495 later developed leukaemia -- a cancer affecting blood and bone marrow. Overall, children born by a C-section were seven per

“Overall, children born by a C-section were seven per cent more likely to develop acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, compared to those born vaginally.

cent more likely to develop acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, compared to those born vaginally. However, compared to an emergency C-section, birth via a planned C-section was associated with a 21 per cent higher risk of developing acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, the most common form of childhood leukaemia.

"We observed an increased (acute lymphoblastic leukaemia) risk among children delivered by planned C-section (of 21 per cent)," the authors wrote. Emergency caesarean sections usually begin as a vaginal delivery, which causes stress for the baby and exposure to vaginal bacteria if the amniotic sac has ruptured, they said. A foetus grows and develops in an amniotic sac during pregnancy. However, in planned C-sections -- usually performed before labour has started

naturally -- the baby does not experience this stress and is not exposed to vaginal bacteria, the team said. The difference in exposure to vaginal bacteria and immunological factors there-of may help the increased risk of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in a planned -- and not emergency -- C-section, the researchers added.

NOTICE

I, Fahmida Bano D/o Mohamad Sultan Ganie want to obtain Discharge Certificate of 5th class From Boys High School Batapora Admission No:- 1192/1258, DOB:- 10/6/1990. Regard this, if anybody is having any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal Boys High School Batapora within 7 days after that no objection will be submitted.

FAHMIDA BANO
7780879628

Public Notice

I, Mohammad Yaseen Dar, S/o Late Ghulam Ahmed Dar, R/o Dangpora Elahi Bagh, intend to apply for the Death Certificate of my father Late Ghulam Ahmed Dar S/o Late Haji Fateh Dar, who passed away on Friday, 11th October 2024, at Ward 15, Nagbal, Ganderbal. If anyone has any objection to the issuance of the said certificate, they may file the same before the concerned department within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

Mohammad Yaseen Dar
R/o Dangpora Elahi Bagh

Public Notice

I, Mohammad Yaseen Dar, S/o Late Ghulam Ahmed Dar, R/o Dangpora Elahi Bagh, intend to apply for the Death Certificate of my Mother Late Khali W/o Late Ghulam Ahmed Dar who passed away on Saturday, 14 October 2019, at Ward 15, Nagbal, Ganderbal. If anyone has any objection to the issuance of the said certificate, they may file the same before the concerned department within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained thereafter.

Mohammad Yaseen Dar
R/o Dangpora Elahi Bagh

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SUMBAL

E-mail:- exensumbalsonawari@gmail.com,

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

E-tendering NIT No.28 of 2025-26 Sumbal Division

Dated: 10-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Registered Architects/Firms for Architectural and Engineering Consultancy Services for one year for the following works under the territorial jurisdiction of the Division.

S.No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender/ document (in Rupees)	Earnest Money
1	Providing Architectural, Structural and Geotechnical Consultancy and allied services for Various Projects (Roads, Bridges & Buildings) of R&B Division Sumbal.	500	30000

- The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- The Technical bids uploaded on the website shall be opened on the due date. In case of holiday or office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Important Dates:
Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in the shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal. (The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End Date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10-07-2025 from 2.00 P.M.
3	Bid submission Start Date	10-07-2025 from 2.00 P.M.
4	Bid Submission End Date	18-07-2025 upto 4.00 P.M.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	19-07-2025 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sumbal.

- Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process:
a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the download option as well as from bidders manual kit on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint with bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders shall mandatorily use Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as provisioned in Information Technology Act 2000.
- No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online at the notified time.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents like CDR/PAN/Treasury Challan/Bank Receipt, Performance Security (if any) and any other requisite document.
- The Department shall not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on e-tendering portal to store such documents as required.
- No duplicity shall be entertained on account of above documents and such bidders found guilty shall be black listed without making any correspondence.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BoQ (Bill of Quantities) contents and there must be no attempt to create a similar BoQ manually. The downloaded BoQ must be used for filling up the contents and it should be saved with the same name as downloaded.

No:- R&B/Sbl/25/2267-73.
DIPK-3565/25
DATED:- 11-07-2025.
Sd./
Camp Clerk

Sd./
Head Draftsman

Sd./
T.O

Sd./
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Sumbal

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FISHERIES DISTRICT KULGAM

(adfsherieskgm@gmail.com) DC Office Cum Mini Secretariat Kulgam (Room No 244)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applications are invited from the Domiciles of District Kulgam, Department of Fisheries, for establishment of different components of the Scheme PMMSY like Trout Raceway, Trout Hatchery, Live Fish Vending Centre, Bio flocc units, Carp Ponds, Three wheeler auto rickshaws from registers fishers/fishermen, RAS (Large, Medium, Small), Fish Kiosks, Matsya Kendra, Refrigeration Vehicle etc for the Year 2025-26.

The applications as per the following terms and conditions may be submitted in the District Fisheries Office upto 21-07-2025. No application shall be entertained after the expiry of the scheduled date.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The applicants should be in possession of proprietary possession of proprietary land free from encumbrance (Mortgage Loan etc).
- The application received shall be scrutinized / verified by the District Level Departmental Committee constituted by the concerned undersigned and the list of beneficiaries shall be finalized by the District level Steering Committee (DLSC) under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner by draw of lots.

- The payment shall be made in as per the guidelines of the Scheme.
- The applicant should be Bonafide Fishermen Registered with the Department of Fisheries, having Fishing Licenses for at least five continuous years actively involved in fishing for applying for three wheeler auto-rickshaws or he/ she, must be a registered fish farmer of the department.

NO: ADF/Kul/ 2025-26/484-87
DIPK-3583/25
Dated. 11-07-2025

Assistant Director Fisheries,
District Kulgam

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

MADINA PUBLIC SCHOOL SYEEDPORA, SOPORE.

In pursuance to the meeting of the Managing Body dated on 15-06-2025 elections were held for the Managing Body through secret ballot on 25-06-2025.

The following have been elected for the Managing Body of Madina Public School Syeedpora, Sopore.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 01. Mr. Firdous Ali War | 02. Mtr. Shaheena Begum |
| 03. Mr. Ashiq Hussain Wani | 04. Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim Reshi |
| 05. Mr. Azhar Ali Bhat | 06. Mr. Altaf Hussain Rather |
| 07. Mr. Kifayat Hussain Mir | |

S.NO.	Name	Parentage	Residence	Qualification	Occupation	Designation
01	Mr. Firdous Ali War	Abdul Ahad War	Saidpora, Sopore	M.A, B.Ed.	Business	Chairman
02	Mtr. Shaheena Begum	Abdul Majeed Ahanger	Iqbal Nagar, Sopore	B. Sc., B.Ed.	Principal of School	Member
03	Mr. Ashiq Hussain Wani	Ghulam Mohammad Wani	Saidpora, Sopore	M.A, B.Ed.	Vice Principal of School	Member
04	Mr. Mohammad Ibrahim Reshi	Ali Mohammad Reshi	Saidpora, Sopore	Matric	Business	Secretary
05	Mr. Azhar Ali Bhat	Mohd Ishaq Bhat	Saidpora, Sopore	B.Sc. diploma in Nursing	Staff-Representative	Member
06	Mr. Altaf Hussain Rather	Mohd Abas Rather	Saidpora, Sopore	M.Sc., B.Ed.	Pvt. Service	Parent Member
07	Mr. Kifayat Hussain Mir	Mohammad Jawad Mir	Bohripora, Sopore	Matric	Business	Parent Member

Chairman
Madina Public School
Syeedpora, Sopore

From Office of the Advocate Javid Ahmad Navoo

In the case of
1 Gh Hassan Malla Son of Late Ghulam Ahmad
2 Gh Qadir Malla Son of Wali Mohammad
3. Fayaz Ahmad Khan Son of Abdul Aziz Khan
All Residents of Nehalpora Pattan
4. Mohammad Iqbal Khan Son of Abdul Rashid Khan
Resident of Sopore

(Caveator)

V/s
Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

fko

Sd/advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Particulars of my daughter has been wrongly written as Muhram Insa D/O Shahid Alam Din Chowhan while her correct particulars are Sidra Meher Un Nisa D/o Alam Din Chohan. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concern Aadhar Centre Jammu Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gulzara Banoo
W/o Alam Din Chohan
R/o Shadab Karewa Shopain

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Wazeera Akhter to Shaziya Tanveer after my marriage. Now I have applied for the necessary updation of my adhaar card and PAN. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concern aadhar centre Jammu Srinagar within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Shaziya Tanveer (New Name)
D/o: Ghulam Hassan Bhat
W/o: Tanveer Ahmad Misger
Residential Address: Palpora Srinagar J&K
Post Office: Parimpora Pincode: 190017
Mobile No.: +91 84904 98513, +91 91496 49865

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my JK Bank Account bearing no: 0783040150002666 as Rubi Jan while my correct name as per adhaar is Rubeena Banoo. 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 office of the J&K Bank Branch Wachi Shopian within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rubeena Banoo
W/o Ashiq Husian Koka
R/o Melhura Wachi Shopian

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform that I, John Mohammad Dar, S/o Mohammad Ibrahim Dar, R/o Khanda, Tehsil B.K. Pora, District Budgam, have lost my 2nd Year Marks Card of Annual Regular Examination 2015, issued by the University of Kashmir. Details are as under:

- University Registration No.: 51336_A_2014
- Roll No.: 16402
- Year: 2015 (Annual Regular)
- Class: 2nd Year

I am applying for issuance of a duplicate marks card. If anyone has any objection, they may contact the concerned authority within 7 days of publication of this notice.

pd

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

info

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.: 121019032 Session: 2024-25 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 and Mother's Name as Lateef Ahmad Mir And Firdousa instead of Latief Ahmad mir and Firdoosa Akhtar 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: Mir Mohammad Lariab
Father's name: Latief Ahmad Mir
Mother's Name: Firdoosa Akhtar
DOB: 07-11-2008
Residence: Kanihama Magam Budgam
Mobile no: 7889304384



bmg

DC Reviews JLNH Hospital Block Construction Progress



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Friday undertook a visit to JLNH Hospital Rainawari to oversee the progress of on-going health infrastructure upgradation projects at the hospital.

During the visit, DC conducted an on-site inspection of several key projects, including the construction of a 100-bedded Additional Block, District Integrated Public Health (DIPH) Laboratory, and a newly developed parking facility for the hospital.

While inspecting the on-going works on construction of the new Block of the hospital being executed by JK Housing Board, DC directed the executing agency to accelerate the pace of work and asked them to redouble the efforts to ensure quick

completion of the additional block aimed at significantly enhancing patient care services at the hospital

Similarly, DC inspected newly created parking space and allied works developed for the hospital.

On the occasion, DC directed the concerned executing agency to complete the remaining works swiftly to fully operationalize the space and ease congestion at the hospital.

Later, DC took onsite stock of construction work on District Integrated Public Health Laboratory being established under PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) aimed to improve disease surveillance and public health response in the district.

At the site, DC urged the concerned agency to expedite the work to meet project timelines.

Visits Rehabilitation Home For Marginalized Individuals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Friday visited Rehabilitation Home established under Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) scheme here in Hawal area of the district for persons previously engaged in begging.

On the occasion, DC took a detailed tour of the Rehabilitation Home and inspected the facilities and rehabilitation measures for the persons previously engaged in the act of begging.

While interacting with the officers and staff of the Rehabilitation Centre, DC said that the initiative has been taken to address the issue of begging in the district under SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme. He emphasized a holistic approach, focusing on social

reintegration and the well-being of these individuals.

DC said that the district administration is committed to ensure that those affected receive the support they need to earn livelihood with dignity and honour.

He stressed the staff of the Rehabilitation Home to work in a compassionate manner towards the affected section of the society and enable them to lead a life of value and dignity.

DC was apprised that, under the SMILE scheme the individuals previously engaged in beggary are rehabilitated at the centre through various methods viz, vocational training and livelihood opportunities, aiming to empower them to become self-sufficient.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; District Social Welfare Officer, Tehsildar Eidgah, NGO members and other concerned.

Rs 990 Crore Allocated For Srinagar Smart City Projects, Reveals RTI

“All Funds Reportedly Utilised Within Deadlines”



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) has disclosed that Rs 990 crore has been allocated under the Smart City Mission for development works in Srinagar city. The details were provided in response to an RTI application filed by social activist Dr M. M. Shuja.

According to the RTI reply, accessed by KNO, 131 projects have been completed so far, with work currently underway on 10 additional projects. These initiatives aim to enhance public infrastructure, urban services, and the overall environment of Srinagar. However, the SSCL clarified that there is no separate category dedicated solely to beautification. Instead, all projects are integrated, with beautification and

urban enhancements incorporated into broader development goals.

Regarding employment generation, SSCL said it does not maintain specific records of jobs created under the mission, as most of the work is executed through third-party contractors. While some contractual employment data may exist, it is not maintained in a format recognised under the RTI Act.

When asked about revenue generated from Smart City projects across Jammu and Kashmir, SSCL responded that the data is under compilation by the Accounts Officer. The agency cited Section 7(9) of the RTI Act to justify the delay, explaining that releasing large volumes of incomplete financial data could unnecessarily divert public resources.

On employee accountability, SSCL

clarified that none of the current employees have any pending cases with the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Crime Branch, or any police authority. Two cases are pending against former employees who have since resigned. There have been no suspensions from 2019 to 2025, and staffing gaps have been managed through deputations or additional responsibilities assigned to existing staff.

Responding to inquiries about unutilised funds, SSCL said, “NIL”, confirming that all allocated funds have been used within the stipulated timelines. The reply underscores ongoing progress under the Smart City Mission and highlights efforts toward improving governance, infrastructure, and service delivery in Srinagar.

Police Attach Property Of Drug Peddler

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to combat the drug menace and dismantle the infrastructure supporting narcotics trafficking, Police in Srinagar on Friday said to have attached a residential property worth approximately Rs 1 crore under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

“The property comprising- single-story residential house along with 17 marlas of land- located in Lawaypora, Srinagar, belongs to a notorious drug peddler namely Zubair Ahmad Sheikh son of Late Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh, who is involved in case FIR No. 39/2025 under section 8/21, 29 of NDPS Act of Police Station Shaltang Srinagar,” a police spokesman

said in a statement issued to Kashmir Observer.

The accused person has a history of involvement in drug peddling, primarily targeting local youth, thereby posing a grave threat to public health and safety. Pertinently, he has also been involved in several drug-related cases in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, including FIRs No’s 16/2020 U/S 378-420-120B IPC, 73/2020 U/S 420-379 IPC of PS Parimpora, 170/2019 U/S 420,411,120b ,204,468 IPC of PS Sumbal, 08/2024 U/S 8/21 NDPS Act of PS Pattan, 61/2023 U/S 341-323 IPC, 61/2024 U/S 8/20, 21 NDPS Act, 39/2025 U/S 8/21-29 NDPS Act of PS Shaltang.

“Investigations have revealed the aforementioned property was

acquired through proceeds from illicit drug trafficking. Acting under Sections 68-E and 68-F of the NDPS Act, Police in Srinagar formally seized and attached the immovable property as per the due legal process. The property cannot be sold, transferred, or otherwise dealt with without prior approval from the competent authority,” police said.

“This action forms part of the ongoing crackdown by Jammu and Kashmir Police on narcotics networks, with a focus on dismantling the financial structures that enable such illegal operations. Citizens are urged to cooperate and share any information related to drug trafficking. Public support remains vital in ensuring a drug-free, safe, and healthy Srinagar,” it added.

Committee On Govt Assurances Holds Introductory Meeting



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Government Assurances of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly convened an introductory meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by the Committee Chairman, Sajad Gani Lone and attended by members Ch. Mohammad Akram, Javaid Ahmad Mirchal, Hilal Akbar Lone, Iftikar Ahmad, Mian Mehar Ali, Mohan Lal, Sunil Bahardwaj and Shagun Parihar.

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita, briefed about the agenda of the meeting.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman emphasized that the Committee would scrutinize the assurances, promises and undertakings made by the Ministers on the floor of the House from time to time. He said the Committee would also assess the extent of their implementation and check whether they have been

fulfilled within the stipulated time frame.

He underscored the significance of the Committee's role in holding the government accountable and ensuring transparency in governance. He also stated that there is ample scope for effective work, and frequent meetings will be held to ensure that all assurances made in the House are tracked and fulfilled.

The Committee resolved to conduct a department-wise review of the pending assurances to yield tangible outcomes.

The Chairman urged all the members to extend full cooperation and contribute constructively to the Committee's functioning, thereby playing an enabling role in ensuring that government commitments made to the members are met seamlessly.

