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Kashmir Court Drops The Hammer On Loan Defaulters

Judges Warn Against Clogging Courts With Flimsy Loan Default Cases

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: For years, struggling borrowers in Kashmir leaned on legal loopholes to hold off banks from seizing their mortgaged land. That changed this



On July 17, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court ruled against a business firm, M/s G H S, that had defaulted on a loan and tried to stop J&K Bank from taking over its agricultural land.

The bank had used the

SARFAESI Act, India's main law to recover unpaid loans without going to court. The borrower argued that the land was protected because it was

The court dismissed the case as "grossly misconceived" and

"agricultural."

fined the firm 50,000 for wasting judicial time.

A two-judge bench led by Justices Sanjeev Kumar and Sanjay Parihar said such cases "clog the justice system" and warned of further penalties for similar delays.

The verdict is being seen as a turning point.

"This judgment ends a long misuse of the 'agricultural land' argument," said Farooq Hameed, a senior lawyer in Srinagar. "From now on, if a borrower has | More on P6

J&K Braces For A Wet Weekend

Intense Showers Likely Between July 21-23: MeT



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Meteorological Department has predicted a spell of unsettled weather across Jammu and Kashmir over the coming days, with intermittent rain and thundershowers expected until July 26. A weather advisory has been issued for July 21–23, cautioning about gusty winds and brief intense showers in some areas.

According to MeT officials, the region will experience scattered to fairly widespread light to moderate rainfall till July 20. "From July 21 to 23, J&K is expected to witness generally cloudy weather with intermittent spells of light to moderate rainfall," an official said, adding | More on P6

Rains Bring Relief to Farmers

fter weeks of relentless heat and a troubling dry spell, Kashmir's farmlands are finally beginning to breathe again. The recent bout of rainfall across the Valley has not only eased soaring temperatures but brought long-awaited relief to orchardists and paddy cultivators struggling with irrigation woes. | More on P6

J&K Now a Hub of Education & Innovation Under PM Modi: LG

Says '5Cs' Will Empower Business Leaders Of Tomorrow

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday addressed the valedictory session of a five-day orientation programme at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, where he urged the new batch of students to emerge as business leaders committed to inclusive growth and national development. On the occasion, the

Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated the Tejas Sports Complex within the IIM Jammu campus, symbolizing the institute's commitment to the holistic development of its students.

Congratulating the incoming students, LG Sinha said their journey at IIM Jammu will build a vital bridge between academic learning and real-world problem-solving.

"I wish to see the young and bright minds as business leaders and thinkers of tomorrow who will shape the economic progress of society

He underlined the need to ensure that India's growth benefits everyone, as the country works towards becoming a developed nation by 2047. "Our business leaders of tomorrow must focus on changing the lives of people,

and the future of this great

country," he said.

push for inclusive growth, and make sure no one is left behind," he added.

The LG emphasized that the future of India's business innovation and resource management rests on the shoulders of young profes-sionals. "It will be business leaders and thinkers' responsibility to accelerate industrial growth, secure private investment, promote economic activity and build a private sector that supports the country's economic stability," he said.

Speaking about the transformation in Jammu and Kashmir, LG Sinha credited the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for turning the region into a major hub of education and innovation. He praised IIM Jammu for its growing contribution to the Union Territory's education sector.

"The Tejas Sports Complex inaugurated | More on P6

Yatra Resumes After Weather Halt

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The annual Amarnath Yatra resumed on Friday after being suspended for a day due to inclement weather, with over 16,000 devotees performing darshan at the holy cave shrine, officials said.

An official confirmed that the pilgrimage was halted on Thursday following continuous rainfall that triggered landslides along the twin routes, raising safety concerns. With weather conditions improving, authorities allowed the yatra to resume on Friday morning.

Amid an atmosphere of devotion and spiritual zeal, a total of 16,858 pilgrims | More on P6

Pahalgam Attack

US Designates TRF As Terrorist Group

Press Trust Of India

Washington:The US has designated The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the Pakistanbased terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba, as a "foreign terrorist organisation" over the Pahalgam terror attack, a move welcomed by India as a "timely and important" step reflecting strong counter-terror cooperation between the two countries.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, announcing the punitive measure, said it was part of Washington's commitment to countering | More on P6

Gupta Sworn In As Ladakh LG

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, was on Friday sworn in as the new Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh at a ceremony held at Raj Niwas, Leh. Dressed in traditional Ladakhi Goncha, Gupta took the oath of office and secrecy, administered by Justice Arun Palli, | More on P6

KO IMPACT

Public Movement Barred Along LJHP Canal

Idrees Bukhtiyar

Srinagar: A day after Kashmir Observer reported that residents of Uri are demanding fencing along the Lower Jhelum Hydroelectric (LJHP) canal in Gantmulla to prevent further tragedies, the concerned department on Friday said that public movement along the canal has been restricted.

"The movement of people has been barred following the recent drowning incident," Gulshan Ahmad, Executive Engineer, civil maintenance wing LJHP told Kashmir Observer over the phone.

He added that the department has also written to the local police, requesting deployment of personnel along the canal to ensure compliance and enhance safety.

that the department is planning to install fencing along the canal. "We will soon prepare an estimate for it," he said.

of | More on P6

PARLIAMENT'S MONSOON SESSION

HM, DM Discuss 'Op Sindoor' **Ahead of Key Debates**

Agencies

New Delhi: Ahead of Parliament's Monsoon Session slated to commence from July 21, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high level meet here on Friday. Ahmad further stated

The meeting held at Rajnath Singh's Delhi residence was attended by National Security Advisor Notably, fencing the canal has been a long-(NSA), Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff, Tri-

standing demand of local residents. They have also called for the installation

Services Chiefs and other top officers. officers, sources, briefed the ministers about the success of "Operation Sindoor" and other proactive steps that were taken after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead.

The Defence Minister is likely to give a statement on "Operation Sindoor" in the upcoming monsoon session of the Parliament.

Sources said that the Singh and Shah took feedback from the security top brass on the host of issues that are likely to come up during the customary all-party meeting scheduled to | More on P6

The top according

Court Acquits Trio In 2017 Srinagar Murder Case

Orders Action Against IO For 'Faulty Investigation'

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court here has acquitted three persons, one of them on charges of murdering a woman here and two others for having allegedly purchased stolen gold ornaments from him in January 2017.

The court of 1st Additional Sessions Judge Srinagar Anjum Ara also recommended departmental action against the investigating officer for "faulty investigation" in the case which pertained to the murder of a woman whose body was recovered three days after her death due to alleged strangulation while her two and half month milk sucking baby was found alive inside their home in Pukhribal area of Bota Kadal Lal Bazar Srinagar.

The court found prosecution case wanting on as many as 20 counts including the investigation officer's | More on P6



'EXCESSIVE 70% JOB RESERVATION IN J&K' **HC Allows Fresh Pleas, Seeks**

Govt Reply In 4 Weeks

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Friday issued notice to the government on a fresh petition, calling into question J&K UT's rationale in prescribing reservation up to 70% in government jobs for the candidates from the reserved categories against their pop-

ulation share of 30%. A division bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar has sought the response from government within four weeks, days after dismissing as withdrawn a batch of petitions with the liberty to the petitioners to mount fresh challenge to various provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004, in particular Section 3.

În the fresh plea, the petitioners have challenged Section-3, Section-4, Section-6, Section-8 and Section-9 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation

Act 2004, some rules of Jammu & Kashmir Reservation Rules of 2005 including Rule-4, Rule-5, Rule-9, Rule-10, Rule-13, Rule-15 and Rule-17, S.O 176 dated 15-03-2024 S.O 127 dated 20-04-2020, S.O

305 dated 31-05-2024, SRO 518 dated 02-Sep-2019, Jammu & Kashmir reservation Rules 2005. According to | More on P6

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm) No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir



Good Oral Health Can Reduce Cancer Risk Improve Overall Health: AIIMS Delhi Study

Press Trust Of India

ral healthcare plays a significant role in enhancing health-related outcomes, including those associated with cancer, researchers from AIIMS Delhi said, underscoring the necessity of integrating oral care practices not only at the primary level but throughout all health management.

Emerging evidences indicate that poor oral health is closely associated with several health problems, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, adverse pregnancy outcomes and Alzheimer's disease, oncologists Dr Abhishek Shankar and Dr Vaibhav Sahni from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi said in an article published in The Lancet Regional Health - Southeast Asia earlier this month.

Oral hygiene has been implicated in cancer risk and its prediction, particularly in head and neck cancers (HNC).

The current literature also suggests a link between periodontal disease, also known as gum disease, and cancers of the digestive tract, prostate, breast, pancreas, oropharynx, uterus, and lungs.

The international head and neck cancer epidemiology (INHANCE) consortium, through a pooled analysis of 13 studies involving 12,527 controls and 8,925 HNC cases, reported that good oral hygiene (defined by annual dental visits, fewer missing teeth and daily tooth-brushing) was associated with a modest reduction in the risk of HNC, the researchers said.

Presence of pathogenic oral bacteria such as Porphyromonas gingivalis and Prevotella intermedia has been shown to elevate cancer incidence and adversely affect overall survival whether with specific-cancer or disease-free, they said.

Oral health is crucial in the context of cancer therapy. A recent systematic review

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

CHANDIGARH (DRT I)

2nd Floor SCO 33-34-35

Sector-17 A, Chandigarh

Case No. OA/1523/2024

Summons under Sub Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, read

with sub rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited

M/S Chinar Security System

(Procedure)Rules,1993

Also at:

Also at:

properties;

Tribunal:

27.03.2025

Mr. Bashir Ahmad Lanker

S/o: Nizam Ud Din Lanker, R/o: H.No 60 Wawusa Rangreth Near SM Igbal Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir-191132

Near SM Iqbal B.Ed College Srinagar

Mr Faisal Bashir S/o: Bashir Ahmad Lanker

Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir-191132

R/o: H.No 60 Wawusa Rangreth Near SM Iqbal

Whereas . OA/1523/2024 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding

Whereas this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons /

notice on the said application under section 19(4) of the Act,

(OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs 25431255,37

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act,

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than

properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of

secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed

under serial number 3A of the original application, pending

hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets

over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of

the original application without the prior approval of the

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds

realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and

properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such

sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or

financial institutions holding security interest over such

copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before

Registrar on 23.07.2025 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date:

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue

application shall be heard and decided in your absence

Note: Strike out whichever is not applicable

You are also directed to file the written statement with a

summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted:

(application along with copies of documents etc, annexed).

Jammu and Kashmir-191132

Mehboob Abad Hawal Srinagar

you, the defendants are directed as under:-

number 3 A of the original application;

Jammu and Kashmir-190001

Officer/Registrar on 24.03.2025.



concluded that radiotherapy (RT) to the head and neck region significantly alters the oral microbiome, typically reducing beneficial bacteria while increasing potentially harmful species, leading to post RT complications, the research suggested.

Patients with severe periodontal disease undergoing intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT), with or without chemotherapy, have shown higher susceptibility to posttreatment bone healing complications, the researchers said.

These findings make it imperative to maintain optimal oral hygiene before, during and after RT, given its role in influencing survivorship outcomes, they added.

Data from the CHANCE study revealed that

Form No 3

[See Regulation -13(1)(a)

Exh. No: 27458

routine dental visits over the past 10 years were associated with reduced cancer mor-

tality, according to the research.
Dr Shankar and Dr Sahni, however, pointed out that there is a dearth of original data from Southeast Asia reporting on the association between oral health and cancer, as most original studies tend to limit their scope to epidemiological findings.

'It is abundantly clear that oral healthcare plays a significant role in enhancing healthrelated outcomes, including those related to cancer survivorship. This evidence underscores the necessity of integrating oral health practices not only at the primary care level but throughout all healthcare settings," the doctors said.

Efforts should focus on innovating and implementing point-of-care diagnostics in oral health that are evidence-based, economical, validated, and offer sufficient sensitivity and specificity, they stressed.

The researchers stated that the World Health Organisation (WHO) - South East Asia Region (SEAR) could benefit from public health initiatives to improve oral health. Researchers also pitched for supervised tooth-brushing programmes for children alongside sensitising teachers and families regarding the importance of oral health and providing free toothbrush and toothpaste to foster behavioural change.

In England, supervised tooth-brushing programmes for children have proven to be an economical intervention, reducing healthrelated inequalities and tooth decay, they

"Implementing a similar programme in India may provide comparable oral health benefits and, given its effectiveness in resource-constrained settings, is particularly encouraging," they said.

Various operational challenges like the economic viability of families, leading to unintentional health neglect, low priority to oral health, inadequate incentives and motivation among teaching staff to ensure their effective involvement.

Oral health has been shown to significantly influence cancer outcomes and survivorship; however, research in this domain could be more relevant if supported by data from the SEAR, the researchers stated. Public health interventions like labels of

'nutrition' and 'sugar warning' may assist consumers in making informed decisions. It is essential to enforce policies against proxy advertisements for tobacco products while also implementing measures to prohibit the use of likable characters promoting sugar-laden snacks and beverages to children, they said.

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE

1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI

Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Posha

Begum W/o Ab Rashid Bhat R/O Bomai , Tehsil Zaingeer for

issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of her daughter

Shaista Rasheed and Son Shahid Rasheed who were Born on

22-04-2015 and 25-03-2011 respectively and as per document

In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the

After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this

Naib Tehsildar

Executive Magistrate

No: 231/B&D/TZ/2025

evidence produced by the applicant.

same before the undersigned within 07 days.

Birth & Death

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name and DOB has been wrongly written in my adhaar card bearing no 5446 8225 4748 as Ghulam Hassan Mochi, DOB 06-06-1980 while my correct name is Gh Hassan Sheikh and Correct DOB is 15/07/1975. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Gh Hassan Sheikh S/o, Gh Qadir Sheikh R/O. Mahirad Utterpora Pulwama

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in my Aadhar card bearing no 8790 8599 5266 from Peerzada Rayees Ahmad Masoodi (old name) to Rayees Ahmad Peerzada (new name) . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rayees Ahmad Peerzada R/o:- Nambla Pampore pulwama

jvd

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to general public that my wards name was mentioned in adhar card No.589518997598 as Mohammad Afan Rather which is incorrect while actual name is Adnan Nazir Rather which is correct. Now needs its correction .If any body is haveing any objection he/she may contact concerned authorities, within 7 days no objection will be accepted. Name: Nazir Ahmad Rather.

F/O: Adnan Nazir Rather R/O:Marwal Kakapora Pulwama. fko

It is informed to the General public that my name in my Aadher Card bearing Aadhar No:-3722 6631 6890 has been wrongly mentioned as Mehmooda Begum instead of Mohmooda Akther .Now I am applying for its Correction as per (DOB) Date of Birth and Domicile



objection in this regard he/she may contact the same in the office of the General Manager Ranbir Govt Press Jammu within a period of seven days from the publication of this notice. No

Mohmooda Akther W/O. Abdul Rahim Bhat

PUBLCI NOTICE

Certificate record . if anybody having any

objection will be entertained after expiry of stipulated period.

R/O:- Kargam .Tehsil:- Handwara Distt: Kupwara. Pin Code 193302.

ازنیابت بومک عنوان: ۔ درخواست منجانب صاقب احمد ولدشش الدین اہنگرسا کنہ تنجر پہلی ہار بمراد عطائگی OBC تحت SRO 176 بحق خود

اشتهار هرخاص وعام

معامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض OBC سرٹفیکیٹ بذمرہ ا ہنگر پیش کی ہے جو کہزیر کا روائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی اہنگر ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائل تجربہلی ہار میں ر ہائش پذیر ہے اور بھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر شتمل ہے سم الدين ا ہنگر ولدغلام محی الدين ا ہنگر 💎 مز دوري گھر بلو کا م افروز ه بیگم زوجهٔمس الدین 46سال فرمان احمد پسر۔۔ سائل مذکورہ OBC سرٹفیکیٹ حاصل کرنے کاخواں سے اورکنیہ کی مہوار آمدنی 6,000 رویے تک ہے ۔سر شفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزریا ا عتراض ہوتو وہ بعدمشتہرا خبارسات دن کے اندرا ندرآ پنے عذریاعتراض عدالت هذا کو دفتری اوقات

کے دوران پیش کریں۔بعد گزرے میعاد کو بی عذریا عتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

The electricity connection with consumer ID 0204020015797 registered in the Name of Meenu Jan W/o Javaid Ahmad Beigh R/o Alamdar Colony Sector 7 Buchpora Srinagar - 190020 is to be transferred in Name of Nargis Naseer D/o Naseer ud Din. Objections, if any, to the same must reach Electric Division II. (Khanyar) & Sub.Division. (Rainawari), maximum within a week

from the date of its publication.

LOST OF CERTIFICATE

I Adil Hussain Mir S/o Gh Hassan Mir have lost my

Degree Certificate of Bachelor of Arts having Reg.

No:- 65013-ang-2011 Session 2011-2013, Regular

mode, Division 2nd Somewhere. Now I have to apply

for duplicate one at Kashmir University. If anybody is

having any objection he/she may file the same to the

Concerned Department of Kashmir University within a

weeks time after that no objection will be entertained.

ہرخاص وعام کو بذریعہاشتہارمطلع کیاجا تاہے کہ میرےٹر یکٹر (NEW HOLLAND TRACTOR)زیر MODEL_; Engine Number 055838N_; Chasis Number 3630 NUMBER 055838N جو كه بم نے JEHLAM VALLEY AUTOMOILES اونی پورہ ہے لیا تھا کی Sale letter کہیں گم ہوگئی ہے۔اباس کی ڈیلکیٹ زکالنی مطلوب ہے۔لہذااس بارے میں اگر کسی کو كوئى اعتراض بوتو وه سات دن كے اندراندر JEHLAM VALLEY AUTOMOILES AWANTIPORA KASHMIR كـ دفتر مين پيش كريں _ بعداز ميعاد كوئى اعتراض قابل قبول نہيں ہوگا۔ فاروق احمه بانڈروولدمحمداشرف بڈو

ساکن بانڈریورہ بڈگام _فون نمبر _7006328925

ازنیابت بومئیزینگیر

Property Certificate

معاملہ مندر جیمنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض پرایر ٹی سرٹفیکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں فیلڈعملہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے كهموضع هرون مين نمرات خسره 112،346،1216،596،1521،634 زيررقبه 3 کنال3مرلہموجود ہےجس کی ملکیت فی کنال770000+770000ہے۔ اورکل رقبہ کی ملکیت2446250رویے تک ہے ابسائل ایجاز احمدلون ولدعبدل مجیدلون اپنے حق میں Property Certificate حاصل کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ سر ُفلیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراءکرنے میں اگر سسی شخص کو کوئی عزریاا عتراض ہوتو وہ بعد مشتہرا خیار سات دن کے اندراندرآ ینے عذریا عتراض عدالت هذا کودفتری اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد

گز رے میعاد کو بی عذریاعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

From Office Of The

Advocate Muneer In the case of Sonaullah Shiekh S/o Late Abdul Rahman Shiekh R/o Tapper Waripora Bala Tehsil Pattan

(Caveator)

V/s Public at large

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

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

Sd/advocate

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:. 715431 Session: Annual Pvt Year 2010 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/



Board/parent against my name and Father's name as Mudasir Majeed Father's name Ab Majeed Reshi instead of Mudasir Majeed Reshi Father's name Abdul Majeed Reshi

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bernina. 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: Mudasir Majeed Reshi Father's name: Abdul Majeed Reshi Mother's Name: Zooni Banoo DOB: 01-04-1987

Residence: Gulab Bagh Trali Payeen Mobile no: 7006119340

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of ABDUL HAMID DAR S/O ABDUL REHMAN DAR R/O KHISIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 18 /10 /1968 and event has been

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

(Executive Magistrate 1st Class) Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

shown to be occured at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

inf

fko

KREERI

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE **1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI** No: 230/B&D/TZ/2025

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

Public Notice

This office has received a written application from Shakir Ahmad Mir S/o Ab Satar Mir R/o Nowpora Tujjar , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of his mother Bakhti Begum who died on 22-03-2021 as per document evidence produced by the applicant.

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

Naib Tehsildar **Executive Magistrate**

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NECESSARILY ENDORSETHE CONTENTS OF THESE ADVERTS. THE READERS ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO VERIFY THE CONTENTS BEFORE ACTING THEREUPON. MANAGEMENT

JK Congress To Hold March In Srinagar Today, **Demand Full Statehood**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) will hold a march in Srinagar on Saturday, demanding the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

President Tariq Hameed Karra said the march, to be led by him, will begin from the party headquarters and culminate with the submission of a memorandum to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, which is to be forwarded to the Prime Minister.

'This memorandum reiterates our long-standing demand for the restoration of complete statehood to Jammu and Kashmir," Karra said, adding that the party has sought official permission for the event.

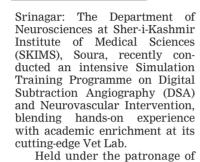
He said the Srinagar march is part of a larger series of programmes being launched by the Congress to press for statehood. Similar events are scheduled in Jammu on July 20 and in New Delhi on July 21, coinciding with the commencement of the Parliament session.

"We had already announced that we would intensify our efforts once Parliament is in session. In Delhi, we will make another attempt to directly submit the memorandum to the Prime Minister,' Karra said.

The JKPCC president assured that Saturday's march would be peaceful and involve participation from senior Congress leaders and party workers.

SKIMS Hosts Hands-On Simulation Training In Neurovascular Intervention

Observer News Service



Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, Director and EOSG SKIMS, the training was designed to bridge the gap between traditional learning methods and the modern demands of neurovascular care. "This simulation-based approach reflects our commitment to equipping clinicians with the latest skills in neurointervention," Prof. Ganie stated.

The workshop was led by an esteemed panel of national experts, including Dr. Trilochan Srivastava, Professor and Unit Head of Neurology at Swai Mann

"This simulationbased approach reflects our commitment to equipping clinicians with

Singh Medical College, Jaipur; Dr. Deepinder Singh, Chairman of Neurosurgery, SPS Apollo Hospital, Ludhiana; and Dr. Sinha, Director, IISER Mohali. Dr. Sinha, while addressing the participants.

the latest skills in

neurointervention."

emphasized, "Such academic exercises are pivotal in preparing the next generation of clinicians for the rapidly advancing field of neurovascular medicine.

Participants, comprising residents and faculty members, actively engaged in a structured curriculum that covered both theory and practice. Key focus areas included cerebral angiography principles, neuroanatomical variations, procedural planning, and complication management, with discussions on how to develop dedicated neurointervention units.

Young doctors lauded the initiative, calling it "a transformative experience" that not only enhanced their technical knowledge but also instilled greater confidence in handling complex neurological procedures.

The programme reaffirmed SKIMS' role as a leading centre for clinical excellence and innovation, especially in the realm of neurology and neurosurgery education.

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HIGHWAY STATUS



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



FAJR 3:53 **ZUHR** 12:37 5:34 **ASR** Magrib 7:44 **ISHA** 9:20

PRAYERS

This Day In History

- 711- Muslim forces under Tarig ibn Zivad defeat the Visigoths led by their king Roderic
- 1195 Battle at Alarcos: Almohads led by Abu Yusuf Yaqub al-Mansur defeats army of Alfonso VIII of Castile
- 1324- Mansa Musa, ruler of the Mali Empire, arrives in Cairo on his way to Mecca, with a procession of 600,000 men, 12,000 slaves and 80 camels carrying 136 kg (300 pounds) of gold each
- 1380- Thomas of Buckingham's invasion army lands on Calais
- 1524- Peasants' War begins in Germany's Black **Forest**
- 11551- Treaty of Karlsburg: Arch Duke Ferdinand of Austria recognized as King of Hungary and Transylvania
- 1572- Battle at Saint Ghislain: Spanish army beats The Genlis' mercenaries
- 1595- Astronomer Johannes Kepler has an epiphany and develops his theory of the geometrical basis of the universe while teaching in Graz, Austria
- 1639- French troops occupy Salses, at Perpignan 1696- Russian Tsar Peter I's fleet occupies the
- southern mouth of the Don River and gains access to the Sea of Azov, after the surrender of the Ottoman Azov garrison
- 1702- Great Northern War: Swedish troops under King Charles XII occupy Kraków, Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth
- 1850 Airship Elizabeth leaves in storm for Fire Island, crashes (42 die)
 - 1860 1st railroad reaches Kansas
- 1863 Battle of Buffington's Island (St George
- Creek), Ohio 1864 - Third Battle of Winchester, VA (Stephenson's
- 1870 France declares war on Prussia; Franco-
- Prussian war begins 1912 - A meteorite of estimated 190kg mass explodes over Holbrook in Navajo County, Arizona,
- causing approximately 16,000 pieces of debris to rain down on the town 1918 - World War I: German armies retreat across
- Marne River in France 1963 - NASA civilian Test pilot Joe Walker in X-15
- reaches 105 km
- 1967 US launches Explorer 35 for lunar orbit
- (800/7400 km)
- 1969 Apollo 11 goes into Moon orbit 1974 - Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 14 lands back on
- 1975 Apollo & Soyuz linked in orbit for 2 days, separate
- 1979 2 supertankers collide off Tobago-260,000 tons of oil spill
- 1989 United Airlines DC-10 crashes at Sioux City Iowa, kills 112
- 1994 Bomb explosion in Alas Airlines at Colon Panama, 21 killed
- 2001 Michael Brunet discovers the skull of
- Sahelanthropus tchadensis in the Djurab Desert, Chad. One of the oldest known species in the human family tree, 6-7 million years ago years old. 2015 - World Health Organization puts world's
- Ebola death toll at 11,284
- 2017 US scientists calculate total amount plastic ever produced - 8.3 million tonnes, equal to weight of 1 billion elephants. 2017 - Archaeological dig in Kakadu National Park
- extends Aboriginal peoples time in Australia to 65,000 to 80,000 years ago 2017 - BBC publishes salaries of its top-earning
- journalists and presenters, two-thirds male, Chris Evans highest at over £2.2 million 2017 - Investigators using DNA identify 16 year-old
- James Byron Haakenson as a victim of serial killer John Wayne Gacy, 41 years after his disappearance 2020- World Formula 1 drivers champion Lewis
- Hamilton wins a record 8th Hungarian Grand Prix in Budapest to equal Michael Schumacher's record of wins at a single circuit (French GP)
- 2021- UK lifts most COVID-19 restrictions on socalled "Freedom Day" despite 50,000 new daily



CM Omar Listens To Public Concerns At Raabita office



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: CM Omar Abdullah after his interaction on Thursday with public at his Jammu Raabita office, today listened to public grievances at Srinagar Raabita office. Several deputations and individuals today called on the Chief Minister at the weekly public outreach programme and apprised him of various issues, demands and challenges faced by different sections

Prof. Iqbal S. Hasnain, Padma Shri awardee and Member of the Board of University of Science and Technology, Muscat, Oman Presented his book "Fault Lines in the Faith" to the Chief Minister. Hasnain also serves on the Executive Committee of Hamdard University and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation, and is the former Pro-Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard,

Javid Ahmad Tenga, President of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), met the Chief Minister to discuss various trade-related matters and shared insights into the challenges faced by the business community in Kashmir.