During the meeting, the members shared valuable suggestions and raised several issues of public importance for the Committee's consideration.

Admin Reviews Status Of Solarization Of Govt Buildings

Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo chaired a meeting of Engineers of JAKEDA and KPDCI here at the Meeting Hall of DC office Complex to review the status of solarization of Government buildings in the district and progress of installation of Solar Rooftops under PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojna (PMSGMBY).

The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer, Jammu & Kashmir Energy Development Agency(JAKEDA), Dr. P.R. Dhar; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahamd Dar; Executive Engineers of KPDCI & JAKEDA and other concerned.

At the outset, DC highlighted the solarization of Government buildings under PMSGMBY in an initiative to install rooftop solar panels on major Government buildings aimed to reduce dependence on conventional power sources, promote clean energy generation, and potentially lower electricity bills for the Government.

He stressed that the initiative must be executed swiftly & seamlessly. He directed all departments to work in close coordination and ensure timely implementation of solarisation of all the Government buildings.

- 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
- BIJBIHERA: 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	3:46
ZUHR	12: 36
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:47
ISHA	9:26

This Day In History

- 1191 - English King Richard I the Lionheart and Crusaders defeat Saracens in Palestine
- 1537 - Battle of Albancay: Diego de Almagro defeated by army led by Alonso de Alvarado on behalf of Francisco Pizarro
- 1542 - French troops under Maarten van Rossem occupy Flanders
- 1549 - Kett's uprising occupies Norwich, England
- 1679 - Britain's King Charles II ratifies Habeas Corpus Act allowing prisoners right to be imprisoned to be examined by a court
- 1690 - Battle of Boyne: in Ireland, Protestant King William III defeats English Catholic King James II
- 1691 - Battle of Aghrim (Aghrim) Ireland, William III beats James II
- 1774 - Citizens of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, pass a symbolic declaration of independence
- 1785 - 1st manned flight by gas balloon in Netherlands
- 1790 - French Revolution: The Civil Constitution of the Clergy is adopted, putting the Catholic Church in France under the control of the state
- 1801 - Second Battle of Algeciras: British fleet beats French and Spanish (six days after losing the 1st Battle of Algeciras)
- 1812 - US forces led by General Hull invade Canada (War of 1812)
- 1862 - Federal troops occupy Helena, Arkansas
- 1863 - In New Zealand, British forces invade Waikato, home of the Maori King Movement, beginning a new phase of the wars between Maori and Colonial British
- 1878 - Fever epidemic in New Orleans begin, it will kill 4,500
- 1879 - Agricultural and industrial tariffs are introduced in Germany
- 1901 - In Germany a group of 104 aristocrats present a deceleration against dueling, though the tradition will go on
- 1902 - Arthur Balfour succeeds Lord Salisbury, who retired as British Prime Minister on 11 July
- 1905 - The British and Japanese renew their alliance (of January 1902)for 10 years and agree to provide mutual support if attacked by other power
- 1913 - 150,000 Ulstermen gather and resolve to resist Irish Home Rule by force of arms; since the British Liberals have promised the Irish nationalists Home Rule, civil war appears imminent
- 1918 - Japanese battleship explodes in Bay of Tokayama, 500 killed
- 1920 - Lithuania & USSR sign peace treaty, Lithuania becomes independent republic
- 1935 - Belgium recognizes Soviet Union
- 1943 - Battle of Kolombangara (Second Battle of Gulf of Kula)
- 1943 - World War II: Battle of Prokhorovka - Russians defeat German forces in one of the largest ever tank battles
- 1982 - Britain announces it is returning 593 Argentine POWs
- 1982 - FEMA promises survivors of a nuclear war will get their mail
- Ronald Reagan
- 1985 - STS 51-F launch scrubbed at T-3s because of main engine shutdown
- 1988 - USSR launches Phobos II for Martian orbit
- 1993 - 7.8 earthquake hits Hokkaido Japan, 160 killed
- 1998 - FIFA World Cup Final: Zinedine Zidane scores twice as France wins first WC beating

Climate Change Intensifies South Asia Monsoon, Disasters

Associated Press

Bengaluru: Each year from June to September, a series of heavy rains known as monsoons sweep through the Indian subcontinent, providing relief from heat, irrigating the country's farms and replenishing its rivers.

However, as global heat increases, the rain is becoming more erratic and intense, creating the conditions for deadly floods. Nearly 1,300 people died in India throughout 2024 due to heavy rain and floods. Hundreds of rain-related deaths have already occurred this year in the South Asian region, which includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Afghani-

stan, Maldives and Nepal.

Climate experts say the high temperatures and heavy rain are also contributing to the melting of glaciers in the mountainous Himalayan region, causing catastrophic flooding and landslides. Monsoon season becomes more dangerous The South Asian region has traditionally had two monsoon seasons. One typically lasts from June to September, with rains moving southwest to northeast. The other, from roughly October to December, moves in the

opposite direction.

But with more planet-warming gases in the air, the rain now only loosely follows this pattern. This is because the warmer air can hold more moisture from the Indian Ocean, and that rain then tends to get dumped all at once. It means the monsoon is punctuated with intense flooding and dry spells, rather than sustained rain throughout. "We are witnessing a clear climatic shift in monsoon patterns across South Asia," said Roxy Mathew Koll, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune and author of several United Nations climate reports.

Traditionally, people in



stan, Maldives and Nepal.

Climate experts say the high temperatures and heavy rain are also contributing to the melting of glaciers in the mountainous Himalayan region, causing catastrophic flooding and landslides. Monsoon season becomes more dangerous The South Asian region has traditionally had two monsoon seasons. One typically lasts from June to September, with rains moving southwest to northeast. The other, from roughly October to December, moves in the

India and neighboring countries excitedly awaited the monsoon rains, which would finally mean the end of summer heat. But attitudes are changing as disasters increase during the rainy seasons. "The frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events are increasing, often overwhelming drainage infrastructure in urban areas and triggering flash floods," Koll said. Higher temperatures and longer periods of drought are also making farming harder in South Asia, climate experts said.

Wanted Drug Kingpin Deported to India from UAE: CBI

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: An alleged synthetic narcotics producer facing an Interpol Red Notice was deported to India from the UAE on Friday, in an operation coordinated by the CBI through Interpol and Mumbai police, officials said.

Kubbawala Mustafa, the wanted drugs manufacturer, was brought from the UAE to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai, escorted by a four-member team of state police, around 1 am, an official said.

He was taken into custody by the crime branch of the Mumbai police at the airport, the official said.

"The International Police Cooperation Unit (IPCU) of CBI in collaboration with NCB-Abu Dhabi successfully brought back wanted Red Notice subject Kubbawala Mustafa to India on Friday," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

The Mumbai police had busted a synthetic drugs man-

ufacturing facility in Sangli where 126.141 kg of mephedrone drugs was recovered and confiscated. It is alleged that the factory was run by Mustafa from abroad, officials said.

"The subject was earlier geo-located in UAE through close follow-up by CBI through Interpol with NCB-Abu Dhabi," the spokesperson said.

Mustafa was chargesheeted in Mumbai and a special court had issued an open-dated arrest warrant against him.

"The CBI got the Red Notice published through Interpol on November 25, 2024 on the request of Mumbai police.

NCB-Abu Dhabi conveyed on June 19, 2025 that, their authorities have requested to send a security mission to UAE to bring back the subject to India.

Subsequently a team of Mumbai police was formed to bring back the subject from the UAE," the spokesperson said.

According to a Mumbai police official, Mustafa was a key material and chemical supplier for manufacturing high-quality mephedrone.



Satellite Images Reveal Iranian Strike Damaged Key US Base

Trans Asia News

Tehran/Doha – New satellite imagery has confirmed significant damage to the Al Udeid US Airbase in Qatar following Iranian retaliatory strikes last month—contradicting earlier denials by US officials, including former President Donald Trump, who had claimed the base was left untouched.

Imagery analyzed by The Associated Press and provided by Planet Labs PBC reveals that a vital communications facility—a geodesic radome—was intact on the morning of June 23 but vanished in post-strike images taken on June 25. Burn marks and structural damage to nearby buildings further support the claim of a direct hit.

The radome, installed in

Neither the US nor Qatari governments have formally acknowledged the extent of the damage. Al Udeid remains the largest US base in the region and serves as a strategic node for CENTCOM operations

2016 at a cost of \$15 million, housed the US military's Modernization Enterprise Terminal (MET), a critical communications hub for operations across the Middle East. Iran released a video displaying before-and-after satellite photos of the destruction, asserting it success-

fully targeted the facility.

This development followed Iran's strike in response to US attacks on Iranian nuclear sites, including Fordow. Despite the escalation, Washington stopped short of any reprisal, with Trump swiftly promulgating a unilateral ceasefire on behalf of Washington and Tel Aviv, which still remains in place.

Neither the US nor Qatari governments have formally acknowledged the extent of the damage. Al Udeid remains the largest US base in the region and serves as a strategic node for CENTCOM operations.

Israel, backed by the US, launched an unprovoked war on Iranian soil on June 13, targeting various military and civilian infrastructure, which claimed hundreds of lives.

Israel's Rafah Camp – 'Humanitarian City' Or Crime Against Humanity?

The Conversation

Jerusalem: Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz has announced a controversial plan to move up to 600,000 Palestinians in Gaza into a designated "humanitarian area" on the ruins of the southern city of Rafah.

Access to the camp would be through strict security screening to ensure entrants were not Hamas operatives. Once inside, the perimeter would be sealed off by the Israeli military. Palestinians would not be allowed to leave.

Eventually the camp would house the entire 2.1 million population of Gaza.

Camp construction would begin during the proposed 60-day ceasefire being negotiated by Israel and Hamas

'Illegal and inhumane'

The plan is illegal, inhumane and risks worsening the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

The forced displacement and containment of any civilian population in an occupied territory is a violation of international humanitarian law.

Done on this scale would constitute a war crime and a

crime against humanity under the Rome Statute.

The UN Security Council, UN General Assembly and UN Commission on Human Rights have all condemned instances of forced transfer in armed conflicts.

So too, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, which have stressed the fundamental prohibition of forced displacement of a civilian population and the need for all parties to respect this prohibition.

For their own protection?

Katz is describing the camp as a "humanitarian city". The Israeli military says Palestinians would only be contained for their own protection.

As we have seen, civilian displacement is prohibited. But there is an exception if a case can be made either for military reasons or the protection of the population.

However, this exception only exists for as long as the conditions warrant for it to exist. Anyone subject to such an evacuation must be transferred back to their homes as soon as possible.

Imperative military rea-

sons never justify the removal of a civilian population in order to persecute it. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement entrenches the duty of international actors to avoid creating the conditions that might lead to the displacement of people.

Aid dilemma

Katz has indicated international organisations would be responsible for managing aid and services inside the area.

But Israel has a history of defying even orders from the International Court of Justice to allow humanitarian aid to reach the Palestinians in Gaza.

If international humanitarian agencies were called upon to service the camp, they would face a dilemma.

They would need to decide whether to cooperate in managing aid under conditions that compromise their neutrality and ethical standards, deny basic human rights and are built on violations of international law.

Aid groups would risk being complicit in a process that sets up a transit camp for Palestinians before possibly expelling them from Gaza altogether.

8 in 10 Americans Say Immigration 'Good Thing'

Associated Press

Washington: Just months after President Donald Trump returned to office vowing mass deportations, the share of U.S. adults saying immigra-

publicans, according to new Gallup polling.

79% say immigration a 'good thing'

About 8 in 10 Americans, 79%, say immigration is "a good thing" for the country



tion is a "good thing" for the country has jumped substantially — including among Re-

today, an increase from 64% a year ago and a high point in the nearly 25-year trend.

Gunmen Kill 9 Punjabi Bus Passengers in Pak

Press Trust Of India

Karachi- Insurgents shot and killed nine passengers from Punjab after offloading them from a passenger bus in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province on Friday, according to authorities.

The incident took place on the national highway in Zhob area of the province, said Zhob Assistant Commissioner Naveed Alam.

The armed insurgents checked ID cards of passengers and offloaded nine of them from the bus going from Quetta to Lahore, and shot them dead.

All nine belonged to different parts of the Punjab province, Alam said.

"We have moved the nine bodies to the hospital for post-mortem and burial procedures," he said.

This is not the first time that insurgents have targeted people belonging to the Punjab province and passenger buses plying on different highways in Balochistan.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but in the past, ethnic Baloch terrorist groups carried out such targeted attacks against the people of Punjab.

Meanwhile, insurgents also carried out three other terrorist attacks in Quetta, Loralai and Mastung, but spokesperson for the Balochistan government Shahid Rind claimed security forces repulsed these attacks.

Unconfirmed reports in the Balochistan media claimed that insurgents had struck at several places in the province during the night and engaged security forces by attacking check posts, government installations, police stations, banks and communication towers.

While Rind confirmed the attacks, he said there



No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but in the past, ethnic Baloch terrorist groups carried out such targeted attacks against the people of Punjab.

were no reports of casualties in any of them.

Bordering Iran and Afghanistan, Balochistan is home to a long-running violent insurgency.

Baloch insurgent groups frequently carry out attacks targeting security personnel, government projects and the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects in this oil- and mineral-rich province.

In March, five people working on long body trailers were shot dead in the Kalamat area near Gwadar port, while in February, insurgents offloaded seven passengers belonging to the Punjab province and killed them on the spot in the Barkhan area.

NEWS MAKERS

MP Honeytrap Case: HC Dismisses PIL Against Cong Leaders

Press Trust Of India

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) filed against Congress leaders Kamal Nath and Govind Singh in connection with the alleged CD of the honeytrap scandal.

The petition claimed that on the basis of the alleged statements made by both the Congress leaders (Nath and Singh) that they possess the purported CD of the honeytrap scandal, they should be directed to hand over the CD to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the police in

the interest of fair investigation in the matter.

While Kamal Nath served as the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh from December 2018 to March 2020, Govind Singh was a minister in his cabinet.

Indore lawyer Bhupendra Singh Kushwaha had filed this petition against them in 2023.

A division bench of Justices Vivek Kumar Binod Kumar Dwivedi dismissed the petition on July 10 after considering the facts of the case.

The bench said, "In this matter, a chargesheet has been filed long back and trial is underway. So far as the



statement of these two political persons is concerned, the petitioner came to know about the statement from the news published in the newspaper. Petitioner has no personal knowledge about the CD being in their possession." "It is a settled law that the court cannot take cogni-

sance of news published in the newspaper without there being any substantive proof. Petitioner has also not filed any affidavit that the CD is in their possession. Therefore, this court cannot take cognizance in the matter," it said.

Officials said five women members of the honeytrap gang and their driver were arrested from Bhopal and Indore in September 2019.

In the chargesheet submitted in the court on December 16, 2019, the police said this organised gang used young women, brought to Bhopal through human trafficking, to trap rich people and those holding high positions.

Woman Stages Hubby's Phone Snatching to Erase Intimate Photos

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A woman allegedly sought help from two men to get her husband's phone snatched in south Delhi's Sultanpur area to delete intimate photos with her lover stored on the device, an official said on Friday.

The men allegedly carried out the snatching and had been absconding since the day of the incident on June 19, they said.

One of them, Ankit Gahlot (27), was arrested told police that the woman was in a relationship with another man and her husband had their photos on his phone, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Ankit Chauhan said.

"To retrieve and erase the images, she orchestrated the snatching," he said.

She provided her husband's daily route and work timings to the two men. On June 19, they allegedly snatched the phone

and fled, he added.

The DCP said a PCR call was received about a mobile snatching near Old UK Paint Factory, Main Market Road, Sultanpur.

"The complainant told police that two masked persons riding a scooter snatched his phone and fled," the DCP said.

The pillion rider was spotted wearing a blue T-shirt, and an ANPR scan from Vasant Kunj helped identify the scooter's registration number. It was found that the scooter had been rented from Daryaganj for a single day, the officer added.

Using rental documents and Aadhaar-linked data, the accused were traced to Balaotra in Rajasthan's Barmer district, he said.

After the crime, the duo checked into a hotel in Old Delhi to evade arrest, the DCP added.

The woman has been bound down in the case, while efforts are on to arrest another associate who is absconding, police said.

Four Killed As Vehicle Plunges Into Gorge In Ramban

LG Sinha Expresses Grief Over Loss of Lives

Observer News Service

RAMBAN: In a tragic road accident in Ukhral's Pogal Paristan area of Ramban district, four people lost their lives while two others sustained critical injuries after a Tata Sumo vehicle skidded off a link road and rolled down nearly 600 feet into a deep gorge on Friday evening.