A delegation of international martial arts players also called on the Chief Minister to deliberate on the emerging challenges concerning international-level sports persons from Jammu and Kashmir, and sought the government's continued support for developing their talent and giving them

ample opportunities. President and Secretary of the Kashmir Labour Union's Federation. brought to the Chief Minister's attention the pressing concerns regarding the Jammu and Kashmir Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare urged the government to expedite the appointment of the Board's Chairman and to facilitate prompt approval of welfare funds for lakhs of construction workers across J&K.

In addition, deputations from Beerwah, Inderwal. Baramulla, and other regions also met the Chief Minister to highlight issues specific to their constituencies and local population.

Representatives from minority communities too called on the Chief Minister and flagged various issues and demands for his attention.

Family Of Three Injured In Parimpora Road Accident

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Three members of a family, including a couple and their young son, sustained injuries—two of them critically—after their car collided with a gas tanker at Parimpora in the Bemina area of Srinagar on Friday, officials said.

The mishap occurred when a WagonR car (JK13C 8988), carrying the family from Charare-Sharief in Budgam, collided with an HP gas truck (JK05D 2955) at a busy junction in Parimpora.

The injured have been identified as Bilal Ahmad, son of Abdul Salaam Kumar, his wife Nusrat, and their son Hami, all residents of Charar-e-Sharief

in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

All three were rushed to JVC Hospital in Bemina. According to medical authorities, Bilal Ahmad and his wife are in critical condition, while the child is stable but remains under medical observation.

Eyewitnesses scribed the crash as severe, with the front portion of the WagonR severely damaged by the impact. Police have detained the truck driver, and an investigation has been initiated to ascertain the cause

of the accident. Authorities have not ruled out overspeeding or negligence. Forensic examination of both vehicles is currently underway.



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📏 KO VIEW

Kashmir's Korean Connection

ashmir's connected past is once again shaping how we see it today. A recent archaeological find in Kotli could reveal a history far older and more far-reaching than what we've learned from schoolbooks. While some are brushing it off as just another Sharda inscription, this discovery deserves a closer and more serious look.

Unearthed in the southern highlands, the inscription bears a rare combination: Korean characters alongside Proto-Sharda script.

At first, this pairing may seem implausible. But the region's geography and historical footprint support the possibility.

Kotli sits at a cultural and trade junction, close to Rajouri and Mendhar, and historically linked with both the Kashmir Valley and the broader Silk Route. Its terrain once served as a corridor for Buddhist monks, traders, and scholars journeying from India into Central and East Asia.

This isn't an isolated artifact. The surrounding site has yielded rock shelters, carved caves, ancient water pools, and fragments of pottery, pointing to continuous human activity from the 4th millennium BCE to the 18th century. Taken together, these findings suggest that Kotli was not a remote outpost, but part of a long-inhabited cultural network.

Historical precedent strengthens the claim. Korea's oldest texts, such as the Samguk Yusa, reference Buddhist links with the Indian subcontinent. Ancient Korean temples hold sculptures with unmistakable Indian influence.

Across Southeast and Central Asia, archaeological finds regularly reveal mixed scripts and hybrid iconography, evidence of regions once tied together by shared spiritual and trade routes.

The Indo-Korean connection is not new. It has simply lacked robust archaeological exploration in South Asia itself.

Dismissing the Kotli discovery as a coincidence or a misreading would be premature. Scholarly caution is necessary, but so is intellectual curiosity. The need of the hour is careful, multi-disciplinary research involving linguists, historians, archaeologists, and experts from Korea. A comparative script analysis could confirm or debunk the links, but only through rigorous study, not assumptions.

Kashmir's cultural history has often been eclipsed by its political present. But discoveries like Kotli remind us of its deeper identity as a place of passage, not just polemics.

If we look closely enough, the inscribed stone may not only reveal Korea's ancient ties. It may finally help Kashmir reclaim its place on the map of global history.

he patient attendants who line the corridors of Kashmir's pub-

lic hospitals know the routine.

the ICU. Another recites verses under

their breath. A third paces with his

eyes on the floor. Behind them is al-

ways a need that no one wants to talk

stands behind the bathroom door is

Lal Ded, or a district hospital, and the

picture is predictably grim. Water stag-

nates on the floor. Foul smells rise from

open drains. Taps are either dry or

leaking. The commodes, often cracked

or blocked, are unusable. Soap dispens-

ers lie empty. Doors don't lock. The

stench carries into the corridors, where

patients sit with IV drips and fasting at-

possible. Relief becomes shame. And

the body becomes a site of stress when

tals haven't seen meaningful upgrades

in years. The cleaning, where it hap-

pens, is cosmetic. A swipe of a mop, a

tion lie untouched or don't exist. When

you ask the staff, they offer tired hon-

esty: "We do what we can." One cleaner

at a government hospital told me that

entire wings have toilets with no run-

ning water for days. "We pour buckets,"

ter of inconvenience. It isn't. These

bathrooms are disease vectors and in-

It's tempting to think this is a mat-

This isn't rare. It is routine.

splash of water. The filth remains.

In these conditions, ablution is im-

The bathrooms in Kashmir hospi-

The logbooks meant to track sanita-

In hospitals across Kashmir, what

Walk into any washroom at SMHS,

about: the search for a usable toilet.

worse than anyone deserves.

tendants try to pray.

it should be healing.

he said. "That's all."

cubators for infection.

One waits for word from

Manufactured Consent

Despite clear Islamic teachings on choice and consent, young Kashmiris, especially women, are still pressured into marriages that prioritize family pride over personal will.

Malik Daniyal

grow up in Kashmir hearing the same refrains, over and over again: "Shaadi karne ki umar ho gayi hai," "Log kya kahenge," "Ladki ke liye ghar ka faisla buzurg karte hain.

At first, they blend into the background, part of the air we breathe. But as we grow older, the weight of those words becomes harder to ignore.

We see it in drawing rooms over nun chai. In hushed conversations during matchmaking visits. And later, at weddings, where the bride smiles for the camera, but not with her eyes.

She no longer knows how to say "no." Maybe she tried. But she was told not to create a scene, not to make it harder for her parents and not to dishonor the family.

She was met with lines like, "Cxe kiya chi gomut, maelis magi hund yezatuk khayal cheena?" ("What have you become? What will people say? Don't you care about your family's honor?")

All because she dared to say no, a right Islam explicitly gives her, stripped away by a culture pretending to speak in the voice of religion.

There is a troubling irony within Kashmiri society. The institution of marriage, which in faith is meant to begin with mutual respect and consent. too often begins with pressure and silent resistance.

The weight of tradition, family pride, and misrepresented religion falls heaviest on girls. Many are not married because they are ready or willing, but because saying no would upset the fragile order of things.

And this is not just a personal tragedy. It is a social failure that corrodes the very idea of family.

Islam, however, is unam-

Marriage is a covenant, between two consenting adults, not families. Consent is not a ceremonial nod. It is a fundamental requirement.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was clear. In one hadith narrated by Ibn Abbas, a young woman approached him to say her father had married her without her consent. ne Propnet gave ner the option to annul the marriage.

In another instance, when Khansa bint Khidam came to protest a marriage arranged by her father, the Prophet didn't urge her to adjust. He annulled it.

He also said: "The virgin should not be given in marriage until her permission has been

sought" (Bukhari, 6968; Muslim). Guardianship in Islam is a trust, not a tool of control. A wali is expected to act with sincerity and justice, not with pride or personal preference. A woman must be given to someone she accepts, not someone her family finds convenient or respectable. Her will matters - legally, spiritually and morally.

This principle is not marginal. It is central to the Islamic legal tradition. Scholars like Imam Abu Hanifa, Ibn Taymiyvah, Ibn Qudamah, and Imam al-Nawawi have affirmed that a woman cannot be forced into a marriage she does not accept.

If she objects, her objection carries full legal and ethical weight.

In Kashmiri homes, the silence of a girl is too often mistaken for consent. "She agreed eventually," people say, or, "She didn't object, so we assumed she was okay with it.'

But these are often the silent echoes of emotional blackmail and worn-down resistance. A forced "yes" is a silenced "no."

In many conservative households, questioning a parent's decision is seen as sinful or rebellious. Girls are told that saying no is equivalent to shaming their families or defying God.

Yet Islam, the very religion invoked to justify such pressure, offers them the right to choose. It is not disobedience. It is a God-given right.

The cost of these coerced unions is high. Marriages born of reluctant acceptance often give way to alienation, loneliness, and deep emotional trauma.

Divorce may come years later, but the damage begins long before.

Children raised in such homes grow up absorbing dysfunction. They learn that obedience is more important than honesty, that family image matters more than emotional wellbeing.

This creates a generational loop of unhappiness and disillusionment, leaving future couples even more skeptical of the value of marriage.

Compounding this problem is the entrenched obsession with caste, class, and family pedigree.

Proposals are rejected not for lack of compatibility, but because the other family doesn't belong to the right khandan, or doesn't fit some unwritten social code.

Even people of strong faith and upright character are turned away for having the "wrong" lineage or profession.

Besides cultural snobbery, it is in direct conflict with Islamic values. The Prophet, in his final sermon, declared: "No Arab is superior to a non-Arab, and no white is superior to a black, except by piety and good deeds.'

Yet in Kashmir, the echoes of this sermon are drowned out by whispers of social pride and inherited prejudice. These attitudes shut out worthy matches and, worse, erode trust in the entire institution of marriage.

When these unions break down, and many do, the blame falls not on the system, but on the individuals. "They didn't try hard enough," people say. "The girl was too stubborn."

Rarely does anyone ask whether the marriage was ever based on respect, choice, or emotional readiness.

Religious leaders, speak often about obedience and modesty, are notably silent on forced marriages. Their silence, whether out of fear or convenience, becomes complicity.

Parents, meanwhile, confuse control with care. They claim to be acting in their child's best interest, while often protecting their own fear, pride, or social standing

The community, for its part, looks away. As long as the wedding is grand and the nikkah is performed, all seems well. But beneath the surface lies a truth

we refuse to confront. If we wish to restore trust in marriage, we must return to its spiritual roots. Consent must not be reduced to a checkbox. It is a divine principle, both moral

and legal. Religious scholars must speak plainly and consistently about this right. Families must learn to listen without judgment, and allow their children to say "no" without being

branded rebellious. Young people must be taught to seek compatibility in faith and character, not in caste or class.

And above all, we must stop confusing control with righteousness. Islam honors parents, but it does not grant them the right to dictate their children's life partners.

Forced marriages do not protect our culture. They only preserve pain.

Every time a girl is pressured into saying yes, every time a boy is told to "adjust" without being asked if he is ready, we commit an injustice. And the couple is left to suffer its consequences.

It is time we ask ourselves: are we building homes rooted in love, faith, and dignity, or are we merely staging ceremonies to protect names and egos?

> The author studies at the University of Delhi. He can be reached at mdaniyal.054@gmail.com.

Strange Turf War

A growing conflict between apple orchardists and poplar planters in Kashmir reveals deeper cracks in the rural land governance. The law is unclear, the trees are tall, and trust is withering.

Mohammad Amin Mir

icture two adjacent plots in a Kashmir village. One is an apple orchard, carefully cultivated over years. The other is a line of poplars, fast-growing, profit-friendly trees often planted for timber.

As the poplars shoot up, reaching 60 to 80 feet in just a decade, they begin casting long shadows over the orchard. Their leaves fall, roots stretch wide, and presence begins to impact the yield next door.

The orchard owner files a complaint. He says the shade is stunting his apples, the leaf fall is encouraging pests, and the roots are draining water from his soil. The poplar grower says it's his land. He can do what he wants.

This isn't just a local spat. It's a signal of a slowly spreading tension across rural India as land use patterns shift, climate pressures build, and farming becomes less about food and more about returns.

Agriculture in Kashmir still employs around 60% of the population. The valley grows over 20 lakh metric tonnes of apples every year, contributing nearly 75% to India's apple

At the same time, timber demand has created a poplar boom. Farmers are incentivised to plant fast-yielding trees, sometimes harvesting them in 10 to 12 years for plywood, packaging, and matchstick industries.

Schemes like the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) have pushed orchard expansion. Meanwhile, the poplar trade has turned timber into a second income stream for families.

Yet when these two models meet on opposite sides of a boundary, conflict follows.

At the heart of it is a legal and administrative vacuum. The Jammu & Kashmir Land Revenue Act, 1996 (Samvat), gives landowners the right to use their land within its agricultural classification.

That means an owner can plant poplars, or apples, if the land is not designated as forest, kahcharai (grazing), or protected. There's no clause that says how close is too close, or whether shade counts as harm.

Indian civil law offers a few tools.

The Indian Easements Act, 1882 allows for the right to light and air if it's been enjoyed without interruption for

The law of private nuisance says that one landowner's use of land must not interfere with a neighbour's ability to enjoy theirs

The trouble is, proving that interference, especially in a field, without surveillance or technical evidence, isn't

Judicial precedents try to fill in the gaps. In 2008, the Himachal Pradesh High Court ordered eu-

calyptus trees removed from near an orchard, ruling that "no landowner may exercise his right in such a way that it substantially harms his neighbour's lawful use. In 2011, the Punjab & Haryana High Court upheld a 15-

foot buffer zone for poplars after ruling they caused damage to an adjoining crop field. In 2016, the Jammu & Kashmir High Court refused to

issue a blanket ban but left the door open for "reasonable restrictions" if harm could be demonstrated. These judgments help, but they aren't law. And local

revenue officials - tehsildars, patwaris - often lack both the jurisdiction and the clarity to act. When orchardists complain, the standard response is a Girdawari, or field inspection. The patwari checks how

close the poplars are, which way the shadows fall, whether the apple yield has dropped. It's a process vulnerable to bias, guesswork, and delay. There's also no uniform rulebook. One tehsil may permit poplars five feet from the boundary, another may insist

may ignore the complaint entirely. By the time the matter reaches a civil court, the apples are already lost. So, too, is the trust between neighbours who once harvested together.

on fifteen. One patwari may recommend pruning, another

This needs fixing. First, panchayats should have clear, enforceable guidelines on tree plantations, especially species like poplars and eucalyptus

Like building bye-laws, these rules should set minimum distances, maximum heights near orchards, and bans near water bodies or electric lines. The Forest Rights Act and Panchayati Raj laws can be amended to support this.

Second, revenue records need to evolve. Just as a Tatima Shajra maps land parcels, orchard areas should carry an "influence zone", a protective buffer recorded in land documents that restricts incompatible land use nearby.

Third, patwaris should be trained not just as recordkeepers but as early conflict mediators. They are the first to see disputes forming during seasonal inspections. They should be empowered to flag risks, not wait for complaints. Finally, the state should consider a Rural Land Use Me-

diation Panel at the block level. Comprising agricultural officers, revenue officials, and local elders, such panels can offer faster, cheaper resolutions than courts. They also preserve the fabric of village

life, which is slowly being torn by disputes that could be settled with dialogue. What's being lost is the trust between neighbours, the cooperation that has long defined rural Kashmir. When one farmer sees shade as income, and the other sees it as

theft, the gap between them widens. And when the law fails to offer answers, that gap becomes a wound.

India's land laws were built in another century. They were written when most farmers grew the same crops, when land was abundant, and when the economy was simpler. Those conditions no longer exist. Now, every acre is contested. Every plant is a poten-

tial business model. And every decision, of where to plant, what to grow, how high a tree can rise, carries consequences for the person next door. Kashmir's trees are now symbols of that shift. Where

once they offered shade, they now cast suspicion. Where once they stood for growth, they now signal grievance. And unless we update our rules, retrain our officials, and rebuild our village institutions, these disputes will

keep growing. Like the poplars themselves, tall and un-The author is a legal affairs columnist and policy analyst

focused on land administration, rural governance, and institutional reform in Jammu & Kashmir.

What Lies **Behind the Door**

Kashmir's public hospitals promise healing but can't provide basic hygiene. What lies behind the toilet door tells a different story.

Dr. Fiaz Maqbool Fazili

For the pregnant women, newborns and surgical patients, these conditions are dangerous. And for those who come to hospitals in distress, the lack of a clean place to relieve themselves becomes a deep violation of dignity.

There are few signs that anyone in charge is listening. Officials blame delays in funds. Engineers wait on tenders. Hospital administrators say they've sent requests that go unanswered.

And in the meantime, Kashmir's public health infrastructure breaks down at the level of the toilet door.

Even staff are not spared. Nurses work eight or twelve-hour shifts and avoid using their own facilities. Some skip water. Others, especially women, report recurring urinary infections.

The idea that a healthcare worker must endure this kind of neglect, day after day, should shame the system into action.

The neglect isn't confined to hospitals. In city markets, transport hubs, and government offices, public urinals are either missing or locked. What's available is barely functional.

In Lal Chowk, at Batamaloo, or near

tourist points like Nishat, toilets are scarce and unsanitary. Many have become dumping grounds. Public urination is rampant, especially around hospitals. This is less a behavior problem and more a sign of structural failure. When there's no place to go, people will go wherever they can.

The Smart City mission hasn't touched this issue in any meaningful way. Beautification projects and fresh tiles on sidewalks don't change the lived reality of a man who must urinate behind a bush or a woman who holds her bladder for hours. We're spending crores on

facades while the interiors collapse. There is also a social deficit at work. Kashmiris take pride in hospitality, yet our civic sense in shared public spaces has eroded.

In washrooms that do function, people leave taps running, smear walls with filth, and exit without flushing. Toilets break not just from overuse but from misuse. Cleanliness requires both maintenance and a culture of respect. The first is a matter of policy. The second is about what we teach, at home, in

school, on the street. Some hospital CEOs have attempted

surprise inspections. A few toilets get cleaned for a few days. A broken pipe is repaired. But these are short-lived interventions. The larger system remains untouched. The smell returns and the complaints pile up. Nothing moves. What Kashmir needs now is not an-

tals must have functioning washrooms with clean water, working fixtures, and ventilation. Maintenance staff must be held to account with daily logs, visible records, and proper supervision. The health department must re-

other inspection but a reckoning. Hospi-

lease funds with urgency. Public urinals must be reopened and maintained, not locked for "staff only." Sanitation is a public right. A work-

ing toilet in a government hospital is not

too much to ask. It is the bare minimum. When someone enters a hospital, they are already vulnerable. They are in pain, or in prayer, or holding hope for a loved one's survival.

In those moments, to force them into a space soaked in urine, smeared in waste, and reeking of administrative failure, is not just cruel. It is inhuman. We have been silent for too long. It's

are a public health emergency. No Smart City plan, no hospital expansion, no development pitch can be taken seriously until it addresses

time to say it clearly: these conditions

Kashmir deserves care that heals, not harms. The filth we've learned to tolerate cannot become the standard we accept.

what's behind the bathroom door.

The author is a clinical auditor and expert in healthcare quality and standards. He can be reached at drfiazfazili@gmail.com.

The Boy from Nawa Bazar

Between an old home and government flats, a Kashmiri man recalls a childhood of bazaars, bus rides, and a father who taught character through an English playwright.

Dr. Sajad Hussain Din

was born on a summer day in Srinagar, in August 1979. It was the day when the air in the city carried both heat and festivity, especially because it was also the month of Ramazan.

The hospital stood close to Dal Lake, and they say the view from the second floor made the place feel more like a retreat than a medical facility.

My family lived nearby, within walking distance. I like to think that when I opened my eyes, I may have seen a hint of that lake shimmer through the window.

My father was in administration. He was the man who believed in rules, and was respected by those who feared wasting time. My mother worked in the Education Department. Both of them took their work seriously. My father especially seemed carved out of purpose.

He was someone who didn't raise his voice often, but when he did, the walls listened. Yet when it came to his children, something softened.

I grew up between two homes: the ancestral one and the government quarters. The ancestral house leaned into the Jhelum River on one side and looked across to the noisy, fragrant lanes of Nawa Bazar on the other.

The market was a world unto itself. It had its own rhythm, and its own set of stars. Men like Ali Puj, Hassan Gor, and Nab Sabin ran shops that drew customers as politicians draw crowds. Their shops weren't just storefronts. They were gathering spots, stories-in-prog-ress. Locals called them pend, and those early memories are tangled with the smells of fried bread, the sound of gossip, and the slow stretch of a lazy afternoon.

We were a big family. Grand-parents, uncles, aunts, cousins all lived together. One of my uncles, always full of life, worked at the State Secretariat. He rode a bike that should've retired years ago. Still, it took us to Mughal Gardens, Shalimar, Dachigam, and sometimes just to nowhere in particular. We rode for the sake of motion.

I went to New Era Public School with my younger cousin. It stood in a well-off part of the city, and even though the fee structure – ₹250 for tuition, ₹100 for the bus - was reasonable back then, it meant something to our parents. They made sure to keep up with without warning.

My father would bring his friends along, and we'd find out later they'd spoken to our teachers. His method of parenting leaned toward silent scrutiny rather than open praise.

He was the first teacher I ever had. He loved literature deeply: Shakespeare, Dickens, Wordsworth. He had studied English literature in college and treated it not like a subject, but like a way of

We didn't just read newspaper editorials, we talked about them, questioned them, and were asked to explain them in our own words. He dictated passages, and while my brother absorbed them like a sponge, I drifted. My attention was drawn toward open fields, sports, and stories that didn't always come with structured endings.

Still, he never gave up. He took me to watch an English film at Regal Cinema. The story didn't make sense to me right away, so he whispered the plot as we watched.

During intermission, we sat on cane chairs, sipping coffee and sharing popcorn with his colleagues. For a boy used to being scolded for unfinished homework, that outing felt like a truce.

Our weekends were claimed by games: cricket, carrom, badminton. The boys from different mohallas would gather near Zero Bridge. We'd walk there, teasing each other, forming a line of noisy schoolbags and laughter. Some days we lingered too long and missed our bus. Those walks home felt eternal and adventurous.

As uncles began their own families, our joint household scattered. We moved into new government quarters near my father's office. High-rise buildings, a larger playground, and elevators that creaked like old doors. We missed our old neighbours and the market life, but the new place had its own

People from different castes and religions lived side by side, exchanging food during Eid and Diwali. Ram Singh, my father's subordinate, lived below us. He helped with shopping, carried messages, and even convinced the local butcher to give us the better meat cuts. Mutton sold at ₹45 per kilogram then. It was a price we still remember more fondly than

the meat itself. My health was fragile. I visited hospitals more than parks. I once saw Dr. Ali Mohammad Jan, the renowned physician of Lal Chowk. His reputation preceded him, vet his manner was calm. He didn't rush. He looked into my eyes, felt my pulse, asked questions like he was learning a story. He scribbled a prescription: Sodafed, Vi Magna, a vitamin shot. Then he said, "You're fine. No need to come again."

That sentence stayed with me longer than the medicines did.

Winters took me to Jammu, where I stayed with my uncle's family. Sometimes I flew there alone. My uncle, who worked in the Secretariat, arranged my trav-

One time, I visited the Chief Minister's office for help with a ticket. A uniformed man walked me to Satwari Airport. I remember the nearby shrine, the trees leaning toward the tarmac, and the nervous pride of flying solo at age

When my father neared retirement, we built a house in Bathindi. Legal issues over land dragged on for years. A court ruling finally gave us the green signal. A contractor from Bengal came with his men. They worked through frost and heat, and finally, we had a home we could call our own.

Back in school, I liked math. Teachers liked me too. Though I often missed classes, mainly because I depended on my elder brother to take me, once I was there, I followed rules. The principal, known for her stern manner, took a liking to me. There were bullies, as there always are, but my brother's friends made sure I was never hurt twice.

In eighth grade, I surprised everyone. I topped the exams. The class toppers looked stunned. Some whispered behind my back. Our English teacher, the principal's daughter, once asked us to write a long letter, four or five pages. I asked my brother to help, and we wrote one that even surprised me. She sent it to her father and later nominated me for a school award. That changed something

I realized I wasn't drifting. I was

Now when I pass by the market lanes or hear the hum of Zero Bridge buses, those memories don't feel far away. They are stitched into the way I speak, the words I choose, and how I understand the world.

My childhood, like Srinagar itself, was full of contradictions: warmth layered with worry, tradition bumping against change.

Yet it all made sense then. And somehow, it still does.

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Grandfather at the Door

This is the story of a grandfather who became father, mother, and anchor in a storm.

Syed Majid Gilani

earliest memories of my grandfather arent actached to words. They live my grandfather aren't atin sound. The soft shuffle of his slippers before Fajr. The creak of the garden gate. The faint whistle of the kettle warming on the stove.

Even now, I remember those mornings — the cold of Lal Bazar, the sky still dark, and somewhere in the house, a voice reciting verses from the Qur'an. Slow, even, and certain.

That voice belonged to Syed Abdul Rashid Gilani. He was my grandfather. For me and my sisters, Yasmeen and Sabiyah, he became something larger. He was the rhythm of our days. The man who held a fractured house together after it cracked wide open.