According to officials, the accident occurred on the Senabati link road near Madina Masjid hill when the vehicle veered off the road, leading to the fatal plunge.

The injured were rushed to Government Medical College, Anantnag, for advanced medical care.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, in a post on X, expressed heartfelt condolences over the tragic incident. "District Administration Ramban expresses profound grief over the

tragic loss of four precious lives in a road accident at Ukhral Senabathi. Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families, and we wish a speedy recovery to the injured," the post read.

He further informed that ex-gratia relief of ₹1 lakh has been sanctioned for each deceased's family, while ₹25,000 will be provided to each injured person. The district administration is extending all possible support to the affected families.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also conveyed his deep sorrow over the loss of lives. "Saddened to learn about the loss of lives due to the tragic road accident in Ramban. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones. I pray for a speedy recovery of those injured in the accident," he said in a condolence message.

NC leaders Pay Tributes To Akbar Jehan

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) on Friday offered tributes to party founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's wife, Akbar Jehan, on her 25th death anniversary.

The party leadership, including NC president Farooq Abdullah, paid floral tributes to Akbar Jehan at her mausoleum in the Hazratbal area of the city.

Several party leaders, functionaries, and workers had gathered at the mausoleum to pay tributes to Akbar Jehan.

The party leaders offered

'fateha' -- special prayers for the departed soul -- and hailed her contribution to J-K. She was a two-time MP.

She served as the MP from Srinagar from 1977-79, and from Anantnag from 1984-89. Jehan died on July 11, 2000, here at the age of 84.

She is the mother of former chief minister Farooq Abdullah and grandmother of the sitting Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

Her husband, Sheikh Abdullah, founded the NC and also served as prime minister of J-K from 1948-53, a post which was later rechristened as chief minister.

LG Manoj Sinha Releases Patriotic Song



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday released the patriotic and inspirational song titled "Jai Kashmir - From 370 to Unity, A Tribute to Vision, Courage, and Progress", at Raj Bhawan. The song was penned and composed by Dr. Mohammad Shuaib Zahoor.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated Dr. Mohammad Shuaib Zahoor and his team for dedicating the song to the

spirit of unity, development, and transformation in Jammu and Kashmir post-abrogation of Article 370.

The song celebrates national integrity, and honours the tireless efforts of the Lieutenant Governor-led UT Administration, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, in laying the foundation of a brighter future for the region.

Kashmir Educators Honoured For Championing Theatre-Based Learning



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), in partnership with Piramal Foundation and the National School of Drama (NSD), felicitated 53 Master Facilitators at a convocation ceremony for completing the "Theatre in Education" professional development program.

This initiative, aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, champions theatre as a transformative pedagogical tool to foster creativity, empathy, and resilience in classrooms.

The event, attended by Director of School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo; Joint Director (Central), Syed Shabir Ahmad; NSD Registrar, Pradeep Kumar Mohanty; and Zee-shan Hassan, Senior Program Director at Piramal Foundation, under-

scored a shared vision to integrate arts into education.

"Theatre-based pedagogy ignites imagination, builds confidence, and nurtures emotional intelligence," said Dr. Itoo, urging continued collaboration to create resilient classrooms for Kashmir's students.

NSD's Mohanty emphasized theatre's unique role in Kashmir, stating, "Theatre empowers communities to heal, reconnect, and reclaim their stories, offering students safe spaces to express and process their realities."

The convocation featured keynote addresses, teacher reflections, and certificate distribution, marking a milestone in blending Kashmir's cultural heritage with innovative pedagogy. This initiative promises to nurture expressive, empathetic, and resilient young citizens through the power of theatre.

CS Assesses NHM Progress To Elevate Health Indicators



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to comprehensively review the progress and achievements made under the National Health Mission (NHM) across the UT.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department; Mission Director, NHM; Principals of Government Medical Colleges; Director Health Services, Kashmir/Jammu; Managing Director, JKMSCL and other concerned officers.

While underlining the importance of uninterrupted drug availability in all health institutions, the Chief Secretary directed for submission of the consolidated weekly reports on the status of essential medicines from every district.

He instructed that Deputy Commissioners, Directors of Health Services and the Planning Section in his office be given real-time access to this data, enabling prompt interventions wherever shortages are noticed.

Reviewing the Biomedical Equipment Management and Maintenance Programme (BEMMP), the Chief Secretary asked the concerned departments to complete the Equip-

ment Profile exercise by August, as already directed. He underscored that maintaining functional equipment is central towards improving the patient outcomes and minimizing the service disruptions.

Dulloo expressed concern over the vacancies in DNB (Diplomate of National Board) seats across major hospitals of the UT. He directed for taking measures to fill these seats, including offering the opportunities to in-service Medical Officers, where external candidates are unavailable.

The Chief Secretary laid special focus on the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) while directing the Health Department to cover every school and Anganwadi centre across J&K. He stressed the need to screen children for key health indicators, including anaemia and other common disorders enabling targeted medical interventions at an early stage.

In line with the government's commitment to equitable health access, Dulloo reiterated that no Primary Health Centre or Sub-Centre especially in remote and hilly areas should be left without doctors or requisite paramedical staff. He emphasized the need to fill vacant positions and deploy staff strategically to serve the

underserved populations.

Taking stock of the critical care infrastructure being developed under PM-ABHIM, the Chief Secretary reviewed the status and timelines of various projects in the districts. He called for expedited completion of all ongoing works, urging the officials to meet deadlines without compromising on quality.

During the meeting, the functioning of key NHM programmes such as e-Sanjeevani (Tele-Consultation), Tele-MANAS (Mental Health Counselling), Tele-ICUs and free ambulance services was also reviewed.

The Chief Secretary expressed satisfaction over the reach of these initiatives but stressed on wider public awareness and operational efficiency to ensure they benefit every needy citizen.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the TB Elimination and Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) prevention programmes being run under NHM, urging intensified screenings, follow-ups and outreach campaigns especially in high-risk populations.

While giving the account of achievements, MD NHM Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary informed that 86% of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) are operational in J&K.

DC Kishtwar Reviews Arrangements For Machail Mata Ji Yatra

Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Pan-kaj Kumar Sharma chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of developmental works and necessary arrangements for the upcoming Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2025 commencing from 25th of July 2025 and shall culminate on 5th of Sept 2025.

The meeting was held at the VC Room, DC Office Complex Kishtwar. During the meeting, the DC reviewed ongoing infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing facilities for pilgrims, including the completion of Yatri Bhawan, renovation of sanitary complexes, development of the area surrounding the Bhawan, uninterrupted power and water supply during the Yatra, medical facility, public-

ity, online and offline registration, construction of road from Chishoti to Hamori, sanitation and cleanliness, status of Chishoti Bridge and Traffic Plan.

Special emphasis was laid on the timely completion of Chishoti Bridge. The DC directed the Executive Engineer PMGSY to double the shifts for its timely completion.

The DC also instructed the ACD Kishtwar to ensure proper cleanliness and sanitation in the area and directed the outsourcing of sanitation workers in coordination with SDM Paddar. Additionally, the installation of 4 mobile toilets was ordered. The DC directed SDM Paddar to notify the cut-off timing of the Yatra and advisory for the general public in consultation with SSP Kishtwar.

The meeting also reviewed the preparation of parking

zones, including a parking zone at Gulabgarh Paddar that can accommodate about 2000 vehicles. Directions were issued to all concerned officers to expedite the works, maintain quality standards and improve all already established assets. They were also directed to prepare a list of their staff deployed during the Yatra period and share it along with their contact numbers with the Control Room and DC Office Kishtwar.

The meeting was attended by SSP Naresh Singh, ACD/CEO KDA Kaiser Bhawani, SDM Paddar Dr. Amit Kumar, besides other concerned officers and Officials.

The District Administration Kishtwar is committed to ensuring a smooth and hassle-free experience for the pilgrims during the Shree Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2025.

Awareness Meeting On POCSO Act Held

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to reinforce the protection and empowerment of children through legal awareness and institutional collaboration, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar organised a comprehensive 'Awareness & Coordination Meeting' focusing on the POCSO Act, JAGRITI Unit, DAWN Unit, and ASHA Unit.

The programme, held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, aimed at creating an inclusive platform for dialogue, sensitization, and commitment to safeguarding the rights and dignity of children.

Aadil Mushtaq, Chief Judicial Magistrate/Chairman, Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLC), Srinagar chaired the meeting, which saw enthusiastic participation from heads of educational institutions, representatives of the School Education department, Para-legal

volunteers, members of units and officials of DLSA Srinagar.

At the outset, the objective of the meeting was outlined, to raise awareness among educational stakeholders about the provisions and importance of the POCSO Act and to ensure effective functioning and coordination of institutional mechanisms such as the JAGRITI Unit DAWN Unit and ASHA Unit. The forum provided a robust space for sharing insights, identifying challenges, and evolving a collective strategy to enhance outreach and impact at the school level.

In his address, CJM emphasized the pressing need to integrate legal awareness and child protection strategies within the framework of the school education system. He reiterated that children, being among the most vulnerable sections of society, must be equipped with knowledge about their rights and have access to responsive and sup-

portive mechanisms.

He also underlined the importance of early legal literacy and community-level intervention in preventing exploitation, abuse, and neglect.

Adv. Suhaila Ali (Panel Lawyer) highlighted the role of Legal Services Institutions in building protective frameworks around children through legal outreach, sensitization drives, and collaborative training modules.

A unanimous resolution was passed during the meeting to launch a joint action plan between DLSA/TLSC Srinagar and the School Education department to conduct structured awareness programmes in all schools of district Srinagar.

These programmes will particularly focus on educating students, teachers, and staff about the legal provisions of the POCSO Act, available support units like JAGRITI, DAWN, and ASHA, and the channels to report any instances of abuse, harassment, or neglect.

People Gave You Power To Act: PDP MLAs To CM

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) legislator, Mir Mohammad Fayaz on Friday accused Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah of failing to live up to the massive public mandate he received in the aftermath of Article 370's abrogation.

Speaking to the reporters in Sopore, Mir, as per KNO, said the people of Jammu and Kashmir had placed their trust in Omar Abdullah with the hope that he would lead the fight to restore their lost rights. "The people gave you power not to plead helplessness, but to act. If even for observing Sheikh Abdullah Day, you need the Lieutenant Governor's permission, then what exactly is the point of being in power?" he asked.

Comparing BJP's use of its parliamentary majority to revoke Article 370 and the expectations placed on regional leaders to undo that injustice, Mir, who represents Kupwara constituency, said that the people gave Omar a strong mandate to bring it back. "Sadly, he has failed to rise to the occasion," Fayaz said that if reclaiming

the region's lost constitutional rights required stepping away from power, then leaders must be ready to make that sacrifice. "If resigning helps in reclaiming Article 370, do it. But don't cover your failures by blaming circumstances. Leadership demands courage, not excuses," he said.

Referring to Omar Abdullah's statement that "nothing is in his hands," the PDP legislator called it a betrayal of public trust. "You say you have no authority? The truth is, you were given more political strength than anyone else in recent history. If you cannot act even with that, then the people deserve answers," he said.

MLA Fayaz cited examples of high voter turnout in areas like Sopore, long known for political apathy and low polling percentages. He said the people came out in large numbers because they believed in democratic change. "From 10-15% turnout, Sopore today records 60% polling. That's not a coincidence, people voted with hope. They believed one party would take charge and bring change. If leaders now say they are powerless, it's nothing but disappointing," he added.

School Timings Likely To Be Revised From Monday

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Schools across Kashmir are likely to follow revised timings starting Monday, Education Minister Sakina Itoo announced on Friday evening.

As per the proposed schedule, schools within the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) limits are expected to operate from 8:30 AM to 2:30 pm, while schools outside the municipal limits will function from 9:00

am to 3:00 pm.

The decision comes amid public feedback, particularly regarding the difficulties faced by younger students during early hours.

Earlier, schools within municipal areas operated from 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM, while those in rural areas functioned from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon. These timings were implemented following the reopening of schools after a 15-day summer break.

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender Notice No:- 73-2025-26-DEN-TRACK-FZR			Date: 10.07.2025
DEN/Track/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 31/07/2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.			
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System	
Open	Works	Single Packet System	
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time	
08.07.2025	17.07.2025	31.07.2025 15:00 Hrs	
S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	
1.	73-2025-26-DEN-TRACK-FZR	Leading material from any SSE/depot to any SSE/depot and from any CSP within FZR division to any Depot within FZR division.	
	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer
	3,56,11,148.16/-	3,28,100.00/-	60 Days
			12 Months
Similar nature of work - "Any P. way work on running line including the nature of tendered work".			
Note. 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			
2098/25			

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E- Auction Notice		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of Work
EAFZR-SLR25-90	28/07/2025 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14601/F2, 12030/F1, 12014/F1, 14601/R1, 14601/F1, 12032/F1, 12412/F1, 14604/F1 & 22424/F1.
EAFZR-SLR25-91	30/07/2025 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 22126/F1, 22486/F1, 12422/F1, 22446/F1, 14614/R1, 14632/R1, 15532/F1, 14614/F1, 14632/F1 & 22552/F1.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in		
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		
2107/25		

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR	
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER	
R&B DIVISION PULWAMA	
FINAL NOTICE	
TO	NO- E-9/EEP/2548-50
Mr. Javid Ahmad Sheikh,	Dt:- 09-07-2025
S/o: Lt. Abdul Rehman Sheikh alias Wagay,	
R/o: Namlabal Pampore.	
Subject:-	Final Notice for furnishing response regarding Compassionate Appointment under SRO-43 of 1994.
This is to bring to your notice that despite previous communications, no response has been received from your end regarding the decision for applying Compassionate Appointment under SRO-43 of 1994 in lieu of your deceased father for either the younger daughter or the other son, who is one year overage but unmarried.	
In light of the above, you are hereby given a final opportunity to furnish your response along with the requisite documents (if any) within (07) days positively from the date of issuance of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that you are no longer interested in availing the said benefits, and further action as per rules shall be taken accordingly.	
As such, you are advised to treat this matter with urgency and submit your written response to this office within the stipulated time frame.	
DIPK-3592-25	Executive Engineer
DT: 11/07/2025	R&B Division Pulwama

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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

KO VIEW

Wular Shows
The Way

Amid climate crisis, something beautiful has happened in Kashmir. After thirty years, the lotus has returned to Wular Lake in Bandipora. For locals, it's more than just a flower. It's a memory brought back to life, a piece of the past that many thought was gone forever.

The lake had stopped growing lotuses after a flood in 1992 buried the lakebed in thick silt. The water turned dull, and the stems, once harvested for food and income, vanished. Generations of families who depended on lotus farming moved on, believing the gift was lost.

Then, in 2020, something changed. The Wular Conservation and Management Authority started dredging the lake. They removed layers of waste and silt that had built up for decades. They didn't expect the lotus to come back. But as the lake cleared and light reached the bottom again, the old seeds buried deep in the mud began to grow.

At first, just a few flowers appeared. This year, the lake is full of them.

For the people who live near Wular, this means more than beauty. Lotus stems, or nadru, are a seasonal source of work. They're sold in markets, cooked in homes, and tied to Kashmir's food traditions. Their return means fresh income in months when there isn't much else.

But the bloom carries another message. Wular's revival wasn't luck. It happened because people put in real, steady work to clean up the mess. And if one lake can come back to life, maybe others can too, if we're willing to listen and act.

Across Kashmir, many lakes and wetlands are still suffering. Dal is shrinking. Anchar is choked with sewage. Hokersar's birdlife is disappearing. Years of garbage, construction, and neglect have pushed these places to the edge. But like Wular, they might still hold life beneath the surface, waiting for a chance.

We don't have to do anything extraordinary. We just have to stop harming what's already there, clear the path, and give nature room to return.

The lotus didn't ask for much. It simply waited.

Now that it's back, the question is: are we ready to bring the others back too?

Kashmir's Tipping Point

World Population Day casts a long shadow over a Valley grappling with the cost of unchecked growth.

Mohammad Hanief

Forests are disappearing beneath concrete, classrooms are packed beyond capacity, and unemployed youth are losing hope. Population pressure is no longer a distant concern in Kashmir. It is already shaping the present.

The world first paused to consider this pressure on July 11, 1987, when the global population hit five billion - a moment the United Nations later marked by creating World Population Day.

Now, in July 2025, with more than 8.23 billion people on Earth, that early warning has grown harder to ignore.

This isn't just about numbers. It's about what those numbers demand from land, water, jobs, and already strained communities like Kashmir.