He was born in 1927 in Khanqah Moula, one of the oldest and most storied quarters of Srinagar. There, in a neighbourhood of latticed windows, green-tiled shrines, and water-smoothed stones, he came into a family of teachers, clerics, and poets.

His father, Maulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani, was known across the valley for his knowledge and moral standing. His uncle, Maulana Syed Mubarak Shah Gilani, who wrote under the pen name Fitrat, was a Persian scholar and poet. Theirs was a house where language sat beside faith, and knowledge was passed on not as information, but as in-

He left for Punjab University, Lahore, in a time when such journeys were rare. He earned a degree, brought it back home folded into a briefcase with polished buckles, and entered the state's Food Control Department.

He climbed the ranks over decades, from Supervisor to Assistant Director, then retired in 1982.

Around that time, he built the home where I would grow up. He called it Gilan House. Its walls were pale, the garden small but orderly, the floors spotless. Everything about the home – the way shoes were placed, newspapers folded, curtains drawn at Maghrib mirrored him.

He wrote poetry, but never talked about it. Not once did I hear him say "I'm a poet." Yet, in the drawers of his study, I once found worn notebooks full of verses in Urdu and Persian, written in clear, upright letters. He signed them with his takhallus — Showk.

The pages smelled faintly of ink and attar. The poems were devotional, inward-looking. Lines about Karbala, longing, patience, and unseen reward. He never published a word. Those poems, like his prayers, were private.

His library was his sanctuary. Alongside Qur'anic commentaries and theological texts were Ghalib's divans, Iqbal's Bang-e-Dara, and

the marsiyas of Mir Babbar Ali Anis. During Muharram, he would take down a special copy of Anis's elegies, its spine cracked from use, and sit by himself near the window. I would find him there, shoulders still, his eyes shining.

In those moments, I understood that faith could ache.

My father, Syed Iftikhar Gilani. died of a heart attack on 12th June 2001. He was only in his forties. The call came in the afternoon, and the shock landed like thunder through our house.

I was young. My sisters were younger. None of us understood death. But we understood that something enormous had left the room.

e wrote poetry, **but never talked** about it. Not once did I hear him say "I'm a poet." Yet, in the drawers of his study, I once found worn notebooks full of verses in Urdu and Persian, written in clear, upright letters.

In that silence, my grandfather stepped forward. He didn't weep in front of us. He didn't tell us to be strong. He began, instead, by preparing dinner.

That night, he placed a hand on my shoulder and said only this: "We will carry each other now." I didn't understand the weight of those words until years later. Because that is what he did. He carried us.

He stood beside our mother, Shahida Chishti, with a grace I've rarely seen. In a society where widows often bear the double burden of grief and judgment, he made sure she never stood alone. He treated her like a daughter. He defended her choices. He protected her dignity.

There was no announcement of this support. It was built into how he arranged the cushions in the drawing room before guests came, side him at the head of the table

and how he checked in with her before anyone else.

He ran the house like a clockmaker. He woke before dawn every day, even in his eighties and nineties. He offered Fajr, read from the Qur'an, then recited Aurad-e-Fathiya, a set of litanies passed down in our Sufi tradition.

After that came the garden. Even in deep winter, he walked among his rose bushes and apple saplings, whispering names of plants like they were old friends.

He read English newspapers with a pencil in hand. He marked passages. He corrected our grammar. He insisted that language, any language, must be clean. He believed in the power of the written word but never tried to impose it.

When I began writing, he never praised or critiqued. He only once said, "If you ever write something worth keeping, make sure you

know why."

He lived long enough to see us grow into adults. He saw us graduate, find work, make mistakes, come back home. He never said much about our success. He was more interested in whether we arrived on time, whether our shoes were polished, whether we still remembered the dua for leaving the house.

He passed away on 13th March 2016, in the room he had chosen for himself, in the home he had built with his retirement fund. There was no pain. He had prayed his evening prayers, read a few pages of Iqbal Nama, and then lay down.

My sister found him just before midnight: serene, covered with his woolen blanket, a misbaha still between his fingers.

We buried him in the ancestral graveyard at Khanqah Moula, near the feet of saints and family elders. As we lowered him into the earth, I remembered something he had once told me during a conversation about poetry: "The best verses," he said, "are the ones that return to you when you least expect them."

His life was a verse like that. Measured, composed, full of meaning you only recognize when you grow older. His impact wasn't imposing. It was woven into the order of our lives: the clean shirt, the turned page, the steady tone, and the prayer at dawn.

Even now, when I hear the call to Fajr and find myself rising, automatically, sleepily, I sometimes think he's still in the next room, waiting with his Qur'an open, the kettle on, the garden already watered.

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Stillness in the Square

Now every shutter is a stanza, every lane a half-remembered verse.

Faria Bhat

You walk through Lal Chowk the way you walk into an old photograph: cautiously, reverently, afraid your presence might disturb what remains.

The air here is different. Thicker, somehow. It wraps around your shoulders like a shawl woven with Everything smells faintly of walnut

wood, old paper, and burnt sugar. If memory had a scent, it would linger There's a bakery on the corner where the glass is always fogged. No queue outside now, only the baker's slow rhythm as he brushes egg wash

over golden buns. Years ago, this place opened before the azan and closed long after the last minibus had left.

Now, he bakes just enough for the loyal few, the ones who still show up, who still remember. You hear his radio playing something old, something soft. It doesn't ask for attention. It hums like a companion.

The streets are clean but tired. Their silence has settled in like dust in the folds of a pashmina. A pigeon lands near the clock tower and stays. No-

body shoos it away. You walk past Bata, the shoe shop that once rang with schoolchildren's chatter and the slap of sandals being tried on. The glass looks smudged now. A mannequin stares out with

shoes too new for this time. You try to remember how it used to

sound. The calls of vendors: "do sau ka teen", and the rhythmic snapping of plastic bags.

How strangers bumped into each other and then stayed to talk. The man at the bookshop who'd recommend a poetry collection based on how you held the last one.

Those days aren't gone. They're tucked inside things: the rusting shutters, the crooked doorframes, the smell of samosas that still floats up near Samci if you pass at the right hour.

Lal Chowk is not abandoned. It's

inhabited by memory, thick and textured, like snow that hasn't melted.

You pause at Fairdeal Complex. Once, it was where brides arrived in hope and left in blush. Now, the sequins on the window lehengas catch the sun and reflect it onto the pavement like small, scattered stars. Inside, the salesman adjusts hangers even when no one enters. A woman comes in to ask if there are new collection. He replied with a suppressed smile.

There's an intimacy in this empti-

ness, the one that holds your hand instead of letting you go.

You step into an old bookshop. The owner looks up from his prayer beads and nods as if he knew you were coming. The books smell of dust and ink, their spines stiff from waiting. Ghalib, Manto, Ismat. A hardback copy of Rumi in the corner, still wrapped in cling film. You remember coming here with your father. You asked for something to read "with feeling." The shopkeeper had handed you Faiz, and your father had nodded, approvingly.

You still have that book. It still smells like this room.

The man says nothing, just gestures to the shelf. You take your time. This isn't a place for rushing.

Outside, a boy leans against the clock tower, recording a video. His girlfriend twirls in a floral shawl. He tells her to do it again, this time with the tower in full view. They'll caption it something sweet, something short. They won't mention that this square has its own spirit. It doesn't matter, as long as the space is spreading smiles.

Amid this festivity, a fruit vendor wheels his cart down the empty stretch. Apples, red as remembrance. No one stops him. He still calls out, his voice cracks a little, but he calls

That's the thing about the place. It doesn't shout anymore. It listens. It remembers your footsteps. It recognizes the way your fingers trace the edge of an old shop sign. It holds grief like a shawl on a hanger, folded, but never far.

This isn't nostalgia. It's presence. You are here, and so is everything that came before.

Sometimes, you think the market breathes, shallow, but breathing. It inhales when someone steps inside for a loaf of bread, exhales when they leave with a smile they hadn't expected.

A shopkeeper tells you: "People used to come here and leave lighter." He smiles, almost to himself. "And now?" you ask.

He shrugs. "Now they come and re-

You walk a little longer. The light tilts. The day folds into the soft belly of evening. Behind you, the square stands as it always has. Holding onto what it knows, offering it to whoever comes with time.

The square doesn't ask to be saved. It only asks to be seen. And if you walk slow enough, you just might.

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Seek Criminal History In Bail Pleas: SC To HCs

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday said all high courts should consider including in its rules a direction to the accused to disclose criminal antecedents in bail pleas.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sanjay Karol and Sandeep Mehta passed the order while expunging the strictures passed by the Rajasthan High Court against a judicial officer who granted bail to an accused in an attempt to murder case.

"We feel that every high court in the country should consider incorporating a similar provision in the respective high court rules and/or criminal side rules as it would impose an obligation on the accused to make disclosures regarding his/her involvement in any other criminal case(s) previously registered,"

the bench said.

A court later allowed the complainant's plea and cancelled the bail to the accused.

The accused then moved the high court which rejected his bail plea and passed strictures against the judicial officer saying he had granted bail in a "grossly inappropriate and cavalier manner", ignoring his criminal record.

After the judicial officer moved against the strictures, the apex court said accounting for criminal antecedents of the accused while considering bail applications was the subject matter of concern for courts across the country.

It referred to the rules and orders of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, including the one which specifically provide that in bail applications, the petitioner shall mention whether he or she was involved in any other criminal case or not.

The top court directed for its order copy to be communicated to the registrar generals of all the high courts to include the rule if not already in place.

In the case at hand, the bench said the law was well-settled stipulating high courts to ordinarily refrain from passing strictures against judicial officers while deciding matters on the judicial side.

"In the present case, the fact remains that the strictures and/ or the scathing observations were made by the single judge of the high court to the detriment of the appellant-judicial officer without providing him any opportunity of explanation or showing cause," it said.

Expunging the strictures passed by the high court against the judicial officer, the bench said they were "uncalled for".

HC To Hear Arms License Scam PIL On Aug 7

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has scheduled August 7, 2025, for the next hearing in the long-pending Public Interest Litigation (PIL) related to the multi-crore Arms Licences

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli and Justice Rajnesh Oswal directed the re-listing of the case after it could not be heard on Thursday due to time constraints.

During the hearing, Senior Additional Advocate General Mohsin Qadri and Counsel Maha Majeed informed the court that the General Administration Department (GAD) had submitted a fresh status report, as directed in April. The petitioners' counsel, Advocate S.S. Ahmed,

confirmed the receipt of the report.

Under CBI investigation since 2018, the scam involves the fraudulent issuance of over 2.63 lakh arms licences across Jammu and Kashmir between 2012 and 2016. Several District Magistrates allegedly issued the licences in exchange for bribes.

So far, the CBI has registered two FIRs and filed more than 15 charge-sheets, primarily implicating JKAS officers. However, prosecution sanctions against nine IAS officers are still pending, with only one officer officially charge-sheeted to date.

The PIL alleges deep-rooted corruption and highlights the J&K administration's hesitancy to take action against senior officials. The case will now come up for further consideration on August 7.

Promotion Of Alternate Tourist Destinations

J&K Govt Forms Steering Committee

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has constituted a high-level Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of its new tourism initiative, Sustainable Promotion and Revamping of Emerging Alternate Destinations (SPREAD), aimed at promoting lesser-known tourist destinations across the Union Territory.

As per Government Order No. 936-JK(GAD) of 2025, issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), the committee will be chaired by the Chief Secretary of J&K and will include top administrative secretaries from key departments such as Tourism, Jal Shakti, Planning, Public Works (R&B), Power, Finance, Agriculture, Forest, Industries, Rural

Development, and Housing & Urban Development, among others.

The initiative seeks to diversify the UT's tourism landscape by focusing on emerging and alternative destinations beyond the conventional hotspots. The committee will play a pivotal role in providing strategic direction, facilitating policy approvals, ensuring inter-departmental coordination, and monitoring the overall progress of SPREAD.

According to the order, the committee will also address resource allocation and high-level problem-solving to ensure smooth execution of the project. The Tourism Department will act as the nodal agency to service and coordinate the committee's functions.

CONTD. FROM FRONT **PAGE**

Kashmir Court Drops

mortgaged property, whatever type, it's fair game for recovery."

The ruling comes at a moment when J&K Bank is pushing hard to recover loans. According to its recent investor presentation, the bank wrote off 529 crore in bad loans in FY 2023–24. But it recovered even more: 843 crore, including 57 crore through

settlements.

In the second quarter of FY 2024–25 alone, the bank recovered 92 crore from "technical write-offs," or loans earlier marked as unrecoverable.

Net profit has surged: 2,082 crore in FY 2024–25, up 18 percent from the previous

"This is not just a legal win," said Amit Sharma, a banking analyst at India Ratings. "This is part of a bigger national trend. SARFAESI is now a key recovery tool. In many banks, recoveries through it touch 20 percent of total bad loans."

J&K Bank's Gross NPA (bad loans before provisions) has dropped to 3.37% by March 2025, from 6.04% a year earlier. Its Net NPA now stands at 0.79%, a strong sign of improving loan backles.