Across South Asia, the fastest-growing populations are colliding with fragile ecosystems and underprepared infrastructure. While sub-Saharan Africa, parts of the Middle East, and South Asia account for the bulk of current growth, Europe and East Asia are aging rapidly, raising new concerns about shrinking workforces and social care.

This demographic split is reshaping global dynamics. For Kashmir, caught in a swirl of economic stagnation, political uncertainty, and ecological fragility, population pressure deepens existing fault lines.

The numbers tell one story. The landscape tells another.

In the past two decades, Srinagar has lost more than 50% of its water bodies to unchecked urbanisation, according to a study by the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Kashmir. Wetlands once home to migratory birds are now choked by garbage and cement. Orchard belts have become housing colonies. The iconic Dal Lake shrinks every year, despite multiple cleanup drives.

More people means more homes. More homes mean less land. Less land means more conflict, with nature, and often, among ourselves.

The UN Environment Programme warns that, at this rate, global consumption could overshoot Earth's regenerative capacity by 50% before the end of the decade. The math is brutal: eight billion people consuming at unsustainable levels in a world that isn't growing.

And yet, the discussion of-

ten skips over the link between population and sustainability. It avoids hard conversations about reproductive rights, gender equity, and long-term planning. Especially in conflict-affected or conservative societies, where these topics remain buried under stigma or political sensitivity.

But facts demand attention. More than 257 million women worldwide want to avoid pregnancy but lack access to modern contraception, says the UN Population Fund. That absence is a human rights crisis. It leads to unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, and maternal deaths. It traps girls in cycles of poverty and dependence.

In Kashmir, this silence is compounded by social stigma. Conversations around reproductive health remain taboo. Access to reliable family planning services is uneven, especially in rural districts like Kupwara, Bandipora, and parts of south Kashmir. The result: health outcomes suffer, women's autonomy is curtailed, and planning for the future becomes guesswork.

Empowering women with education and reproductive choices is the most effective strategy for stabilizing population growth. Girls who stay in school longer tend to marry later, have fewer children, and contribute more meaningfully to society.

Yet, in many parts of the valley, dropout rates among adolescent girls remain high. Menstrual hygiene, digital access, and school safety remain unresolved challenges.

World Population Day is really about power - who has it, who doesn't, and what that imbalance does to the planet.

And the planet is responding. The link between population and climate change is direct. More people require more food, water, transport, and energy - each a driver of carbon emissions.

While high-consumption lifestyles in the Global North remain the largest contributors to emissions, the rapid population growth in climate-vulnerable regions like the Himalayas creates a volatile feedback loop.

Kashmir is already seeing it: faster glacial melt, unpredictable rain, harsher summers. Farmers in Shopian and Baramulla now talk about shrinking apple seasons and erratic snowfall like they once discussed harvests.

The question is no longer whether we can afford to act. It's whether we can afford not to.

India's shift in population policy offers lessons.

The coercive sterilization campaigns of the 1970s are long gone, replaced by rights-based, voluntary approaches. As a result, India's total fertility rate is now near replacement level.

But this national figure hides regional disparities. States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and even Jammu and Kashmir, still post relatively higher fertility rates and lower access to maternal health services.

Jammu and Kashmir's health indicators have improved in recent years, but gaps remain. The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), although lower than in some northern states, still reflects uneven access. Add to this a rapidly expanding youth population, and the challenge becomes more complex.

Over 60% of India's population is under the age of 35. In Kashmir, where unemployment rate hovers around 18%, this youth bulge carries both promise and peril.

Without education, skills, and jobs, this potential turns into pressure on families, governments, and society at large.

The opportunity for a demographic dividend is real, but it's also time-sensitive. Countries that miss it risk decades of lost productivity and social strain. In Kashmir, the lack of meaningful employment, coupled with political alienation, has already had devastating social costs.

So, what can be done?

Invest in women. In girls' education. In clean energy. In sustainable farming. In better city planning. In digital health and mobile family services. In youth skilling and civic engagement.

World Population Day is a reminder that change begins in classrooms, clinics, and conversations around dinner tables.

It reminds us that population is not just about numbers, but about lives: the woman walking 10 kilometres to reach a health clinic; the teenage girl forced to leave school after her first period; the young man with a graduate degree but no job offer; the farmer watching his spring dry up; the city planner trying to make room for all.

This July 11, as we mark World Population Day, we must choose honesty over avoidance, investment over inertia, and equity over indifference.

The world is crowded. But with the right vision, it doesn't have to be unjust.

The author can be reached at m.hanief@gmail.com

Profits Over People

Recent tragedies in Srinagar show how deeply our institutions fail. Behind the fees and the franchises, there's a dangerous absence of care.

Syed Nissar H Gilani

The boy from Pampore was just a youngster. He had walked into a private hospital in Srinagar for what should have been a routine treatment. He didn't walk out.

By the time his family realized something was wrong, it was too late. The hospital said he died of complications. His relatives say he was perfectly fine hours before. They protested in the corridors, crying, shouting, demanding answers. They got none.

This wasn't the first case. This hospital, now a brand with glass walls and glowing boards, has seen similar deaths before. People whispered about negligence, about cases buried under paperwork.

But nothing stuck. Nothing changed. Until this death cracked something open.

Here in Kashmir, when someone dies from a known illness, we grieve, but we understand. But when a healthy child dies under hospital care, that grief turns into rage. And that rage is often met with police, not answers.

In most of these cases, investigations stall. First come the statements. Then a probe. Then a report that never sees daylight. Families are asked to wait. They wait for justice, for years sometimes, until grief turns to fatigue and files gather dust. This is what the system banks on - our eventual silence.

But silence shouldn't be the price of survival. Not when what's happening inside some of our hospitals feels more like a business deal than medical care.

Talk to anyone who has been hospitalized here in re-

cent years, and you'll hear the same story: unnecessary tests, inflated bills, long stays without reason. A single scan can cost the equivalent of a month's salary. A bed in a shared room now comes with a premium tag. And sometimes, surgeries are performed that shouldn't have been done in the first place.

There have even been cases of healthy organs being removed, of expired or unapproved implants being used, of patients made to buy branded medicines from "attached" pharmacies.

In these corridors of care, you are often not a patient, but a walking invoice.

But then, not all doctors are complicit. In fact, many of them try to resist this growing tide of commercialization. They speak out, resign, and suffer professionally.

There are doctors in Kashmir who still treat patients like human beings, not clients. But the system is not built for them. It's built for profit. And it's not just the hospitals.

A few days after that boy died

in the hospital, another child died in a school. An eighth-grade student in a private institution in Srinagar took his own life. The school claimed the child had been bullied. The parent claimed harassment. The child left no note, only questions that no one wants to answer.

Schools were meant to be safe spaces. But in Kashmir today, education is an expensive brand, not a service. Most private schools operate like profit machines. Fees range from 50,000 to 1.5 lakh a year, excluding uniforms, transport, and other hidden charges.

And yet, the quality of care, counseling, and basic empathy remains absent.

Parents are promised world-class facilities: horse riding, swimming pools, language labs. But ask the students: the pool is dry all year, the horses are imaginary, and the labs are locked.

Uniforms are sold at exclusive shops that charge triple the price. Books are bundled and overpriced. And teachers, many of them highly qualified, are paid

peanuts. Some earn less than what a day labourer makes in a week. No job security, no maternity leave, no health cover. A school that collects crores in fees pays its educators less than a driver.

Still, many parents feel trapped. Government schools often lack infrastructure or staff. And the branded schools, franchises with names borrowed from Delhi or Dubai, sell dreams too well.

Even families with modest means stretch their savings, take loans, pawn gold, just to see their child in a "reputed" school uniform.

And the worst part is that these institutions are expanding. Many of them, according to local records and RTI queries, are illegally occupying custodian or government land.

With powerful connections and legal loopholes, they grow unchecked. And yet again, no authority steps in. No one asks where the money goes. No one questions why the top schools still have broken toilets and no full-time counselors.

It's all connected. Hospitals that don't heal. Schools that don't educate. Institutions that were supposed to build a future are now breaking lives.

So what do we do?

First, the government must stop pretending this is someone else's problem. A regulatory body with real powers, not just a press release, must be created for both private hospitals and schools. Surprise audits, public reports, and strict penalties must follow violations.

Second, fake doctors and fake degrees must be rooted out. Unqualified people are running chemist shops, writing prescriptions, and putting lives at risk. This isn't just malpractice. It's manslaughter in slow motion.

Third, reward the good. Doctors who work in remote areas, teachers who go beyond their duty. They deserve recognition, not ridicule. Make it worth staying honest.

Most of all, we need to change what we reward as a society. We cannot keep applauding those who profit off our children's health and minds. We need to value care over commerce.

Kashmir has suffered enough from outside forces. We cannot afford rot from within.

These aren't just institutions. They are lifelines. When they bleed, we all bleed.

The author can be reached at nisargilani57748@gmail.com. Views expressed in this article are author's own and don't necessarily reflect KO's editorial policy.

Burnout Before
The Bell

Meant to protect students from rising heat, Kashmir's new school timings are leaving them sleep-deprived, sunburned, and emotionally frayed.

Iffat Aurooj

At 4:30 a.m., alarms go off in homes across Kashmir. Mothers slip out of bed with half-shut eyes. Small children are shaken awake. Lights flicker on in kitchens. Uniforms are ironed in silence. Breakfast is swallowed without appetite. And by 6:30 a.m., sleepy feet shuffle into schools, their shadows still longer than their legs.

This is the new normal in Kashmir, where education authorities have changed school timings to start before dawn. The idea, we're told, is simple: start early to escape the day's scorching heat.

But the reality on the ground is far from simple. It's disorienting, disruptive, and deeply unfair.

In the valley I was raised in, summer used to be a season of breeze. Tourists came here to escape heat. But today, Kashmir is on the front lines of climate change. Temperatures soar past 34°C in early July. Snow melts faster. Streams run drier. Life is warmer, yes, but now it's also harder, especially for families.

This year's early school shift might seem like a practical response. But it's asking children to adapt in ways they cannot and should not be expected to.

A six-year-old should not be out the door before the sun. A ten-year-old should not return home dizzy and dehydrated. And mothers, especially working ones, should not be breaking down before breakfast.

Sleep, according to every major medical journal, is essential to childhood development. Young brains need structured rest. When that is cut short, what follows is survival, not learning.

Teachers across Kashmir are reporting higher rates of emotional outbursts, blank stares, even children falling asleep at their desks. The classroom, once a space of imagination, is now filled with fatigue.

Then there's the cruel irony: children are dismissed not before the heat, but into it. Noon in Kashmir is now unbearable. I've seen students trudging home under a fierce sun, carrying heavy bags, sweat clinging to their backs. Some don't make it home to rest. They attend tuition or online sessions, often without even a glass of cool water. A few don't have smartphones to attend these sessions at all. The digital divide swells with every new policy that fails to consider who it leaves behind.

Teachers, too, are being pushed to the brink. Some are required to stay until 2:30 p.m. in schools with no fans, no cooling systems, just thick concrete walls trapping the heat.

After hours of tackling chaos in their classrooms, they have to log on again to teach online. Their professional exhaustion is matched only by their personal stress.

What is happening here isn't just a logistical failure. It's a failure of imagination and empathy.

There are better ways to deal with extreme weather. Declare heat days. Extend summer breaks by a few weeks. Use hybrid or staggered models for older students. Let younger ones, those in kindergarten to Class 5, begin later or learn from home. Design timetables with hydration breaks, shaded rest, and slower pacing. Education can't be reduced to an attendance metric. Well-being must come first.

And there's geography to consider. Kashmir is not flat. In rural districts like Kulgam, Kupwara, or Shopian, children wake at 4:30 a.m. to catch transport. Roads are patchy, commutes long. Some ride packed vans. Others walk. Asking a child from a far-flung village to arrive at school by 6:30 a.m. is not equitable. It's punishing.

The science is clear: heat increases irritability, aggression, and cognitive stress. In recent weeks, I've heard stories of teachers snapping, parents arguing, and students refusing to go to school. The education department may have shifted the clock, but it didn't account for what happens to people when their lives are forced out of rhythm.

This is what unchecked climate policy looks like: quick decisions made from air-conditioned offices, without consulting the people who live the consequences. No climate response can be effective if it deepens inequality, worsens mental health, and damages childhood.

If the goal was to reduce heat exposure, this new timing has failed. If the goal was to preserve learning, it has failed there, too. What remains is a policy that asks more from those who already have the least: time, energy, support.

We are not just teaching children earlier. We are teaching them that discomfort is normal, that their needs are negotiable, and that their voices are optional.

That is not the education Kashmir's children deserve.

This is not a call to ignore the climate crisis. It's a call to respond with more care, more listening, and more imagination. The heat is here to stay. But burnout doesn't have to be.

The author is a final-year undergraduate student in Political Science at the University of Delhi. She can be reached at aurooj.iffat@gmail.com

Kashmir’s Last Untouched Valley

Far from the crowds of Gulmarg and Pahalgam, a rough mountain road leads to Margan and Choharnag—two forgotten jewels in Kashmir’s southern frontier. What I found there changed the way I see this land.

Aadil Mohi-ud-din Malik

There's a moment on the way to Margan Valley when the noise of the world falls away. You climb above the treeline, above the last signs of habitation, and suddenly the horizon opens: bare, wild, and stunning.

The wind picks up. The road narrows into gravel and dust. And then, just as fatigue and doubt creep in, the valley appears, cupped like a secret between snow-draped peaks. That moment stayed with me.

It was July, and the summer in southern Kashmir had settled into its golden phase. The fields in my hometown of Vailoo were lush, the walnut trees heavy with promise, and the air smelled faintly of ripening fruits.

I had planned the trip with a few close friends, seeking an escape from our routines and a return to the raw silence of nature.

Margan Valley is not a name most tourists know. Mention Gulmarg or Sonmarg, and heads nod in recognition. But speak of Margan, and even many locals pause.

It's a pass, a forgotten thoroughfare between the green valleys of Kokernag and the fabled meadows of Warwan and Marwah beyond.

In the past, it was known less for beauty and more for fear. Locals called it Wadi-e-Maut, the Valley of Death.

Before roads were built, it was infamous for avalanches, blizzards, and steep, unmarked tracks that offered no place to rest.

But as we made our ascent from Gawran, slowly and cautiously along the crumbling road, what we found was anything but deathly. Margan is alive, achingly, powerfully alive. Thick forests of kail and deodar gave way to high-altitude meadows splashed with buttercups and blue poppies.

The sun was soft at that height, but it made the snow on the far peaks shimmer like silver. Somewhere along the route, a cool stream, Handir Kash, as locals call it, tumbled down the rock face, its icy water tasting like it had never known dust.

The road was brutal. Potholes large enough to trap tyres, bends sharp enough to startle even experienced drivers.

At one point, we had to step out and walk behind the vehicle as it negotiated a particularly steep climb, our boots slipping in the gravel.

Yet every turn brought something new.

Flocks of sheep dotting the slopes, herders wrapped in woven wool cloaks, children waving from the distance.

Margan shortly spread out before us like a forgotten kingdom. The valley was a bowl of green, fringed with glaciers and rimmed by mountain crests still holding onto the last of their winter snow.

It felt like a place from another time. Untouched, unscripted, unspoiled.

But Margan wasn't our final stop. We had set our sights on Choharnag, a cluster of four alpine lakes nestled even deeper in the mountains.

We had heard about them in fragments, shared by shepherds, whispered by trekkers, but no signposts pointed the way.

From Margan, it took us another 40 minutes of off-road struggle to reach the edge of the lakes.

By then, the road was gone. We hiked the final stretch on foot, the sun warming our backs and the air thinning as we climbed. When we crested the ridge, what lay below took our breath away.

Choharnag was a mirror of the sky. Four lakes, each a different hue of blue and green, lay scattered across a wide grassy basin. Their surfaces were so still that clouds seemed to

float just beneath them.

Around them, the grass was ankle-deep and soft, dotted with purple iris and wild thyme. The air smelled of stone, cold water, and pine resin.

We camped there that night, cooking rice and tea on a small gas stove, laughing in the fading light. No mobile signals, no noise but our own.

The stars arrived early, bold and countless in a sky unpolluted by city lights. Lying on my back, I remember thinking: this is the Kashmir we never see. Not the one in brochures, but the one in legends.

And yet, even here, we saw signs of trouble. Bits of plastic poking through the grass, torn snack packets caught in bushes, burnt-out firewood heaps.

The lakes, so pure, were starting to carry the weight of human neglect. There were no bins, no waste management plans, not even a warning sign. We packed out our own waste, but knew many wouldn't.

Worse still is the condition of the access road. The stretch from Gawran to Margan is one of the worst I've ever travelled. And it's not just tourists who suffer.

Around 40,000 people from Warwan and

Marwah rely on this pass during the warmer months for essential goods, education, and medical needs. In winter, the valley is cut off completely.

Tourism could change that, if done wisely. A sustainable eco-tourism plan could bring jobs to this underdeveloped belt of Larnoo Tehsil. Locals could host trekkers, run tea stalls, rent horses, or offer guided tours.

But so far, the Kokernag Tourism Development Authority has done little. Toilets exist but don't function. Shelters are built but abandoned. The place needs care, not concrete or resorts.

As we descended back the next day, the valley slowly disappearing in our rearview mirror, I felt both full and frustrated. Full from the experience, frustrated by the neglect.

Margan and Choharnag are not just places, they're possibilities of healing, livelihood, and rediscovering what Kashmir truly is when we strip it of headlines and politics.

These valleys do not need rescuing. They need respect.

The author is Principal of DPS Vailoo, Anantnag. He can be reached at aadilmohiud-din1997@gmail.com.

The Woman Who Outlived the Battlefield

She rose from the ruins of Karbala to speak what the swords could not silence

Dr. Syed Eesar Mehdi

Beyond the battlefield, Karbala was the metaphysical divide between existence and essence. It was the furnace where the soul is stripped of illusion, and what remains is either divine or damned.

In that space of extreme absurdity, where meaning appeared to collapse under the weight of slaughter, a woman rose in philosophical rebellion against tyranny.

She was born to remind the world that even when the cosmos is inverted, the sacred decapitated in daylight, and the good chained while evil drinks from golden goblets, the voice of meaning can still erupt from meaninglessness.

Hazrat Zainab bint Ali (SA) was that voice.

She was the voice that rose when everything else had fallen - faith, flesh, family, fire.

From the lens of existential philosophy, Zainab's stand was the purest form of authenticity. She did not conform to the moral compromise of her time. She chose to live in truth, even when that truth was wrapped in the corpses of her kin.

Her choice to confront Yazid was not merely political. It was ontological. "She acted in good faith," a Sartrean might say. "She chose to be what she ought to be."

In doing so, she shattered the absurdities that power constructs around itself.

When all the men around her were silenced by martyrdom, it was Zainab who resurrected language from the grave of fear. She was not weeping for her family. She was lecturing history, engraving her voice into the architecture of time.

ما رأيت الا بها (I saw nothing but beauty.)

Beauty, in existential despair? In heads raised on spears? In tents reduced to ash?

Zainab's gaze was not bound by the phenomenal, but rooted in the noumenal. She looked not at appearances, but at meanings. She saw the divine will behind apparent tragedy, a vision only the spiritually illuminated possess.

Zainab's beauty was Ishraqi (Illuminationist), a philosophy developed by Suhrawardi: that light is the only reality, and all else is shadow.

She saw the light of sacrifice, the light of

truth, even through the veil of death. And in doing so, she realigned tragedy as triumph.

Where others saw the end, she saw eternity being born.

Her sermon in Yazid's court was philosophical subversion. She turned the power structure on its head.

Power, she declared, is not found in palaces but in principle. It does not lie in empire, but in ethical resistance.

"O Yazid! Plot as much as you can, scheme as much as you wish. But by God, you will never erase our memory, nor will you kill the revelation."

This was not defiance. It was moral transcendence.

Yazid's court, a symbol of Foucauldian authority - where power disciplines bodies and silences voices - was ruptured by a voice the system could not contain.

Zainab's speech was a post-structuralist rebellion: it deconstructed the narrative that Yazid had won. She refused the language of defeat, and through her words, reclaimed reality.

Zainab ka sabr Karbala ki shaan ban gaya / Ek behn ki khamoshi, Qur'an ban gaya.

(Zainab's patience became the glory of Karbala / Her silence, like divine scripture, spoke volumes.)

Her sabr was the stoicism of the divine-hearted. Like Epictetus, the chained philosopher who taught that freedom lies in inner strength, Zainab stood in chains but towered above kings.

In her, the Qur'anic ideal of inna Allaha ma'a al-sabireen (Indeed, God is with the patient) found its most radiant expression.

The very notion of female agency, so contested in both theology and modernity, finds resolution in her.

She was not given power, she exerted it. She did not beg to be heard, she earned it.

Darbar-e-Yazid mein jo kalaam kar gayi / Tarikh ko woh Bibi ghulaam kar gayi.

(She spoke once in Yazid's court with might / And made all of history bow to her light.)

Zainab became the philosophical Other who challenges the center. As Simone de Beauvoir wrote, women have historically been made into the other by male-dominat-

ed systems.

Yet Zainab flipped that paradigm: Yazid became the other. Tyranny became alien. Truth became central.

The paradox is divine: the veiled woman became the most visible. The captive became the liberator. The so-called weak became the destroyer of empires. And she did this not through rebellion for power, but through submission to divine justice, making her stand profoundly Islamic, yet feminist in spirit.

Her rhetoric was not personal. It was universal. She did not cry only for Hussain (AS). She cried for the morality of humanity. She stood not just for the Ahlul Bayt, but for every woman silenced in every court of every age.

Bandi na thi, shehzadiyon ki shaan thi / Zainab Hussain ki behn, Qur'an ki jaan thi.

(She was no slave; she bore a princess's grace / Sister of Hussain, soul of the sacred place.)

From a mystical perspective, Zainab was a mirror of the Divine Names: Al-Haqq (The Truth), As-Saboor (The Patient), Al-Aziz (The Mighty).

She bore pain like Lady Maryam and stood like Lady Khadija. Yet she was Zainab — a distinct illumination, a unique convergence of intellect, faith, and revolutionary fire.

Modern feminist literature often demands space for the oppressed voice. Zainab instead occupied it with moral brilliance. She refused to be erased and turned Yazid's court into a moral theatre, where power was mocked and truth enthroned.

Darbaar-e-Yazid jo lab kholay Zainab ne / Tarikh ki khamoshi ko bolay Zainab ne.

(When Zainab opened her lips in Yazid's hall / Even the silence of history began to call.)

To speak of Zainab today is not to recall the past. It's to ignite the present.

She didn't die in Damascus. She rose, as the voice of truth, the breath of defiance, the soul of resistance.

That's why she lives on in every silenced girl and every erased woman.

Dr Syed Eesar Mehdi is a Research Fellow at International Centre for Peace Studies, New Delhi, India. He can be reached @ eesar.mehdi@gmail.com

A Day of Humanity

From Sikh boys to sanitation workers, from sherbet stalls to silent prayers, the valley stood together in remembrance of Karbala's sacrifice.

Dr. Shahid Ali Khan

As I stepped out of my home in Rawalpora and made my way along the old airport road through the narrow lanes of Srinagar, something stirred deep within me.

It wasn't just another day. It was Ashura. A day of remembrance, sacrifice, sorrow. But above all, a day of humanity.

As I approached the solemn streets of Zadibal, I saw something that reached beyond the rituals.

I saw old men, their hands unsteady with age, standing beside children barely tall enough to hold a glass. They weren't asking for anything. They were giving.

They offered water, juice, sherbet, basil seed milk, with gentleness, to strangers and mourners alike. Their eyes held more than grief. They carried something deeper.

A love that asked for nothing in return, and needed no explanation.

Inside the Imambada, I saw young Sikh boys in black turbans handing out water. There was no separation, no suspicion, no question of who belonged, just people, bound by pain and presence.

I saw police officers, not as enforcers, but as participants. They helped the elderly, watched over the young, walked alongside the crowds - not to command, but to support.

Municipal workers and health staff worked under the heat out of something more meaningful. They were part of a memory still alive. The memory of Imam Hussain (A.S.) and his 72 companions.

In the deeper pockets of downtown, I saw eyes filled with tears, and heard words filled with grace. People from every background walked together, united by a single event from centuries ago.

The blood of Karbala was not shed for revenge or gain. It was spilled for something nobler.

Imam Hussain (A.S.) did not seek power. He stood for truth. He raised his voice not for conquest, but for values we forget too easily. He chose dignity over disgrace,

and humanity over hostility.

His sacrifice wasn't for a single tribe or time. It was a gift to all who seek justice.

He showed us how to live with honour, even in death. That it is better to fall with dignity than to stand in compromise. That the world may forget your name, but not your stance. That time remembers the truthful more than the triumphant.

This is why his story speaks across borders. He belongs not to one faith, but to every soul that believes in right over wrong.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "I learned from Hussain how to achieve victory while being oppressed."

Gandhi saw in Karbala a lesson not in war, but in moral courage. Sarojini Naidu once said, "I congratulate Muslims that from among them, Hussain was born, who is revered by all communities."

She saw what many feel but few say: that Hussain is not exclusive. He belongs to all.

Across cultures, his name still echoes. Charles Dickens wrote, "If Hussain had fought to quench worldly desires... why did his family go with him?"

And Edward Gibbon, the English historian, believed the tragedy of Karbala would touch even the coldest heart.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's first President, called Hussain's sacrifice a legacy for all of humanity.

Today, we need to ask what we are doing with that legacy. If Ashura teaches us anything, it is that we are not divided.

If Hussain gave his family, his peace, his life for truth, can we not give up a little pride, a little anger, a little silence? Can we not show mercy? Can we not choose healing over hurting?

That said, on the roads of Ashura, I saw no hate. I only saw people who chose love, and unity in mourning.

I found the purest form of humanity. And that is the miracle of Karbala.

The author is an academican who currently holds the position of Cultural Officer at the University of Kashmir.

The Screen Generation

The digital deluge in Kashmiri homes is breeding aggression, addiction, and anxiety in children. But no one's pulling the plug.

Dr. Mushtaq Rather

For years, Kashmiri children lived with a kind of silence the rest of the country rarely understood.

Schools were shut down by situation, and classrooms replaced by uncertainty. When online learning finally arrived, it felt like a miracle.

A screen became a lifeline, offering education, connection, and some normalcy.

But that same screen is now doing something more sinister. It is creeping into bedrooms, mealtimes, even toddler feeding routines, warping the way children think, feel, sleep, and grow.

What began as digital empowerment is slowly turning into a crisis.

Across India, nearly 470 million children under 18, almost 39% of the population, are growing up in this digital swirl. And as the country aspires to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of a self-reliant India hangs heavily on how these children learn, adapt, and thrive.

But in Kashmir, that dream is filtered through a screen. And increasingly, that screen is turning from tool to trap.

A recent survey paints a stark picture: 60% of children aged 5 to 16 exhibit signs of digital addiction.

Most are clocking more hours online than what's considered healthy. Sleep cycles are disintegrating. Academic focus is thinning. Real friendships are vanishing. And parents, already overwhelmed by social shifts and political anxieties, are struggling to intervene.

Only 10% of parents use digital restrictions. The rest watch helplessly as the screen takes over their child's day. And in many cases, their emotional world.

The World Health Organization recommends zero screen time for children under two, and no more than one hour a day for those between two and five.

But in many Kashmiri homes, the screen isn't just permitted. It's essential. It helps feed the baby. It calms the toddler. It fills the social void when public parks feel unsafe or simply out of reach.

Kashmir's noted health specialists,

including Dr. Sushil Razdan and Dr. Kaiser, have raised flags on what they now call a "silent epidemic."

Early exposure to screens, they warn, hinders cognitive development, dulls emotional reflexes, and reduces creative capacity.

Some children, they caution, are showing signs of Screen Dependency Disorder, a condition with neurological implications that can outlast childhood.

And the symptoms aren't hiding.

Children no longer want to play outdoors. Instead, they spend hours immersed in curated video worlds, endlessly swiping, liking, posting. Some can't sleep without a screen nearby. Others get anxious if their phone battery drops below 20 percent. Real-world conversations feel burdensome. So do family meals.

And what begins with cartoons or tutorials quickly spirals. Online games like PUBG, Call of Duty, and Grand Theft Auto are now household names among schoolchildren.

With them comes aggression, detachment, and in some heartbreaking

cases, suicidal impulses.

Exposure to violent content rewires emotional responses and dulls empathy. It also increases impulsiveness, making young minds vulnerable to risk-taking behaviors.

Social media platforms aren't built for children, but that hasn't stopped them. Fake birthdates are all it takes to access Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, or YouTube.

With no real age-verification system, a 9-year-old in Baramulla can create a digital identity and spend hours chasing likes from strangers. The idea of friendship is slowly mutating into follower counts.

And the cost is not just emotional. It's physical too.

Common complaints include dry eyes, chronic headaches, backaches, disrupted sleep, irregular eating, and poor hygiene. Some teens show signs of carpal tunnel syndrome, their wrists strained from endless scrolling and gaming. Many isolate themselves, shutting their doors to family and conversation. When limits are set, they

lash out, sometimes violently.

In Kashmir, where community once cushioned trauma, this new isolation is alarming. It's not just about screens. It's about screens replacing everything else.

So what now?

Begin at home. Parents must reclaim space. Not by banning devices outright, but by creating balance. Declare "phoneless hours" during meals or gatherings. Replace YouTube with bedtime stories. Go for walks. Talk more.

Model behavior. A child mimics what they see. If a parent scrolls through dinner, the message is clear. Parents must learn to disconnect first, if they expect their children to follow.

Curate content. Not all screen time is damaging, but mindless, passive content is. Pick apps and videos that inspire play, teach empathy, and encourage imagination. Ask: Does this help my child grow, or just distract?

Encourage digital detox. Children need to learn boredom again. They need space for daydreams, dirt-streaked play, and real voices.

Seek help when needed. If screen use is disrupting sleep, schooling, or behavior, consult a child psychologist or therapist. In Srinagar and beyond, pediatric mental health support is growing, but stigma still keeps many families away.

Push for regulation. The government must do more. Age-gating, child-safe platforms, digital literacy in schools, and stricter content guidelines are urgent needs. In a country racing toward a digital future, child protection must be coded into policy.

Technology is not the enemy. In Kashmir, it has connected children during shutdowns and given them a sense of agency. But without boundaries, that same tool can isolate, addict, and numb.

We need a version of digital India that doesn't drown its children in dopamine. One that values human connection as much as virtual access.

And the one that sees tech as a bridge, not a bunker.

The author is an educator and columnist based in Mattan, Anantnag.

Researchers Create Map Of How Body Parts Interact Under Stress, Can Help Diagnose Illness Earlier

Press Trust Of India

A new study has mapped how different body parts communicate with each other under physiological stress, such as during exercise or sleep deprivation, which researchers say could one day help diagnose an illness earlier.

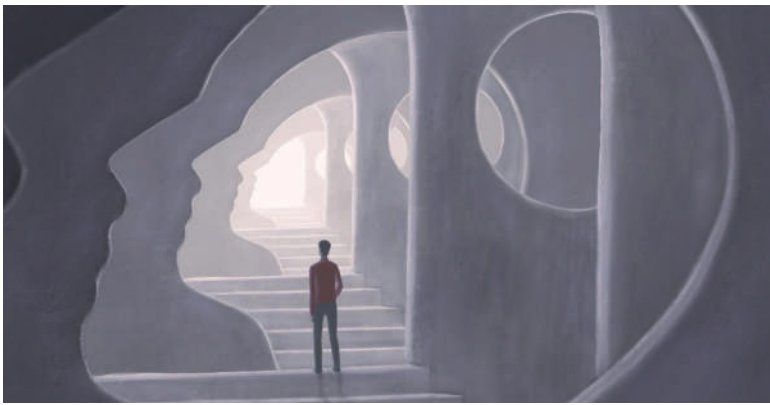
Researchers at the University of Portsmouth and University College London, UK, said the study encourages a "whole-body" view of physiology, instead of focusing on isolated measurements such as heart or breathing rate.

Using 'transfer entropy' -- a method of monitoring body signals -- a complex network of maps was created showing which body parts act as 'information hubs' under different stress conditions, the team explained.

For example, during exercise, the heart -- which is working hard to pump blood to muscles -- receives the most input from other systems and therefore, "takes the lead" in helping the body adapt, the researchers said.

Described in a study published in the Journal of Physiology, the maps "show that our body isn't just reacting to one thing at a time," said author Alireza Mani, associate professor and head of the network physiology lab at University College London.

"It's responding in an integrated, intelligent way. And by mapping this, we're learning what normal patterns look like,



so we can start spotting when things go wrong," Mani said.

Organ systems are known to work together to help one adapt and function under conditions that produce stress in the body.

The study looked at 22 healthy volunteers who were monitored using wearable sensors during exposure to three stressed environments -- low oxygen (hypoxia), sleep deprivation and physical moderate intensity exercise (cycling).