SARFAESI (Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act) allows banks to take possession of mortgaged property and sell it to recover unpaid loans, without waiting for a court order.

Borrowers do have some rights. They can object, appeal to the Debt Recovery

Tribunal (DRT), or repay to stop the sale. But once the auction process begins, stop-

ping it gets harder.

"SARFAESI is our last resort, applied only af-

"SARFAESI is our last resort, applied only after all else fails and always with full procedural fairness," former J&K Bank Managing Director Baldev Prakash said in a recent interview, confirming that the bank had launched three One-Time Settlement schemes in FY 2023–24.

Legal experts say SARFAESI is fast, but no careless.

"Banks are still required to follow procedure, give notices, and consider objections," said Sabiya Maqbool, a Srinagar-based lawyer who has worked on debt recovery cases. "But the courts are clearly not entertaining delays anymore."

According to RBI data, banks across India recovered 1.24 lakh crore in bad loans in FY 2023–24, with nearly 23% recovered through SARFAESI alone.

Recovery drives are sensitive in Kashmir, where land has emotional and ancestral value. Public backlash last year forced J&K Bank to soften its approach when it published lists of MSME defaulters.

"We're part of this society," said a senior bank officer on condition of anonymity. "We have to recover, but also listen."

Yet many borrowers now see early settles.

Yet, many borrowers now see early settlement as the smarter option.

Maqbool Dar, a fruit exporter in Shopian, said he paid off his dues as soon as he received a recovery notice.

"Earlier people thought they could delay for years," he said. "Now, you have to deal with it before it gets serious."

With this court support and record profits, J&K Bank is in a stronger position to lend.

In August 2024, it received an AA- rat-

ing upgrade from India Ratings. That means more loans could flow to traders, small business owners, and farmers who had once been turned away.

Financial experts believe this is just the

beginning.

"This ruling unlocks not just one case, but thousands of crores stuck in the system," said analyst Amit Sharma.

"For J&K Bank, and Kashmir's economy, that's huge."

Yatra Resumes

offered prayers at the sacred 3,880-metre-high shrine in the Himalayas of south Kashmir.

The pilgrims included 11,357 males, 4,816 females, 220 children, 125 sadhus, 18 sadhvis, and 322 security personnel. With Friday's numbers, the total number of pilgrims who have visited the cave shrine since the Yatra began has touched 2,73,091.

Meanwhile, the 16th batch of 7,908 pilgrims departed from the Jammu base camp early Friday under tight security arrangements. The convoy moved in 261 vehicles, with 92 heading via the Baltal route and 169 via the Pahalgam axis.

The batch consisted of 5,957 men, 1,613 women, 26 children, 290 sadhus, and 22

sadhvis, the official added.

The Amarnath Yatra, which began on July 3, is scheduled to conclude on August 9.

US Designates

terrorism and enforcing President Trump's call for justice for the Pahalgam attack.

Rubio said the US State Department is adding the TRF as a designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT).

The TRF, a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) "front and proxy", claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack which killed 26 civilians, he said, adding it was "the deadliest attack on civilians in India since the 2008 Mumbai attack conducted by the LeT."

"TRF has also claimed responsibility for several attacks against Indian security forces, including most recently in 2024," Rubio said.

"These actions taken by the Department of State demonstrates the Trump Administration's commitment to protecting our national security interests, countering terrorism, and enforcing President Trump's call for justice for the Pahalgam attack," he added.

In New Delhi, India welcomed the decision by the US with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar describing it as a "strong affirmation" of India-US counter-terror cooperation.

India said the designation of TRF is a "timely and important" step and that it has consistently emphasised the need for global cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India remains committed to a "policy of zero tolerance" towards terrorism and will continue to work closely with its international partners to ensure that terrorist organisations and their proxies are held accountable.

"The government of India welcomes the decision of the United States Department of State to designate TRF as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). We acknowledge and appreciate the leadership of Secretary of State Marco Rubio in this regard," it said

In a social media post, Jaishankar specially complimented US Secretary of State Marco Rubio for designating the LeT proxy.

"Appreciate @SecRubio and @StateDept for designating TRF—a Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) proxy—as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). It claimed responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam attack," he said.

The MEA said India welcomes the decision of the US State Department to designate TRF as an FTO and SDGT.

The TRF, a "proxy" of the Pakistan-based terrorist organisation LeT, has been involved in numerous terror-related activities, including the heinous attack on civilians in Pahalgam for which it twice claimed responsibility, the MEA said in its statement.

India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10.

"India has consistently emphasised the need for global cooperation in the fight against terrorism and the dismantling of terror infrastructure." the MEA said in a statement.

It said the designation of TRF is a "timely and important step reflecting the deep cooperation between India and the United States on counter-terrorism."

"India remains committed to a policy of zero

tolerance towards terrorism and will continue to work closely with its international partners to ensure that terrorist organisations and their proxies are held accountable," it added.

The TRE claimed responsibility for the

The TRF claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack, but later backtracked as tensions soared between India and Pakistan.

India's National Investigation Agency has identified TRF head Sheikh Sajjad Gul as the mastermind of the attack.

In a post on X, the Indian Embassy in

Washington also underlined New Delhi's firm

stance against terrorism.

"Another demonstration of strong India-USA counter-terrorism cooperation. Appreciate the Department of State for listing The Resistance Front (TRF) as a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization and Specially Designated Global Terrorist. TRF is a proxy of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and claimed responsibility for the April 22 terror attack on civilians in Pahalgam," it said.

J&K Braces For

that isolated heavy showers, gusty winds, and thunderstorms may also occur during this period.

Officials have warned of possible flash floods in vulnerable areas, along with risks of land-slides, mudslides, and shooting stones in hilly terrains. Rising water levels in rivers, streams, and local nallahs could also lead to waterlogging in low-lying regions.

"People living in landslide-prone zones and along nallahs should remain cautious. Travelers and pilgrims have also been advised to stay updated about the weather and road conditions," the advisory added.

The department has further predicted brief spells of rain at scattered places across the Union Territory from July 24 to 26.

Meanwhile, farmers have been advised to take advantage of the relatively stable weather conditions between July 18 and 20 to carry out orchard spraying and other essential agricultural activities.

Rains Bring Relief

The rainfall, though modest in quantity, has helped revive irrigation canals and recharge local water bodies that had nearly dried up. "We had almost given up on the crop," said Bashir Ahmad, a farmer from Anantnag. "But the rain came just in time."

According to the Meteorological Department, Kashmir received a cumulative rainfall of 11.5 mm on July 16 and 17, with moderate intensity recorded in South Kashmir. The department expects light to moderate rainfall to continue intermittently until July 26, with heightened activity between July 21 and 23, possibly accompanied by gusty winds and localized flooding.

"This phase of precipitation is crucial for crops that were nearing the stress point," said an official from the Agriculture Department, adding that many orchards and paddy fields had already begun showing signs of wilting due to the heatwave.

Farmers across Baramulla, Shopian, and Pulwama districts welcomed the change, some even calling it "a prayer answered." Yet, concerns remain. "If the rainfall doesn't sustain for at least a few more days, the moisture won't hold," warned Abdul Hamid, an apple grower from Shopian.

The MeT Department has also urged caution, warning of possible flash floods, mudslides, and waterlogging in low-lying areas. Farmers have been advised to utilize the dry window from July 18–20 to spray pesticides and manage their orchards.

J&K Now a Hub

today is a testament to IIM Jammu's commitment to students' holistic growth," he

LG Sinha also highlighted the significance of the "5Cs"—Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication, Creativity, and Curiosity—as essential life skills for navigating the fast-changing global business environment.

"Technology is rapidly reshaping our world, especially the business landscape. Your role will be to utilise management practices and technological innovation for ease of doing business and enhancing ease of living for all," he noted.

The new academic session at IIM Jammu sees an enrolment of 474 students across various programs, including MBA, MBA in Healthcare & Hospital Management, PhD, PhD for working professionals, and EMBA.

The event was also attended by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu; Sudhir Langer, CEO & MD of RPSG FMCG; senior officials, faculty members, and newly admitted students.

Gupta Sworn

Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. His appointment was read out by Chief Secretary Pawan Kotwal.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Member Parliament Haneefa Jan, Chief Executive Councillors of Leh and Kargil Hill Councils, Tashi Namgyal and Dr. Jaffer Akhoon, BJP J&K unit president Sat Pal Sharma, along with top bureaucrats and police officials.

Speaking to reporters after the ceremony, Gupta pledged to pursue a development agenda that rises above religious, regional, and political divisions.

"Ladakh has faced discrimination in the past. Our focus will be to work together and transform Ladakh into one of the world's finest tourist destinations," he said.

Gupta also expressed gratitude to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for their trust in appointing him to the

Public Movement

basic safety infrastructure, including warning signage and rescue equipment such as

The canal draws many visitors, particularly during the summer months when people flock to the area to escape the heat. Unfortunately, it has seen several drowning incidents in recent years, mostly involving youth and children.

The recent drowning of three individuals has once again raised serious concerns about the safety measures in place and prompted authorities to take action by restricting access to the canal.

HM, DM Discuss

be held on Sunday and during the "Monsoon Session"

Later another meeting of the Group of Ministers chaired by the Defence Minister and the Union Home Minister discussed government's stand over a host of matters amid the opposition raising heat on issues, including the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar, the Pahalgam attack and "Operation Sindoor," sources said.

They said the meeting was attended by Union Ministers J P Nadda, Kiren Rijiju, Piyush Goyal and G Kishan Reddy.

Pertinently, the opposition has been pushing for debate in Parliament on issues like "Operation Sindoor" and the claims of US President Donald Trump' that he brokered the "ceasefire" between India and Pakistan.

The government has rejected Trump's claim, but the opposition has been insisting on a debate and has even demanded a special session of Parliament over the issue. The government has termed Operation Sindoor a big success, which inflicted massive damage on terror sites and military facilities in Pakistan.

It may be recalled that a few days after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, armed forces on May 6, 2025, launched "Operation Sindoor" and destroyed nine terrorist camps deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The attack on terrorist camps led to breaking out of skirmishes between India and Pakistan that continued till May 10. Hostilities ended after Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) approached his counterpart in India and requested for a ceasefire.

HC Allows Fresh

the petitioners they provide the grounds for "excessive reservation" that cumulatively result in approximately 70% of posts being reserved across various categories, leaving a mere 30% for Open Merit/General category

The petitioners submit that this reservation pattern was without any basis on any quantifiable data and also contravenes the mandate of Article 16(4) which allows the state to make provisions for the reservation of appointments or posts in favor of any backward class of citizens who, in the state's opinion, are not adequately represented in the services under the state

es under the state.

Besides challenging provisions and notifications, the petitioners have challenged ensuing advertisement /notifications issued pursuant thereby, contending that no fresh assessment or independent commission has been constituted by the authorities to examine the current representation of backward classes in public services. This has rendered the present reservation structure arbitrary and unsustainable under law, they contend.

The petitioners among others have sought directions to declare Section-3, Section-4, Section-6, Section-8 and Section-9 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004, Jammu & Kashmir Reservation Rules of 2005: Rule-4, Rule-5, Rule-9, Rule-10, Rule-13, Rule-15, Rule-17 framed thereunder, S.O 176 dated: 15-03-2024, S.O 127 dated: 20-04-2020 S.O 305 dated 31-05-2024, SRO 518 dated: 02-Sep-2019, as unconstitutional and ultra vires to the mandate of Article 16(4) of the Constitution of India, on account of absence of quantifiable data and breach of the principle of adequacy of representation.

They have also sought direction or quashing the S.O 127 dated: 20-04-2020 S.O 305 dated 31-05-2024, SRO 518 dated: 02-Sep-2019

Besides, they have sought directions for quashing Advertisement Notification, Appointment Notifications bearing Advertisement Notification No. 04 PSC (DR-P) of 2024 dated 26.07.2024, Advertisement 02 of 2024 dated: 22.11.2024, corrigendum dated: 29.07.2024 to Advertisement No. 02/RR/RC of 2024 dated: 09.05.2024,

Advertisement No. 04 of 2024 / RR / RC of 2024 dated: 29.07.2024, Advertisement No. 06 of 2024, dated: 28.08.2024, Advertisement No. 03 of 2025, dated: 24-04-2025, Advertisement No. 05-PSC of 2025, dated: 14-05-2025, Advertisement No. 02 of 2025/RR/RC, dated: 26-05-2025, recruitment processes, and consequential actions undertaken pursuant to the Act and Rules "being violative of constitutional provisions and principles of equality as it provides only 30% share for Open Merit/ General and 70% share for reserved categories."

They have also sought directions, commanding the authorities to redefine Rule 4 Para 3 Socially and Educationally backward Class as other Back Class (OBC) to enable them to claim Central Reservation.

Besides, directions have been sought to make rationalization of reservation by providing due share to the tune of 80% and 20% to reserved categories.