A face mask measured the participants' breathing gases, while a pulse oximeter tracked blood oxygen levels.

The researchers analysed the signals recorded -- heart and respiratory rate, blood oxygen levels, and concentration of oxygen and carbon dioxide in exhaled breath -- and tracked how information was being transferred between the organ systems.

In a low oxygen environment, blood oxygen becomes the "central player", working closely with breathing to adjust to the lack of air, the researchers said.

They explained that when sleep deprivation is added, the changes are more subtle, with information shifting between organ systems -- if low oxygen is also involved, breathing rate suddenly steps up and takes the lead.

The maps indicate early, hidden signs of stress that would not be obvious from heart rate or oxygen levels alone, meaning that the findings could one day help spot health problems before symptoms appear, the team said.

"This matters in healthcare because early signs of deterioration, especially in intensive care units or during the onset of complex conditions like sepsis or COVID-19, often show up not in the average numbers but in the way those numbers relate to each other," Mani said.

The authors wrote, "During exercise, heart rate emerged as the primary recipient of information, whereas (blood oxygen) served as the main disseminator. Hypoxia led to the engagement of (blood oxygen) as a hub in the network."

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

TENDER NOTICE
eNIT No STD-II / 18 of 2025-26 Dated 09-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tender (In Two Cover System) is hereby invited from A-class electrical contractors/registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency for "R&M of Receiving station Beerwah by way of Supply Installation testing and commissioning of 11 kV VCB panels (1+2) Set under capex" in District Budgam.

S.NO	Description of Work	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Last date of submission of e-bid
01	R&M of Receiving station Beerwah by way of Supply Installation testing and commissioning of 11 kV VCB panels (1+2) Set under capex.	33948.00	Rs 16.97 Lacs	30-07-2025; 2:30pm

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.

2. The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 10-07-2025; 02:30pm		
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	10-07-2025; 02:30pm		
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	30-07-2025; 2:30pm		
D	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	10-07-2025; 02:30pm		
E	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	30-07-2025; 2:30pm		
F	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	31-07-2025; 2:30pm		
G	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders		
H	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.		
I	Cost of e-bid document	Rs 1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand Only)		
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 33948.00 (Rupees Thirty-three Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Eight Only)		

3. The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated above through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No demand Draft shall be accepted.

4. All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR / FDR only, pledged to the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

a. Hard Copy of e-bid (complete) shall have to be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar only from the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bids.

b. The date and time of opening of financial bids shall be notified on web site <http://jktenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the qualified bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The financial bids shall be opened accordingly online on the same web site at the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

5. The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder representative will be required to be produced.

6. The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e- Bids/ the e- Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.

7. In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the same time and place.

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

9. To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III (b) As per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.

10. Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer along with original CDR and e-Challan/Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

11. The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in bold letters on the envelope and the Name/Firm should be clearly written on the cover.

The name of the bidder and e-NIT no. shall be clearly written on the cover. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, STD-II, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Sub Transmission Division-II,
Rajbagh, Srinagar.

No: STD-II/5301-03/TS
DIPK-NB-1106/25
Dated: 11-07-2025

KO®
NEWS & UPDATES

YouTube

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

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

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

28th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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

OR SCAN

OUR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

THE OTHER SIDE INKISHAF VOX POP UNRAVEL KASHMIR

J&K Bank Organises Mega Camps To Saturate Govt Social



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- In line with the Union Government's ambitious drive to ensure universal access to financial services, J&K Bank Friday conducted Mega Camps across all its clusters in the country, with special focus on Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The initiative is part of a Three-Month awareness-cum-saturation campaign to promote flagship financial inclusion schemes like PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and re-verification of KYC for inactive PMJDY accounts along with issuance of Rupay Card and emphasis upon availing nomination facility.

The mega camps were held today in all the twenty districts of Jammu & Kashmir along with Ladakh and were attended by people in large numbers besides elected local public representatives, officials from district administrations, Lead District Managers and other senior Bank officials.

Commenting on these camps, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "Financial empowerment begins with access, and this campaign enables us to reach

out directly to the unserved and underserved sections of society. These camps are a reflection of our commitment to extend the benefits of social security and pension schemes to the last mile."

Aimed at saturating all eligible citizens under these social security schemes, the campaign is designed to enhance awareness, facilitate enrolments, and ensure re-verification where needed. The Bank has mobilised its extensive branch and Business Correspondent network to support this drive, especially in rural and remote locations.

The initiative received active participation from members of the local communities, many of whom were enrolled in these schemes for the first time. The Bank staff also provided financial literacy and counselling sessions on saving habits, availing nomination facility for smooth transfer of savings to legal heirs, insurance, pension, and digital banking.

"Such campaigns significantly contribute to building a financially inclusive society," said one of the participants present at one of these camps. "We appreciate J&K Bank's dedicated efforts toward realising the vision of inclusive growth", he said.

Pr Secy APD reviews progress under CAPEX, HADP, CSSs, NABARD



Observer News Service

JAMMU- Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu.

The meeting was convened to review the progress on fund utilization under CAPEX, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and NABARD for the financial year 2025-26 besides assessing the status of issuance of fertilizer and pesticide licenses across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in APD, Mission Director HADP/JKIP, Director Finance APD, Director Agriculture Jammu, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Law Enforcement, Director Command Area Development Jammu, Managing Director JKAGROS, Director Research SKUAST-Jammu, Joint Directors of Agriculture and allied departments, Deputy Director Agriculture (Planning), Scientists from SKUAST-J, Plant Protection Officer, Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs), Chief Horticulture Officers (CHOs) from all districts of Jammu division and other senior officers.

The departmental heads presented detailed updates on scheme implementation, challenges encountered and strategic

measures to expedite the pending activities. The Principal Secretary underscored the need for timely execution, optimal fund utilization and enhanced inter-departmental coordination to ensure the benefits of these schemes reach the grassroots level.

Shailendra Kumar reviewed the significant advancements made under HADP, which has been instrumental in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and improving the farmers' livelihoods. He observed that special attention has been given to ensure the expenditure under HADP, CSSs and CAPEX projects align with the overall goal of infrastructure development in the sector. He also had detailed discussion on CSS projects-Krishon-nati Yojana, focusing on key flagship schemes like PMKSY, PDMC, SMAM, RAD, RKVY, PKVY, ATMA, NFSM and others aimed at boosting the rural prosperity.

Key directions issued during the meeting included establishing a Centre of Excellence for Entrepreneurship in Precision Vegetable and Floriculture Farming in each district, accelerating bee hive insurance coverage across all districts, prioritizing completion of district-wise unit tracking through the KSOT App and developing a comprehensive calendar for national and international exposure visits for the farmers.

CS Launches First Ever MSME Health Clinic To Revive Sick Industrial Units



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Aimed at building a resilient and growth-oriented industrial ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday launched J&K's first ever MSME Health Clinic.

This pioneering initiative would address the challenges faced by industrial units by facilitating tailored interventions as recommended by the industry stakeholders and professionals from reputed management institutions.

Present on the occasion included Commissioner Secretary, I&C; MD, JKTPD; Director Industries, Jammu/Kashmir; Director Handicrafts, Kashmir/Jammu besides other senior officers from the concerned Departments.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, the Chief Secretary termed the Health Clinic as a critical institutional mechanism for diagnosing the stress factors plaguing industrial units and enabling timely redressal. He underlined the need for optimum utilization

of the facility and ensuring that the services being offered are objective, data-driven and need-based.

The MSME sector is the backbone of our local economy and it is imperative that we extend all necessary support to the units that are under stress. The Health Clinic must evolve into a dynamic platform where distressed units can be clinically assessed and supported with actionable remedies.

To ensure efficient and timely decision-making, Dulloo called for seamless API integrations from the departments and institutions like the Power Development Department, financial institutions, the Udyam portal and the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

These integrations, he emphasized, would provide real-time access to data that reflects the ground realities faced by MSMEs, thereby enabling accurate diagnostics and timely interventions.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Secretary, I&C,

Vikramjit Singh, informed that the JKMHC portal is an innovative digital platform designed to provide comprehensive health monitoring and analytical insights for MSMEs across the region. This initiative aims to identify potential challenges early, offer timely interventions, and facilitate the sustainable growth of businesses, he added.

While throwing light on the embedded key features of the JKMHC Portal, Director, Industries, Jammu, Arun Manhas revealed that the MSMEs can easily register and log in to access the portal's features.

He further divulged that the portal integrates and analyzes critical data from various sources, including UDYAM for comprehensive MSME profile details, EPFO, GST, Power Demand and Financial Information.

The same is going to provide a clear overview of MSME's health status, categorizing them as "Stable," "Recoverable," or "Prone to Sick" based on a sophisticated weightage and scoring mechanism given to each of the indicators.

Net Direct Tax Mop-Up Dips 1.34 Pc To Rs 5.63 Lakh Cr On Higher Refunds

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Net direct tax collection fell 1.34 per cent to about Rs 5.63 lakh crore till July 10 of the current financial year, mainly on account on higher refunds, according to government data released on Friday.

Net corporate tax collection dropped 3.67 per cent to around Rs 2 lakh crore, from Rs 2.07 lakh crore in the year-ago period.

Non-corporate tax (which includes individuals, HUFs and firms) mop-up stood flat at Rs 3.45 lakh crore between April 1 and June 10, 2025. Securities transaction tax (STT) collection was Rs 17,874 crore till July 10.

Total net collections stood at Rs 5.63 lakh crore, registering a decline of 1.34 per cent over Rs 5.70 lakh crore collected in the year-ago period.

Net refunds issued so far this fiscal year jumped 38 per cent to Rs 1.02 lakh crore.

Gross collections (before refunds) stood at Rs 6.65 lakh crore from April 1-July 10, posting a 3.17 per cent growth over Rs 6.44 lakh crore in the year-ago period.

Gross corporate tax collection grew 9.42 per cent to about Rs 2.90 lakh crore, while gross non-corporate tax mop-up dipped 1.28 per cent to Rs 3.57 lakh crore till June 10.



Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co Partner Gouri Puri said the decline in net direct tax collections is primarily due to a rise in the volume of tax refunds processed.

"This reflects the government's focus on improving taxpayer services, as timely and efficient refund processing is a critical enabler of ease of doing business," Puri said.

EY India Tax Partner Samir Kanabar said while a fall in net direct tax collection is largely driven by an increase in refunds issued this year, the overall fall in direct taxes can be explained by two major factors.

On the personal tax front, the revised slab structure continues to offer relief to a large base of taxpayers, resulting in

reduced tax liability.

On the corporate side, higher capital expenditure has led to increased depreciation claims, thereby impacting immediate tax outflows.

"These measures, from expedited refunds to tax relief and capex incentives are aligned with the broader objective of stimulating economic activity and supporting long-term growth," Kanabar added.

In the current fiscal year, the government has projected its direct tax collections at Rs 25.20 lakh crore, up 12.7 per cent year-on-year. The government has collected 22.34 per cent of its direct tax target till July 10. The government aims to collect Rs 78,000 crore from STT in FY26.



IICT Upgrades Skill Of 11,000 Carpet Weavers Under Various Flagship Schemes

Also provides monthly stipend ranging from ₹1000 to ₹3750; ₹7500 under Guru-Shishya Scheme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- In a major boost to expand the pool of trained human resource, Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, under the aegis of Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, has master trained around 11,000 carpet weavers from different districts, under various skill development programmes.

The weavers have been trained on modified carpet looms which shall go a long way in penetrating niche markets for the famed hand-knotted carpets, which is the second most exported handmade product from Kashmir.

In a press statement released here today, Director IICT, Zubair Ahmad said that the services of master trainers who have distinguished themselves in the field of carpet weaving are availed to train skilled and semi-skilled carpet weavers in different batches, both in IICT premises at Bagh-e-Ali Mardan Khan and carpet clusters of different districts. "This face-to-face interaction and training shall go a long way in safeguarding the rare skill of weaving intricate hand-knotted carpets, which have a huge export market, both within and outside the country," he stated.

The exports of hand-knotted carpets from Kashmir have touched ₹838.70 crore in the last three financial years, despite challenges due to global conflicts which have affected markets in Middle East and other destinations.

In order to make the training programmes more attractive for trainees, IICT also provides monthly stipend as per Scheme Guidelines. "The stipend for these short-term training programmes of 4-6 months' duration with intake capacity of 20, ranges from ₹1000 to ₹3750 per month under various skill-based schemes of Ministry of Textiles," he added.

The training programmes include Skill Upgradation and Capacity Building Training & Short-Term Training Programmes of the Ministry of Textiles and Skill Development Training Programme of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The Director also stated that under the Guru-Shishya Hast-shilp Programme, the services of National Awardees shall be availed to provide skill upgradation training to registered carpet weavers. "Under this 2-month training programme, each trainee shall be provided a stipend of ₹7500 per month," he stated.

I&C Deptt Kashmir Holds Interactive Session With PM Vishwakarma Beneficiaries

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- In a proactive step towards strengthening the implementation of the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, Director of Industries and Commerce, Kashmir, conducted an impactful interaction session with scheme beneficiaries at Conference Hall, Sanat Ghar, Directorate of Industries and Commerce Srinagar.

The meeting, aimed to understand the on-ground impact, challenges, and suggestions directly from stakeholders, was organised in collaboration with the PM Vishwakarma State Level Project Management Unit (SLPMU). PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries, coordinators from various ITIs, and departmental representatives were present in the meeting.

The session served as a platform for gathering first-hand feedback from trained artisans and craftspeople, understanding issues related to training, toolkit distribution, and credit support, besides identifying gaps in market linkages and post-training engagement.

It also discussed convergence

efforts across institutions and implementation partners

Addressing the participants, Khalid Majeed, Director Industries & Commerce Kashmir, emphasised the importance of direct engagement and feedback-based governance for the success of such large-scale livelihood initiatives.

"The PM Vishwakarma Yojana is not just about training—it's about restoring dignity and economic security to our traditional artisans. This interaction helps us ensure that the benefits reach the right hands, on time, and with full effect," Director said.

PMVK beneficiaries and representatives from Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) shared updates on training progress and placement linkages.

The scheme beneficiaries expressed their gratitude for the opportunity and raised concerns regarding credit support, e-voucher utilisation, and local market opportunities.

The session concluded with reiteration from the Director to strengthen coordination, resolve pending issues, and ensure timely benefits delivery under the PM Vishwakarma scheme.

Markets Extend Losses For 3rd Session; Sensex Tanks 690 Points

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty declined for the third session in a row on Friday, dropping nearly 1 per cent, dragged by heavy selling in IT, auto and energy stocks amid a muted start of the earnings season.

Tariff-related uncertainties and mixed global market trends also added to the pressure, analysts said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 689.81 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 82,500.47. During the day, it fell 748.03 points or 0.89 per cent to 82,442.25. As many as 2,450 stocks declined while 1,557 advanced and 158 remained unchanged on the BSE. Similarly, the 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 205.40 points or 0.81 per cent to 25,149.85.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark dropped 932.42 points or 1.11 per cent, and the Nifty tanked 311.15 points or 1.22 per cent.

"While weak European market cues

and negative US Dow Futures weighed on sentiment, the disappointing start to earnings season by software major TCS cautioned investors about the sluggish global demand scenario that led to heavy selling in IT, telecom, auto, realty and oil & gas stocks," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. From the Sensex firms, Tata Consultancy Services declined 3.46 per cent after reporting its June quarter earnings.

The country's largest IT services company on Thursday reported a 6 per cent growth in June quarter net profit at Rs 12,760 crore, helped by a jump in non-core income even as revenues grew at a tepid pace.

The rupee revenue grew 1.3 per cent to Rs 63,437 crore during the quarter. Still, it was down by over 3 per cent on a constant currency basis, as the company faced headwinds in its major markets amid a winding down of the BSNL deal, which helped it in recent quarters.

Switzerland Greenlights India-EFTA Mega Trade Pact; Sets Stage For October Rollout

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Switzerland has finally completed the ratification process for a landmark trade deal between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) that would reduce trade barriers and significantly open up the Indian market to Swiss exports.

Swiss Ambassador to India Maya Tissafi described Switzerland's ratification of the trade pact as a "significant milestone" in her country's bilateral relationship with New Delhi.

The envoy told PTI that the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) is expected to come into force in October.

Under the mega trade pact, the EFTA States of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland are looking at making an investment of USD 100 billion in India over the next 15 years. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway have already ratified the trade deal.

In March, the four-nation European

grouping signed the TEPA with India following nearly 16 years of negotiations.

"At midnight yesterday (Swiss time), the referendum deadline for the EFTA-India TEPA officially expired. With no referendum, the Swiss people have expressed their tacit approval of the agreement," Tissafi said in a social media post.