The petitioners have also sought directions to exclude the creamy layers candidates belonging

The petitioners have also sought directions to exclude the creamy layers candidates belonging to ST, SC, OBC, from reservation as also provide Reservation to only single generation in tune with the judgement of Supreme Court of India in case titled: State of Punjab Versus Davinder Singh decided on 1-August-2004

Court Acquits Trio

failure to obtain an opinion as to how a two and half month old child can survive for three days without milk and without human pres-

ence that too in the harsh winter season.the prosecution evidence is week, fragile, inconsistent, contradictory and do not inspire confidence in the mind of the court rather same creates serious doubts in the prosecution case," the court said while acquitting main accused Shiraz Ahmad Ellahi of Machwoo Chadoora who had been charged for the offences under RPC's sections 302 (murder), 380 (theft in a dwelling house), 454 (lurking housetrespass) and 201 (Causing disappearance of evidence of offense) RPC and two others namely Ashig Hussain Ganai of Chadoora and Mohammad Amin Zargar of Draigam Budgam for the commission of the offence under Section 411 (dishonestly receiving or retaining

stolen property).

Among others factors and reasons which the court observed made the prosecution case doubtful includes the "incomplete" chain of evidence, leaving sufficient and reasonable doubts as whether the alleged acts have been done by the accused persons.

"The only material that connects A-1 (Shiraz) to the alleged crime is the CDR (call record details) as the presence of the accused (A-1) (shiraz) at the place of occurrence at the relevant point of time is not proved," the court said, adding, "The CDR's appended with the charge sheet have not been proved in light of Section 65-B of Indian Evidence Act, as such is inadmissible under law." The court said that the neighbors being the most material witnesses were cited as witnesses in the case.

"The investigating officer focused on one accused only and faded the other aspects of investigation," the court said, adding, "Investigating officer failed to collect scientific evidence including location of all suspects at the relevant time." The court said that the stolen ornaments were not properly identified.

Regarding the Investigating officer, the court observed that he has not investigated the case in a proper manner and within the parameters which were required to have been adopted during the investigation. "He seems to have deliberately and intentionally paved a way for safe passage to the accused persons by way of his faulty investigation," the court said and directed that the copy of the judgment be forwarded to I.G of Police Kashmir for initiation of departmental inquiry against the investigating officer.

NOTICE

I, Niyaz Ahmad Calcatti, want to transfer electric Connection registered in my name bearing account no: 0202010000821 under Div-II (Rajbagh) to Mohammad Shafi Calcatti R/o H.no: 119, Jawahar Nagar Srinagar. In this respect if any body has any objection, He/ She may contact the Executive Engineer, Div-II Rajbagh with in a week after the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after expiry of said

period.

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Awami Itihaad

Party (AIP) has announced that its President and incarcerated

Member of Parliament from

Baramulla Er Rashid will bring

a resolution in the upcoming

Er Rashid To Move Resolution

For Statehood In Parliament

Every Disaster A Lesson To Learn From: CS



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards enhancing disaster resilience and preparedness, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir conducted a high-level workshop on the Incident Response System (IRS) Friday.

The workshop was attended by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary Home and DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, senior Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Heads of Departments and National Disaster Management experts including Brigadier Kuldip Singh (Retd), Former Senior Consultant, Ministry of Home Affairs.

In his opening remarks, the Chief Secretary underlined the critical importance of building a culture of disaster preparedness among the citizens and institutions. "Disasters often arrive without warning and in every such instance, citizens are the first responders," he said. "Each capable individual has a moral responsibility to contribute to disaster resilience by being aware, prepared and proactive.'

Highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's unique geopolitical and environmental vulnerabilities, the Chief Secretary emphasized the UT's susceptibility to earthquakes, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), landslides, cross-border tensions and climate-induced challenges. "Given our exposure to multiple hazards, our preparedness must be all-encompassing, institutionally sound and technologically enabled," he stated.

Dulloo stressed that disaster readiness is not measured by paperwork but by the number of lives saved and the responsiveness of the system during a crisis. He noted that increasing urbanization and climate change have escalated the intensity and frequency of disasters, placing greater responsibility on governments, institutions and citizens to act decisively.

He advocated for clear institutional frameworks with defined roles and responsibilities. He emphasised the need of optimising use of advanced technologies such as GIS mapping, real-time weather forecasting and dronebased surveillance besides active community engagement, capacity building of NGOs, civil society and local volunteers. He also asked for integration of mid-career training for the officers and regular mock

drills to ensure readiness. The Chief Secretary called for customisation of IRS protocols based on local risk profiles at the district and block level. He proposed development of a Disaster Dashboard to map available resources, machinery, manpower and vulnerable zones across the UT.

In his inaugural address. Principal Secretary, Home and DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, described the IRS as a newly notified system in J&K aimed at establishing a well-coordinated command structure during disasters. He explained that the IRS. modeled on international best practices and customized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), defines precise roles for each officer to eliminate confusion during

emergencies. Bharti highlighted the ongoing initiatives under the Disaster Management Department including the Mitigation plans for GLOFs and landslides, Integration of the India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN), Deployment of Decision Support Systems and Establishment of Emergency Operation Center (EOC).

He expressed optimism about significantly strengthening the disaster management mechanisms through these efforts and urged the officials to institutionalize the disaster response protocols across all levels.

Delivering a detailed presentation, Brigadier Kuldip Singh (Retd), a distinguished disaster management expert, shared his insights on disaster typologies, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and the defined responsibilities of various stakeholders during emergencies. Drawing from real-life disaster incidents across India, he emphasized that "no region is immune to disasters", and increased development must go hand-in-hand with increased vigilance and responsibility.

Brigadier Singh stressed the critical roles of central and UT governments, NDMA, SDMAs, DDMAs and block-level institutions in developing a seamless and scalable disaster response framework. He reiterated the need for integrated planning, resource allocation, and community-based preparedness to make India one of the most disasterresilient nations in the world.

Later, a comprehensive Handbook on the Incident Response System (IRS) was unveiled, clearly delineating the roles and responsibilities of each officer and department involved in disaster

At the Union Territory level, the IRS is being headed by the Chief Secretary, who functions as the Response Officer. The handbook also outlines the hierarchical structure, including designated roles for the Incident Commander, Nodal Officer, Liaison Officer, Planning and the Media Communication System, thereby institutionalizing a well-coordinated and structured mechanism for disaster preparedness and response in the UT.

CS Inspires New Batch At IIM Jammu

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In an insightful address to the newly admitted batch of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday exhorted students to embrace their journey with purpose, passion and a deep commitment to public good.

The event marked the commencement of the academic year for one of India's youngest and most dynamic IIMs.

Congratulating the students for securing admission to a premier national institution, the Chief Secretary emphasized that IIM Jammu is not merely an academic campus, but a crucible of transformation. "You have crossed a significant milestone and now stand at the threshold of an experience that will transform your lives," he said, calling upon the students to not only become professionals but also lead-

ers of values and vision. Quoting Malcolm X, he remarked, "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today," setting the tone for an address that combined wisdom,

pragmatism and inspiration. Describing IIM Jammu as a

symbol of aspiration and excellence in New India, the Chief Secretary said the institution carries the energy and potential to shape the future leaders who can contribute to the region and the nation. "You are not just students, you are ambassadors of this institution," he told the gathering, underlining the mutual responsibility between the individuals and institutions.

Dulloo highlighted that an MBA is more than a degree, it is a holistic journey that shapes decision-making, leadership character and ethical thinking. "You will learn the language of markets and innovation, but more importantly, you will learn collaboration, humility and empathy," he said, quoting Martin Luther King Jr., "Intelligence plus character-

that is the goal of true education." Speaking on India's evolving economic and developmental landscape, the Chief Secretary observed that the country is witnessing a historic transformation through rapid digitalization, infrastructure growth, start-up momentum and global positioning. However, he stressed that along with these opportunities come challenges like climate change, social equity and sustainable development.

Dr Farooq Demands Immediate Restoration Of J&K Statehood

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Friday reiterated that the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is the democratic and constitutional right of its people and must be granted without any further delay.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Dr Farooq expressed his gratitude to the Congress leadership, including Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Rajya Sabha LoP and party president Mallikarjun Kharge, for taking up the cause with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I am thankful to Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge for raising the issue of statehood restoration with the Prime Minister and urging the government to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir," Dr Farooq said.

Describing the move as a significant gesture, he added, "They have taken a stand for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Their letter to the Prime Minister is a welcome step. Statehood is our constitutional right. Why wouldn't



we get it? We will raise this demand strongly in the INDIA alliance meeting on Saturday (July 19)."

It is pertinent to mention here that Congress leaders had recently written to Prime Minister Modi, seeking immediate restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir-a move that drew appreciation from several quarters, including former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who had earlier stated they were awaiting a response from the opposition on the matter.

Reiterating the urgency of the demand, Dr Farooq said, "If they don't give us what's ours, we will see how to deal with it," signaling possible future strategies if the demand continues to be ignored.

When asked about the United States' decision to designate The Resistance Front (TRF) suspected of being involved in the recent Pahalgam terror attack-as a foreign terrorist organization, Dr Abdullah said, "The matter is under investigation. It is better to comment once the probe is completed."

Earlier in the day, the National Conference President paid a visit to the residence of the deceased poet and social activist Shahid Budgami to express his condolences. He also visited the family of the late Aga Syed Mohammad Baqir to offer his respects.

Dr Farooq was accompanied by NC Member of Parliament Aga Ruhullah Mehdi and Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Chief Minister.

Doctors Call Off Strike At GMC Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: After two days of disruption, the doctors at Government Medical College (GMC) and Hospital (GMC&H) Jammu have officially called off their indefinite strike, bringing muchneeded relief to the patients and restoring regular medical services across the hospital.

The strike, which began following an alleged physical assault on two female doctors by attendants of a deceased patient on Wednesday, had severely affected healthcare delivery, including Out-Patient Department (OPD), in-patient care, and several critical services.

Emergency services were only partially operational, managed by senior doctors and limited medical staff.

According to KNO, the decision to end the protest came after successful negotiations between the hospital administration and representatives of the protesting doctors.

According to officials, the woman accused of assaulting

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kash-

mir Anti-Corruption Bureau

(ACB) on Friday said to have

trapped and arrested a Junior

official of Jammu Development

Authority (JDA) for demanding

and accepting a bribe of Rs

In a statement issued to

Kashmir Observer, ACB re-

ceived a complaint alleging

therein that a public servant

namely Kewal Krishan, Junior

official of Jammu Development

Authority (JDA) demanded il-

legal gratification from the

complainant for allowing fur-

ther construction of the dou-

ble storey building at Ballain

ed a bribe of Rs 20,000 from

"The accused had demand-

Domana, Jammu.

For Accepting Bribe

the doctors has been taken into custody and a formal case has been registered against those involved.

"We deeply respect our duty to serve patients and regret the inconvenience caused. However, our protest was essential to demand accountability and protection for healthcare professionals," said a spokesperson from the doctors' association. "Following firm assurances from the administration and the government, we have decided to end the strike."

The doctors had demanded immediate arrest of the culprits, registration of an FIR, and stronger security arrangements to prevent such incidents in the future. Their primary concern was ensuring a safe and secure working environment within the hospital

The hospital administration, n a statement, acknowledged the doctors' concerns and assured that strict legal action will be taken against those responsible for the assault. Of-

ACB Arrests Junior Official Of JDA

double storey building at Bal-

lain Domana, Jammu and has

agreed to receive 1st install-

ment amounting Rs 10,000 out

of the demanded bribe," the

statement said, adding that

since, the complainant didn't

want to pay the bribe and he

approached Anti-Corruption

Bureau for taking legal action

against the accused public ser-

a discreet verification was con-

ducted, which corroborates

the demand of bribe by the

public servant concerned and

accordingly, a case FIR number 14/2025 U/S 7 of Prevention

of Corruption Act, 1988 was

registered in Police Station

ACB Jammu and investigation

During the course of inves-

taken up," the ACB said.

"On receipt of the complaint,

vant under law.

ficials also committed to enhancing the hospital's internal security system to safeguard medical staff.

"Patient care is our top priority, and any threat to our healthcare workers will not be tolerated. We will strengthen surveillance and ensure more security personnel are deployed within the hospital premises," an official said.

As the strike ends, normalcy is gradually returning to GMC Jammu. OPD and in-patient services have resumed and patients who had been waiting for consultations and treatment have begun receiving care again.

Patients and their attendants expressed relief at the resumption of services. "We understand the doctors' concerns, but we are glad that things are finally getting back to normal. Healthcare must not suffer," said Ramesh Kumar, an attendant at the hospital

The incident was widely condemned especially by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and various doctor bodies across India.

constituted, it reads, adding

that the team laid a successful

trap and the accused public

servant was caught red-hand-

ed while demanding and ac-

cepting a bribe amount of Rs

10,000 from the complainant

in the presence of independent

on the spot by the ACB team

after following the due pro-

cess of law. The bribe money

was also recovered from his

possession in the presence of

independent witnesses as-

sociated with the trap team.