Switzerland's ratification of the trade pact came more than seven months after the Swiss Council of States approved it.

"The TEPA paves the way for long-term cooperation between our countries. Apart from reduced tariffs, it will help streamline customs procedures, enhance intellectual property protections and establish a framework for sustainable trade practices," Tissafi told PTI.

Most importantly, the EFTA states will invest USD 100 billion and create one million (10 lakh) jobs in India over 15 years, she said, adding that this will be a "win-win situation" for all countries involved.

Gold Climbs Rs 700 To Rs 99,370/10 G; Silver Rallies Rs 1,500/Kg

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Gold prices climbed by Rs 700 to Rs 99,370 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday tracking safe-haven demand as heightened global trade tensions stoked investor worries.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 98,670 per 10 grams on Thursday.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped by Rs 600 to Rs 98,800 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had ended at Rs 98,200 per 10 grams in the previous market close.

In addition, silver prices rallied by Rs 1,500 to Rs 1,05,500 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Friday. The white metal had finished at Rs 1,04,000 per kg on Thursday.

"Gold climbed on Friday as rising trade worries offset a generally steady US dollar. Global risk senti-

ment fell in response to US President Donald Trump's recent tariff threats, which heightened fears of a global trade war," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

President Donald Trump has announced a 35 per cent tariff on Canadian imports starting from August 1 and signalled plans for 15-20 per cent blanket tariffs on other trade partners.

Tariff-related uncertainty has returned to the forefront this week and is a major factor driving investment toward safe-haven precious metals, Gandhi said.

On the market outlook, he stated that further tariff-related development will influence the trajectory for the precious metal prices in the near-term.

In the international markets, spot gold appreciated by USD 24.63 or 0.74 per cent to USD 3,348.67 per ounce.

Hajj-2025: Final Batch Of J&K Pilgrims Returns Home



Agencies

Srinagar: The final batch of Hajj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir returned home on Friday, marking the successful conclusion of this year's pilgrimage, officials said.

Dr Shujhat Qureshi, Executive Officer of the J&K Hajj Committee, confirmed that a total of 3,606 pilgrims from the region performed Hajj in 2025.

"This was the last group of our pilgrims for this year and the last flight from India with 160 passengers," Dr Qureshi said. He added that among the pilgrims this two pilgrims including one male and one female—both from Srinagar passed away during the pilgrimage and were laid to rest in Makkah.

In terms of embarkation, he said most pilgrims departed from Srinagar Airport, while 480 left from Delhi, 10 from Mumbai and 2 from Hyderabad. An additional 242 pilgrims were from Ladakh, also facilitated via

Srinagar.

On the pilgrims' experience, Dr Qureshi said that the feed-back this year was among the best in recent times, especially regarding on-ground arrangements in Saudi Arabia. "Only airline services drew some concerns from the pilgrims," he said.

He said that one J&K pilgrim remains in Saudi Arabia due to medical observation. "The J&K Hajj Committee is closely monitoring the case in coordination with CGI Jeddah," Dr Qureshi said.

Asked about the fee structure for the upcoming Hajj, Dr Qureshi clarified that no changes have been confirmed so far, and rates will be determined once the tendering process is finalised.

"Seventy percent of pilgrims go through the government quota managed by the Hajj Committee, while thirty percent use the private quota. The overall quota for India for Hajj 2026 is likely to be announced by July 15," he stated.(KNO)

Haj Committee's Term Ends On July 19

Setting the stage for a fresh constitution of J&K Haj Committee, the tenure of members of the current panel is nearing completion.

Official sources said that the present committee—constituted by the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on July 20, 2022—is set to conclude its term on July 19, 2025.

The seven-member body constituted in 2022 included prominent figures such as Justice (Retd) Hसनain Masoodi (then MP), DDC Baramulla chairperson Safeena Baig, former MP Talib Hussain Choudhary, Mohd Rafiq Chashti, Molvi Mohd Ashraf, and Syed Mohd Rafiq. Member Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmad was inducted into the panel following completion of MP term by Masoodi.

In line with the Haj Committee Rules, the new committee is expected to consist of seven members—including a sitting Member of Parliament, two Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs), and one representative from local bodies. The Lieutenant Governor, who acts as the Administrator under Article 239 of the Constitution for the Union Territory, holds the authority to appoint the committee.

Once the nominations of members are notified, the first meeting of the newly constituted committee must be convened within 45 days to elect a chairperson from among its members.

It is worthwhile to mention that Haj Committees in States/UTs play a role in facilitating the annual Haj pilgrimage.(KNO)

2nd International conference on 'Sustainable Power and Energy Research' begins at NIT Srinagar

120 papers to be presented in two day conference

Observer News Service

Srinagar, July 11: The 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Power and Energy Research (ICSPER-2025) commenced on Friday at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The two-day event, being held in online mode from July 11–12, is being organized by the Department of Electrical Engineering, NIT Srinagar, in collaboration with NIT Warangal, Telangana.

The conference was formally inaugurated in a virtual ceremony graced by eminent academicians and industry experts from India and abroad. The conference is being held under the patronage of Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, Director NIT Srinagar, and Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi, Director NIT Warangal.

Prof. Roohie Naaz Mir, Dean (Research & Consultancy), NIT Srinagar is the Co-Patron of the conference, while Prof. Mairaj Ud Din Mufti, Head Department of Electrical Engineering, is serving as the General Chair. Prof. Shameem Ahmad Lone is the Organizing Chair, supported by Organizing Secretaries Dr. Farhad Ilahi Bakhsh (NIT Srinagar), Dr. Ram Krishan, Dr. Altaf Badar, and Dr. M. N. Alam (NIT Warangal).

While welcoming the

delegates, Prof. Shameem Ahmad Lone highlighted the primary objective of ICSPER-2025 to bring together researchers, academicians, and industry professionals to address key challenges and innovations in sustainable power and energy systems.

"This conference provides a collaborative platform to exchange ideas, knowledge, and experience in various domains of energy engineering and technology," he said.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, said that the future of energy lies in sustainable solutions that can meet the growing global demand while safeguarding the environment.

"ICSPER-2025 serves as an ideal platform for scholars and experts to present transformative research that contributes to building an energy-resilient world. I am confident that this conference will foster a rich dialogue on innovative ideas and lead to new avenues for academic and industrial collaborations," he added.

Prof. Atikur Rehman, Registrar NIT Srinagar, praised the organizers for successfully conducting the international conference on a theme of global significance. Scholarly engagements play a vital role in strengthening academic culture

and fostering a collaborative research environment, he said.

Prof. Mairaj Ud Din Mufti, Head Department of Electrical Engineering and General Chair of the Conference, expressed his privilege in briefing about the 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Power and Energy Research (ICSPER-2025).

He said the conference is structured around seven regular tracks and twelve special session tracks, all centered on the core theme of sustainable power and energy. They received a total of 842 paper submissions from both national and international researchers.

International authors have contributed from countries including the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, and Ethiopia, while national submissions have come from various prestigious institutions such as IITs, NITs, and other reputed universities and technical institutes across India.

Prof. Mairaj Ud Din Mufti further said that the submitted papers were reviewed by a panel of 460 national and international reviewers. Based on their expert assessments and in view of maintaining academic standards, only 120 papers were selected for presentation at the conference, resulting in an acceptance rate of around 15 percent, he said.

Groom Among 3 Injured Due To Stone Shooting In Poonch

KO Web Desk

Jammu: Three people were injured including a groom after they came under stone shooting near Panar area of Mughal road in Poonch district on Friday.

Officials said that a wedding party, including the groom, was traveling from Poonch to

Shopian when they came under stone shooting along the Mughal Road.

In this incident three people were injured including the groom, who is said to be in critical condition.

BMO Surankote Dr Mohd Yousuf Choudhary said that three people were injured

and have been referred to GMC Srinagar for advanced treatment.

The injured have been identified as Mohd Amin(30) son of Abdul Kareem resident of Shahpur, Mohd Khalid(30) son of Ghulam Rasool resident of Shahpur and Mohd Javid(25) son of Mohd Ali.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Yatra Gets

across both the Baltal and Pahalgam routes, especially in view of heightened threat perceptions following Operation Sindoor and concerns over Pakistan-backed proxy elements.

As part of the deployment, over 50 Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS) and Electronic Warfare (EW) platforms have been placed to detect and neutralize drone-based threats. Real-time UAV surveillance and PTZ camera feeds are continuously monitoring Yatra convoys and the Holy Cave.

Engineer task forces have been mobilised for infrastructure support, including bridge laying, track widening, and landslide mitigation.

In terms of medical and emergency support, the operation includes:

- 150+ doctors and paramedics
- Two Advanced Dressing Stations
- Nine Medical Aid Posts
- A 100-bed field hospital
- 26 oxygen booths with 2 lakh litres of oxygen stock

Additional support includes Signal Companies, EME detachments, Bomb Detection & Disposal Squads, and Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs). Emergency provisions for 25,000 people, along with tent cities, water supply units, and essential equipment have been arranged.

The Army is also using real-time convoy tracking systems integrating drone and camera feeds, allowing faster threat response and better coordination among security agencies. Helicopters are on standby for rapid evacuations and emergency responses.

"Operation SHIVA 2025 represents a comprehensive blend of manpower, technology, and preparedness to ensure a secure and spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage for lakhs of devotees," an official said.

The Yatra, which began on July 3, will conclude on August 9.

Over 18K Visit

The yatris included 12,838 males, 4,343 females, 223 children, 141 sadhus, eight sadhvis, two transgenders and 455 security forces personnel.

So far, a total of 1,63,726 yatris have visited the cave shrine since the yatra started on July 3, the officials added.

SIA Raids 3

evidence to uncover what officials described as a cross-border conspiracy involving the use of cryptocurrency to finance terrorist activities and destabilize peace in the region.

The operation also focused on identifying individuals allegedly involved in inciting youth against the Union of India and threatening national security.

Officials said the searches yielded "vital evidence," including electronic devices, which are expected to help the agency trace co-conspirators and support systems involved in the clandestine financial network.

"This marks a breakthrough in exposing terror funding mechanisms that continue to fuel unrest in Jammu and Kashmir," the spokesperson said, adding that the SIA remains committed to dismantling the infrastructure sustaining terrorism in the region.

Gusty Winds,

moderate rain/thunder is likely over many areas of Kashmir Division, Poonch, Rajouri, Ramban, Doda, Reasi, Udhampur, and parts of Jammu plains during the next 3–5 hours."

He further cautioned that, "Few places may witness intense showers that could trigger flash floods, landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones. Strong gusty winds reaching up to 40–50 kmph are also expected."

The MET Department has advised the public to stay away from loose structures, old trees, and exposed electric poles for their safety.

J&K Sees 242

of free tests and medicines at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) has significantly increased patient footfall, especially in rural and remote areas.

According to the figures, the number of free drugs available at SHC-AAMs rose from 23 to 96, while PHC-AAMs saw an increase from 71 to 175 during the financial year 2024–25. These centres also offer a wide range of free diagnostic services, which officials said have played a critical role in early detection and treatment.

Chief Secretary Dulloo reviewed the rollout of diagnostic and telehealth services, including e-Sanjeevani, Tele-MANAS, and Tele-ICUs, and stressed the need for operational efficiency and wider public awareness.

He also directed the Health Department to ensure weekly district-level reports on drug availability and provide real-time access to the data for Deputy Commissioners and relevant officials to avoid any shortages.

In addition to diagnostics, the meeting highlighted progress under other NHM components. Over 9.35 lakh tele-consultations have been provided since FY 2023–24, and more than 1.03 lakh mental health calls were received by the Tele-MANAS unit at IMHANS.

The government has also expanded its focus on maternal and child health. The Health Department reported a 99% rate of institutional deliveries in 2024–25, and a fall in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) from 16 to 14 per 1,000 live births, according to the SRS 2022 Bulletin. As per Health Management Information System (HMIS) data, the IMR currently stands at 9.35, well below the national average of 26.

Under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), 91% of children aged 0–18 years have been screened so far in 2024–25. The Chief Secretary directed the Health Department to ensure full coverage of schools and Anganwadi centres.

The review also covered the status of infrastructure projects being developed under the

PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM). Officials informed that projects worth 512 crore are underway, including 10 Critical Care Blocks (CCBs), 20 Integrated Public Health Labs (IPHLs), and 287 Block Public Health Units (BPHUs). More than 200 works have been awarded, with 150 already in progress.

Dulloo instructed all departments to ensure timely completion of these projects without compromising on quality and to prioritize staffing and equipment maintenance, particularly in underserved and hilly regions.

Hand Over J&K

that he had discussed the prevailing political situation in J&K with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during their recent meeting. He said Banerjee publicly supported the demand for the restoration of security powers to the elected government.

"Unfortunately, we are presently a UT. The Centre, BJP, and Government of India have promised to restore statehood. We don't want any further delay in this pious process. Statehood should be ensured at the earliest, and the responsibility of security should be given to the elected government. We will take care of it," he added.

Calls for Timely Elections in J&K Responding to a question about the electoral process in the region, Omar highlighted the prolonged absence of democratic elections.

"Jammu and Kashmir is the place where elections don't take place easily. We have witnessed the 2024 elections after a gap of ten years. I am among the persons who want elections to be held in any way," he said.

Tourism as a Unifying Force On the sidelines of his interaction with tour operators, Omar promoted Jammu and Kashmir as a premier tourism destination, inviting national stakeholders to collaborate in expanding the region's visitor footprint.

A post from the Office of the Chief Minister, J&K on X said:"Chief Minister held a special interaction with tour operators from across the country, highlighting the unique tourism experiences Jammu & Kashmir has to offer. He invited them to collaborate in promoting the region and assured full support from the government."

40-50 Terrorists

are currently active south of the Pir Panjal range. "Nearly 80 per cent of them are Pakistani nationals," a source said, citing earlier intelligence assessments and ongoing ground reports.

A series of counter-terror operations is underway in districts including Rajouri, Poonch, Kishtwar, Doda and Udhampur, they said. "We are acting on specific inputs regarding terrorist movements. They are being tracked and are on the run," said the sources familiar with the ongoing operations.

GST-Linked Bank Account Mandated For E-Tendering

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a move to enhance transparency and ensure better tracking of financial transactions, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has made it mandatory for all suppliers and contractors participating in the e-tendering process to disclose their GST-linked bank account details at the time of bid

submission.

As per a circular, departments must ensure that payments are made only to the bank account linked with the GST number of the successful bidder. This step aims to prevent revenue loss and ensure compliance with GST rules. All departments and agencies have been instructed to immediately update their tender documents accordingly.

Unbridled Powers

Ex-CJIs Warn JPC on One Nation, One Election

KO Web Desk

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India should not be given unbridled powers in implementing the One Nation, One Election system, former Chief Justices of India DY Chandrachud and JS Khehar told a joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), as per sources.

Both the former Chief Justices shared their observations and gave a presentation on the simultaneous elections at the meeting of the JPC, which is examining the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

The Joint Committee of Parliament, headed by BJP MP PP Chaudhary, has been speaking to jurists and legal experts as it prepares its recommendation on the bill that aims to conduct simultaneous elections to the legislative assemblies in the states and the Parliament.

Both the former top judges suggested that the Election Commission (EC) should not be given unbridled powers proposed in the constitutional amendment law, the sources told NDTV.

They also suggested a "system of checks and balances".

Earlier, ex-Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi also questioned the "sweeping powers" granted to the poll body in the proposed constitutional amendment law. Sources said that DY

Chandrachud and JS Khehar suggested to the Parliamentary Committee that there should be an "oversight mechanism" on the conduct of elections.

One of the judges also said that a five-year term for an elected government is important for Good Governance, sources said, adding, "They said this (five-year term) should not be curtailed under any circumstances."

DY Chandrachud had said in the past that the ability of the government to take on any meaningful project will be minimised if its tenure is only a year or less, as the Model Code of Conduct will come into force around six months before the next polls.

"As far as the provision of the Election Commission is concerned, if we feel that the bill needs amendment, we will amend it," said Mr Chaudhary on the former Chief Justices' suggestions, adding, "we will send our report to the Parliament only after making amendments in the national interest".

He also insisted that "One Nation, One Election system is necessary for nation-building.

"It is important that the constitutionality of the bill remains intact so that this system continues for the next hundreds of years," Mr Chaudhary added.

Two other former Chief Justices of India, UU Lalit and Ranjan Gogoi, have appeared before the committee in past. Today was the committee's eighth sitting.

of any evidence showing damage on Indian soil.