Moreover, search is being con-

ducted in the residential house

of the accused situated in Flore

Haramkund Gajansoo, Tehsil

Marh, District Jammu in pres-

ence of independent witness

and Magistrate," it reads, add-

"The accused was arrested

Parliament session beginning July 21, 2025, demanding the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement, AIP Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi said, "Despite being unjustly jailed, Er Rashid has not allowed the chains of incarceration to silence the voice of his

and Kashmir." Inam added that the demand for statehood is not a favour but a constitutional right that was

people. He will continue to

use every democratic platform

available to uphold the aspira-

tions and sentiments of Jammu

unilaterally taken away in 2019. "It is time Parliament corrects this historic wrong. Er Rashid's resolution is a reflection of people's yearning for dignity, democratic rights and self-respect," he stated.

The party reiterated that Er Rashid's presence in Parliament is not merely symbolic but a continuation of his decadeslong struggle for justice and representation. "His decision to move this resolution, even from behind bars, shows that neither walls nor injustice can suppress the democratic spirit that he embodies," Inam said.

AIP urged all political parties, especially those claiming to represent Jammu and Kashmir, to support the resolution and stand for constitutional guarantees and the restoration of democratic institutions in the region.

QAZIGUND HORROR

Groom-to-Be Killed In Staged Midnight Raid

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a chilling incident that has left a South Kashmir village in shock, a 25-yearold man, set to be married next month, was murdered during a fake midnight search operation by a man impersonating a security forces personnel.

The victim, Zahid Ahmad Banday, was killed in his home in Qazigund area when the accused, Naseer Ahmad Sheikhdressed in a forces' uniform and armed with a pistol, dagger, and walkie-talkie-stormed the residence late Thursday night.

According to police and eyewitnesses, Sheikh claimed the area was under a cordon due to militant movement and ordered the family to surrender their phones. "It all looked real. These operations are routine here, so no one doubted him," a

However, Zahid became suspicious when the intruder began searching cupboards and personal belongings. As he confronted him, Sheikh reportedly attacked Zahid with a sharp weapon, fatally injuring him. Attempting to flee, the accused jumped from a second-floor window but fractured his leg and was caught by alert locals.

The police later confirmed that Sheikh, a resident of a nearby village, is in custody and being questioned. Authorities are probing whether he acted alone or was part of a larger gang. "We're investigating all angles, including criminal conspiracy and impersonation of a government official," a police official said.

The incident has sparked outrage in the locality, with residents demanding a swift and thorough investigation.

Budgam Woman Killed, Toddler **Battles For Life After Accident**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A tragic road accident in Srinagar's Parimpora area on Friday evening claimed the life of a 36-year-old woman, while her three-year-old son was critically injured and her husband sustained injuries officials said.

According to officials, the mishap occurred when a private vehicle collided with a truck, leaving all three fam-

ily members injured. They were rushed to the hospital, where the woman, identified as Nusrat, wife of Bilal Ahmad Kumar, succumbed to her injuries.

The injured child, Hami, and his father Bilal Ahmad, residents of Charar-e-Sharief in Budgam district, are undergoing treatment.

Police have detained the truck driver and initiated an investigation into the incident.

Div Com, IGP Review Arrangements For Budha Amarnath Yatra



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and Inspector General of Police, Bhim Sen Tuti reviewed the arrangements for the forthcoming Budha Amarnath Yatra 2025 to ensure smooth and secure conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The review meeting, held here the other day was attended by senior officials including the DIG CRPF, DIG JSK Range, DIG Rajouri-Poonch, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri, and Reasi, along with heads of key departments such as JPDCL, Tourism, Health, PWD, Jal Shakti, BRO and Traffic Police. Representatives from civil society also participated and shared suggestions.

The Yatra's first batch will depart from Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, on July 28, 2025, moving towards Tehsil Mandi in Poonch in a regulated convoy amid full security arrangements.

The Divisional Commissioner directed officials to establish a help desk and registration counter at Bhagwati Nagar and Jammu Railway Station to facilitate the pilgrim Deputy Commissioners of Rajouri and Poonch were instructed to ensure adequate accommodation with essential facilities including power supply, drinking water, langars, parking, waterproof tents and mobile toilets along the route.

through newspapers and hoardings from Lakhanpur to Poonch to ensure wide publicity. Emphasizing safety, the IGP

The Tourism Department was

tasked with promoting the Yatra

Jammu stressed strict adherence to convoy timings and urged public awareness for travelling only with the official convoy.

The BRO was directed to maintain road conditions and clear any debris promptly on the Jammu-Poonch highway. PDCL was asked to ensure uninterrupted power supply with backup generators, while the PHE Department will provide drinking water at halt points, night stays, and at the Budha Amarnathji Temple.

PWD officials were instructed to repair the Poonch-Mandi road and the SSP Traffic Rural will arrange parking spots for convoy vehicles. The Deputy Commissioner Reasi also apprised the arrangements for devotees visiting Shiv Khori shrine during the Yatra period. The meeting concluded with valuable inputs from civil society members for the peaceful and successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

tigation, a trap team headed ing that further investigation the complainant for allowing further construction of the by Gazetted rank officer was of the instant case is going on. **Students In Seasonal Schools Face Teacher Shortage**

Agencies

BANDIPORA: As the seasonal migration of Gujjar and Bakarwal communities begins in Kashmir this June, many students from these nomadic groups are struggling to continue their education in the seasonal schools set up in Bandipora's upper Himalayan regions.

Several Bakarwal students have raised serious concerns over the absence of teachers in these temporary education centers. "We come here with the hope to study, but there are no regular teachers in some schools. How

can we learn without anyone to teach us?" said Auregzab, a young Bakarwal student

These seasonal schools, mostly set up in tents in remote high-altitude areas, were meant to ensure continued education for nomadic children during their migration. However, the reality on the ground tells a different story.

Students say that not only are teachers missing, but basic facilities like waterproof tents, blackboards, and proper learning materials are also lacking-especially

during heavy rains. Chief Education Officer (CEO) es but said the department is trying to address the issues. "We have 51 seasonal education centers with 51 teachers deployed to educate 581 students. We are also providing tents, books, and stationery," he said, adding that any teacher found

Bandipora admitted the challeng-

absent will face strict action. Despite these assurances, students are still demanding regular teacher attendance and better infrastructure. They are urging the government to take urgent steps so that their education is not lost in the harsh conditions of the Himala-

yas.(KNS)

Govt Preparing For 2036 Olympics, Providing Rs 50K To 3K Athletes Every Month: Amit Shah

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The government is preparing for the 2036 Olympics by providing an assistance of Rs 50,000 per month to approximately 3,000 athletes and is making a detailed systematic plan for it, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said here on Friday.

Addressing an event where the Indian contingent participating in the 21st World Police and Fire Games-2025 were felicitated, Shah said victory and defeat are the eternal cycle of life and setting the goal to win, planning for victory should be everyone's "nature" and winning should be the habit. He said those who cultivate the

habit of winning always perform exceptionally.

The home minister said the Modi government is making ar

rangements to take sports to every village.

The selection and training of children from different age groups in every sport are being done scientifically, he said.

"Under the leadership of PM odi sports has been given great

it," he said

Shah said every police officer's routine should be such that the day begins with a parade with subordinate staff in the morning and ends with sports in the evening.

"If all police personnel develop a habit of regular sports, it will not only relieve stress, but also improve the quality of work," he said.

The home minister said all police forces that are part of the 'All India Police Sports Control Board' should aim to win at least three medals each.

"If we achieve this goal, the record you have set this year will be surpassed by you at the World Police and Fire Games to be held in Gujarat in 2029," he said.

He said the success of the police personnel who participated in the World Police and Fire Games 2025 should be celebrated and

also receive accurate information about it.

Shah said that just as Arjuna could only see his target -- the eye of a bird -- similarly, all police officers and athletes connected to sports must aim for the World Police and Fire Games 2029 and move forward.

These games will take place in 2029 in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Kevadia, he said.

The home minister said that as India progresses on the global sports stage, the country's athletes must perform in a way that sparks worldwide discussions about the immense potential of sports in India.

He said he was fully confident that India will be among the top five medal-winning countries in the 2036 Olympics.

Aqua Kashmir Avengers Defeat Greenend Heroes FC 2-0 In Kashmir Super League

In a Kashmir Super League 2025 matchup on Friday, Aqua Kashmir Avengers FC defeated table-toppers Greenend Heroes FC 2-0 at TRC Ground in Srinagar. Adnan Ayoub put Aqua Kashmir Avengers 1-0 ahead via a penalty in added time of the first half. Hayat Bashir made it 2-0 in the 66th minute to put the game out of reach for Greenend Heroes.

The postmatch awards were dominated by players from Aqua Kashmir Avengers FC.

The Player of the Match went to Hayat Bashir, while Adnan Ayoub was awarded the Game Changer of the Match. Salah Wani won the Golden Moment award, and Furkan Ahmad took the X-Factor Excellence award. Round 4 of Kashmir Super League 2025 will begin on Saturday, with New JK United FC taking on Athwas India XI in Game 10 of the competition. The contest kicks off at 7:00 PM. (Observer News Service)

Provincial U17 Girls Baseball C'ship Begins In Ganderbal

The Inter District Provincial Level Baseball Championship for Under-17 Girls, organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, commenced on Friday at GCOPE Gadoora, Ganderbal. The championship has nine districts from Kashmir competing. Day One featured high-intensity league matches across both pools. In Pool A, District Anantnag and host District Ganderbal emerged as semi-finalists. Pool B matches are ongoing, with the two semi-final spots yet to be finalised.

Several exciting matches are scheduled for Saturday, including the remaining league fixtures and the much-anticipated semi-finals. Players from all participating districts showcased commendable

sportsmanship, energy, and passion for the game. Selectors nominated by the office of the Joint Director YSS Kashmir were present throughout the day to identify outstanding talent. The best performers from this championship will earn the opportunity to represent Kashmir in the upcoming inter-divisional event. (Observer News Service)

Water Sports Delegation Meets Sports Minister Satish Sharma

delegation comprising national medalwinning athletes, office bearers of water sports associations, and key stakeholders met J&K Sports Minister Satish Sharma on Friday. The meeting marked a pivotal moment for the future of rowing, sculling, kayaking, canoeing and other water sports disciplines in the region.

The delegation was led by Dr. Burhan Bazaz, President of the J&K Rowing and Sculling Association, accompanied by other senior stakeholders including Dr. Imran Nazir, Hussain Khan, Latif Ahmad and other distinguished members of the water sports community. The interaction was driven by a shared vision to position Jammu & Kashmir as a national and international hub for water sports. (Observer News Service)

Pulwama Wins Provincial Level U-14 Boys Volleyball Tournament



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam conducted the Inter-District Provincial Level Volleyball Tournament for Under-14 Boys at Sports Stadium Charar-i-Sharief, bringing together top young volleyball talent from across Kashmir province.

The event saw intense competition, beginning with the first semifinal match between Anantnag and Pulwama, where Pulwama secured a convincing win. The second semifinal featured a clash between Ganderbal and Kupwara, with Ganderbal emerging as the winner.

The final match between Pulwama and Ganderbal was a thrilling contest, ultimately won by Pulwama, who lifted the championship trophy.

The tournament was held under the guidance and supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer Budgam Ghulam Hassan Lone.

The closing ceremony was attended by Jaha Aara, Zonal Physical Education Officer Charar-i-Sharief and Nodal Officer of the event, along with Physical Education Lecturers Muneer Aslam Khan and Iqbal Ahmad, Activity Incharge Ghulam Hassan Khanday, Senior PEM Manjee Singh Gill, and several other officials from the department.

er officials from the department.

"The DYSS Budgam remains committed to fostering sportsmanship and providing opportunities for youth to excel in the field of sports across all age groups," the department said in a statement.

Shah-e-Hamadan Cricket Tournament 2025, England, Concludes In Sheffield

Observer News Service

importance in the last 10 years.

The budget has been increased

by five times. The government is

also preparing for the 2036 Olym-

pics by providing assistance of

Rs 50,000 per month to approxi-

mately 3,000 athletes and is mak-

ing a detailed systematic plan for

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Downtown CC has been crowned as the winners of the Shah-e-Hamadan Cricket Tournament, England, Season 2025.

The inaugural cricket tournament was recently held in England. There were in total six participant teams in this tournament which ran from May till July.

Matches were played across the Midlands region of England with the final played at Bentley Cricket Club ground, near Sheffield.

The participants, teams and the players are exclusively from Kashmir. Nearly 100 members from Kashmiri community came together for the final match to cheer, connect and celebrate not just cricket, but also Kashmiri culture

Nun chai was served as the welcome tea and rice dishes were prepared for the lunch.

The tournament was filled with incredible performances, emotional moments, dramatic upsets and above all, unity among Kashmiris living in England.



TEAMS:

- - KASHMIR QALANDARS
- KASHMIR DOWNTOWN
- KASHMIR MIDLANDS- KAESHIR SHAHZADS
- NORTHERN TABARDARSSOLIHULL SHAHEENS

The final of the tournament was played between Kashmir Qa-

landars and Kashmir Downtown. Kashmir Qalandars batted first and scored 185 for 5 in their allotted 35 overs. In response, Kashmir Downtown scored 189 for 4,

winning by 6 wickets.

The final match was a thriller, full of drama with pendulum swinging both ways throughout the match but Kashmir Downtown held their nerve and came out on top, hit the winning runs on the penultimate ball of the match.



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