"Foreign press said that Pakistan did this and that. You tell me one photograph, one image, which shows any damage to any Indian [structure]—even a glass pane having been broken," Doval said.

Referring to satellite imagery in circulation after the operation, Doval said the damage observed at 13 Pakistani air bases, including Sargodha, Rahim Yar Khan, and Chaklala, was visible even in foreign media reports.

"I'm only quoting what the foreign media themselves showed on the basis of images. We are capable of doing that," he remarked.

"Every Target Was Hit, None Missed"

Doval stated that India launched Operation Sindoor in response to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of 26 civilians. He said the retaliatory strikes began in the early hours of May 7 and concluded on May 10, following an understanding between both sides to halt further military action.

"We decided to hit nine terrorist targets deep inside Pakistan, not near the border. We missed none. No unintended location was struck. Each target was chosen based on specific intelligence," Doval said.

He praised the accuracy and restraint shown by Indian armed forces, stating that the operation was "focused only on the designated targets" located deep inside Pakistani territory.

Indigenous Systems, BrahMos Played Key Role

The NSA highlighted the role of indigenous defence systems in the success of Operation Sindoor, stating that India's increasing reliance on home-grown technology was a point of pride.

"We are proud of how much indigenous content we used. BrahMos was part of it," he said.

He added that developing independent defence and technology infrastructure was essential for national security, especially in sensitive areas such as data protection and surveillance.

"Even a screw that deals with anything related to data or security protection must come from a trusted source," Doval emphasized.

India's 5G Development Also Indigenous: Doval

Touching upon India's rapid strides in technology, Doval also spoke about the country's development of 5G infrastructure, stating that the government, in collaboration with IIT Madras and private players, had built a fully indigenous 5G system in just over two years.

"China took 12 years and \$300 billion to develop 5G. We didn't have that time or money. Today, India's 5G has nothing foreign in it," he said.

Doval's address at IIT Madras connected the themes of national security, technological self-reliance, and the strategic role of academic institutions, urging students to innovate in ways that protect and strengthen the country's core interests.

3RD TEST

DAY 2

Bumrah Fifer, Rahul's Fifty Keep India Steady At Lord's

Press Trust of India

LONDON: Jasprit Bumrah and Jofra Archer produced edge of the seat spells before KL Rahul's classy unbeaten fifty put India very much in sight of England's 387 on day two of the Lord's Test here on Friday.

Bumrah earned his name on the honours board with a menacing morning spell that resulted in a five-wicket haul, allowing India to bowl out England for 387 in the second session after Joe Root's 37th hundred.

At stumps, India were for 145 for three, having lost the in-form skipper Shubman Gill (16 off 44), Yashasvi Jaiswal (13 off eight) and Karun Nair (40 off 62), who looked good for his first half-century in three games.

A sellout crowd got to witness special spells of fast bowling from Bumrah and Archer, who is playing in his first Test since February 2021.

First it was Bumrah before Archer made a roaring return to the traditional format with the wicket of Jaiswal in his very first over, getting the attention of every single soul at the ground.

Nair once again got a start but



could not convert it into something meaningful with Root taking a spectacular left-handed catch inches off the ground at first slip.

Gill's fall was a result of a well thought out plan. Considering the Indian captain had been outside his crease in the previous two games, England had the wicket-keeper backing up to him against the medium pace of Chris Woakes.

Pushed back into the crease, Gill got a faint edge off a ball that straightened a shade, marking a rare failure on the tour. However, he managed to cross the 600-run mark in the series.

Batting alongside Rahul, Rishabh Pant played some attacking strokes to keep the scoreboard ticking. Pant had not come out to field after being hit on his finger on day one.

In the second session, Bumrah

(5 for 74) eclipsed Kapil Dev's record of 12 five-wicket hauls on foreign soil.

Bumrah now has 15 five-wicket hauls in Test cricket and he has achieved the milestone in back-to-back Tests that he has played, including the one at Leeds.

While Root (104 off 199 balls) got the boundary off the very first delivery to score his eighth hundred -- most by any batter at the Lord's -- it was Bumrah's

turn to ensure his name in the esteemed 'Honours Board' with a three-wicket burst that reduced England to 271 for seven at one stage.

Skipper Ben Stokes (44), Root and Chris Woakes (0) were gone in quick succession before in-form Jamie Smith (51 off 56 balls) and Carse (56 off 83 balls) added 84 for the eighth wicket stand to take the hosts past the 350-run mark.

United Elegant Beats Aqua Avengers In Kashmir Super League

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Super League continued its electrifying start with the second match of the tournament on Friday, featuring a high-intensity clash between United Elegant FC and Aqua Avengers FC at TRC Turf Ground here.

United Elegant FC delivered a dominant performance to secure a 2-0 victory, with goals scored by Akif Reshi and Aaqib Ashraf. The team exhibited outstanding coordination and tactical execution, controlling key moments of the match and converting their opportunities with clinical precision.

Aqua Avengers FC, despite the scoreline, played exceptional football and demonstrated fighting spirit throughout the game. Their defensive resilience and creative attacks kept the audience engaged till the final whistle.

Aakif Reshi was awarded the Khyber Man of the Match award for his command-

ing presence and all-round performance that anchored United Elegant FC's midfield.

Furqan won the Golden Save award, recognizing his spectacular save that denied Aqua Avengers a certain goal.

The Game Changer of the Match was awarded to Aaqib Ashraf, whose timely substitution and strategic play turned the momentum in United Elegant's favour.

The guests on the felicitation ceremony included Bashir Ahmad Nadvi and Inam Haq.

"The game stood as a perfect example of the rising standards in Kashmiri football, with both teams playing at a level that thrilled spectators and football enthusiasts alike. The Kashmir Super League continues to serve as a catalyst for nurturing local talent and revitalizing the sport in the region," the organisers said in a press release.

The final Round 1 matchup will pit New JK United FC against ARCO United FC at TRC Ground on Saturday. The game kicks off at 7:00 PM and will also be streamed live on Kashmir Super League's YouTube channel.



ISL Season Put 'On Hold' Due To Uncertainty Over MRA

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian Super League on Friday announced that it has put the 2025-26 season "on hold" due to uncertainty surrounding the renewal of Master Rights Agreement (MRA) between the event organisers and the All India Football Federation.

The country's top-tier league normally runs from September to April, and the current MRA between Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), which organises the event, and the AIFF is scheduled to expire on December 8, 2025, by which time the ISL would be into its third month.

"In the absence of a confirmed contractual framework beyond December, we find ourselves unable to effectively plan, organise, or commercialise the 2025-26 ISL season.

"Given this situation, we regret to inform you that we are currently not in a position to proceed with the 2025-26 ISL season and are placing it on hold until further clarity emerges on the contractual structure beyond end of current MRA term," FSDL said in a letter addressed to all the ISL clubs.

Following a directive from the Supreme Court, the AIFF has been asked not to negotiate new terms of the MRA with FSDL, the apex governing body's commercial partner running the ISL, until a final judgment is delivered in the AIFF draft constitution case.

The FSDL said in the letter, "As you are aware, the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) between FSDL and AIFF is scheduled to expire on 8th December 2025

- approximately one-third of the way through a typical ISL season, which runs from September to April.

"While discussions between FSDL and AIFF on the potential renewal of the MRA were initiated several months ago, they remain inconclusive at this time.

"In this backdrop, we believe it is important for Clubs to be informed of the evolving situation. This communication is being issued by FSDL on a bona-fide basis and in the interest of transparency, to enable all Clubs to plan appropriately for any potential contingencies."

The FSDL also assured the clubs that it is "monitoring developments closely" and will continue to keep them informed "in a timely and transparent manner."

FSDL is also the commercial partner of AIFF, and they signed a 15-year MRA in 2010. According to the MRA, FSDL pays the AIFF RS 50 crore annually, and in turn get the rights to broadcast, manage and commercialise Indian football, which also includes the national team.

The sum from the FSDL supports the federation's operations and development initiatives.

The FSDL had earlier told the ISL club owners verbally that the next edition would not start until there was clarity on the MRA.

The PTI had earlier reported that the FSDL is also planning to make a new holding company that operates the ISL, with participating clubs (60 percent), FSDL (26 percent) and AIFF (14 percent) as shareholders.



about team combinations minutes after India's comeback win over

England in the second Test at Birmingham.

It's Not A Holiday: Gambhir Backs BCCI's Revised Family Rule

Press Trust of India

LONDON: India head coach Gautam Gambhir has backed the BCCI's directive to limit the presence of cricketers' families during long overseas tours, saying players must realise they are not on vacation but on national duty.

The BCCI introduced a revised travel policy after the Indian team's 1-3 defeat in Australia at the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, capping family members' stay to two weeks maximum for tours longer than 45 days. For shorter tours, the duration was restricted to seven days.

"Families' roles are important, but you've got to understand one thing. You are here for a purpose. It's not a holiday. You're here for a huge purpose. You've got very few people in that dressing room or in this tour that gets this opportunity to make the country proud."

"So yes, I'm not against not hav-

ing families with us," said Gambhir during a conversation with Cheteshwar Pujara on Sony Sports Network.

Star batter Virat Kohli had earlier spoken in favour of having families accompany players, saying personal support helps during high-pressure situations.

Gambhir, however, stressed the importance of putting country before everything else.

"It is important to have families, but if your focus is towards making our country proud and you have a much bigger role than any other thing, and you're committed to that goal, you're committed to that cause, I think everything else is fine. But for me, I think that cause and that goal is far more important than any other thing."

On the sidelines of the third Test against England at Lord's, Gambhir also admitted he finds it difficult to disconnect from the game, revealing he was thinking

District Level Carrom C'ship Organised In Ganderbal

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal on Thursday kick started its Inter-Zone District Level Carrom Championship for U-19 boys and girls, alongside Inter-School Zonal Level competitions in Cricket and Volleyball.

The Carrom championship brought together talented players from all four zones of the district. The Boys' event was held at BHSS Ganderbal. In the singles final, Zone Ganderbal overpowered Zone Tullamulla to clinch the title, while Zone Hariganiwan triumphed over Zone Kangan in the doubles final. The winners and runners-up were felicitated on the spot by senior officials of the department.

Simultaneously, GHSS Ganderbal hosted the Girls' Carrom event, which saw participation from all educational zones.

The singles final witnessed Zone Tullamulla emerge victorious against Zone Kangan, while in the doubles category, Zone Tullamulla once again demonstrated dominance by defeating Zone Hariganiwan. District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ganderbal, Sheikh Shafqat Iqbal, visited GHSS Ganderbal to interact with the participating girl students and lauded their active involvement in strategic indoor games like Carrom. (Observer News Service)

District Level Volleyball Tourneys Conclude In Anantnag

The District Youth Services and Sports Office Anantnag concluded the District Level Volleyball Tournaments for various AAG among Boys. In the U-19 Boys District Level Volleyball Tournament, a total of 36 teams competed.

After intense matches, Higher Secondary School Wanpoh emerged victorious and clinched the winner's trophy. Higher Secondary School Kabamarg secured the second place, while Higher Secondary School YK Pora was placed third in the final standings.

In the Under-17 category, Zone Mattan claimed the title by overcoming Zone Qazigund in the final clash. In the Under-14 category, Zone Achabal emerged as the champion after defeating Zone Bijbehara in a thrilling final match. In both these age groups, 12 teams in each category took part in the District Level Tournament.

The tournaments witnessed participation from nearly 600 students, who showcased exceptional talent, technique, and temperament on the volleyball court. Standout performers included Habil Mushtaq, Sahil Shameem, Suhaib Nisar and Mudashir Shah, who impressed with their skills throughout the competition.

At the closing ceremony, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Raja Yaqoob and officials from the Youth Services and Sports Department, Anantnag felicitated the winning and runner-up teams. (Observer News Service)

Should Have Gone For 400: Lara Tells Mulder

Wiaan Mulder's decision to not pursue Brian Lara's record of highest individual Test score despite being close to it has been disapproved by the West Indies great himself who feels the South African all-rounder should have gone for it to create his own legacy.

Mulder, who was on 367 and looked good to go past Lara's 400, decided against it in a recent Test against Zimbabwe that South Africa won comfortably inside three days.

Mulder said his decision was out of respect for Lara, who smashed the epic knock back in 2004 against England.

The two recently spoke to each other and Mulder said Lara didn't quite agree with philosophy.

"Now that things have settled a little bit, I've chatted a little bit to Brian Lara," Mulder told 'SuperSport'.

"He said to me I'm creating my own legacy and I should have gone for it. He said records are there to be broken and he wishes if I'm ever in that position again, I actually go and score more than what he had," he said.

Mulder's innings was the fifth highest individual score in Test cricket and the highest by a South African. He said despite now knowing Lara's views, he wouldn't change the call he took that day. (PTI)

Alcaraz Beats Fritz To Return To Wimbledon Final

Carlos Alcaraz moved within one victory of a third consecutive Wimbledon championship and sixth Grand Slam title overall at age 22 by defeating Taylor Fritz 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (6) on Friday.

The No. 2-seeded Alcaraz takes a 24-match winning streak into the final Sunday, when he will face No. 1 Jannik Sinner or 24-time major champion Novak Djokovic.

Alcaraz beat Djokovic in the 2023 and 2024 title matches at the All England Club and is 5-0 so far in major finals. That includes a five-set comeback win over Sinner at the French Open a month ago.

The fifth-seeded Fritz, the runner-up to Sinner at last year's U.S. Open, was trying to become the first American man in the Wimbledon final since Andy Roddick lost to Roger Federer in 2009.

Fritz had two chances to forced a fifth set against Alcaraz, leading 6-4 in the fourth-set tiebreaker. But Alcaraz on the next four points to finish off the win, then rocked back on his heels, spread his arms wide and screamed. (AP)

"That's a tough question. I still haven't understood how do I switch off because I never switch off and sometimes it's very funny and it's very weird," he said when asked how he unwinds.

"Honestly, when we won the last test match, the moment we won the last test match, the first thing that came in my mind was that what is going to be the combination for the next Test?

"And when I went back in my room, I was thinking, how does that work? We've just won a Test match. The guys have worked hard to make a comeback after losing the first one, and I have already started thinking about what's going to be the combination, how can we win the next one? But I still haven't figured out honestly, to switch off."

India are currently playing the third Test against England at Lord's, with the five-match series locked at 1-1.

MIRAE ASSET Sharekhan

Stress-free Investments

Exchange Traded Funds (Shariah Based ETF)



Contact: M I Securities - 9906518342 / 9906684475

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

Registered Office: Sharekhan Limited, The Ruby, 18th Floor; 29 Senapati Ba pat Marg. Dadar (West), Mumbai 400 028, Maharashtra, India. Tel: 022-67502000. Fax No.: 022-24327343. Correspondence Address: 10th Floor, Gigaplex Bldg. No. 9, Raheja Mindspace, Airoli Knowledge Park Rd, MSEB Staff Colony, TTC Industrial Area, Airoli, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra 400708, India. Tel: 022 -61169000/ 61150000; Fax no. 61169699. SEBI Regn. Nos.: BSE / NSE - CASH/ F&O /CD/ MCX -Commodity INZ000171337; DP: NSDL/CDSL-IN-DP-365-2018; CIN: U99999MH1995PLC087498; Sharekhan Ltd. (AMFI-registered Mutual Fund Distributor) Mutual Fund: ARN 20669 (date of initial registration: 03/07/2004, and valid till 02/07/2026); IRDAI Registered Corporate Agent (Composite) License No. CA0950, valid till June 13, 2027. PMS: INP000005786; Research Analyst: INH000006183; MCX Member id -56125. For any complaints email at igc@sharekhan.com. Compliance Officer: Mr. Joby John Meledan; email id: complianceofficer@sharekhan.com; Tel: 022-62263303. Please refer the Risk Disclosure Document issued by SEBI and go through the Rights and Obligations and Do's and Dont's issued by Stock Exchanges and Depositories before trading on the Stock Exchanges. For commodities derivatives, please note that Commodities Derivatives are highly leveraged instruments. PMS is not covered in Commodity Derivative Segment by Share khan Limited. Before investing in the asset class consider your investment objectives, level of experience and risk appetite carefully. Mutual Fund investment are subject to market risk. Read all the scheme related documents carefully before investing. Brokerage will not exceed SEBI prescribed limit. Mutual Funds are not Exchange traded products and all disputes with respect to the distribution activity would not have access to Exchange investor redressal forum or Arbitration Mechanism. The figures shown above are as of 30th November 2024. Such representations are not indicative of future results. For more details visit www.sharekhan.com. (AP Regn. Nos.: BSE-0107480196720; NSE-206970951)